

FIELD & GAME PROCEDURES FOR TEAMS, COACHES and SPECTATORS

COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

Each coach and assistant coach is responsible for the conduct of his players, their parents and supporters.

Each coach is responsible for reading, understanding and making known to assistant coaches and team representatives (including parents) the ISA code of conduct. (see coaches contract)

Yelling at, or using abusive language towards the referee, or physical abuse of the referee may cause abandonment and possible forfeiture of the game.

All persons (except coaches and linesmen) shall remain at least five (5) feet from the sidelines. No persons are allowed behind the goal line. Managers and coaches are encouraged to assist referees and linesmen in keeping the sidelines cleared. The referees may remove players or persons who crowd the sideline and the goal line. No one is allowed on the field of play without the referees permission.

Coaches and players shall remain in a area not to exceed twenty (20) yards on either side of the mid-field line.

Coaching: in all divisions, the coach must coach from only one side of the playing field. Home team has their choice of which side they want, the visiting team will take the opposite side, unless directed otherwise by the commissioner. This applies in Irving. Other cities may have other requirements.

The home team is responsible for paying the referees . The Treasurer will establish the procedure for getting the referee checks to the coaches. . If the home team does not have the checks the team should pay in cash (exact change, no personal checks).

Games are expected to start on time. Teams should be ready to play 10 minutes before the scheduled game time. Referees should be paid and all paper work done before the scheduled game time.

Each team is required to give the referee, before the game starts, a current copy (filled out) of the referee portion of the game report.

Each team is also required to turn in after the game a current copy (filled out) of the coaches portion of the game report. (At the ISC turn in completed forms at the Pavilion.

If a team fails to field the minimum number of players within 10 minutes of the scheduled game time will forfeit the game. See the scheduling policy for forfeit fees.

If there is a problem at ISC the coach or a team representative should go to the pavilion to get help and then contact their commissioner. At other locations the coach should contact their commissioner.

The home team is responsible for getting the nets & flags to the game in time for the nets to be put up before game time, *both* teams are responsible for putting up the nets. The nets must be up and securely attached to the goal prior to the scheduled start time of the game. The nets should be attached to the goals using masking tape. (do not tie the nets using knots that can not be easily undone). Each field has a set of nets in a bag. The bag has a tag that identifies which field they belong to. The bag should be placed inside one of the goals when the nets are in use.

At the ISC the nets are left up all season.

The home team must check for and report any nets, flags and bags that are missing when they arrive at the field.

After the last game at each field both teams are responsible for taking down the nets and returning them to the storage bags. The home team is responsible for returning the nets, flags and bag to the designated storage place. At the **ISC only** the flags are removed from the field after the last game on that field that day and returned to the pavilion.

Failure to return the nets within twelve hours will result in a twenty dollar fee assessed to the responsible team. This team may not play any games until the fee is paid.

see lr7

No alcohol or tobacco advertise is allowed on team uniforms. (players, coaches and team representatives)

No pets are allowed at the soccer fields.

No smoking is allowed at the soccer fields (this includes but is not limited to the pavilion, concession area, restrooms and playground area)

The coach must ensure that EVERY player plays at least 50% of every game.

Promote the development of EACH player through competitive fun and fair play. This includes Physical, Motor Skill, Social and Cognitive Development.

Don't run up the score. It's not good for either team if the game is a mismatch, but sometimes it happens. If your team gets 5 goals ahead, you should be a good sport & do one of the following:

- 1) Put your weakest scorers up front (use this as an opportunity to let them be forwards).
- 2) Try someone new in goal & at fullback
- 3) Pull a player off the field & "play short". If it is still a mismatch, pull off another player.
- 4) Tell your players they must complete 5 consecutive passes before shooting
- 5) Tell them they can only take shots from outside the Penalty Box (i.e., practice chip shots, lofted shots at the top of the goal or power shots).

COACHING REQUIREMENTS

All registered ISA coaches, assistant coaches, managers and anyone that may work with an ISA team, must complete at the minimum, a "G" coaching course during the 6 months after they start coaching. Persons coaching under 8 & 10 should have completed a "F" coaching course and under 12 and above should have completed a "E" coaching course. Exceptions can be made with the Vice President of Coaching and the Age Division Commissioner Commissioner's approval in writing.

Any person coaching (in the technical area) during a game must have a current valid coaches ID card displayed during the game. Anyone working with the team must have a current valid coaches ID card. No one can get a coach ID card without passing their background check.

Rule seminars for teams (parents, coaches and managers) are available and each team should schedule one.

FOUL WEATHER

Check the Web Page, ISA phone number or Commissioner.

The IPAR or the ISA general manager has the authority to postpone a game because of weather or field conditions.

The referee has the authority to postpone a game at the field because of weather conditions. This decision will be based on the conditions of the playing field.

Teams must report to the playing field ready to play unless previously notified otherwise by the rain out phone number or the commissioner or the web page. The penalty for failure to follow this rule is forfeiture of the game. Coaches MUST NOT ASSUME a game has been postponed.

The Referee Association will notify the general manager and the commissioner chairman immediately of all games postponed or suspended by the referees. If the game was postponed or suspended because of misconduct the GM and/or CC will notify the A&D chairman immediately.

If a game is suspended for any environmental reason before the second half has started, that game shall be replayed. If suspended after the second half of play has begun, that game shall be considered a full game. Environmental reasons include foul weather, lack of lighting, etc.

When a game is called off or stopped because of inclement weather, both teams will take down the nets and put them in the bag. The home team should return the nets immediately. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a twenty dollar fee assessed to the responsible team/teams. The team/teams may not play any games until the fee is paid.

see LR8

MAKE-UP GAMES

Normally makeup games will be posted on the web page within 24 hours. The commissioner should make sure teams know about rescheduled games. Coaches are responsible for having their team at all scheduled/rescheduled games.

Also see the scheduling policy document.

see LR9

PRACTICE

Each coach will be responsible for finding his own practice field. (The commissioner will have a list of practice areas designated by the city for soccer practice. (See the web page for the current list)

Assignment of fields for scrimmage games will be done by the General Manager. One field for each age group will be designated for scrimmages. A team may reserve one of the scrimmage fields only twice during a season.

Board Policy 2/98

There will be a minimum of two (2) practices per week. If there is a game during the week (*Monday through Friday*) it may count as one practice.

No practice is permitted on fields designated by the city as “league game field only” or fields closed for maintenance. Any coach, asst. coach, manager, player or team representative who violates this rule may receive a one game suspension. Violations of this rule will be reported to the A. & D. Committee. A second violation of this rule will cause the violator to have to appear before the A. & D. Committee for disciplinary action.

see LR10

see LR21

GAME PROCEDURES

The highest standards of conduct and good sportsmanship must be maintained at all times by players, coaches, referees, spectators and all other participants. Offensive, insulting or abusive languages is forbidden. The use of alcohol, tobacco products or illegal drugs in the vicinity of the playing field during practices or games, meeting areas, parking areas and concession areas is strictly forbidden.

Both teams shall present a game ball to the referee prior to the start of the game.

see LA

If a team does not field the minimum number of players within 10 minutes after kick-off time, a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing team. If neither team can field the minimum number of players, the game will show as a loss for both teams.

see LA3

Players Equipment

- A. A player shall not wear anything which is dangerous to another player.
- B. The equipment of a player shall consist of:
 - 1. Jersey or shirt.
 - 2. Short pants
 - 3. Shin-guards are MANDATORY and MUST be covered by stockings.

4. Stockings (knee length).
5. Shoes: Tennis shoes or other athletic shoes with approved cleats.
6. Goalkeepers jerseys must be clearly distinguished from the rest of the team's jerseys, but not black.
7. It is required that each player have a unique number (4-6 inch permanent) on their uniforms.
8. The number on the uniform must match the official roster and game reports.
9. If at any time, two playing teams wear the same color jersey, the home team shall wear white tee-shirts, or an alternate color.
10. Warm-ups can be worn in cold weather, provided:
 - a. Shorts and jersey are worn over warm-up or
 - b. Warm-ups are of the same color and have identifying numbers.

see LA4

The referee shall:

1. Enforce the Laws and decide any disputed point.
2. Keep a record of the game; and act as official timekeeper.
3. Have discretionary power to stop the game for any infringement of the Laws and to suspend or terminate the game when ever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, he deems such stoppage necessary.
4. Have discretionary power to caution any player guilty of misconduct or ungentlemanly behavior and, if he persists, to suspend him from further participation in the game.
5. Allow no person other than the players and the linesmen to enter the field of play without his permission.
6. Stop the game if, in his opinion, a player has been seriously injured. If a player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play.
7. Have discretionary power to suspend from further participation in the game, without previous caution, a player guilty of violent conduct.
8. The power and authority of the referee commences at the time he arrives at the playing location and ends at the time he leaves the playing location. Thus, a player, manager, coach, spectator, or team representative could be cautioned or sent off (ejected) before a game actually started or after the referee blew his whistle for the end of the game.
9. Report serious misconduct or violations in writing to the Chairman of the A & D Committee. The Committee has the authority to suspend or remove players, coaches, team representatives or spectators who are guilty of misconduct or serious violations.
10. Clearly indicate to the players involved all infractions which have been committed. When this is done, players and coaches will accept the referee's decision.
11. Refrain from penalizing in cases where he is satisfied that, by doing so he would be giving an advantage to the offending team.

- B. If a player, coach or assistant coach should be ejected from the game or playing field for any reason by the referee:

The player, coach, or parent shall immediately leave the area, and can not be close enough to the playing field to interfere with the gam. Any player, coach, or parent who does not comply with the above paragraph or does not stay away from the playing field, after having been required to do so by the referee, shall be automatically suspended for two (2) games and the game may be abandoned. More severe penalties may be imposed by the Appeals and disciplinary committee. Suspensions shall carry over to the next season where sufficient play during the current season is not possible. In such case, the State Association shall be notified of the name of the suspended player or coach and the length of suspension remaining. The State Association shall make this information available to all concerned Associations. Note that if you have a child in the game, you will either have to take him or her with you, or make a split second decision on who will take care of the child.

NOTE:

Abandoned games will be refereed to the A & D Committee for determination of outcome.

- C. Two weeks prior to the start of each season all referees must be approved by the Committee of Commissioners and Executive Board.
- D. When a referee is assigned to a game in which the referee's parent, child, brother, sister or any other relative living in the same household, is coaching or playing, both coaches are to be notified in advance, if possible, and shall be given the option of rescheduling the game for a different referee at a later date. If no advance notice is given, either coach has the same option of rescheduling at game time and will not suffer a forfeit or other penalty. If the referee is accepted, and the game is started, the family relationship will not be a basis for protest.
- E. Unregistered Referees may be used in emergency.
- F. Coaches or adults of Under 6,8,10 teams may be required to officiate one half of their own games.
- G. If a referee fails to appear:
 - 1. The coaches of the opposing teams shall attempt to appoint a qualified referee for their game.
 - 2. If a substitute registered referee is available and a team refuses to play the game will be referred to the Committee of Commissioners. The game may be declared a forfeit and disciplinary action may be taken against the coach. Subject to paragraph D.

see LA5

DISCIPLINE

Violation of ISA rules or other misconduct shall be reported, in writing and received within five (5) days, to the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee and age division commissioner. Any coach, asst. coach, manager, player, parent spectator or team representative not abiding by the ISA rules and policies shall be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension if deemed necessary. Also see NTSSA Rule XI. Note: Anyone suspended from a game leave the area of said game, from thirty minutes before until thirty minutes after the game is over.

(Failure to report misconduct in a timely manner is a violation of ISA rules. The fact that misconduct is not reported in a timely manner does NOT exempt the offending party from disciplinary action by ISA.)

The age division commissioner will notify all parties, in writing, of the minimum punishment required by the rules. A copy of this ruling shall be sent to the Chairman of the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee. The Appeals and Disciplinary Committee may administer more severe punishment if it deems necessary. The A & D Committee will notify the Executive Board of it's decision in writing. The Executive Board may administer more severe punishment if it deems necessary.

Any teams which receive written cautions and/or player ejection's on three (3) separate occasions during one game shall forfeit said game by the score of 3-0 unless the score was more favorable for the winner when play was stopped, in which case, the existing score shall be declared the final score. All play shall cease with the third caution and players will be required to leave the field.

Justification for forfeiture of the game and all previous games shall exist:

- 1. If a team plays a player above the age limit.
- 2. If a team plays a player still under contract to another team.
- 3. If a team plays a player who is not under contract.
- 4. Incomplete paper work and/or improperly registered team.
- 5. Other situations as determined by the A&D Committee and/or ISA Board.

If a coach has a discipline problem with a player, the coach will contact the player's parent or guardian to assist in correcting the problem. If the player continues to be a discipline problem the coach will contact the Age Division Commissioner. The Commissioner will contact the parents or guardian of the player to discuss the problem. If the problem continues the Commissioner will contact the Commissioner Chairman for approval to remove the player from the team. The Commissioner will then submit a copy of the removed player's registration, Refund Request form (if applicable) and a NTSSA add/delete form to the registrar. The removed player will then be removed from the team's roster on the ISA computer.

see LR14