

Black Swamp Soccer League

By-Laws and Rules of Operation

Revised and Adopted June 26, 2017

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I. Definitions

- A. **Youth Player** - a person who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to August 1 immediately preceding the start of a seasoned year. A player who reaches his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday on or after August 1st of the current seasonal year shall be allowed to compete the seasonal year.
- B. **Coach** - a person who has reached his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year and is properly registered and rostered to a team as the individual responsible for the youth players assigned to the team. A team may have as an assistant coach someone who is at least 16 years of age and has completed the risk management requirements approved by OYSAN. These assistants must be two years older than the age group they are coaching and are not allowed to be with the team unless the head coach is present. All assistant coaches will be considered under the definition of coach in all league documents.
- C. **Registration** - the signing of intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of this league. All players must complete the BSSL Liability and Consent form for turn in to league registrar. Form is listed as Attachment 2.
- D. **Team** - a recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer.
- E. **Rostering** - assignment of a registered player to a team.
- F. **Eligible to Play** - registered and not under suspension.
- G. **Suspension** - the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to the right to play, coach or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, board, league, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- H. **Add** - the addition of a player who has not been rostered to a team during the current seasonal year.
- I. **Release** - the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year.
- J. **Transfer** - the movement of a currently or previously registered and/or rostered player onto the roster of another team, or of a player that returns to the same roster during the current seasonal year after having been released.
- K. **Referee** - all currently registered USSF Referee, AR, 4th official or other duly appointed to assist in officiating matters. Referee age is determined by their age on August 1st just as players in determining minimum age requirements.
- L. **Game or Match** - a scheduled competition between two (2) member teams in good standing that is conducted as part of the league's seasonal programs. M. **Division** means a group of players that are divided by age and gender.

II. Risk Management & Concussion Training

- A. The league is responsible for ensuring all persons as required by the state sanctioning body (OYSAN) complete the Employment/Volunteer Disclosure statement. It is the responsibility of the league, club and/or team to not permit any individual to have contact with players in any capacity who does not have a valid

risk management completed.

- B. All coaches must complete either the NFHS concussion training or CDC Heads Up concussion course available online at <http://nfhslearn.com/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/index.html> unless the person has a pupil activity program permit issued under section 3319.303 of the Ohio Revised Code. This will be considered as part of the registration process for all coaches. BSSL will not accept certificates from any other course unless the course is administered by the league in a classroom setting.

III. Code of Ethics and Conduct

- A. In ethics, what matters is what one does or says, not what one thinks. An ethic has little value until it is put into practice. For this reason, every player, coach, parent and fan is encouraged to adopt the philosophy of this code of ethics and follow these principles while participating in the programs of the BSSL.
- a. The most important, fundamental concept that must be taught and learned is what is meant by good play.
 - b. Good play is skillful, fair sporting play that does not include foul or abusive language.
 - c. The attitude of players, coaches and spectators toward referees is vital. The referee's job is to ensure that fair and skillful soccer prevails. They may make mistakes, but players, coaches and spectators shall accept the referee's decisions without dissent.
 - d. A match played in a fair and sporting manner will be more enjoyable for all concerned.
 - e. Nothing is wrong with wanting to win; what is wrong, is wanting to win at any cost.
 - f. The coach, players and the spectators shall acknowledge good, skillful play; and must allow for mistakes, especially by younger, less skillful players.
 - g. The coach, by actions and words, shall encourage a love of the game in all who come into his/her sphere of influence.
 - h. The coach must always put the welfare of the players before the results of any game.
 - i. A coach should not shout at, nor demean players or officials.
 - j. The coach should provide the role model for his/her players. Players can be expected to behave accordingly.

IV. Programs

- A. BSSL shall organize and promote a recreational soccer program within its member clubs and encourage said clubs to provide all interested youth within their boundaries, irrespective of gender and skill levels, the opportunity to play soccer, and to encourage good sportsmanship and fair play for all participants therein. Recreational soccer, as defined by the official administrative rule book of the USSF, is an intra club league in which:
- a. The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is

- prohibited.
 - b. The clubs administering the league accept as participants in the league any and all eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms and registration).
 - c. A system of rostering players is employed for the purpose of creating fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating.
 - d. League rules require that each player play at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline.
- B. BSSL shall sponsor two (2) seasonal recreational soccer programs. A fall program which is held from August 1 thru November 1 of the current seasonal year. And a spring program which is held starting March 1 through May 31 of the current seasonal year.
- a. The BSSL may sponsor at least one referee certification clinic between the fall and spring seasonal programs.
 - b. The BSSL may from time to time sponsor coaching classes and certification clinics as demand and interest warrant. These classes and clinics may be offered through the OYSAN state coaching program.

V. Registration and Fees

- A. All players, coaches or teams wishing to compete in the league's program must register through their respective member club. Member clubs must submit player/coach registrations and team rosters by the league established deadline for such materials to be eligible to participate in the league's seasonal program(s). Failure to meet registration deadlines shall result in the assessment of late fee penalties as described in the Schedule of Fees and Dues for each player, coach, team and club. Fines are listed in Attachment 7. A minimum of 80% of the paperwork required for registration must be completed and turned in at the first seasonal meeting or the club will be removed from the schedules and will have no opportunity to play in the league for that season.
- B. The player and coach are registered from the moment the registration form is signed by the player, player's agent, or coach and the appropriate fees, dues have been paid and all paperwork is included.
- C. Fees and dues for league registration shall be established by the league's board of directors and published in the leagues schedule of fees and dues.
- D. Player and coach registration information shall be provided to the league's registrar on a timely basis using the prescribed computer registration program.
- E. No oversized roster will be approved in a division for a club if any roster contains players playing out of their correct age division with the possible exception of a player playing down with proper permission.
- F. Any club adding or removing a team after the team affiliation deadline will be fined and adding a team will require approval of the BSSL executive board.
- G. After the first seasonal league meeting no players may be added to any team with, or that will create an oversized roster.
- H. No player may be added to a team after the first game of the season without BSSL executive board approval.
- I. Each club must provide the concussion information sheet to each player's parent/guardian as a part of their registration forms or procedures.

- J. It is required that all coaches provide their concussion course completion certificate to the league upon initial registration and subsequently every three years as required by Ohio State law. It is also required that each coach carry a copy of their certificate, the youth concussion information sheet and the notification/return to play sheet with them at all practices and games.
- K. No BSSL team, player or coach is permitted to use an official league roster or official documents to participate in a non-sanctioned tournament

VI. Age Limit Definitions and Roster Limitations

A. Proof of age

- a. Proof of age shall consist of birth certificates, birth registration, and board of health records, passport, and alien registration card or age certificate issued by an appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.
- b. It is the responsibility of each member club to confirm and attest to the proper age of each member player and coach.

B. Divisions

- a. The league shall provide inter-club competition within predefined age divisions that are based on the player's age on the first day of January of the immediately preceding seasonal year. Divisions based on gender will be provided based on registration numbers.
- b. Current divisions authorized as a part of the leagues recreational soccer program based on gender are:
 - 1. Coed (all boys teams or any mix containing boys)
 - 2. Girls (no boys permitted on these teams)
- c. Current age divisions authorized as part of the league's recreational soccer program are:
 - 1. Under 15 years of age (U15)
 - 2. Under 12 years of age (U12)
 - 3. Under 10 years of age (U10)
 - 4. Under 8 years of age (U8)
 - 5. Under 6 years of age (U6) Club intermural play only.

C. Maximum Roster

- a. No team competing at the U15 age division shall be allowed more than eighteen (18) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- b. No team competing at the U12 age division shall have more than fourteen (14) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- c. No team competing at the U10 age division shall have more than twelve (12) Players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year
- d. No team competing at the U8 age division shall have more than ten (10) Players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year.
- e. Special exemptions to the maximum roster size can be granted by majority vote of the league's board of directors. A request for exemption must be provided using the Black Swamp Soccer League Oversized Roster form at the start of the seasonal season. (See attachment 1).

D. Minimum roster

- a.No U15 team shall be allowed to have less than eleven (11) players on its roster.
- b.No U12 team shall be allowed to have less than nine (9) players on its roster.
- c.No U10 team shall be allowed to have less than seven (7) players on its roster.
- d.No U8 team shall be allowed to have less than six (6) players on its roster.
- e.All teams must have at least one registered coach on its roster at all times during the seasonal year.
- f.No exemptions to minimum roster size shall be granted.

E. Age Group Promotion

- a.A player may not move up more than two years without the prior approval of BSSL and OYSAN. (ex: U12 to U15) Age groups for players are defined as U6, U8, U10, U12, U15. Playing up may be an option if there are no other teams available that are age appropriate. To move a player up, permission for those playing up will only be granted if a team has no more than three subs including those playing up. Those considered for age group promotion must start with the oldest player in the age group.

F. Improper Registration

- a.Any team playing a player who is over-age, or who is not registered, or who is improperly entered on the team's roster shall forfeit the games in which that player takes part, and may be suspended from further participation in the league's seasonal program.
- b.There are exceptions to the rule. If a player has physician's documentation stating, the player is physically undersized and/or mentally underdeveloped, the player may play at a younger age level with BSSL Board Approval.

VII. Multiple Rostering

- A. No player may roster on more than one team of the same age division of competition during a seasonal program. No player will be allowed to play on two teams if the teams have any chance of competing against each other.
- B. A player may roster on multiple teams at different ages or at different levels of competition during a seasonal program. Such a player is defined as being "dual" rostered and must declare a primary team at the time dual registry is established. Obligations of the primary team shall take precedence in the event of scheduling conflicts. The rules for establishing a primary team designation are left to the parents or legal guardian to determine. Any player playing in two age divisions must have league approval to play up.
- C. No more than two dual rostered player's per team.

VIII. Rules of Play

- A. Except as provided by this league or its members, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply to any and all competition sponsored by the BSSL. All BSSL games shall be played in accordance with the guidelines established by BSSL. These

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guidelines are listed in Attachments 3, 4, 5, and 6.

B. Substitutions

a. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee according to the guidelines published by the BSSL.

C. All players participating in the league's recreational program must play in at least one half (1/2) of each game except due to injury, illness, or for disciplinary reasons. Players not eligible to play one-half of a game for disciplinary reasons shall be reported to the referee prior to the start of the game.

D. Failure to compete

a. All teams are expected to compete in the regularly scheduled games of a seasonal program. If a team determines it will be unable to compete at the scheduled time and date, it is the team's responsibility to contact its opponent and attempt to reschedule the game. If the game cannot be rescheduled at a time, date and place mutually acceptable, then the team that was unable to appear at the league scheduled time and date shall forfeit the game.

b. Teams failing to give notice or teams that repeatedly forfeit or fail to compete at the scheduled time and date may be suspended from further competition during the current seasonal program; and could face further sanctions at the discretion of the league's Disciplinary Committee. A coach or team that refuses to finish the regulation time of a game is guilty of failure to compete.

E. Game Officials

a. All games scheduled and played as part of the league's seasonal program shall be played under the control of a certified, neutral soccer referee. BSSL recommends U8 and U10 have a single referee. U12 and above employ the Diagonal System of Control (one referee two assistant referees one whistle on the field). Under no circumstance should a Dual System be used (two referees two whistles on the field). Any referees found using the Dual System will be reported to the Assistant State Referee Administrator. Any club using the Dual System may face disciplinary action.

b. The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the playing field for all games. In other respects, the duties of the referee and assistant referees are as defined in the "Laws of the Game".

c. In the event the referee appointed to a game fails to appear, if assistant referees have been appointed, one of the assistants shall take charge. For games U12 and U15 a game shall not be played unless at least one certified, neutral referee is present to officiate the game.

d. It is the responsibility of the "home" member club to assign certified, neutral referees to league games scheduled to be played during the seasonal program.

e. The referee shall have the power during the game to deal with players, coaches or spectators guilty of violent conduct or using threatening or abusive language. Spectators and coaches can be sent from the area of play for this type of conduct. Players can be ejected from the game. The referees shall forward to the BSSL's vice president the names of any

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- persons guilty of this type of conduct with a written report full describing the incident. In the case of a player being ejected from a game, the referee shall submit the name of the guilty player along with a detailed game report describing the incident(s) that lead to the player ejection, to the league's vice president.
- f. In the event of inclement weather, the referee will make the decision to halt the game. A report of thunder or sighting of lightning will immediately result in the game being halted. The game will not resume until thirty (30) minutes after the last report of thunder or lightning sighting. If thunder or lightning is observed during a halted game the 30 minute clock will reset. The referee will make final determination if the game is to be cancelled and the coaches will make the decision to reschedule. If the game is in the second half when halted and it is determined that play cannot resume the match will be considered complete.
 - g. According to USSF and OYSAN policy all referees must be assigned by a USSF certified assignor.
 - h. Referees may card (yellow and red card) coaches in the same manner as players. A card is not required for a referee to dismiss anyone but a player from a game.
 - i. No referee may be assigned to "center" a game which the referee is the same age or younger than the players, unless the referee is over 17 years old and is not registered as a player in this league. Assistant referees and club linesmen must not be younger than the age of the players.
 - j. Concussion: Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion is to be immediately removed from a contest or practice and not permitted to reenter competition or practices without written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.). Any team official, referee, or site official has the right to remove a player to determine if the player shows signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion.
 - k. Only coaches and team staff personnel are permitted on the player's side of the field during a game. No more than a total of 3 coaches or team staff members are permitted on the player's side of the field during a game.
 - l. The league will maintain the right to discipline any players or coaches who participate in any sanctioned tournament regardless of any relationship or lack thereof between the league and the tournament.
- F. All coaches must be identified by a OYSAN coach's card and have a current photograph of named individual permanently affixed, lamenated and signed by the League Registrar. Coach's cards will not be signed by the League Registrar until proof that he/she has completed their Risk Management Application and turned in their Concussion Certification. Coaches' cards and Concussion certificates are required to be with a Coach at all times.
- G. Coaches responsibilities:
- a) Each coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her players, other team officials and spectators before, during, and after the game, and shall instruct all of the above to behave in a proper and respectful manner.

- b) Each coach is responsible for correctly submitting a legible Referee Game Report with the proper and accurate information to the referee prior to the start of the game.
- c) Each coach is responsible for submitting proper Coach's cards prior to the start of the game. Fees are to be paid at the completion of every game.
- d) Only authorized coaches for that individual team may be in the team's area on the sideline. No more than three (3) authorized coaches may be in the team's area.
- e) Coaches are recognized as part of the League games, and are subject to all rules of the game.

IX. Suspension Because of Litigation

- A. Any person participating in any BSSL program who becomes involved as a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players, or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended from all soccer-related activities until completion of the litigation. The status of the person shall be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee at the completion of litigation. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has the right to appeal whether the matter which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players.

X. Team, Coach and Player Breach of Rules

- A. It is the responsibility of the Vice President and the Disciplinary Committee to investigate any reported violation or infringement of the league's constitution, bylaws and rules of operation. Failure to cooperate in such an investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.
- B. Any player, coach, or spectator, ejected from a league game shall not be allowed to participate in any games the remainder of that day or in the next immediately following scheduled league game with that team. A player, coach, or spectator, may receive more than a one game suspension based on the severity of the offense or due to repeated offenses. The length of a suspension, if more than a single game, shall be determined by the league's Disciplinary Committee and communicated to the player and the player's coach in a timely manner. The director of the players club will also be notified as a courtesy. All coach ejections will automatically receive a discipline committee review to determine if additional games suspensions are warranted.
- C. Any player found guilty of knowingly submitting falsified birth information shall be suspended from participating in any league program for the remainder of the current and the next seasonal year.
- D. Any team found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player shall not be allowed to compete during the seasonal program.
- E. Any coach, manager, or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) or coach(s) shall be suspended for the remainder of the current and the next seasonal year.
- F. Coaches, other team officials, and spectators shall be subject to all rules pertaining to the games of soccer and misconduct as defined in the "Laws of the Game". These individuals shall be subject to removal and suspension for rule

violations.

- G. Any other individual who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team such as relatives of players and other spectators shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of BSSL. The coach(s) or other team officials shall be held responsible for the conduct and actions of any individual(s) at any league sponsored competition that in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team. Failure to control the conduct and actions of such related individuals may result in official sanctions against the associated team.
- H. Violation of the Code of Ethics and Conduct Rule 3.
 - a. In all cases the disciplinary committee will conduct a full investigation. Due to the nature of the offense and the discipline; all reports must be reviewed and approved by the league president before any action is taken. These actions will not be appealable. This will apply collectively to a coach's career in the BSSL. (Not seasonal)
 - 1. First offense will result in a direct warning from the league vice-president to the coach with the director's knowledge.
 - 2. Second offense will be a one game suspension and a \$25 fine for the club.
 - 3. Third offense will be a three game suspension and a \$50 fine for the club.
 - 4. Fourth offense will be a permanent ban from the league.
- I. Any team official who refuses to remove a player for determination of possible concussion or allows a player to return without written medical release shall be suspended for the remainder of the current seasonal year and may be permanently barred from the league.
- J. The Discipline Committee will have the right to impose any sanctions and/or fines deemed appropriate with regard to a ruling where there is no specific terms written in the bylaws.
- K. In all matters referred to the discipline committee where there is an allegation of misconduct, a violation of the code of ethics or abuse against a person, the person will be temporarily suspended from the team while the committee conducts an investigation. The suspended person will have the right to be heard by the Vice-president and if so desired the entire committee. If the allegations are found to have been made without just cause, the party making the allegations will be sanctioned. In all matters where a violation is clear, the committee will have the right to impose sanctions without hearing from the person. They will still have a right to be heard by an appeals committee.

XI. Rule 11 – Protests

- A. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, qualifications of referees, interpretation of rules, or any disputes or protests whatever relating to competition shall be referred to the BSSL's Disciplinary Committee. Decisions of the committee shall be binding on all parties involved.
- B. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each Disciplinary Committee protest:
 - a. Must be verbally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site except as noted in item iii of this rule; and must be filed with the

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- Disciplinary Committee with written copies of any pertinent information.
- b. All protests must be postmarked or received by the Vice President of the BSSL no more than forty-eight (48) hours following the scheduled game from which the protest arises.
 - c. Any protest relating to grounds, goal posts, bars, or other field conditions shall be considered only if written objection has been lodged with the referee and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
 - d. The league's Vice President shall immediately on receipt of such protest notify the team, club, or individual against which such protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all related materials to that entity, which will then have the right to defend its case.
 - e. A lawyer shall not represent either parties at a hearing of a charge or protest unless he/she is a bona fide member of one of the parties concerned.
 - f. A plea of ignorance to rules and violations of this league is not sufficient grounds for appeal or protest. Violators may expect appropriate action by this league.
 - g. Appeals of player, coach, team or club sanctions shall be referred to the BSSL's Appeals Committee per the procedures for appeal as defined in the league's constitution.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the bylaws of the Black Swamp Soccer League, as revised and duly adopted by the board of directors on June 26, 2017.

Shane Hildebrand, Secretary

Black Swamp Soccer League Oversized Roster Form

Season: _____

Club Name: _____

Team Name: _____

Team Number: _____

Age Level: _____ (U8 – U10 etc.)

Max roster players allow: _____ (For age group)

Number of roster players: _____

Club Name: _____ is asking that the BSSL
allow the above team to play in the league with an oversized roster.

Team Representative: _____

Position: _____

Approved/Denied: _____ Date: _____

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Club Name: _____ Team Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

RULES OF THE USYSA

I, the parent/guardian of the registrant, a minor, agree that I and the registrant will abide by the rules of the USYSA, the Black Swamp Soccer League, its affiliated clubs, organizations and sponsors. Recognizing the possibility of physical injury associated with soccer and in consideration for the USUSA & BSSL and its affiliated clubs accepting the registrant for its soccer programs and activities (the "Programs"), I hereby release, discharge and/or otherwise indemnify the USYSA, its affiliated organizations and sponsors (e.g. Ohio Youth Soccer Association North, The Black Swamp Soccer League, Clubs and Soccer Coaches), their employees and associated personnel, including the owners of fields and facilities utilized for the Programs, against any claim by or on behalf of the registrant as a result of the registrant's participation in the Programs and/or being transported to or from the same, which transportation I hereby authorize.

I have also received information with regard to concussions.

Please sign here to indicate you have read and agree to the above:

Name: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian (please print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Official under 8 Playing Guidelines

- I. Roster size**
 - A. Min 6 – Max 10 players
- II. The Field of Play**
 - A. Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.
 - a.Length: minimum 25 yards maximum 35 yards
 - b.Width: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards
 - B. Markings shall be:
 - a. Distinctive lines not more than 4 (four) inches wide.
 - b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
 - c. A center circle with a four-yard radius.
 - d. Four corner arcs with a three-foot radius.
 - e. Goal area: four yards from each goal post and four yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
 - f. Penalty area: eight yards from each goal post and ten yards parallel with the goal line.
 - g. Goals shall be seven feet high and twenty-one feet wide.
- III. The Ball:**
 - A. Size 3
- IV. Number of Players:**
 - A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is six, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.
 - B. Maximum number of players on the roster cannot exceed ten.
 - C. Substitutions:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
 - b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
 - c. Prior to a throw-in by either team as long as the team with the ball is substituting at the same time.
 - d. After a goal, by either team.
 - e. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play.
 - f. At half time.
 - D. Goalie changes at least every half; a minimum of two different goalies must be used. More goalies are allowed. No goalie may play more than 20 min of the game.
- V. Player Equipment:**
 - A. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or others including any kind of jewelry.
 - B. Basic equipment includes a uniform, shin guards, and tennis shoes or cleated soccer shoes.
- VI. Referee:**
 - A. One Registered Referee.
 - B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- VII. Duration of the Game:**
 - A. The game shall be divided into equal halves of 20 minutes each.
- VIII. Start or Restart of the Game:**
 - A. Both teams must be on their half of the field to begin the game.
 - B. A kick-off is used to start a game or second half, or after a goal is scored.
 - C. A kick-off is a direct kick, which maybe kicked in any direction.
 - D. A kicker who touches the ball first during the kick-off may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

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- E. Opponent must be four yards from the center mark while the kickoff is in progress.
- IX. Ball In and Out Of Play:**
 - A. The ball is out of play if it completely crosses the goal end line or touch line, or if the referee stops the play.
 - B. The ball is in play all other times when remaining in the field of play.
- X. Method of Scoring:**
 - A. A goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.
 - B. The team with the most goals wins. A tying score ends in a draw.
- XI. Free Kicks:**
 - A. A player may receive either a direct or an indirect kick and must be taken where the foul occurred. The ball must be stationary, and the player cannot touch the ball twice in a row without another player touching the ball.
 - B. In the case of either a direct or an indirect kick, the opposing team must stand at least eight yards away from the ball.
 - C. A direct kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits a careless, reckless act, or uses excessive force.
 - D. A Penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalie, inside his/her own penalty box commits a foul, or if a player plays in a dangerous manner.
 - E. A direct kick is put into play once one player touches the ball.
 - F. An indirect kick cannot be scored unless two players touch the ball before entering the goal or if the ball goes out of play.
- XII. Penalty Kicks:**
 - A. A penalty kick is awarded to a team if a player on the opposing team commits a foul worthy of a direct kick in their own defensive box. A penalty kick is a direct kick with all players, with the exception of the goalie, standing outside the box and five yards away from the player who is kicking the ball.
 - B. The penalty kick is taken 7 yards from the goal line.
 - C. The defending goalie must remain on the goal line, and between the goalposts until the ball is kicked.
 - D. A player taking the penalty kick cannot kick the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
- XIII. Throw-in:**
 - A. A throw-in is awarded if the ball passes over the touch lines on either side of the field. The throw must be taken from where the ball went out of play and is taken by the team in which their opponents touched the ball last before going out of play.
 - B. A throw must be taken facing the field, part of each foot on the ground, outside the touch line, using both hands, and delivering the ball over and directly behind their head.
 - C. A same player throwing the ball in play cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
 - D. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.
- XIV. Indirect Kick:**
 - A. Any purposeful header within the game shall result in an indirect kick from the spot of the infraction.
- XV. Goalie Punts and Drop Kicks:**
 - A. Goalkeepers are not allowed to punt or drop kick at the U8 or younger level.
 - B. The opposing team must retreat a minimum of eight yards, once the goalkeeper has possession of the ball in his or her hands. The opposing team must remain a minimum of 8 yards until the ball is played from the goalkeeper from a throw, roll, or kick.

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XVI. Goal Kick:

- A. A goal kick is awarded if the ball, having last touched by the opposing team, passes over the goal line with the exception of if a goal is scored.
- B. A goal kick is taken within the goal area by a player or goalie of the defending team.
- C. Opponents must remain a minimum of eight yards, until the ball is in play. No player may touch the ball until it is outside the penalty area.
- D. A player taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches it.

XVII. Corner Kick:

- A. A corner kick is awarded when the whole ball, having last been touched by the defending team, passes over the goal line and a goal is not scored.
- B. The ball is placed next to the nearest corner flag without removing the flag and is kicked by a player on the attacking team.
- C. Opponents must remain eight yards away from the ball until it is in play. A ball is in play once it is kicked or moved, and the player taking the corner kick may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

U10 Official under 10 Playing Guidelines

- I. Roster Size**
 - A. Minimum 7 – Maximum 12
- II. The Field:**
 - A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
 - a. Length: minimum 45 yards maximum 65 yards.
 - b. Width: minimum 35 yards maximum 45 yards.
 - B. Markings shall be:
 - a. Distinctive lines not more than 4 (four) inches wide.
 - b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
 - c. A center circle with a four-yard radius.
 - d. A “build-out line” 14 yards from the goal line and parallel to the goal line.
 - a. The Build-out line must be a different color than the field lines.
 - e. Four corner arcs with a three-foot radius.
 - f. Goal area: four yards from each goal post and four yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
 - g. Penalty area: eight yards from each goal post and ten yards parallel with the goal line.
 - h. Goals shall be seven feet high and twenty-one feet wide.
- III. The Ball:**
 - A. Size four.
- IV. Number of Players:**
 - A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is seven, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.
 - B. Maximum number of players on the roster cannot exceed twelve.
 - C. Substitutions:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
 - b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
 - c. Prior to a throw-in by either team as long as the team with the ball is substituting at the same time.
 - d. After a goal, by either team.
 - e. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play.
 - f. At half time.
 - D. Goalie changes are recommended, but not mandatory.
- V. Player Equipment:**
 - A. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or others including any kind of jewelry.
 - B. Basic equipment includes a uniform, shin guards, and tennis shoes or cleated soccer shoes.
- VI. Referee:**
 - A. One Registered Referee.
 - B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- VII. Duration of the Game:**
 - A. The game shall be divided into equal halves of 25 minutes each.
- VIII. Start or Restart of the Game:**
 - A. Both teams must be on their half of the field to begin the game.
 - B. A kick-off is used to start a game or second half, or after a goal is scored.
 - C. A kick-off is a direct kick, which maybe kicked in any direction,

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- D. A kicker who touches the ball first during the kick-off may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
- E. Opponent must be four yards from the center mark while the kickoff is in progress.

IX. Ball In and Out Of Play:

- A. The ball is out of play if it completely crosses the goal end line or touchline, or if the referee stops the play.
- B. The ball is in play all other times when remaining in the field of play.

X. Method of Scoring:

- A. A goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.
- B. The team with the most goals wins. A tying score ends in a draw.

XI. Off-Side:

- A. An offside position is if he/she is closer to their opponent's goal than both the ball and the second last opponent beyond the Build-out line.
- B. A player is ruled offside if at the moment the ball is touched or played by one of their teammates, he/she is involved in the play by interfering with the play, interfering with the opponent, or gaining an advantage by being in that position.
- C. A play is not offside if he/she is on their own defensive half of the field or closer to their own defending goal than the build-out line on their attacking half of the field, level with the second last opponent, or level with the last two opponents or behind the ball.
- D. If the offensive player receives the ball directly, there is no offside on a goal kick, throw-in, or corner kick.
- E. In the case of an offside call, the opposing team receives an indirect kick from where the infringement occurred.

XII. Misconduct:

- A. Only a player or substitute may be shown a red or yellow card.
- B. A player is cautioned and shown a yellow card if he/she is guilty of unsporting behavior, shows dissent by word or action, persistently infringes the laws of the game, delays the restart of a game, fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted, enters or re-enters the game without the referees approval, or deliberately leaves the field without the referees approval.
- C. Players issued a yellow card must be substituted by another player.
- D. A player is sent off and shown a red card if he/she is guilty of a serious foul play, guilty of violent conduct, spits at an opponent or any other person, denies the opposing team an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handballing the ball or by an offense punishable to a free kick or penalty kick, uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures, or if a player receives a second caution in the same match.
- E. In the event of a red card, the player must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

XIII. Free Kicks:

- A. A player may receive either a direct or an indirect kick and must be taken where the foul occurred. The ball must be stationary, and the player cannot touch the ball twice in a row without another player touching the ball.
- B. In the case of either a direct or an indirect kick, the opposing team must stand at least eight yards away from the ball.
- C. A direct kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits a careless, reckless act, or uses excessive force.
- D. A Penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalie, inside his/her own penalty box commits a foul, or if a player plays in a dangerous manner.

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- E. A direct kick is put into play once one player touches the ball.
- F. An indirect kick cannot be scored unless two players touch the ball before entering the goal or if the ball goes out of play.

XIV. Penalty Kicks:

- A. A penalty kick is awarded to a team if a player on the opposing team commits a foul worthy of a direct kick in their own defensive box. A penalty kick is a direct kick with all players, with the exception of the goalie, standing outside the box and five yards away from the player who is kicking the ball.
- B. The penalty kick is taken halfway between the goalie box and the penalty box.
- C. The defending goalie must remain on the goal line, and between the goalposts until the ball is kicked.
- D. A player taking the penalty kick cannot kick the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

XV. Throw-in:

- A. A throw-in is awarded if the ball passes over the touchlines on either side of the field. The throw must be taken from where the ball went out of play and is taken by the team in which their opponents touched the ball last before going out of play.
- B. A throw must be taken facing the field, part of each foot on the ground, outside the touchline, using both hands, and delivering the ball over and directly behind their head.
- C. A same player throwing the ball in play cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
- D. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

XVI. Indirect Kick:

- A. Any purposeful header within the game shall result in an indirect kick from the spot of the infraction.
- B. A purposeful header denying a scoring opportunity will result in a Penalty kick awarded to the opposing team.

XVII. Goalie Punts and Drop Kicks:

- A. The opposing team must retreat behind the build-out line once the goalkeeper has possession of the ball in his or her hands. The opposing team must remain behind the build-out line until the ball is played from the goalkeeper from a throw, roll.

XVIII. Goal Kick:

- A. A goal kick is awarded if the ball, having last touched by the opposing team, passes over the goal line with the exception of if a goal is scored.
- B. A goal kick is taken within the goal area by a player or goalie of the defending team.
- C. Opponents must remain behind the build out line until the ball is in play. No player may touch the ball until it is outside the penalty area.
- D. A player taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches it.

XIX. Corner Kick:

- A. A corner kick is awarded when the whole ball, having last been touched by the defending team, passes over the goal line and a goal is not scored.
- B. The ball is placed next to the nearest corner flag without removing the flag and is kicked by a player on the attacking team.
- C. Opponents must remain eight yards away from the ball until it is in play.
- D. A ball is in play once it is kicked or moved, and the player taking the corner kick may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

Official under 12 Playing Guidelines

- I. Roster Size**
 - A. Minimum 9 – Maximum 14
- II. The Field:**
 - A. Dimensions:
 - a. The field of play shall be rectangular. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
 - 1. Length: minimum 60 yards, maximum 80 yards
 - 2. Width: minimum 45 yards, maximum 55 yards
 - B. Markings shall be:
 - a. Distinctive lines not more than five inches wide.
 - b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
 - c. 3. A center circle with an eight-yard radius.
 - d. 4. Four corner arcs with a three-foot radius.
 - e. 5. Goal area: six yards from each goal post and six yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
 - f. 6. Penalty area: Fourteen yards from each goal post and fourteen yards parallel with the goal line.
 - g. 7. Goals shall be seven feet high and twenty-one feet wide.
- III. The Ball:**
 - A. Size four.
- IV. Number of Players:**
 - A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is nine, one of whom must be a goalkeeper.
 - B. Maximum number of players on the roster cannot exceed fourteen.
 - C. Substitutions:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
 - b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
 - c. Prior to a throw-in by either team as long as the team with the ball is substituting at the same time.
 - d. After a goal, by either team.
 - e. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play.
 - f. At half time.
- V. Player Equipment:**
 - A. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or others including any kind of jewelry.
 - B. Basic equipment includes a uniform, shin guards, and tennis shoes or cleated soccer shoes.
- VI. Referee:**
 - A. Three-man Registered Referee system.
 - B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- VII. Duration of the Game:**
 - A. The game shall be divided into two equal halves of 30 minutes each.
- VIII. Start or Restart of the Game:**
 - A. Both teams must be on their half of the field to begin the game.

- B. A kick-off is used to start a game or second half, or after a goal is scored.
- C. A kick-off is a direct kick which may be kicked in any direction
- D. A kicker who touches the ball first during the kick-off may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
- E. Opponent must be eight yards from the center mark while the kickoff is in progress.

IX. Ball In and Out Of Play:

- A. The ball is out of play if it completely crosses the goal end line or touch line, or if the referee stops the play.
- B. The ball is in play all other times when remaining in the field of play.

X. Method of Scoring:

- A. A goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.
- B. The team with the most goals wins. A tying score ends in a draw.

XI. Off-Side:

- A. An offside position is if he/she is closer to their opponent's goal than both the ball and the second last opponent.
- B. A player is ruled offside if at the moment the ball is touched or played by one of their teammates, he/she is involved in the play by interfering with the play, interfering with the opponent, or gaining an advantage by being in that position.
- C. A player is not offside if he/she is on their own defensive half of the field, level with the second to last opponent, or level with the last two opponents or behind the ball.
- D. If the offensive player receives the ball directly, there is no offside on a goal kick, throw-in, or corner kick.
- E. In the case of an offside call, the opposing team receives an indirect kick from where the infringement occurred.

XII. Misconduct:

- A. Only a player or substitute may be shown a red or yellow card.
- B. A player is cautioned and shown a yellow card if he/she is guilty of unsporting behavior, shows dissent by word or action, persistently infringes the laws of the game, delays the restart of a game, fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted, enters or re-enters the game without the referees approval, or deliberately leaves the field without the referees approval.
- C. Players issued a yellow card must be substituted by another player.
- D. A player is sent off and shown a red card if he/she is guilty of a serious foul play, guilty of violent conduct, spits at an opponent or any other person, denies the opposing team an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handballing the ball or by an offense punishable to a free kick or penalty kick, uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures, or if a player receives a second caution in the same match.
- E. In the event of a red card, the player must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

XIII. Indirect Kick:

- A. Any purposeful header within the game shall result in an indirect kick from the spot of the infraction.
- B. A purposeful header denying a scoring opportunity will result in a Penalty kick awarded to the opposing team.
- C. Any dangerous play will result in an indirect kick for the opposing team.

XIV. Free Kicks:

- A. A player may receive either a direct or indirect kick and must be taken where the foul occurred. The ball must be stationary, and the player cannot touch the ball twice in a row without another player touching the ball.
- B. In the case of either a direct or indirect kick, the opposing team must stand at least ten yards away from the ball.
- C. A direct kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits a careless, reckless act, or uses excessive force.
- D. A Penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalie, inside his/her own penalty box commits a foul, or if a player plays in a dangerous manner.
- E. A direct kick is put into play once one player touches the ball.
- F. An indirect kick cannot be scored unless two players touch the ball before entering the goal or if the ball goes out of play.

XV. Penalty Kicks:

- A. The penalty kick is taken 12 yards from the goal line.
- B. Foul worthy of a direct kick in their own defensive box.
- C. A penalty kick is a direct kick with all players, with the exception of the goalie, standing outside the box and eight yards away from the player who is kicking the ball.
- D. The defending goalie must remain on the goal line, and between the goalposts until the ball is kicked.
- E. A player taking the penalty kick cannot kick the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

XVI. Throw-in:

- A. A throw-in is awarded if the ball passes over the touch lines on either side of the field. The throw must be taken from where the ball went out of play and is taken by the team in which their opponents touched the ball last before going out of play.
- B. A throw must be taken facing the field, part of each foot on the ground, outside the touch line, using both hands, and delivering the ball over and directly behind their head.
- C. A same player throwing the ball in play cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
- D. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

XVII. Goal Kick:

- A. A goal kick is awarded if the ball, having last touched by the opposing team, passes over the goal line with the exception of if a goal is scored.

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- B. A goal kick is taken within the goal area by a player or goalie of the defending team.
- C. Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play, and kicked outside the penalty area.
- D. A player taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball a second time until it is touched by another player.

XVIII. Corner Kick:

- A. A corner kick is awarded when the whole ball, having last been touched by the defending team, passes over the goal line and a goal is not scored.
- B. The ball is placed next to the nearest corner flag without removing the flag, and is kicked by a player on the attacking team.
- C. Opponents must remain ten yards away from the ball until it is in play.
- D. A ball is in play once it is kicked or moved, and the player taking the corner kick may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

Official under 15 and under 19 Playing Guidelines

The league may decide to offer an 8v8 u19 division, which will be played on an u12 field using those field dimensions.

I. The Field 11v11:

A. Dimensions:

- a. The field of play shall be rectangular.
 1. Length: minimum 100 yards, maximum 130 yards
 2. Width: minimum 50 yards, maximum 100 yards

B. Markings shall be:

- a. Distinctive lines not more than five inches wide.
- b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
- c. A center circle with a ten-yard radius.
- d. Four corner arcs with a three-foot radius.
- e. Goal area: six yards from each goal post and six yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- f. Penalty area: Eighteen yards from each goal post and eighteen yards parallel with the goal line.
- g. Goals shall be eight feet high and twenty-four feet wide.

II. The Ball:

- A. Size five.

III. Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eleven for 11v11, one of whom shall be a goalkeeper.
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster may not exceed eighteen.
- C. Substitutions:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
 - b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
 - c. Prior to a throw-in by either team as long as the team with the ball is substituting at the same time.
 - d. After a goal, by either team.
 - e. After an injury, by either team, or only when the referee stops the play.
 - f. At half time.

IV. Player Equipment:

- A. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or others including any kind of jewelry.
- B. Basic equipment includes a uniform, shin guards, and tennis shoes or cleated soccer shoes.

V. Referee:

- A. Three-person Registered Referee system.

VI. Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into two equal halves of: 35 minutes

VII. Start or Restart of the Game:

- A. Both teams must be on their half of the field to begin the game.
- B. A kick-off is used to start a game or second half, or after a goal is scored.
- C. A kick-off is a direct kick which may be kicked in any direction
- D. A kicker who touches the ball first during the kick-off may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

VIII. Ball In and Out Of Play:

- A. The ball is out of play if it completely crosses the goal end line or touchline, or if the referee stops the play.
- B. The ball is in play all other times when remaining in the field of play.

IX. Method of Scoring:

- A. A goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.
- B. The team with the most goals wins. A tying score ends in a draw.

X. Off-Side:

- A. An offside position is if he/she is closer to their opponent's goal than both the ball and the second last opponent.
- B. A player is ruled offside if at the moment the ball is touched or played by one of their teammates, he/she is involved in the play by interfering with the play, interfering with the opponent, or gaining an advantage by being in that position.
- C. A play is not offside if he/she is on their own defensive half of the field, level with the second last opponent, or level with the last two opponents.
- D. If the offensive player receives the ball directly, there is no offside on a goal kick, throw-in, or corner kick.
- E. In the case of an offside call, the opposing team receives an indirect kick from where the infringement occurred.

XI. Misconduct:

- A. Only a player or substitute may be shown a red or yellow card.
- B. A player is cautioned and shown a yellow card if he/she is guilty of unsporting behavior, shows dissent by word or action, persistently infringes the laws of the game, delays the restart of a game, fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted, enters or re-enters the game without the referees approval, or deliberately leaves the field without the referees approval.
- C. Players issued a yellow card must be substituted by another player
- D. A player is sent off and shown a red card if he/she is guilty of a serious foul play, guilty of violent conduct, spits at an opponent or any other person, denies the opposing team an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handballing the ball or by an offense punishable to a free kick or penalty kick, uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures, or if a player receives a second caution in the same match.
- E. In the event of a red card, the player must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

XII. Free Kicks:

- A. A player may receive either a direct or indirect kick and must be taken where the foul occurred. The ball must be stationary, and the player cannot touch the ball twice in a row without another player touching the ball.
- B. In the case of either a direct or indirect kick, the opposing team must stand at least ten yards away from the ball..
- C. A direct kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits a careless, reckless act, or uses excessive force.
- D. A Penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalie, inside his/her own penalty box commits a foul, or if a player plays in a dangerous manner.
- E. An indirect kick cannot be scored unless two players touch the ball before entering the goal or if the ball goes out of play.

XIII. Penalty Kicks:

- A. The penalty kick is taken halfway between the goalie box and the penalty box.
- B. A penalty kick is awarded to a team if a player on the opposing team commits a foul worthy of a direct kick in their own defensive box.
- C. A penalty kick is a direct kick with all players, with the exception of the goalie, standing outside the box and ten yards away from the player who is kicking the ball.
- D. The defending goalie must remain on the goal line, and between the goalposts until the ball is kicked.
- E. A player taking the penalty kick cannot kick the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

XIV. Throw-in:

- A. A throw-in is awarded if the ball passes over the touch lines on either side of the field. The throw must be taken from where the ball went out of play and is taken by the team in which their opponents touched the ball last before going out of play.
- B. A throw must be taken facing the field, part of each foot on the ground, outside the touch line, using both hands, and delivering the ball over and directly behind their head.
- C. A same player throwing the ball in play cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
- D. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

XV. Goal Kick:

- A. A goal kick is awarded if the ball, having last touched by the opposing team, passes over the goal line with the exception of if a goal is scored.
- B. A goal kick is taken within the goal area by a player or goalie of the defending team.
- C. Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play, and kicked outside the penalty area.

- D. A player taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball a second time until it is touched by another player.

XVI. Corner Kick:

- A. A corner kick is awarded when the whole ball, having last been touched by the defending team, passes over the goal line and a goal is not scored.
- B. The ball is placed next to the nearest corner flag without removing the flag, and is kicked by a player on the attacking team.
- C. Opponents must remain ten yards away from the ball until it is in play.
- D. A ball is in play once it is kicked or moved, and the player taking the corner kick may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

Fees, Fine and Late Fee Penalties

FEES:

Players/Coaches to OYSAN (1st season of calendar year)	\$10.00
Players/Coaches to BSSL (2nd season of calendar year)	\$1.50
Club fee to OYSAN (annual requirement)	\$25.00
New Club Member Fee	\$125.00
Appeal Hearing Fee,	\$100.00

Fines and Late Penalties

Any club adding or removing teams after the team name deadline as determined by BSSL board will be fined \$100 per team

There will be a \$5 fee for any player/coach added to a roster after first meeting, regardless of reason. Players and coaches are not considered to be on a roster until all required paperwork is turned in. If any paperwork is missing at the first meeting, for a player or coach, this fee will be charged per player/coach. Executive board can waive fees in special circumstances.

Team schedules will not be given to clubs until all relevant information is received by the league registrar. This is to include, birth certificates, BSSL liability forms, coach registration, NFHS Concussion course certificate, and league fees are paid.

Any team that does not provide the referee with a certified roster prior to the game for verification will be fined \$25 per occurrence.

Acceptance of Code of Ethics and Conduct

By my signature I am stating that I will abide by the Code of Ethics and Conduct listed below. I further understand the Black Swamp Soccer League has in place disciplinary actions if these are not adhered to.

- The most important, fundamental concept that must be taught and learned is what is meant by good play.
- Good play is skillful, fair sporting play that does not include foul or abusive language.
- The attitude of players, coaches and spectators toward referees is vital. The referee's job is to ensure that fair and skillful soccer prevails. They may make mistakes, but players, coaches and spectators shall accept the referee's decisions without dissent.
- A match played in a fair and sporting manner will be more enjoyable for all concerned.
- Nothing is wrong with wanting to win; what is wrong is wanting to win at any cost.
- The coach, players and the spectators shall acknowledge good, skillful play; and must allow for mistakes, especially by younger, less skillful players.
- The coach, by actions and words, shall encourage a love of the game in all who come into his/her sphere of influence.
- The coach must always put the welfare of the players before the results of any game.
- A coach should not shout at, nor demean players or officials.
- The coach should provide the role model for his/her players. Players can be expected to behave accordingly.

Coach's signature _____

Date _____

Violation of the Code of Ethics and Conduct Rule 3:

In all cases the disciplinary committee will conduct a full investigation. Due to the nature of the offense and the discipline; all reports must be reviewed and approved by the league president before any action is taken. These actions will not be appealable. This will apply collectively to a coach's career in the BSSL. (Not seasonal)

- First offense will result in a direct warning from the league vice-president to the coach with the director's knowledge.
- Second offense will be a one game suspension and a \$25 fine for the club.
- Third offense will be a three game suspension and a \$50 fine for the club.
- Fourth offense will be a permanent ban from the league.

Concussion Notice and Return to Play Form
NOTICE TO PARENT / GUARDIAN

ORC 3707.51 and Black Swamp Soccer League policy require any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion to be removed from any practice or contest and not permitted to return to play without written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. Or D.O) This form shall serve as the authorization that the medical professional has examined the player and determined that the player has either not been concussed or the player has been released and may return to play in accordance with any restrictions noted or without restriction.

This form is to serve that your child _____ has been removed from a soccer practice or contest today because they have exhibited signs, symptoms or behavior consistent with a concussion. Please understand the coach, administrator or official that has removed your child from play has completed a course recognized by the Ohio Department of Health and has removed your child for their safety. Please consider their concern and pay close attention to your child until you can have them examined by your health care provider. Until they have been released to play by your health care provider they will not be permitted to participate with the team at any level.

Signature of removing official _____

By my signature I understand my child has been removed and will not participate until he/she has been examined and released by a health care professional.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY

ORC 3707.51 and Black Swamp Soccer League policy require any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion to be removed from any practice or contest and not permitted to return to play without written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. Or D.O). This form shall serve as the authorization that the medical professional has examined the player and determined that the player has either not been concussed or the player has been released and may return to play in accordance with any restrictions noted or without restriction.

I, _____, M.D., D.O. Have examined the following player _____ who was removed from a practice/contest due to exhibition of signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion. I have determined that the player has/has not been concussed and is cleared to return to play with the following restrictions

Signature of Medical Professional _____

Date _____

Please provide a copy of the information to BSSL president and Club Director