

MN Senior Soccer League Rules and Bylaws

Adopted April 3rd, 2008

Definitions

The Board of the MN Senior Soccer league shall consist of one member representative from each of the teams in the league.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the League.

The Officers of the League shall consist of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Secretary and Treasurer.

The FIFA laws of the game shall be enforced except where specified herein

- A. Teams are allowed to substitute freely at any time, substitutions are to be made from the center line.
- B. All matches will begin PROMPTLY at 6:30 PM. The Referee shall exercise their discretion in determining whether a match can be safely played, however **all matches shall begin prior to 6:46 PM without exception**. It will be the decision of the Executive Committee whether a match that does not start prior to 6:46 will be considered a forfeit or a postponement.
- C. The minimum number of players required by a team to play a match is seven. A game can not begin until a minimum of seven are present from each team. If a team does not have the required number of players to begin a game before 6:46 PM, the game is a forfeit by that team. **(See below for Referee payment)**
- D. Match referees shall be responsible for administering the League Rules during the match. Referees are to be paid at the start of the match and the current fees are as follows:

Each team, prior to the game will pay the center \$30 and each line \$20

E. Team Responsibilities

- 1. Each team shall have a light and a dark kit.
- 2. For each match, the **home team** has these responsibilities:

- a. A regulation size number 5 ball must be provided.
 - b. Flags, which are clearly visible from the opposite, ends of the field (18" x 12" suggested), and are mounted on a pole at least 5 feet high. They should be made of smooth, consistent, flexible material with no sharp points protruding. One flag must be placed in each of the four corners of the field. Bicycle safety flags will be automatically regarded as meeting these requirements.
 - c. The home team shall wear it's dark kit.
3. For each match, the **visiting team** has this responsibility
- a. The visiting team shall wear it's light kit.

4. Each manager must provide the Referee a roster with the players to play. The roster must be legible and list the players in numerical order. The roster must also list each players first and last names as they appear on the player's age verification document. A player whose name on the roster does not match the name on their age verification document will be considered ineligible for play. This roster will be checked by the referee and then given to the manager of the opposite team for a game record. Because each Manager is also a board member please keep the roster for possible future use or questions. **Failure to provide a properly completed roster as explained above will result in the forfeit of the match.**

5. Failure of the home team to provide flags, game ball or wear its dark kit prior to commencement of the match will result in forfeit of the match.

6. Failure of the visiting team to wear it's light kit will result in forfeit of the match.

7. Additional League Rule of **NO SLIDE TACKLES** must be enforced by the referees (Managers must support this rule with their player). Slide tackles will receive either a yellow or red card at the sole discretion of the referee. A red card assessed for a slide tackle will be considered a red card for violent play as outlined in paragraphs G. 1. a, b, and c.

F. Any team may file a protest with the Commissioner, when it feels that a match or a part of a match has not been played in accordance with League Rules, provided that it informs the referee at the time it feels the rule has been violated and notifies the Commissioner within 48 hours of its intent to file a protest, and subsequently files a written protest within one week of the date of the game.

Protests shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee, and a decision will be provided in writing. Decisions of the Executive Committee are final. The Committee is free to exercise its discretion in determination of an appropriate response for the protest.

G. In addition to the standard match penalties, additional penalties shall be assessed based on the following:

1. Red Cards will be reviewed by the Board. A red card will result in an automatic 1 game suspension, to be enforced by the team. If the Red Card was issued for violent play, the following additional penalties will be assessed:
 - a. First Red Card for violent play shall result in an additional 2 game suspension.
 - b. First Red Card for violent play shall also result in an automatic 10 game probation.
 - c. Violation of probation will result in a suspension for the balance of any remaining matches for that season, as well as an additional 15 game suspension to begin the first match of the following season.

Any red card received for any reason while the player serves their probation will be considered a violation of probation and will result in the additional suspension outlined in paragraph G.1.c.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to suspend and/or place any player on probation, for a period of time of the Committee's determination, for any inappropriate behavior whether or not the referee has assessed a card to that player.

2. Referee Abuse:

Abuse against referees includes referee abuse or referee assault during and after the match, including travel to and from the match and also at later times when directly related to the duties of the game official as a referee. Referee abuse includes, but is not limited to, foul or abusive language, verbal statement (or physical act) that implies or threatens physical harm to a referee, or the referee's property or equipment. Assault includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at, or on, grabbing, or bodily running into a referee, kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury, damaging the referee's uniform or personal property

Referee Abuse will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Player suspension or probation or a combination of both may be the finding (one game up to a lifetime probation or suspension).

3. Player Abuse:

Abuse against players includes player abuse or player assault during and after the match, including travel to and from the match and also at later times when directly related to the activities of the player during the match. Player abuse includes, but is not limited to, foul or abusive language, verbal statement (or physical act) that implies or threatens physical harm to a player, or the player's property or equipment. Assault includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at, or on, grabbing, or bodily running into a player, kicking or

throwing any object at a player that could inflict injury, damaging the player's uniform or personal property

Player Abuse will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Player suspension or probation or a combination of both may be the finding (one game up to a lifetime probation or suspension).

4. It is up to the **Manager** to make certain that each player is legal including the requirement that the player be 40 years old in the season being played in. When challenged a player must provide proof to the referee on the field. If no proof the player cannot play and the Manager must provide the proof to the Executive Committee. The game is a forfeit if the player or coach within 48 hours can not produce an age identification.

- H. In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting team shall receive no standings points, and one goal against. The winning team shall receive three standing points and one goal for. If the forfeiture results in a situation where referees shows up, the forfeiting team shall pay the full amount of the referee fees for that game.

- I. In the event that a game, which has been started, is not able to be completed due to conditions beyond the control of either team, the game shall stand as a complete game if more than 60 minutes have been played, but otherwise must be replayed in its entirety. If the game is started the Referees will be paid. If the game is called before start due to unsafe weather the referees will be paid transportation fee of \$10. If a game is stopped before 60 minutes have been played, the match will be replayed at a date and time determined by the Executive Committee.

- J. Manager Responsibility

Assist the Referees to keep the games safe and friendly
Make sure that rosters are exchanged with the referee and then given to the opposing team for record retention.
Pay the referees half before each game.
Document red cards along with the Referee to have for future board action.

K. League Officers

The duties of the officers are as follows:

Treasurer: Collect team dues, and provide payments to the appropriate vendors. Keep accurate records of financial transactions, and upon request, provide a report to the balance of the board in regard to all financial matters for the year.

Secretary: Prepare the season schedule, maintain the schedule and results and post on the web site. Coordinate with NSC staff for field assignments as well as announcements of match cancellations. Serve as web master for the purpose of keeping the web site

current.

Deputy Commissioner: Coordinate referees, and referee schedulers. Assure all officials are aware of and agree to enforce league rules. Assure all needed reports are provided by the referee's in a timely fashion for the tracking of results as well as red and yellow cards assessed. Address any concerns regarding referee performance as needed or as directed by the Executive Committee or the Board. The Deputy Commissioner shall also serve in the capacity of Commissioner if the Commissioner is unable to fulfill his duties.

Commissioner: Act as figurehead for the league. The Commissioner also has the power to call and preside over any meeting of the Executive Committee or the Board. The Commissioner is responsible to provide an agenda for any meetings of the Board.

Vacancies of the League Officers will be filled on an as needed basis by volunteers.

L. Meetings of the Board.

Meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the Commissioner, or at any time such a request is made by 5 or more team managers in writing or via email. It will be the duty of the Commissioner to coordinate and plan any league meeting including but not limited to date, time, venue and refreshments.