

Oahe FC Rules & Regulations



Rules and Regulations

Updated 6/18/2020

1. Definition

“Season” and “Fiscal Year” of the Oahe Futbol Club shall begin on August 1st and end on July 31st of the following year. The by-laws and rules and regulations are in effect at all times.

OFC – Oahe Futbol Club

SDYSA – South Dakota Youth Soccer Association

USYS – US Youth Soccer

2. Safety of Players

Coaches and parents are responsible for insuring that no player shall be allowed to play in any regularly scheduled game or practice with an injury which can be aggravated by playing or which constitutes a danger to other players.

Players shall not wear rings, watches, earrings or other dangerous ornaments. Artificial limbs, devices, casts will be properly padded and approved by the referee.

It shall be the responsibility of each coach to maintain proper spectator conduct. Spectators are to remain behind all field boundaries set by each event they attend.

3. Participation and Playing Time

See Coaching Committee Policy

4. Affiliation

All registered players of OFC are affiliated with the US Youth Soccer and the SD State Youth Soccer Association per their assigned player card. All OFC teams will register for events under this affiliation. [9/2019]

5. Sportsmanship

Activities of the OFC shall be in accordance with the USYSA Codes of Conduct and OFC Code of Conduct. Each family will read/accept the OFC Code of Conduct during the online registration process.

6. Age Limits/Divisions

“Youth” shall mean an amateur player who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) before the end of the calendar year of the current seasonal year. All leagues, unless otherwise approved by the Oahe FC, shall play in the following age groups as numbers allow:

8 and Under - player has not reached their 8th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year. 8 and under teams will only be considered if the direction of the South Dakota State Soccer Association allows them.

9 and Under - player who has not reached their 9th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year. 10 and under teams will only be considered if the direction of the South Dakota State Soccer Association allows them.

10 and Under - player who has not reached their 10th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.). 10 and under teams will only be considered if the direction of the South Dakota State Soccer Association allows them.

11 and Under - player who has not reached their 11th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

12 and Under - player who has not reached their 12th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

13 and Under - player who has not reached their 13th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

14 and Under - player who has not reached their 14th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

15 and Under - player who has not reached their 15th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

16 and Under - player who has not reached their 16th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

17 and Under - player who has not reached their 17th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

18 and Under - player who has not reached their 18th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

19 and Under - who has not reached their 19th birthday by December 31 of starting seasonal year.

Competition shall be within the above stated divisions where practicable.

Teams shall be boys teams, girls teams, or mixed teams (both boys and girls only if the exception to the By-Law of separation of the sexes is met). Mixed teams shall be considered as boys teams for purpose of entering tournaments and cup competition.

Teams of mixed age players shall be considered to be the age group of the oldest players and follow the USYS and SDSYS rules for mixed age player criteria.

7. Play Up/Play Down

See Coaching Committee Policy

8. Local Players / Guest Players / Part Time Players

Local Players are defined as players living in a 60 mile radius of Pierre/Ft. Pierre area.

Guest Players are defined as players already registered with a USYS affiliation/club other than OFC and follow the SDYSA guest player request process.

Part Time Players are defended as players with no USYS affiliation/club who register with OFC to participate on an OFC team with a maximum of three OFC events with a discounted registration fee.

Also See Coaching Committee Policy

9. Team Formation

See Coaching Committee Policy

10. Player Release and Transfer

Any player registered to a team is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests a transfer. All requests for transfer shall be submitted to the OFC Board of Directors in writing, stating the reason for the request for transfer.

Release and transfer of players will only be permitted if the player is in good standing with the organization. A release and transfer must be approved by the Board of Directors.

11. Team Uniforms

Each OFC team shall wear the league-approved uniforms. Goalkeepers shall wear a shirt of a contrasting color. Uniforms shall be clean at the start of the game. All players should have an alternate jersey of contrasting color in their possession at all games. OFC uniforms are player owned.

12. Team Organization

See Coaching Committee Policy

Any team having a coach under the age of 18 shall be required to have an adult designated who is responsible for the safety of the players.

13. Coach Selection

See Coaching Committee Policy

The Board of Directors will approve all coaches recommended by the Coaching Committee.

14. Coach Education

See Coaching Committee Policy

15. Team Managers

See Coaching Committee Policy

16. Registration

Registration for each program year will run from August 1 – July 31. Every player shall be required to register at least one week prior to participating in any game.

Registration procedures/policies shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth by the league and shall be the responsibility of the Registrar. Registration shall be well advertised.

17. Registration Forms

Registration shall be online. A link to the online registration site will be posted on OFC's website. Annual registration is required for each player. If registration is for a new player, they will be required to upload a current photo and copy of their birth certificate. During the online registration process, the guardian will complete the consent for medical treatment and parent/player code of conduct.

A medical release form is required to be completed and given to the team manager prior to participating in practice or games.

18. Proof of Age

The club is responsible to maintain a record verification of each player's age on his/her registration form, once, when the player first starts to play. In the event that the record is lost or in doubt, the Registrar may request such proof in writing again.

19. Rosters

The Registrar shall create a "Master Roster" of players for each division. This roster shall serve as the official record of players participating for all matters that may require such verifications.

It shall be the coach's responsibility to see that the players on his/her team are on the master roster.

The Registrar shall create an "Event Roster" of players per event if not all players are on the master roster. Event rosters should be submitted to the Registrar no later than one week prior to the event.

All rosters are approved thru the SDYSA on-line program and signed by the local Registrar to be official.

No team shall be allowed more than the maximum allowed roster size per SDYSA at any time.

20. Registration Fees

Registration fees will be determined and approved by the Board of Directors for each season of play at the July board meeting for all membership

No program refunds shall be made after the first scheduled tournament of the season. Requests for refunds must use Refund Form and submit to the Board of Directors and paid within two weeks of the request after approved.

21. Tournament Fees

See Tournament Fee Policy.

22. Player Information Confidential

Player information obtained by OFC as part of the registration process of a player shall be kept confidential and used only for the purposes of establishing OFC teams, verifying rosters in accordance with OFC rules, tournament rules, and SDSSA requirements, and communicating team information to the player. OFC Board of Directors and coaches shall not use player information for third party purposes and shall refrain from sharing player contact information with third parties, unless approved by the OFC Board of Directors.

Third party requests for OFC player information may be approved by the OFC Board of Directors, in limited circumstances. Such requests must be made in writing to the Board and include the intended use of the requested information.

Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers are responsible for the keeping player cards, rosters and any personal information in a secure place during each program year. Any lost player cards or medical release forms must be reported to the Board of Directors immediately.

Also See Coaching Committee Policy

23. Financial Disclaimer

The OFC specifically disclaims financial responsibility for, and shall not assume nor be held liable for, the debts or financial obligations, either expressed or implied, of any member team, coach, manager, or other team official that has not been authorized by the Board of Directors.

24. Code of Conduct Violation Protocol:

1. Violation must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing.
2. Violation must be reviewed by all board members in an expeditious manner. If a majority of the Board of Directors agree that a violation has occurred then the person who committed the violation will be notified by the President that a violation has occurred. If the President is unavailable or there is a personal conflict issue then notification may be delegated to another board member.
3. The person will be ineligible to coach, play, referee or perform the function that the person has been performing until such time the case has been investigated, reviewed and a ruling made by the Oahe FC Board of Directors.
4. Investigation, review and a ruling shall be made by the Oahe FC Board of Directors. During the investigation and review the person shall have the opportunity to respond to the violation.
5. Written notification of the ruling will be sent to the person and the SDYSA.
6. Players under age 19 will start a clean slate each registration year. Members 19 years and older will have an on-going process per infraction as leaders and role models within the organization.

25. Conflict Resolution and Discipline

Communication is the cornerstone to ensure Oahe Futbol Club (OFC) is a successful organization. OFC is committed to promoting a healthy environment for all players, coaches, officials, referees, parents, family members, and fans. Harassment, abuse of any kind, ethical violations, and unfair treatment will not be tolerated.

Club members (excluding coaches)

Club members with a concern should communicate this concern with the team coach. Coaches cannot resolve issues they are not aware of.

If the situation is not able to be resolved and the concern remains, the club member should communicate this concern with the OFC Parent Representative in writing. The parent representative will work in conjunction with the OFC Boys and Girls Directors to resolve the situation.

If the situation is still not resolved, the member may request a hearing before the Board of Directors at the next scheduled board meeting. This request must be submitted in writing to the President and provide a summary of the situation. During this hearing, the member will share their summary of the situation in person. The decision of the Board will be final.

Coaches

Coaches with a concern should communicate this concern with the OFC Boys or Girls Director. The Boys or Girls Director(s) will voice the concern to the Board and work to resolve the situation.

If the situation is still not resolved, the member may request a hearing before the Board of Directors at the next scheduled board meeting. This request must be submitted in writing to the President and provide a summary of the situation. During this hearing, the

member will share their summary of the situation in person. The decision of the Board will be final.

Involving another Club

If an individual representing themselves has a complaint about a situation that involves a coach or player of another club, individuals can make a complaint to the appropriate tournament director or any available OFC board member.

If an individual representing OFC as a coach, board member, or in a similar capacity has a complaint about a situation that involves a coach or player of another club, the complaint must be taken to the President of OFC who will then represent OFC in making the complaint. If the President is unavailable or if there is a personal conflict, the complaint may be delegated to another board member.

Violations

Violations of the OFC bylaws, rules and regulations, policies, or code of conduct may be brought to the Board's attention by an objective written summary of the situation, which references the section of the OFC guidance that has been violated. The summary should be submitted to the President of the Board.

Once received, the report of potential violation will be reviewed by the Board of Directors during an executive session in an expeditious manner.

The Board will complete an investigation of the complaint, which includes individual meetings between the involved parties and the Parent Representative and Boys and Girls Directors. If the Parent Representative or Boys and Girls Directors are not available, another Board member may be assigned to take part in the investigation meetings. This investigation allows the Board to learn more about the situation and provide an opportunity for all members to have their story heard.

After the investigation, a written summary and recommendation from the Board members who completed the investigation will be presented to the Board during an executive session. At this meeting, the Board will determine if a violation has been committed. The decision of the Board will be final and will be provided to the involved parties in writing. Throughout the investigation and in the final written determination, the Board reserves the right to identify opportunities for improvement and explanation of OFC expectations. The individual who has committed the alleged violation will be ineligible to coach, play, referee, or perform the function the individual has been performing until an investigation has been completed and the Board has made a final determination. If it has been determined that a violation has occurred, disciplinary action as identified below will be followed.

If the situation is not resolved, a written request for a hearing before the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting may be requested. This request is submitted to the President.

Disciplinary Action

If it is determined a violation of the OFC bylaws, rules and regulations, policies, or code of conduct **has occurred**, written notification will be sent to SDYSA and the disciplinary action identified below will take place. Based on the unique circumstances of the violation, the Board may request additional action by the individual who committed the violation. Club members under the age of 19 with violations will start a clean slate at the beginning of each registration year. Members 19 years of age and older will have an on-

going process per infraction as leaders and role models within the organization.

First violation = written notification

Written notification from the Board to the individual who committed the violation will be issued. This notification will identify the violation and provide a summary of the disciplinary action that will result if a future violation takes place. It may also provide recommendations for improvement and expectations of the OFC. A copy of the letter will be maintained by the Board President for future reference if needed.

Second violation = verbal counseling

At least two Board members will meet with the individual to provide written notification of the ruling and explain the disciplinary process. The written notification should include a summary of the first violation, second violation, and notification that a third violation will result in a termination from the club. It may also provide recommendations for improvement and expectations of the OFC. A copy of the letter and written documentation of the meeting will be maintained by the Board President for future reference if needed.

Third violation = termination notification

If it has been determined a third violation has occurred, the individual who committed the violation will be asked to discontinue their relationship with OFC through a written notification. This notification will include a summary of all three violations and identify a length of six month to one year long suspension.

Reinstatement

If a member has been suspended, the member may seek reinstatement after the term of suspension has elapsed. This request for reinstatement must be made in writing to the Board and include acknowledgement and apology for the violations, an understanding of OFC expectations and any future violations will follow the disciplinary action for a third violation, resulting in another suspension. A Board vote to allow reinstatement or continue the suspension will occur each time a reinstatement request is submitted.