

**PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION  
OUTDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS**

(Revised July 2017)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the goal of the Parks & Recreation Outdoor Soccer League to provide an enjoyable, safe and physically beneficial activity for the youth of Philadelphia. Learning and development of skills, appreciation of the game and constructive competition are emphasized. The time frame for the league is the fall with play beginning the weekend after Labor Day and culminating before Christmas. Those teams wishing to continue their soccer experience may do so with the Parks & Recreation Indoor Soccer League, which begins play in January.

**I. FORMATION:**

- A. Affiliation: The Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) Soccer League is affiliated with the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), and the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA).
- B. Administration: The PPR is administered by the Outdoor Soccer Committee under the Sports and Athletics Section of the Parks & Recreation. The committee is comprised of the City Chairperson and all the league directors. The City Chairperson will also act as league registrar with EPYSA.
- C. Advisory Council: The Philadelphia Soccer Advisory Council, comprised of volunteers from the soccer community, assists in the administration of the league by the handling of finances, serving on grievance committees and advising in the administration and direction of the league.

**II. LEAGUES**

- A. The following leagues will be offered for males and females based on number of team registered:

Under 8	Under 12
Under 9	Under 13
Under 10	Under 14
Under 11	
- B. Teams apply for skill level (A or B). League director will determine placement. Commitment form means acceptance of placement.

**III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Each soccer club must register with EPYSA by July 1<sup>st</sup> going online and completing the RG1.
- B. All players and coaches must be registered with the league in accordance with the registration procedure.
- C. Adults seeking to coach a team must complete a Risk Management form online through EPYSA's website, as well as take a concussion course with certification held by their club. Failure to do so will cause loss of coaching privileges.
- D. All Coaches/Board Members/Volunteers associated with a Club **MUST** have PA Criminal Record and Child Abuse Clearances on file with their club (if they have not lived in the State of PA for the last 10 years they must also provide FBI fingerprint screening
- E. Players may play on only one team and in only one age division. Penalty will be loss of all games involving that player and disciplinary action taken against the player and/or coach.
- F. Ages – will be based on Birth Year (see chart: Soccer Year - Birth Year = Age Group)  
(2017 - 2007 = U10)
- G. Use of an ineligible player will cause a team to forfeit all games played using that player. Playing under an assumed name, falsifying rosters or giving false information to league directors will constitute a commission of fraud. The penalty to the player and/or coach for such a commission of fraud will be a minimum one (1) year suspension from the Outdoor Soccer Program.

**IV. REGISTRATION**

- A. Meetings concerning registration will take place between May and August with registration taking place during August and September. Additional meetings will be scheduled at the discretion of the Outdoor Committee.

- B. When registering a primary team the coach must submit a completed roster, player passes with pictures and proof of age for each player. Proof of birth may be state or hospital birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport or alien registration card and last year's PPR Soccer pass. In addition, official government documents with birth date and ID number will be accepted. Letters from parents, relatives, school official, etc. will not be accepted.
- C. When registering a secondary team, the coach need only hand in three duplicated copies of the team's official stamped primary roster.
- D. It is the coaches full responsibility to register only players who meet the proper age requirements. Listing an over age player (even if not detected by league officials) is still cause for forfeiture of games.
- E. Maximum number of players per team is: U8 - U10 = 12 Players, U11 & U12 = 16 Players, U13 & Up = 18 Players
- F. All rosters are frozen, for the duration of the season, at the final registration date.
- G. All league fees must be paid when commitment forms are handed in.
- H. Secondary players are not permitted **except for U13 and above (Maximum of 3 Secondary Players)**
- I. Secondary teams are permitted but rosters must be identical to that of their primary league.
- J. A player may only register on one primary team that is affiliated with EPYSA. If a player registers on a second primary team without receiving a release from the first team, then he/she is considered ineligible and games played on the second team will be forfeited.
- K. Any team that did not register by the final team registration date will have to register on the first player add on night after the season begins. All games scheduled prior to the team registering will be forfeited.

## V. RULES

- A. This program will be governed by the policies and procedures of the Parks and Recreation Department and the current FIFA rules, except as stated in these bylaws:
- B. Players on field:
  - U8 – U10 will play 7 v 7
  - U11 – U12 will play 9 v 9
  - U13 & Up will play 11 v 11
- C. Length of halves:
  - Under 8, 9, 10 = 25 minutes
  - Under 11, 12 = 30 minutes
  - Under 13, 14 = 35 minutes
- D. NO HEADING of the ball U11 and below as described by the US Soccer Mandates
- E. Line up Sheets
  - 1. Line ups **must** be printed out from the EPYSA team page (failure to use official line up forms may result in forfeiture of games) – U8's will use line up sheet from [www.pprsoccer.com](http://www.pprsoccer.com)
  - 2. Each team will present a completed form to the referee before the start of each game. Forms must list the starting line up and reserves along with jersey number for each player. If a game is played with a player whose name is not on the form then that game will be forfeited.
- F. All players must have a matching shirt (with number), shorts and socks. Players must wear shin guards and shoes. In the event both teams have the same color jersey, the home team will change shirts.
- G. Substitutions: There will be no limit on the number of substitutions.
  - 1. By either team on a goal, goal kick, injury or warning
  - 2. By the team with the ball on a throw in
- H. Coaches must bring their player passes to every game. It is the responsibility of the referee to check the players passes. If a player does not have a pass, that player may play provided that the player sign the back of the line up sheet in front of the referee and the opposing coach. That player's coach **MUST** immediately contact the league director to have a new player's pass made up.
- I. Home team responsibilities:
  - 1. Lined fields
  - 2. Goal nets
  - 3. Corner flags (5' minimum)
  - 4. Game ball (Under 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 use a #4, Under 13, 14, use a #5)

If field is not lined or there are no nets, visiting team has the option of having the game rescheduled. If game is played, the outcome will stand. If this situation is repeated then home team will face disciplinary action.
- J. In the event the referee does not show or a game, the teams involved have two options:
  - 1. Reschedule the game
  - 2. Play the game with a substitute referee that is agreed upon by both teams. No protest will be accepted if this option is chosen.

- K. Location of Spectators:
1. **All spectators are to be located on the opposite side of the field from the players and coaches. They must also be 10' (Ten Feet) back from the sideline. Both teams will be located on the same side of the field.**

## VI. GRIEVANCE BOARD

- A. In the event of a protest, appeal or disciplinary action, the league will convene the Grievance Board.
- B. This board will be under the direction of the City Soccer Chairperson and will consists of members of the Soccer Advisory Council, league directors and members of the soccer community.

## VII. FORFEITS

- A. A team has 15 minutes from the official starting time to field a minimum of 7 players. Teams not doing so will forfeit the game.
- B. In the event of a forfeit, referee is not to be paid on the field. The referee will be paid by the league and forfeit fee will deducted from the club bond. Team not forfeiting game must call in the forfeit to the league director.
- C. Two forfeits will automatically drop a team from the league.

## VIII. PROTESTS

- A. Protests will be accepted and considered on matters of rule interpretation and eligibility only. A referee's judgment cannot be protested.
- B. Rule Interpretation
  1. The protestor must notify the referee at the point of protest (or at the immediate conclusion of the half in which incident occurs), and note that a protest has been lodged on the line up sheet with the time in game and score at the time noted. The protestor **MUST SIGN** the line up sheet. Extenuating circumstances accepted.
  2. If point #1 is followed properly then a formal protest may and must be submitted in writing (with evidence to support the protest) to the league director within 72 hours along with a \$50.00 fee. Failure to comply either point #1 or point #2 will result in **NO PROTEST**.
  3. For protest to be accepted, the following two stipulations must be met:
    - a. The ruling protested had a direct effect on the outcome of the game.
    - b. One team was given a decided advantage over the other.
  4. If protest is upheld, game will be replayed and fee returned.
- C. Eligibility can be protested at any time up to the end of the season for a regular season game. For the playoff games, protest must be entered within 24 hours of the game played. It is the duty of the protestor to prove the ineligibility of the player in question. Submit the protest in writing along with the \$50.00 fee to the City Chairperson.
- D. The protest will be reviewed by the City Chairperson, who may or may not convene a protest board to hear the case, may rule on the protest, or may reject the protest due to the above clauses. If a hearing is held, all parties involved will be invited to attend. The City Chairperson has the discretion to limit the number of attendees from each party. Attorneys and recording devices are prohibited.
- E. If protest is upheld, all fees are returned.
- F. For any protests denied there is the right of appeal to the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association Arbitration Board.

## IX. CONDUCT

- A. Good conduct by all players, coaches and spectators is mandatory before, during and after all games.
- B. **Team Hand Shakes** will be **PRIOR to the start of the GAME**
- C. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its fans (PLEASE NOTE – Spectators that are removed from the field may result in suspension/discipline towards the Coach and/or Club)
- D. Any player receiving a red card or coach/assistant coach/spectator who has been removed from a game by the referee will be given a minimum one (1) game suspension, which cannot be appealed. Removed/suspended coach/assistant coach/spectator/player will not be permitted within two hundred (200) yards of field of play, in all directions. Failure to comply will result in further disciplinary action. Second offenses and conduct of a more serious nature will be dealt with by the Soccer Committee.

E. If a player is red carded or any coach/spectator removed from the field, his/her coach MUST immediately call the league director and report the ejection. The City Chairperson will decide if further action is necessary. The coach will RETAIN the player's pass. The referee will send a detailed report to the City Chairperson. Coaches must notify league director regarding Yellow Cards as well. Failure to inform league director of carder players will result in the coach being suspended – length TBD.

F. Suspensions for Misconduct Toward Game Officials

If serious injuries are inflicted to a game official due to an assault the minimum suspension will be at least five (5) years.

1. Deliberately striking or kicking or attempting to kick, throwing a soccer ball at, or spitting on a referee or assistant referee: **1<sup>st</sup> offense = 1 year, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 3 years.**
2. The throwing of a soccer ball or other objects, a verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage towards a referee or assistant referee: **1<sup>st</sup> offense = 3 games, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 1 year minimum**
3. Gesturing or signaling obscenely at a referee or assistant referee: **1<sup>st</sup> offense = 3 games.**
4. Abusive language directed at a referee or assistant referee:  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 3 games                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 8 game minimum**
5. Dissent: **1<sup>st</sup> offense = 1 game                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 3 games**

G. Suspension of Misconduct Toward an Opponent, Colleague or Spectator

1. Fighting (i.e. engaging in combat with an opponent, colleague or spectators by means of mutual exchange of blows delivered by hand, head, foot or other portions of the body)  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 3 games                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 1 year minimum**
2. Deliberately attempting to strike or kick an opponent, colleague or spectator:  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 1 game                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 4 games minimum**
3. The verbal threat of bodily harm or property, gesturing or signaling obscenely, the throwing of objects: (soccer ball, snow, ice balls, stones, rocks dirt mud, etc.) at an opponent, colleague, or spectator  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 2 game minimum      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 4 games minimum**

H. Suspensions for serious Foul Play and Persistent Misconduct

1. Serious foul play shall be understood to be play characterized by fouls, as defined by Law XII of the Laws of the Game of an aggravated nature committed with such fervor as to threaten an opponent with serious physical harm:  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 2 games                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 4 games**
2. Suspension for abusive language directed at an opponent, colleague or spectator:  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 1 game                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 3 games**
3. Persistent misconduct (i.e. ungentlemanly conduct, persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game, unauthorized entry onto the field of play, etc)  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 1 game                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 2 games**
4. Dissent:  
**1<sup>st</sup> offense = 1 game                      2<sup>nd</sup> offense = 2 games**

The above suspensions are to be considered minimum. The league reserves the right to increase these suspensions based on the seriousness of the violation. The Soccer Committee will deal with situations not listed on an individual basis.

I. Conduct Detrimental to the Good and Welfare of Soccer

Any player, team official or club officer whose conduct is considered to be detrimental to the good and welfare of soccer shall be suspended for one (1) game for the first offense and for a minimum of two (2) games for the second offense or more within a two (2) year period. Such misconduct shall include but shall not be limited to misbehavior while a spectator, the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or the use of illegal substance in the vicinity of the playing field before, during or after the soccer game.

J. Suspension is not necessarily reciprocal with other leagues (but WILL be recognized by all PPR Soccer Leagues). Players/coaches suspended in PPR will not play in the next PPR game(s). An exception would be actions of grievous nature such as attacking a referee. These will be dealt with on an individual basis.

K. Philadelphia Parks & Recreation will suspend FROM ALL DEPARTMENTAL ATHLETIC

ACTIVITY, for a minimum period of one (1) year, anyone who, in relation to an athletic event:

1. Physically assaults a departmental employee or a member of his/her family.
2. Physically assaults a referee or member of his/her family.
3. Physically assaults a Parks & Recreation volunteer or member of his/her family.
4. Or otherwise causes damages to the property or personal possessions of the aforementioned people.

- L. Cautions (yellow card) will be accumulated during the season. Upon receiving his/her **SECOND CAUTION**, said player will receive a **ONE (1)** game suspension (not appealable). Receiving a **FOURTH** yellow card will result in a **THREE (3)** game suspension (Not appealable) and may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- M. If a player has less than **TWO (2)** Yellow cards during the Season – Cautions will be reset for the Playoffs
- N. Appeals of disciplinary actions (other than the mandatory one game suspension) may be made to the Grievance Committee by handing in a written appeal within 72 hours along with a \$50.00 appeal fee.
- O. If a game is abandoned by the referee due to conduct the referee will send a game report to the league. The league will then decide the course of action.

## X. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The following point values will determine standings in the regular season:
  - WIN = Three (3) points
  - TIE = One (1) point
  - LOSS = Zero (0) points
- B. For teams tied in the standings at the end of regular season, the following procedure will apply:
  - 1. A game will be played to break a tie for:
    - a. The last playoff spot
    - b. A position receiving awards
    - c. A bye in the playoffs
  - 2. If there is a three way tie for one of the situations above, the following system will be used:
    - a. Teams will be drawn by lot (#1, #2, #3)
    - b. Team #1 will play team #2
    - c. Winner will play team #3 with this winner becoming the tiebreaker winner
  - 3. All other ties will be decided in the following order:
    - a. Head to head record (total goals does not apply)
    - b. Coin flip
- C. Referees for playoff games will be as follows:
  - 1. Quarter finals and semi finals: one referee will be assigned but league has the discretion to assign three referees if needed.
  - 2. Championship games: the three referee system **may** be used. The cost will be divided evenly between the two teams (both teams must agree) – League can mandate if deemed necessary
- D. Home fields for the playoffs will be determined by the league director before the season begins. This information will be provided on the league schedule. Championship games will be played on neutral fields.
- E. For tie breaker or playoff games there will be no ties. If tied at the end of regulation time, two (2) overtime periods will be played in FULL as follows:
  - U8 =two (2) five minute halves
  - U9 thru U14 =two (2) ten minute halves
 If still tied teams will have a shootout.
- F. The winning team must call the score in to the league director's tape within 24 hours. In case of a tie, home team calls.
- G. No change of the league schedule nor can make up games be played without the approval of the league director.
- H. To make up a postponed game, coaches must get together and agree on a date within TWO WEEKS of the original game and then call the league director for a referee. If not done within this time frame, the league director will schedule the game.
- I. Because of the complexity of scheduling, equal home and away games cannot be guaranteed. Every effort will be made to keep the schedule as equitable as possible.
- J. The PPR All Star Games will take place during the evening in October. League Directors will provide more information regarding players/dates/times.
- K. Generally, league games are played as follows: Boys- Weeknight or Saturday; Girls - Weeknights or Sunday. Other times may be used where expedient.
- L. **All other incidents not covered in these rules will be decided by the Outdoor Soccer Committee whose decision is final.**