

# RECREATIONAL PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS OF FIFA LAWS AND OFFICIAL LEAGUE RULES

*The Coach is responsible for showing  
this card to the referee before each game.*

## ROSTER SIZES AND GAME MINIMUMS

3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	13 players	7 players on field (including keeper)	minimum 5 to begin game
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	13 players	8 players on field (including keeper)	minimum 5 to begin game
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> grades	15 players	9 players on field (including keeper)	minimum 6 to begin game
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grades	18 players	11 players on field (including keeper)	minimum 7 to begin game
High School	20 players	11 players on field (including keeper)	minimum 7 to begin game

- Grace Period: The start of the game may be delayed by the referee for up to 15 minutes to allow a team to obtain the minimum number of players.
- If one team cannot field the minimum number of players before or during the game, the referee will cancel the game.
- Half game playing time is mandatory for all Recreational players.

## SUBSTITUTION

With the consent of the referee:

- a. prior to a throw-in by either team, only when the team in possession chooses to substitute
- b. prior to a kick-off
- c. prior to a goal-kick by either team
- d. prior to a corner-kick by either team, only when the team in possession chooses to substitute (11v11 only)
- e. prior to a corner-kick by either team (7v7, 8v8, & 9v9 only)
- f. on injury – only injured players may be substituted; opposing team may substitute a like number
- g. upon issuance of a yellow card, one player may be substituted for carded player. Opposing team may substitute like number.

## EQUIPMENT

- Metal cleats are banned in all MSI programs.
- Most eye glasses have been deemed safe for wear during games by MD State Referee Administrator. Goggles with strap are acceptable but not mandatory.

## GIRLS' RULE

Girls may cross their arms over their chests to protect themselves as long as they do not propel the ball away from themselves.

## RESTART OF PLAY AFTER TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

If one team had clear possession of the ball when play was stopped, the referee shall award that team an indirect free kick.

## YELLOW CARDS

7v7, 8v8, 9v9, & 11v11: Player must sit out 5 minutes. Substitution allowed.

## RED CARDS

No red cards issued to players in 7v7 and 8v8 games. Receipt of a red card by a player, coach or spectator results in immediate ejection from the field of play, and a minimum one-game suspension from the next league game, with **no appeal**. A coach or spectator receiving a red card must leave the field immediately and move at least to the parking lot. He or she may not return to the field at the end of the game, or be on the sidelines at the following game. The jurisdiction of the referee begins upon his arrival at the parking area and continues until he leaves the parking area. If a red card is issued to a coach or spectator, the offending person is prohibited from attending the team's next game. If a red card is issued to a player, the player may attend the next game but is not allowed to play and may not be in uniform or other team wear. It is recommended, but not required, that referees show cards to coaches and spectators who are formally warned or expelled from the field. There is no appeal for a red card.

## RULE MODIFICATIONS for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Recreation teams only

Goalkeepers: At least two keepers required – No player may play in goal more than ½ of the game.

Only flagrant violation of Law 12, which permits the goalkeeper 6 seconds to release the ball.

No slide tackling allowed – 1<sup>st</sup> offense: verbal warning to both teams, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: individual player yellow card, 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: player benched for remainder of game, and yellow card to coach.

Retake incorrect throw-in once only.

No appeal of junior referee decisions.

# OFFICIAL MSI RECREATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

- **EACH TEAM** must designate one adult (other than coach) prior to the start of each game to serve as Team Sportsmanship Liaison (TSL). The TSL will accompany the captain of team to meet with the referee prior to the match. **The match MAY NOT BE STARTED until both teams have identified their TSL's.** The TSL will assist the coach with spectator behavior on their team sideline during the game. **No coach or spectator may enter the field under any circumstance without the referee's permission.**
- **EQUIPMENT** - Shinguards are mandatory and must be worn by all players in all games, with socks pulled up over the top of shinguards.
- **OPPOSING TEAMS** must occupy opposite sides of the field. Home team has choice of sides. Exception: At games played at SoccerPlex, all players and coaches will occupy one side of the field, and all spectators the other side, opposite their own team bench. The midfield stripe is the line of demarcation for the teams' spectators. **DO NOT MOVE SOCCERPLEX BENCHES!**
- **SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR** is the responsibility of the Team Sportsmanship Liaison (TSL) and the coach (see above). **No coach or spectator may enter the field under any circumstance without the referee's permission.**
- **HEAD COACH MAY COACH FROM THE SIDELINES** provided:
  - the tone of voice is instructional and not derogatory
  - it is done between the two 18-yard lines (SoccerPlex: on team side between midfield stripe and 18 yard line)
  - it is done from the correct sideline
- **LATE REFEREE OR NO REFEREE** Upon the agreement of both coaches, please start the game using volunteers - one from each team is a good solution. Volunteering as a parent referee is a tough job, and deserves respect and cooperation. Call the MSI office as soon as possible when there is no referee coverage.
- **PENALTY POINTS** are assessed to coaches, players, and spectators who earn yellow or red cards. Each team must keep track of their totals.

yellow = 2 points    red = 5 points    second yellow to same player in same game = 3 points

An individual coach, player, or spectator will be suspended from MSI participation due to the accumulation of penalty points during the season:

5 points = 1 game suspension (minimum)

8 points = additional 1 game suspension (minimum)

12 or more points = additional 1 game suspension (minimum)

Any team receiving 15 or more points during a season may be subject to review by the Policy, Rules and Discipline Committee (PRDC). At 15 points, the coach will receive a mandatory call from the Chairman of the PRDC. Other sanctions include but are not limited to:

26 penalty points = -3 standings points

31 penalty points = additional -3 standings points

36 penalty points – additional -3 standings points

- **GAME FORFEITURE** may be declared by the Chairman of the PRDC when s/he determines that misconduct or unsporting conduct at such game by coaches, players, or spectators was sufficiently serious to warrant forfeiture of that game.
- For complete rules, please refer to the Recreational Coaches Manual found on the MSI website.