

Eastern Carolina Soccer Association

General Policy

(Revised 16 June 2016)

I. LEAGUE ORGANIZATION: Eastern Carolina Soccer Association (ECSA) is the Recreational Scheduling league for affiliated soccer associations within the area that plays recreational soccer (U9 – U19) at the youth level and promotes good sportsmanship.

II. ASSOCIATIONS:

A. Affiliation of ECSA:

1. Affiliated Associations are approved members of NCYSA.

B. Each affiliated association will have one Representative on the ECSA Board of Directors. Elected officials for the ECSA Executive Board will come from the ECSA Board of Directors.

C. Elections: Each Affiliated Association Rep on the ECSA Board of Directors will be provided the opportunity to submit a nominee/candidate for any of the open positions on the ECSA Executive Board for election/reelection. All nominees/candidates must be a member of the ECSA Board of Directors.

Procedures:

1. Each April the ECSA President will request nominees for the open positions of the Executive Committee.
2. The submitting ECSA Rep must address their nominee and ensure the nominee will accept the nomination.
3. All nominees are due to the ECSA Secretary by the due date determined by the ECSA President.
4. After review of the nominees; the ECSA President will determine if a selection committee will have to be assembled or not. This is based on the numbers of nominees. If there are more than two nominees running for the same position a selection committee shall be assembled.
5. If a selection committee is assembled; the committee will recommend the two selected nominees (per position) to the ECSA President for approval.
6. Once approved by the ECSA President; names will be listed on the ballot.
7. Names will NOT be submitted from the floor, as ample time was provided for all ECSA Board of Directors to submit nominees/candidates.
8. Election, term limits, and voting will be per ECSA By-Laws.
9. ECSA BOD must be present to vote.

III. ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. All players and teams must be properly registered with NCYSA.

B. Secure and maintain playing fields for their teams within the guidelines set by ECSA by ECSA Laws of the Match.

C. Have a designated Club official (Field Marshal) present at the playing fields during scheduled matches

D. Field Marshals can check for NCYSA ID cards (coach's passes) if necessary.

E. Providing their teams with NCYSA Red stamped rosters for the Referees to use at team check-in.

F. Ensure designated representative to attend scheduled meetings of ECSA.

G. Adhere to all policies as set forth by ECSA, NCYSA, USYSA, USSF, and FIFA. IE: Lightning policy (30/30 rule), goal safet.

H. Ensure ECSA has a copy of NCYSA Insurance policy from each club's playing site.

I. Discourage running up the scores. Per ECSA, only a 7 goal difference will be displayed.

J. The use of try-outs, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team in the Recreation Division on the basis of talent or ability is expressly prohibited.

Eastern Carolina Soccer Association

General Policy

(Revised 16 June 2016)

K. Ensure parents and spectators are not allowed behind the goal areas of the pitch and remain behind the five yard spectator line.

L. Promote good sportsmanship.

M. Encourage the "half the match" playing time for players. Players must enter each half.

N. If a conflict of jersey color occurs; the Home team will change or wear pennies.

O. Support ECSA Discipline and Appeals Committees.

P. Remain in good financial status within ECSA.

IV. TEAM AND DIVISION ORGANIZATION:

A. Team organization shall conform to NCYSA guidelines.

B. Players age for the purpose of division assignment will be his/her age as of July 31. It is highly recommended that each child play within his/her age group. Players may play down if the player qualifies as special need per NCYSA policy.

C. If a team plays a player who is ineligible, all games he/she played in will be forfeited.

D. Players may be added to a team rosters up to the second week before the beginning of the ECSA tournament. All updated team rosters (red stamped) must be electronically turned into the ECSA secretary. All players added to teams after rosters have been turned into ECSA required due date and approved **before** they are allowed to play.

E. If a team plays a player who is ineligible because he/she was not properly added to ECSA records, all games he/she played in will be forfeited with a 1-0 score entry.

F. Divisions and Conferences within a particular division will be established by the ECSA Commissioner, pending Board of Directors approval.

V. REGISTRATION:

A. Affiliations Association of ECSA must be registered in accordance with NCYSA rules for player registration.

B. Team registration fees are set by the ECSA Board of Directors as follows: (Cost may vary over time due to associated increases)

Current ECSA teams fees are:

1. U9/U10 teams - \$200.00 per team
2. U11 thru U12 teams - \$350.00 per team
3. U13 thru U15 teams- \$450.00 per team
- 4 U16 thru U19 teams- \$550.00 per team

C. Team registration fees are due to the ECSA Treasurer by the date posted for each season. Failure to pay team fees by the 10th day past the due date will result in late fee of \$25.00 per team. This may lead to forfeiture of all games played before payment has been received.

D. Each club will submit an electronic NCYSA red stamped roster to the ECSA secretary one week before the first schedule ECSA Match. Each team must have a red stamped roster at every match. This will be used by referees to check in team players and coaches prior to the match. No roster, no play. Match will be scored as a 1-0-(forfeit).

E. Boys teams may be "Coed" but Girls teams will only have female participants.

Eastern Carolina Soccer Association
General Policy
(16 June 2016)

VI. SCHEDULING:

A. The Commissioner has the responsibility of aligning conferences and scheduling matches for all Affiliation's teams.

B. Rescheduling: Association's Presidents, Vice Presidents, Commissioners, or ECSA Representative may reschedule a match with the ECSA Commissioner.

Procedures:

1. Must first obtain agreement from the opposing team's Association Representative or Association Official.

2. Representatives must ensure both coaches have been notified.

3. Contact the ECSA Commissioner seven days prior to original schedule game.

4. Only exception to the seven day notice is a bonafide emergency. (ie: death in coach's immediate family) These cases will be handled case by case. Final determination is decided by the ECSA Commissioner.

C. Rescheduled matches will be played within a time frame determined by the ECSA Commissioner.

D. Rescheduled matches shall be final. Any team unable to make a rescheduled match shall forfeit that match.

E. Any match postponed due to weather will be rescheduled if possible.

F. The ECSA Commissioner will notify the Director of Officials/Referee Assignor and ECSA Club Representatives of the time and place of any rescheduled matches.

G. Deadline for entering teams shall be set by the ECSA Commissioner prior to each season; pending ECSA Board of Directors.

H. Teams folding after the approval of the schedule will forfeit their games. Team fees will not be refunded.

I. Any special consideration for scheduling (such as a coach coaching two teams) must be submitted when teams are turn in.

VII. COACHING:

A. All coaches must pass NCYSA Risk Management and visibly display this card during the all scheduled ECSA matches. All teams will be supervised and attended by the coach, assistant coach, or team manager. In the event that the coach and the assistant coach must leave the pitch or otherwise are not able to supervise the team, a parent or an Association's Board Official may supervise the team for the remainder of the match provided they have been approved in Risk Management. Only Risk Management approved adults may be in the teams area during scheduled ECSA match.

B. Coaches are responsible for their other coaches, team officials, players, and parents and may be ejected (at the discretion of the official or field marshal) if there is improper conduct by any of the above.

C. Coaches must remain in their technical area of the field. (Mid field to the top of the penalty area).

D. Failure of any coach/team to play any regular season scheduled match or designated ECSA FALL/SPRING Cup Tournament match will result in the parent organization being fined with a forfeit fee of \$50.00. In addition, ECSA reserves the right to take further action.

Eastern Carolina Soccer Association
General Policy
(Revised 16 June 2016)

VIII. EQUIPMENT:

- A. Shin guards are mandatory for all players.
- B. Cleats must meet FIFA and NCYSA requirements.
- C. No jewelry of any kind can be worn during a match except for medical alert bracelets or medallions, both of which must be taped securely to the body.
- D. If jersey color conflict occurs; the HOME team will adjust jersey color or wear pennies.

IX. REFEREES:

- A. The Director of Officials or his designated representative with full authority to speak for the officials shall be present at all ECSA meetings.
- B. All referees shall be registered with and certified by the United States Soccer Federation.
- C. All referees shall be at least 14 years of age and should be at least two years older than the players they are refereeing.
- D. The senior referee shall make a final decision at the field of play whether or not to begin a game, discontinue play based upon his/her judgment of the condition of the field, the weather, or any other factors that he/she considers to be pertinent.
- E. In the event that only one/two referees are present where three are scheduled, the senior referee will consult with the opposing teams to obtain linesmen. If only one linesman is needed, the home team will provide the linesman. Otherwise, one linesman from each team's club will be used.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the senior referee to notify the Director of Officials if a player is issued a red or yellow card during a match. If a red card is issued, the referee shall submit a report in writing to the Director of Officials within 24 hours.
- G. Referee pay schedule should be in line with the fee schedule set by NCYSA. The referee assigner shall be paid a fee equal to ten percent of the scheduled total match fee.
- H. All referees shall have an Arbiter account for pay and 1099s.

X. Discipline and Appeals (D&A):

The ECSA Executive Committee will serve as the disciplinary committee and review cases to determine suspensions of recreational coaches, players, and spectators. ECSA shall follow NCYSA's D&A manual for procedures and policies. ECSA President will forward these recommendations to the appropriate Association's President for action. The Association's President must inform the ECSA President of the action taken. If the Association fails to meet the recommendation, the report will be sent to NCYSA for review and determination.

The ECSA's President will take care when appointing a D&A committee and ensure there are no conflicts of interest present.

XI. YELLOW CARD/ RED CARD/ EJECTIONS POLICY:

- A. Players:
 - 1. Yellow Card: Any player receiving a yellow card will be substituted for at the time of the infraction, and will remain out of the match for the remainder of the quarter or half.
 - 2. Red Card: Any player receiving a red card will be ejected from the match, and his/her team must

Eastern Carolina Soccer Association

General Policy

(Revised 16 June 2016)

play light for the remainder of the match. The Player must also sit out during his/her team's next played match. The Player must be present, dressed out, and sitting on the team bench for the entire match. If the player does not comply with this rule, their suspension from play will be continued until they have complied.

3. Two Red Cards: Any player receiving a second red card during the playing season must sit out the next two matches. The Player must be present, dressed out, and sitting on the team bench for the entire two matches, and must appear before the ECSA Disciplinary Committee. If the player does not comply with this rule, their suspension from play will continue until they have complied.

4. Three or more Red Cards: any player who receives three or more red card during one playing season will be suspended until action is taken from the owning Affiliated Association. The owning Affiliated Association President is required to notify the ECSA President of action taken.

5. If a Red Card is issued to a player during their team's last match of the cup match or season, the penalty shall be carried over to the following season.

B. Coaches:

1: Misbehavior conduct: If possible, the Center Referee will provide a verbal warning the coach. If action continues the coach will be ejected from the match. Upon ejection, coach must leave the pitch and be removed out of sight and sound of the pitch.

C. Spectators.

1. Site Field Marshals or team coach will be responsible for dismissing all spectators that misbehave.
2. The Referee are not to approach spectators one and one. If an issue occurs, the Referee will address issue with the responsible coach or Field Marshal.

XII. PROTESTS & APPEALS:

A. Protests of matches will be allowed only for incidents involving misapplication of the rules. Officials "judgment calls" cannot be protested.

B. If a protest is expected, it shall be noted on the score sheet at the point in the match and prior to the referee's signing the score sheet.

C. Protest fee is of \$100.00 and must be paid by club check, cashier's check, or money order.

D. Procedure:

1. The Affiliated Association shall advise the ECSA President within 48 hours of intended protest.

2. Submit a written protest to the ECSA President within four days of the protested match, along with the protest fee.

3. The ECSA President, upon receipt of written protest, will schedule an ECSA executive meeting to hear the protest. Both Affiliated Associations President, Commissioners involved (or other Affiliated Association officials), and both coaches shall be in attendance. ECSA President shall instruct the Director of Officials to investigate said protest. If it is determined to be a misapplication of the Laws of the Game,; the protest will be upheld and the ECSA Executive Committee will determine the outcome. Forfeit, replay match...etc.

E. The protest fee will be refunded provided the protest is upheld.

F. Appeals: Decisions of the Executive Committee regarding protests are final and not subject to appeal.

Eastern Carolina Soccer Association

General Policy

(Revised 16 June 2016)

XIII. FORFEITS/ FINES/ SUSPENSIONS:

A. Proper notification is determined as the Association's Representative or Official making contact with the ECSA Commissioner 24 hours prior to the start of the match. This is not considered a forfeit.

B. Forfeits- If the above procedure was not followed and no special circumstances have been identified to the ECSA Commissioner; The team that does not show-up to the match within 15-minutes from the official start time or if a team does not have enough players to start the match will be considered a forfeit.

C. Results- The forfeiting Association will incur a \$100.00 fine if proper notification was NOT provided as per XII, A of this section.

D. Suspension- ECSA's Board of Directors will work with Affiliated Associations to hold their members accountable. This includes but not limited to:

1. Refusal or neglect to fulfill any of its obligations or responsibilities as an Association member.
2. Willfully violates any of the provisions of By-Laws and policies established by ECSA, Affiliated Associations, and NCYSA.
3. Willfully engages in conduct which is contrary to the purpose of the association or inconsistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

XIV. RELATIONSHIP WITH ACADEMY/CLASSIC/SELECT SOCCER

ECSA supports member clubs who are affiliated with NCYSA in their efforts to provide academy/classic soccer for their players.

A. NO dual registration: Classic players must be inactive to play recreational soccer.

B. Scheduling and pitch use: Associations with Academy and Classic programs are responsible for providing the ECSA Commissioner with blocked out dates/pitch assignments to where pitches are not available for scheduling ECSA recreational matches. Communication is key in reducing double pitch assignments. After the ECSA schedule is approved, no ECSA matches will be cancelled or moved to accommodate Academy/Classic matches.

XV. TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers and other personnel performing duties in an official capacity with a team shall not use tobacco or tobacco products on the playing field or sidelines during scheduled ECSA matches. **(This includes e-cigs and vaping cigarettes)**

XVI. PETS:

NO PETS are allowed at the venues. Service animals are permitted but must be on the leash and with owner at all times. Owners must clean-up after their animal.

XVII. If occasions arise that are not fully covered by this policy, or the rules of the match, the problem shall be referred to the Executive Board for resolution or interpretation.

Eastern Carolina Soccer Association
General Policy
(Revised 16 June 2016)

Ask, Tell, Remove Process

The following process is recommended for all officials to follow relative to conduct within the technical/bench area.

- ASK

If a situation arises where there is irresponsible behavior, you are to "ASK" the person to stop.

- TELL

If there is another occurrence where there is irresponsible behavior, you are to inform that person that the behavior is not permissible and "TELL" them (INSIST) to stop.

- REMOVE

If the non-accepted actions continue, you must "REMOVE" that person immediately.

If a Coach or Spectator is removed they must leave sight and sound of the playing field.

The game shall not restart until the person has complied.

The above are recommended steps but they are not necessary if the behavior requires immediate dismissal, such as but not limited to Profanity, Threats and Obscene gestures.

"Irresponsible Behavior" can be defined as but not limited to the following:

- Coach or Spectator making loud verbal disputes about the decision of the referee.
- Abusive, insulting or offensive language and/or gestures.
- Coach or Spectator entering the field to dispute or dissent a call.
- Coach or Spectator throwing/kicking/hitting anything while disputing a call.
- Aggressive behavior with the opposition, verbal or physical.
- Interfering with the restart of play and field players.
- Interfering with the Assistant Referee or 4th Official in the performance of their duties.