

SUBURBAN COUNTIES SOCCER LEAGUE

PLAYING RULES: FALL 2008 & SPRING 2009

The Suburban Counties Soccer League, hereinafter referred to as the “SCSL”, is a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association, EPYSA, which is affiliated with the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association, EPSA, and all three parties are affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation, USSF. The SCSL is officially considered a **Recreation League**, in direct contrast to a Travel League. Players are not “carded” and are assumed to be strictly intramural in their skill levels.

To facilitate the definition of “Recreation play”, as played in the SCSL, we hereby set down the following Rules and Guidelines. We follow the normal USSF rules for time of games and all Referees are instructed to call all games according to the Laws of the Game.

I Membership: The SCSL invites all non-select, non-Travel, Intramural teams from all EPYSA member Clubs in Chester and Montgomery Counties (PA) in the Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and U-18 age groups. The age of a player is the same as defined by the EPYSA. A player’s exact age on July 31 of each year defines what age that player can play “Under” that fall by adding “1” to the July 31 age. For the **Fall 2008**, this means:

- U-12 players must have been born 8/1/**1996** or later
- U-14 players must have been born 8/1/**1994** or later
- U-16 players must have been born 8/1/**1992** or later
- U-18 players must have been born 8/1/**1990** or later

The Fall **2008** season is expected to include Intramural teams from the following EPYSA Clubs:

- Boyertown Soccer Club(www.boyertownsoccerclub.net)
- Coventry Soccer Association..... (www.coventrysoccer.com)
- Phoenixville Area Soccer Club, PASC..... (www.pasc1.org)
- Pottsgrove Soccer Club..... (www.pottsgrovesoccer.com)
- Pottstown Soccer Club..... (www.pottstownpal.org)
- West-Mont United Soccer Association... (www.westmontunitedsoccer.org)

II Duration of Games & Roster Size: To provide for maximum enjoyment of the game of soccer by the players while providing a schedule that allows the SCSL, coaches and referees to fit all required games into the single playing date of Saturdays in the Fall, the games durations will be as follows:

- U-12 games will be 11v11 with two (2) 30 minute halves with a 5 minute half
- U-14 games will be 11v11 with two (2) 35 minute halves with a 5 minute half
- U-16 games will be 6v6 with two (2) 30 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime
- U-18 games will be either 6v6 with two (2) 30 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime or 11v11. There are two options for playing time for the U-18 11v11 games:
 - Two (2) 45 minute halves
 - Four (4) 20 minute quarters
 - i. 2 minute break between Quarters 1 & 2 and 3 & 4
 - Coaches must declare their choice to the Ref before the game starts
 - i. If the coaches disagree, then quarters will be used

Co-ed Rosters are mandatory. At least two females must be on each roster submitted to the League office. Each team will limit its roster size to no more than 18 players for 11v11 games.

For the U-16 & U-18 teams playing 6 v 6, each Roster may contain an unlimited number of names but only twelve (12) players may dress and play in each game. Co-ed Rosters are still mandatory. At least two females must be on each roster submitted to the League office.

To enforce Co-ed play, at least one female player per team shall be on the field at all times. If an all male team is playing a team with one or more females on the playing field, the all male team will pull one player and play one player short as long as the other team has any female players on the field.

The League maintains control of all game schedules and rescheduling of any rain-dates. After a rained-out game, the Coaches can confer to see if both teams wish to reschedule the game. If so, they should request that their respective Club Coordinators request the League to have the game rescheduled with a field location and time already verified as being available to all parties. If the Referee Assignor can handle the rescheduled game, permission will be granted to play the rescheduled game. But in general, rained-out weekend games will be rescheduled in blocks for maximum referee efficiency and not on a game by game basis. Most games rained out will not be rescheduled except when early weeks are lost and open weekends exist. No game is sanctioned unless the League officially approves a game and the Ref Assignor assigns the referees.

III Referee Fees: The SCSL employs a licensed EPYSA Referee Assignor, who shall schedule and provide ALL referees used at ALL SCSL games. Each team will pay the Referee half of the game referee fee before the start of each game, in CASH (exact change required). In **2008-09**, the Referee fees are:

- U-12 11v11 games are **\$36** / game so each SCSL Team pays **\$18** to the Ref
- U-14 11v11 games are **\$42** / game so each SCSL Team pays **\$21** to the Ref

- U-16 6v6 games are **\$46** / game so each SCSL Team pays **\$23** to the Ref
- U-18 6v6 games are **\$50** / game so each SCSL Team pays **\$25** to the Ref
- U-18 11v11 games are **\$136** / game so each SCSL Team pays **\$68** to the Refs

The specific Referee arrangements for the 11v11 Games at the U-18 Level are:

- 1) We are using a three-person Ref System with a Middle and two Linesmen.
 - All three referees MUST be current, certified Refs per EPYSA
 - All three referees MUST be assigned by the Ref Assignor
- 2) If local Clubs want to offer and use their in-house Refs:
 - a. The Ref Assignor must be given the names by Thursday night at 7 PM for that weekend's games
 - i. Each Ref name shall include the Date of Birth and Phone Number for verification purposes with EPYSA
- 3) If the Ref Assignor assigns a Referee to serve as linesman, the full EPYSA rate of **\$40** per linesman per game will be paid by the Clubs engaged in the game (typically one linesman per team).
- 4) The League will handle the additional assigning fees for this three-man system at U-18.
- 5) The Full Referee Fees for these 11v11 games at U-18 are:
 - a. \$56 for the Middle Ref: Each Team pays \$28
 - b. \$40 for each Line Ref: Each Teams pays \$40

Total per Team = **\$68** compared to \$25 for 6v6 (Middle Only)

If the Referee arrives and determines that the game should not be played due to field conditions or weather conditions, the Home Team pays the Referee that half of the total game fee only. The Visiting Team pays nothing.

If a game is called off by the SCSL before **7:30 AM** on game day, no fees are due. Only the SCSL, through its Club Coordinators and Referee Assignor can call off a game, NOT the Coaches. Visiting teams need to be notified two (2) hours before the scheduled start of a game if it is being called off.

IV Referees: The lifeblood of the SCSL is its group of licensed Referees who are trained for Intramural games such as those played in the SCSL. They are to be treated with Respect at all times. Coaches and Club administrators will insure that their sidelines are under control and that NO ONE is abusing or directing

loud and derogatory comments to the Referee. Improper conduct by any Coach, Parent or Club will be duly reported to the SCSL for disciplinary action.

All SCSL Coaches shall submit a Referee Evaluation Form for every SCSL game. The Form is to be used to comment on the Referee, the Game and anything else that needs to be brought to the SCSL's attention. All forms must be submitted no later than the following Monday to allow the Referee Assignor to make adjustments for the following week's set of games. There are league fines for late arriving Forms. The Forms can be e-mailed (preferred) or mailed.

In the unlikely event that an assigned Referee fails to show up for a game, the two Coaches MAY elect to still play the game using a mutually agreed upon substitute Referee. Each Coach shall nominate one person as a substitute Referee and a Coin flip shall decide who the Referee shall be. Otherwise, each Coach shall referee one half with the Home Team Coach taking the first half and the Visiting Coach taking the second half. In no event shall the Coaches wait more than ten (10) minutes past the scheduled start of a game to find a referee and begin play.

V Linesmen: Each Club will appoint a Parent or Spectator to assist the Referee in determining when a ball goes out of bounds and which team touched the ball last. This Linesman is not an Assistant Referee and shall have no powers other than to advise the Referee when and how the ball left the field.

The exception to this clause is at the U-18 level when playing 11v11. Then, a formal three-referee system shall be used with all three referees assigned by the Ref Assignor.

VI The Laws of the Game: All EPYSA/USSF rules for ball size; uniform uniformity, shin guards and substitutions will apply.

A #4 ball is used for U-12 games

A #5 ball is used for U-14, U-16 and U-18 games

Each Team must wear a single jersey color over a single pants color. Separate and distinct numbers must be clearly evident on the backs of each player. The Goal Keeper must have a jersey that contrasts with the uniforms of BOTH teams. If the two teams are not distinct enough for the Referee, it is the HOME team's responsibility to switch uniform colors using pinnies or different jerseys.

Each Team shall bring at least One (1) Game Ball to each match with two being preferred. This will allow substitute balls to be thrown in to keep play moving instead of waiting to retrieve balls that roll far out of bounds.

Each Home Team is fully responsible for the condition of the field, the presence of corner flags, the visibility of all lines and the conditions of the goal and nets.

Whenever a Player receives a RED CARD, he or she must leave the field immediately and not play in any further games until the SCSL reviews the circumstances. The SCSL reserves the right to prohibit a dangerous player from playing in SCSL games.

Special Rules for U-16 & U-18 6v6 Play:

6 v 6 games shall be played on smaller, U-10 type fields

No Offsides shall be called but Coaches are asked not to place offensive players in a constant "offsides position" near the goal. We are not trying to allow "cherry-picking" but accept subtle offsides caused by the small field and the flow of action when passes are made.

Substitutions are allowed "on the fly" for players not directly involved in a play. New players must wait for the player on the field to leave the field via the shortest route. Even the goalkeeper can be replaced "on the fly" when the ball is on the other side of the field.

No Slide Tackles are allowed, even if "legal" by USSF rules. An Indirect free kick shall be awarded to the team that was tackled in such a manner at the point of the tackle.

The Goalkeeper cannot throw, punt or drop-kick the ball over the centerline of the field in the air without the ball first touching the ground or any player before reaching the centerline. If the goalkeeper places the ball flat on the ground first and then kicks the stationary ball, it may pass over the centerline on the fly. Any violation will result in the opposing team having a direct free kick from the centerline inside the circle.

The start of the game or second half can begin with a kick-off in any direction.

In addition to the 3-goal margin recommendations in Section VII below, there are several mandatory moves required in the U-16 & U-18 6v6 games when scoring becomes excessive:

When one team goes up by five (5) goals, the opposing team will be allowed to add one (1) player. This one player addition shall be removed if the score differential drops below 5 but will be in effect as long as the score differential is 5 or more.

In addition to the above, if one team goes up by seven (7) goals, that team shall remove a player and play two players down as long as the score differential is 7 or more. The player can be added back to the field if the score differential drops below seven.

VII Running Up The Score: The biggest single issue the SCSL must deal with each year is the claim by various coaches that their Opponent “ran the score up”. Even though no Standings are kept in the SCSL and no scores are recorded other than on the Referee game reports and Referee Evaluation Cards, some coaches do sometimes allow the score to escalate without taking evasive action. This will NOT be tolerated. A 3-goal margin is considered the maximum margin of victory. As soon as a Coach gets a lead of 3 goals, he or she must take steps to avert further scoring. Moving or benching offensive scorers/starters and playing “a man down” are suggested options along with the requirement of multiple touches prior to shots on goal.

VIII The Good of The Game: The SCSL is proud of its long history of sportsmanship and quality **Recreation** play. No standings are kept and no Coach or Club is allowed to claim any “titles” or publish unofficial standings in any newspaper. All Coaches and Players are expected to line up and shake hands at the end of EACH game. No misconduct by ANY player during this ritual is to be tolerated.

All SCSL Coaches are considered to be an extension and representative of the League’s philosophy of fair play and good sportsmanship. If ANY actions unbecoming to the reputation and philosophy of the SCSL occur before, during or after an SCSL game they should be reported to the Club Coordinators immediately for a prompt SCSL response.

SIGNED: *FOR THE SUBURBAN COUNTIES SOCCER LEAGUE:*

_____ *DATE: 9/21/2008*
Gary D. Mooney, President