

# Great Lakes Coed Soccer League Rules and Regulations

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RULE 1  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISCIPLINE

**Section 1. General Cases**

In general terms, the clubs shall be responsible for governing those persons associated within their operation and shall establish procedures for doing so. However, it is the duty of all club officers, coaches, and referees to report immediately any infraction outlined in Rule 2.

**Section 2. Line of Authority**

Should any person, team or League want to appeal any adverse decision, the line of authority shall be from the Great Lakes Coed Soccer League to MSYSA, and then to the next line of authority specified by the United States Youth Soccer Association.

**Section 3. Coaches of Conduct**

A copy of the Coaches Code of Conduct shall be signed by each member of each team's coaching staff and kept on file with the local club.

RULE 2  
REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENT DISCIPLINARY RULING AND MINIMUM  
PUNISHMENTS

In addition to the game ejection.

**Section 1. Violent Conduct**

A player guilty of fighting and/or other violent behavior before, during or after games shall receive a minimum suspension of two (2) games. The player may be asked to come before the Board of Directors to review the incident.

**Section 2. Player Threats**

- A. A player guilty of making threatening gestures against another player, coach, or spectator shall receive a minimum suspension of one (1) game.
- B. A player who threatens any League or Club official shall receive a minimum suspension of three (3) games.
- C. All incidents shall be reported to the League President and Vice President.
- D. The player may be asked to come before the board to review the incident. Criminal liability may be looked at also.

**Section 3. Abuse Against an Official**

- A. The referee or site director shall report any incident of physical, and/or verbal abuse by a player, coach, or other individual against any referee or assistant referee to the League President and Vice President.
- B. These matters will be automatically referred to the MSYSA Disciplinary Board for review and action.
- C. No player, coach, or other individual may participate in any GLCSL activity (which includes regular season games, tournament games, practices, etc.) while his/her case is pending before the MSYSA Disciplinary Board.

- D. A player, coach, or other individual who physically abuses (pushes, strikes, or grabs) a site director, a League, or Club official must appear before the GLCSL Board of Officers and shall receive a minimum suspension of five (5) years.
- E. Verbal abuse by any player toward any referee, assistant referee, site director, or League official must be reported to the League President and Vice President who shall deal with each incident on a case-by-case basis (see Section 13 below).

#### **Section 4. Ejections**

- A. Any player, coach, or team official issued a red card by a referee shall receive a minimum one (1) game suspension (also, see Section 13 below).
- B. A second red card in the same season may result in suspension from the League for the remainder of the season and may disqualify the individual from participation in a post-season tournament.
- C. All players receiving a second red card in the same season will have the matter reviewed by the Executive Board.

#### **Section 5. Inappropriate and Irresponsible Behavior by Coaches**

Coaches or team officials who use insulting, abusive or threatening language and/or gestures toward other coaches, players, or League officials shall be required to appear before the GLCSL Board of Directors for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action shall be handled on a case-by case basis.

#### **Section 6. Coach Fights.**

Coach Fights. Coaches or team officials who fight or otherwise physically abuse (push, strike or grab) another coach, team official or player must appear before the GLCSL Board of Directors and shall receive a minimum suspension of three (3) years.

#### **Section 7. Coach and Fan Misconduct**

- A. Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein and as set by the USSF, including cautions, ejections, and standard suspensions.
- B. Any other individual who may be reasonably construed to be associated with a team, such as parents, relatives, and spectators, shall also be subject to the jurisdiction of this association.
- C. A coach, team official, and/or individual club may be held responsible for the actions of any individual(s) who violate these rules and who in the opinion of the Board of Directors is a supporter of that team.
- D. A coach shall be asked to remove any one associated with his/her team by the referee if their behavior becomes a problem. If the parent refuses to leave, the head coach shall be issued a red card and shall be ejected. If the person causing the issue still refuses to leave, the match shall be terminated and not replayed.
- E. If the game is a tournament game, the offending team shall forfeit the match and the offending person shall not attend another match for the remainder of the tournament.

### **Section 8. Fines, Fees, and Sanctions**

Great Lakes Coed Soccer League will impose the following fines, fees, and/or sanctions against member clubs

- A. If a team forfeits a match due to a spectator, fan, or parent, the league shall impose a fine of \$150 and a bond of \$150 from their respective club.
- B. If a team forfeits a second match due to the actions of a fan, spectator, or parent, the team shall be disqualified from participating from a post season tournament with no refund of any fees already paid, A fine of \$250 will be imposed to the respective club, they will forfeit their original \$150 bond, and must pay a new bond in the amount of \$250.
- C. If the second offense is during post season tournament, the team shall be eliminated from the tournament and shall forfeit that match and any others scheduled to be played. A fine of \$250 will be imposed to the respective club, they will forfeit their original \$150 bond, and must pay a new bond in the amount of \$250.
- D. A club shall be fined \$50 if any of their coaches receive a red card. A fine of \$100 shall be assessed to a club if the same coaches receives a second red card same season. Suspensions and other penalties to coaches shall also be imposed as defined throughout these bylaws.
- E. A club shall be fined \$100 for any team collecting 4 red cards during the regular season and any post season tournament.
  - a. The head coach shall also be assessed with a one game suspension.
  - b. Another fine of \$100 shall be assessed for every two red cards issued after the original 4 red cards to that team during the same regular season and tournament.
  - c. The coach shall also be suspended one game for every two red cards issued after the original 4 red cards.
  - d. The red card count does not carry over to the next season.

### **Section 10. Substitutions on a red card**

Per USSF Rules there are no “soft” red cards to be given. You may not substitute for a player that has been sent off for a red card.

### **Section 11. Club’s Responsibility**

- A. It is the responsibility of the clubs to report to the Executive Board any discipline action that is taken against a coach, player, parent, or anyone associated with their teams.
- B. All red cards issued at a game site must be reported to the league president and vice president within 24 hours by the club. This shall be a separate report from the referee’s game report
- C. Every home game day will have at least one assigned site director to help diffuse conflicts, to provide accurate information or education on rules, and to gather information needed for the club to report to the league.
  - a. This assigned person must be able to remain impartial in executing the duties.

- b. Unless absolutely necessary, the assigned person should not be part of the team staff. In this event, the assigned person will be present but apart from the coaching staffs and spectators.
- c. A list of the site director's responsibilities can be found in Rule 4, The Rules of the Game; Section 8

### **Section 12. Minimum Penalties**

Clubs may adopt more stringent penalties, which will prevail for their members, but in no event may penalties be less than those listed herein.

### **Section 13. Authority of the Executive Board**

- A. The Executive Board has the authority to require any player, coach, spectator, referee or other individual to appear before the GLCSL Board of Directors.
- B. Additional penalties other than those specifically outlined above (Rule 2 Sections 1-12) may be imposed at that time.
- C. Failure to appear when requested shall result in the suspension of the offending individual from all GLCSL activities until such time that compliance has been rendered.
- D. The Executive Board may issue League red cards to any individual for cause and may disqualify any individual or team from further participation the remainder of a season.
- E. A League red card shall count as a red card in determining an individual's eligibility to play.
- F. The Executive Board shall also have the authority to reduce or suspend any penalty resulting from a red card if he/she feels mitigating circumstances warrant such action.

## RULE 3 INSURANCE

All players registered with the association shall be required to have in effect a medical insurance program specified by their League and approved by the State association.

### **Section 1. Public Liability Insurance.**

All officers of the association and officials of member teams and Leagues shall be covered against personal liability claims by the MSYSA for performing acts and duties related to the work of the association.

### **Section 2. Report of Insurance Claims.**

All injuries to be claimed against the medical insurance shall be completed on the proper form and submitted within 72 hours of the injury. Forms can be obtained from the MSYSA website

### **Section 3. Personal and/or Property Damage Disclaimer.**

The GLCSL, its clubs, and its coaches are not responsible for injuries or damage to property during the season. A signed registration form from the player's parents or legal guardian must be on file with the club before a player may participate.

### **Section 4. Coaches and Players**

All players and coaches shall be registered by their clubs with the organization with which the League affiliates, thus providing them with secondary insurance.

### **Section 5. Officers and Members of the Board of Directors**

All officers and members of the Board of Directors will be covered by liability insurance from whichever State or national organization is affiliated with the League.

## RULE 4

### THE RULES OF PLAY

Rules of play shall be the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA with special modifications as permitted for local associations and youth soccer. All contests sanctioned by this association shall abide by the "Laws of the Game" and the modifications as published by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) rule book and GLCSL modifications.

### **Section 1. Coaching from the Sidelines**

Coaching from the sidelines, giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted provided:

- A. No mechanical communication devices are being used. This includes but is not inclusive of cell phones, walkie-talkies, bullhorns, or other devices designed to create an unfair advantage or distract from the game.
- B. The tone of voice used by the coach is informative and not a harangue.
- C. The coach is in the team's bench area
  - a. between the 18-yard lines the bottom of the center circle during the game.
- D. Instructions are not continuous and constant throughout the game.

### **Section 2. Uniforms**

- A. When colors of uniforms are similar, the home team must change to colors that are distinct from those of the visiting team.
- B. No player will be allowed to play with a wound or injury that will expose players, coaches, or referees to contact with body fluids on either a player's person or uniform.

### **Section 3. Player Equipment**

- A. Player equipment shall consist of a jersey (shirt) with a minimum 6-inch number on the back.
- B. Each number on an individual team shall be distinct.
- C. A player may have his/her last name and the initial of his/her first name on the jersey but no nicknames may be used.
- D. Shorts, socks, footwear, and shin guards shall also be worn during play and the socks must cover the shin guards completely.
- E. No jewelry can be worn. This included any taped jewelry.



#### **Section 4. Field Size.**

Field dimensions for all age groups can be found in the Rules and Regulations Appendix section 3

#### **Section 5. Pregame Requirements.**

- A. Each team may be required to have equipment (shoes, cleats, etc.) checked by the game officials.
- B. Each team must have the minimum required players to start and complete a game.
  - a. Maximum and minimum number of players for each age group can be found on the Rules Appendix page 4.

#### **Section 6. Game Times**

- A. Game time shall be set per the League Scheduler.
- B. Official game time shall be kept by the referee on the field.
- C. The referee shall have the authority to shorten or cancel a game due to inclement weather or unusual circumstances. If a game or half time needs to be shortened, the referee shall inform both coaches before the contest begins.
- D. No game shall be played if thunder or lightning is present.
  - a. *If you hear it, you clear it. If you see it, you flee it.*
- E. Games ended in the first half may be rescheduled. Games stopped and/or ended in the second half or at half time shall be considered complete.

#### **Section 7. Officials**

- A. Each club shall be responsible for hiring all game officials.
- B. All referees are required to submit a game report within 48 hours to the league Vice President via a stamped and addressed envelope provided by the home team. The game report shall include the following:
  - a. Teams
  - b. Game Score
  - c. Location of game
  - d. Time of game
  - e. Players that played in the game
  - f. Yellow and/or red cards given and what players/coach received said card
  - g. Detailed report if a red card is given
  - h. Injuries
  - i. Sportsmanship scores for each team
  - j. Particularly poor behavior
  - k. If a team is a no show
  - l. Referee and assistant referee names including club linesman
- C. If a game is moved and played, no report is necessary until it has been played.
- D. If a team cannot play a game or a makeup game, then a report needs to be filed with the league Vice President by the home team's club.

- E. For all games, a USSF certified referee is required to officiate in the center and the three-official system must be employed. The center referee must be at least 2 years older than the age group he/she is officiating.
- F. The assistant referees must be at least in the same age group as the players on the field.
- G. The home team is responsible for providing two assistant referees if the referee is working alone and requests assistance.
- H. Referees shall be paid the standard League fee established by the League Board and this shall be paid prior to the kickoff by the home team club (see Section 11 below).
- I. The referee shall be in charge of all matters pertaining to the field and the game. All participants are required to abide by the League Rules and Regulations. Poor behavior observed by a site director or League official may be reported to the League-Board of Directors who shall decide if a League red card is warranted.
- J. To the greatest extent possible, all referees shall be USSF certified. USSF certified referees shall be given preference over club officials.
- K. The League will notify all clubs in writing prior to the season of any rule changes or modifications.

### **Section 8. Site Director's Responsibilities**

- A. Identify self as the assigned site director to the coaches and referees prior to the game.
- B. Assist and educate, as needed, to ensure the league rules and regulation are followed.
- C. In concert with the referee, ensure that the spectators are appropriately situated at each field (i.e., no spectators allowed behind either goal post).
- D. If needed by the club, collect information on red cards issued during the game from the referee. All red cards will need to be reported from the club to the league VP within 24 hours.
- E. Gather detailed information on any observed incident, violation of rules, or poor behavior that occurred before, during, or after the game. Provide the information to your club for possible further action.
- F. During the game, assist the referee with needed weather-related actions (i.e., clearing the field for lightning).
- G. Know your club's contingency plan and be able to act in the event of an injury or medical emergency.

### **Section 9. Coaches**

- A. Each coach is bound by the Coaches' Code of Ethics, established by the League, which he/she must sign and have on file with the home club.
- B. The coaches are responsible for the conduct of all those representing his/her team at all times, including before, during, and after the game. No persons are allowed on the field unless they are participating in the scheduled match.
- C. All coaches must have SafeSport training, HEADS UP concussion training, and a background check completed through MSYSA.
  - a. Instructions on how to obtain this can be found in Rules Appendix section 5.
- D. Coaches must be properly rostered with the league prior to the beginning of the season.

- E. All coaches must show a photo ID to the referees prior to the start of the game. If a coach fails to show their photo ID, they must remain on the spectator side of the field and may not coach.
- F. Any coach who uses an improperly registered player during the regular season or any post season tournament, whether intentionally, accidentally, or otherwise, shall forfeit the game(s) in which that ineligible player participates in and will face further disciplinary action by the League.

### **Section 10. Player Participation**

All eligible players who are not under disciplinary action shall play in both halves of each game and shall play as nearly a minimum of one-half of each game as possible. This rule shall not prohibit players from playing more than the minimum required time.

### **Section 11. Soccer Balls**

- A. Regulations concerning soccer balls are as follows:
  - a. Home teams will provide a game ball, which meets the requirements of the USSF rulebook.
  - b. The size of the ball for each age group can be found in the Rules and Regulations Appendix section 4.

### **Section 12. Number of Players, Game Duration, and Referees**

- A. Players shall be placed in appropriate age groups by their host club.
    - a. Those age groups are U5, U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17 and U20.
  - B. The league shall schedule games for both boys and girls in all age divisions in the fall and spring seasons except for the U17 and U20 age group.
    - a. U17 and U20 girls shall be scheduled in the fall only and the U17 and U20 boys shall be scheduled in the spring only.
2. The number of players per team and the number of players on the field for a game can be found in the Rules and Regulations Appendix section 4.
3. Duration of the games as established by GLCSL can be found in the Rules and Regulations Appendix section 4.
4. The number of referees needed and the fees which they should be paid can be found in the Rules and Regulations Appendix section 4.

### **Section 13. Substitutions**

- A. The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made:
  - a. Prior to a throw in.
  - b. If both teams are waiting to substitute both teams shall be allowed to substitute.
  - c. If only one team is waiting to substitute then a team may only substitute on their possession.

- d. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
  - e. After a goal by either team.
  - f. After an injury by either team when the referee stops play (one for one).
  - g. At halftime by either team.
  - h. When a player is carded by either team (one for one).
- B. Special note: In U7 and U9 substitutions may be made by either team at all out of bounds stoppages regardless of which team is restarting play. This shall include throw-ins, corner kicks and goal kicks.
- C. A player may not enter or leave the field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee.

#### **Section 14. Miscellaneous**

The home team will be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings and the proper equipment.

- A. Nets and corner flags are required.
- B. Goals must be properly anchored.
- C. It will be the responsibility of the participating teams to have a game ball and to insure ensure that their fans behave in a proper and respectful manner.

#### RULE 5 TOURNAMENT GAMES

The authority for approval and/or operational control of the tournament, including dates and times of the games that are to be played, shall be vested with the Board of Directors of this association. Also, see Appendix A and Appendix B on procedures and rules for the tournament.

- A. Any club not hosting preliminary round games must have a club representative at the tournament finals. The tournament finals hosting site representative shall be contacted by the non-hosting qualifying club representatives to coordinate times that are needed to be filled.
- B. If the Board of Directors approves a post season tournament, a tournament committee shall be formed. This committee shall be chaired by the League Vice President. The rest of the tournament will consist of the following positions: scheduler, registrar, referees, game reports, site director coordinator, finals coordinator, and a member at large.

#### RULE 6 AGE LIMIT DEFINITION

#### **Section 1. Youth Player.**

The term "youth" as applied to this Constitution shall mean an amateur player who meets the requirements set forth by MSYSA when he/she applied for registration.

#### **Section 2. Age Groups.**

- A. All clubs, unless otherwise sanctioned by the Board, shall divide play among teams as listed below

- a. U20, U17, U15, U13, U11, U9, U8-U5
- B. Clubs are not required to enter teams in all age divisions to remain in good standing in the League.

**Section 3. Proof of Age.**

A birth certificate, passport, board of health record, certification of naturalization, or alien registration card shall be sufficient for proof of age for registration and verification if challenged.

**Section 4. Authority to Contest Age of Players.**

Any player can be called upon to prove his/her legal age by the Board, the MSYSA Registrar, a district commissioner, or a club director. Such requests shall be verified at the next League meeting.

RULE 7

PLAYER REGISTRATION, LEAGUE ENTRY, AND TEAM AFFILITATION

**Section 1. Proper Registration Procedure.**

- A. All players are required to submit a properly completed club player registration form to the team. The submission of a club player registration form signed by the player or his/her parent or legal guardian (if the player is under 18 years of age) and MSYSA player fees binds that player to that team for the season unless granted a transfer or release under RULE 9.
- B. Each team shall be required to submit to the appropriate League officer various forms as may be required for the operation of the association and shall pay all dues, fees, or fines that may be levied by the League or association. Also, each team is responsible for sending proper League affiliation forms and fees directly to the person responsible in the League.
- C. Each club shall be responsible for ensuring the proper registration of the players, affiliation of the teams, proper accounting of fiscal transactions and accurate reporting to the GLCSL Board.
- D. All clubs must have their final rosters submitted to the League by a date to be determined by the League. At this time the appropriate registration fee must also be submitted. There must be on file a complete roster, which includes each player's name, address, telephone number, birth date, and League ID number. Rosters maybe checked against birth certificates by a representative approved by the Board of Directors if deemed necessary. The roster will also include the name of the head coach and any assistant coaches and their telephone numbers. The roster must include the team name and club affiliation.
- E. Only rostered players and coaches may participate in practices and games.

**Section 2. Ineligible or Improperly Registered Players.**

Any team using a player in the regular season or tournament who is ineligible, whether accidentally, intentionally, or otherwise, shall forfeit the game(s) in which that ineligible player

participates and may face further disciplinary action by the League, depending upon the nature of the violation.

## RULE 8 YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

A youth player will be permitted to play an unlimited number of senior men's/women's league games without losing his/her youth eligibility if the youth participation forms are approved by MSYSA/GLCSL. Any youth playing for a senior club without such approval shall be declared an ineligible player for youth games. Any youth team using an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which that player participated under the provisions of RULE 7, Section 2.

## RULE 9 PLAYER RELEASE AND TRANSFER

### **Section 1. Player Registration and Release.**

A registered player shall be committed to a team for the season. Once registered and in the absence of mitigating circumstances, a player must remain with his/her team until the completion of the season for the League in which his team participates.

### **Section 2. Registration and Transfer Cutoff Dates.**

No changes to the GLCSL team rosters may be made after the date set each season in the Season overview.

### **Section 3. Date of Registration.**

A player is registered the moment the player or his/her parents or legal guardian (if the player is under 18 years of age) signs the club player registration form and submits the GLCSL/MSYSA player fees and these are accepted by a responsible League official.

### **Section 4. Multiple Rostering.**

With the concurrence of the GLCSL, a player may register with more than one team per seasonal year. The following restrictions apply to multiple registrations:

- A. GLCSL is designed as a recreational league to provide opportunity for new players to develop soccer skills. All clubs agree to strive to balance their team composition in each age group as nearly as possible so that teams may compete on a fair basis. Clubs are strictly forbidden from stacking any teams with skilled players at the expense of the other teams in any specific age group.
- B. Players are to be registered to the maximum number permitted without regard to previous experience or skills. Tryouts for acceptance on a team entered in GLCSL is not permitted.
- C. No team having more than 25% of its players from a select travel team shall be eligible to compete in the GLCSL. Clubs that sponsor travel teams, such as those in GVSA, and

WMYSA, must submit travel team rosters with the GLCSL Secretary for cross verification.

- D. No player may play on more than one GLCSL recreational team per season.
- E. Active high school players shall not be permitted to register and participate during the current high school season.

RULE 10  
PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Any player signing a "letter of intent" or a professional contract or who plays on a professional team without the permission of the Board shall be declared a professional and ineligible to participate in the GLCSL Recreational Program.

**Section 1. Play with Professionals.**

Only the Board along with MHSAA may grant a youth amateur permission to play in benefit or exhibition games where professional players are involved.

**Section 2. Loss of Youth Status.**

No player who has signed a "letter of intent" or a contract or who has played in any game where professional players are involved without the permission of the Board will be permitted to be reinstated to a youth amateur status.

RULE 11.  
AUTHORITY TO FUND PROGRAMS.

The Board of Directors, subject to membership approval or a special meeting may assess fees or require bonds for administrative functions undertaken on behalf of its members. The Board may also levy fines in specific disciplinary actions.

RULE 12.  
CLUBS PREROGATIVES TO SET RULES.

Clubs may deem fit to enact rules and regulations more stringent than those included herein, but in no case may their rules be less stringent.

RULE 13.  
PLEAS OF IGNORANCE.

A plea of ignorance to this Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations is not sufficient and violators may expect appropriate action by the Board of Directors of this association.

RULE 14.  
PERMISSION TO HOST A TOURNAMENT.

Clubs or organizations who wish to host a tournament must request permission from GLCSL. Also, see Appendix B.

**RULE 15.  
PAYMENT OF FEES.**

All clubs must have fees and registration forms turned in on or before the League registration date in order to participate in that season's games.

**RULE 16.  
LEAGUE SCHEDULE FOR THE SEASON.**

The League schedule for all of the regular season games to be played in a particular season shall be submitted to the League teams via their representatives 3 weeks prior to the first scheduled game or at such time deemed reasonable by the Board.

**RULE 17.  
COMPETITION OUTSIDE GLCSL.**

Any club wishing to enter teams in competition outside GLCSL are advised to consult MSYSA for rules pertinent to their programs and tournaments as their rules shall prevail over the GLCSL rules.

**RULE 18.  
MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR.**

Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the GLCSL Board of Directors and decisions so made shall be binding.

**RULE 19.  
REFEREE AND COACHING CLINICS.**

MSYSA will send referees or coaching instructors to GLCSL-sponsored classes and clinics at times and locations mutually agreed upon. Individual clubs agree not to schedule independent referee or coaching classes or clinics at times which conflict with the League-sponsored events.