

League Rules 2011

Effective: March 1, 2011

The purpose of this soccer Society is to provide **recreational** soccer in a relaxed atmosphere. The desire to participate in the game is the only requirement. The League does not keep track of game scores.

Except where noted in the ELIGILBITY, RULES and DISCIPLINE sections, all normal rules of soccer as specified by the FIFA shall apply.

Eligibility

General:

1. All existing players are included in this League. When signing team members, teams shall only recruit from persons employed in the public sector. Public sector shall be interpreted as all levels of government, including crown corporations, public agencies and publicly funded educational institutions (not students). This also includes former or retired public sector employees or former employees whose functions have been privatized or transferred. The League requires that team needing additional players' first use the League Player Pool, and then family members. These last two options must meet the League's criteria for male and female players. Teams shall maintain a majority of their players from the public sector.
2. No player shall be under the age of 16 as of April 1 of each year.
3. Managers shall certify to the League that all players have no outstanding suspensions or prohibitions from other league or elsewhere within FIFA.
4. ALL players must sign and Managers must retain League Liability Waivers. Any player not signing the League Liability Waiver will not be permitted to play.
5. No team shall create selection criteria that would discriminate on the basis of skill/ability level, age, color, race or sexual orientation.
6. Eligibility criteria and disciplinary actions apply to both league and tournament play.

Women:

7. From April 1, 2007, an existing female player whose LIWSA league team is promoted from Division 1 to Premier shall be eligible to play, provided that she has played two of more years in this League. No team shall sign Premier League players without previous experience in this League. No active players from Metro, High Performance, Y-Leagues, Intercollegiate or

professional, professional development league or equivalent (W-League, PDL, BC Premier League) are eligible to play in this League.

Men:

8. From April 1, 2007 a male player's winter league Division 3 team is promoted to Division 2, that player shall continue to play in the League provided that he has played two or more years in the League. No active players from VISL Division 1, 2 (with the above promotion exception), Metro, Y-League, High Performance, Intercollegiate, any professional or professional development league or equivalent (USL, PDL, BC Premier League) are eligible to play in this League

Use of ineligible players will not be tolerated and shall result in the suspension of players and team from league and tournament play, without refund of league fees.

Rules

1. No sliding tackles or tackles from behind are permitted. No sliding to the ground within close proximity to another player is permitted. Such tackles, if considered intentional by the Referee, are yellow card offences. A red card may be issued based on the Referee's interpretation of the offending player's intent and aggressiveness. In addition, the Referee will award an indirect free kick if outside the penalty area or a penalty kick if inside the penalty area.

Exception: a goalkeeper is permitted to slide if there is **no** player involvement, such as sliding to prevent the ball from entering the goal.

2. If the Referee determines that a player to be overly aggressive, angry, emotional regarding the game, or undermining the intended spirit of the game, the Referee may at their discretion order the player off the pitch for a "cool down" period of whatever length the Referee determines. A substitute player is permitted as a replacement.
3. Women may protect their chest with crossed arms, if done in such a manner as to not redirect the ball.
4. If in the opinion of the Referee, men are using unduly aggressive play that prevent female players of their own or another team from playing the ball, will be penalized, with an indirect free kick and any other sanction the Referee may determine.

5. Excluding the goalkeeper, there will be 5 female player and 5 male players on the pitch for each team at all times. If a team has less than 5 female players available, then the following will apply:
 - a. Team managers can arrange to balance the number of women on the team, by loaning players between teams, after notifying the Referee;
 - b. If a team is unable to have the required number of female players, playing extra male players is **NOT** permitted.
6. When a team manager knows in advance of player shortage for a given game, they are permitted to use players from other team rosters not playing that day.
7. Only persons who are registered with a team may play in this League.
8. Each team **must** supply 2 corner flags and 10 cones for each game, to indicate the playing boundaries of the pitch. The Referee may fine teams (\$10) not supplying this equipment. Such violations shall be including in Game Reports.
9. Where possible teams are encouraged to provide a net for their goal.
10. Shin and ankle guard use is mandatory. Referees shall send off any player not using shin/ankle guards.
11. Players shall not use soccer boots equipped with metal-cleated studs. Referees shall send off any player using such equipment.
12. Goalkeepers may not handle pass backs or throw-ins with their hands.
13. In the event that the Referee determines that the each team colors are too similar, the HOME team will change the color of their jerseys or use pinnies.
14. If during a game, a player incurs a blood loss injury, or a release of blood occurs resulting from a medical condition, that player must immediately withdraw from the game until the loss of blood can be stopped. The game Referee must not allow the player to reenter the game until the flow of blood has been stopped to the Referee's satisfaction.

15. Any clothing worn by a player experiencing a loss of blood or other players whose clothing was also exposed to any blood, must replace that clothing before being permitted to enter or reenter the game.
16. Teams defaulting a game without the prior permission of the League will be responsible for the costs of field rental and referee fees.

Discipline

To achieve that stated purpose of the League; the following disciplinary measures will be taken:

1. The Team Managers and Referees will report all “yellow card “and” red card infractions to the President immediately following the game in question.
2. In all red card situations, the circumstances shall be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee (Society President and Treasurer or Secretary). The Committee reserves the right to seek additional input from a non-involved Referee.
3. The league practices “zero tolerance” for red card offences. Unless there is shown to be extremely mitigating circumstances, the player receiving a red card will be suspended for one calendar year from the date of the offense.
4. Team managers, may submit to the Disciplinary Committee the name of any player they feel has played in an overly aggressive, dangerous, abusive or displays a hostile manner. The team manager will report on the circumstances of such a complaint, and the Disciplinary Committee will determine if that player’s name is to be officially recorded.
5. Using the circumstances in item 4, any player who name has been recorded twice in one season, based on complaints from two or more teams, will be suspended for the balance of the League, including Tournament play.
6. The disciplinary committee shall review players receiving two yellow cards during league play.
7. The League reserves the right to review any bookings or suspensions given to any player during the proceeding winter season, to determine if that player is suitable for this League.

Team Rosters

1. Each team must submit a complete roster to the League President (or designate) prior to the first league game. Teams not submitting rosters may be suspended and can be replaced by teams making application to the league. Only players appearing on the roster may participate in both league and tournament

play. Additions to the rosters, after league play begins must be approved by the League President (or designate).

2. Team managers must provide two copies of their game rosters: one of the Officials and one to the opposing team, no later than halftime.

Scheduling

The Society will work with field providers to determine the best quality fields. All teams play each other once during the season. The Tournament schedule will be determined by the Society President (or designate) and may include make up games resulting from cancellations during League play or from scheduling overflow.

Games

1. Each game is 90 minutes in length (45 minutes per half), excluding any extra time that the Referee may add. All grass field games begin at 6:30PM sharp. Turf field times vary. The Referees will start their clocks at the designed time.
2. Each halftime shall be 10 minutes; teams change ends for the second half.
3. Teams may make unlimited substitutions during stoppages in play, to be approved by the Referee.
4. All games are played despite weather. Games will only be cancelled by the President, if requested by both teams. The field supplier may also cancel games. Cancelled games will be made up in the Tournament where possible.
5. Tournament games are 70 minutes in length (35 minutes per half), plus a 5-minute halftime.