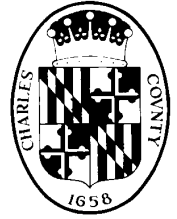


Department of Public Works



Southern Maryland Youth Soccer League 2010 FALL

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SOUTHERN MARYLAND YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE (SMYSL)
GUIDELINES
(REVISED: SEPTEMBER 7, 2010)

I. THE LEAGUE:

- A. **Philosophy** - The Southern Maryland Youth Soccer League (SMYSL) is first and foremost a recreational sports program. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for Charles County youth to participate in soccer within designated age divisions, and to learn fundamental soccer skills and good sportsmanship. This program stresses maximum participation while having fun through organized sports. **(NOTE--Coaches are required to play every player for at least half of each scheduled game).** These guidelines will govern practices and games at all times.
- B. **Administration** - All leagues will operate under the jurisdiction of the Charles County Department of Public Works, Parks and Grounds Office. Guidelines are subject to review and changes can be made at the discretion of the League Director. Any questions or discrepancies should be brought to the League Director's attention.
- C. **Format** - The program is divided into the following age groups: U6, U-7, U-8, U-9, U-10, U-12, U-14 and U-18. **Age divisions will play the following formats:**
- U-6: Four-On-A-Side, Small Overlay Field**
 - U-7: Seven-On-A-Side, Small Field**
 - U-8: Five-On-A-Side, Small Field**
 - U-9: Seven-On-A-Side, Intermediate Field**
 - U-10: Seven-On-A-Side, Intermediate Field**
 - U-12: Eight-On-A-Side, Intermediate Field**
 - U-14: Eleven-On-A-Side, Regulation Field**
 - U-18: Nine-On-A-Side, Regulation Field**

Each age group will be considered as a league. League play will be a round robin schedule, consisting of eight (8) to ten (10) games. No post-season tournament play.

- D. **Safety Concerns - Heat Policy** - There is considerable danger concerning heat stress/exhaustion during outdoor physical activities which occur during late spring, summer and early fall. All athletes are at risk and the necessary precautions need to be taken for all sports. All participants should be monitored closely.

SAY NO TO DRUGS

Coaches shall pay particular attention to extreme weather conditions and make adjustments in their practice schedules when appropriate. When the heat index (air temperature plus relative humidity) reaches 84° or higher, the following restrictions listed below must be followed:

HEAT INDEX READING	RESTRICTION
105° plus	DANGER! Discontinue regular practice. Very short restricted practice is permitted. Make sure all athletes drink water.
95° - 104°	EXTREME CAUTION! Modify practice with required water breaks every 30 minutes. Observe athletes carefully for signs of heat injuries. Make sure all athletes drink water.
84° - 93°	WARNING! Provide a mandatory ten (10) minute rest per 45 minutes of activity. Water is to be available at all times.
Below 83°	NO RESTRICTIONS. Monitor the heat index for increases. Water is to be available at all times.

II. PRESIDENTS AND COACHES:

- A. Presidents and coaches shall be the respective association/team representatives, and shall be responsible for the following:
1. Being liaison between the League Director and their respective teams. Responsible for the safety and well-being of all soccer players.
 2. Attending all presidents'/coaches' meetings.
 3. Informing team members and parents about all information pertaining to the league (rules, regulations, schedules, etc.).
 4. Responsible for the conduct of team members and spectators.
 5. Reinforce the philosophy of the league to all players.
 6. Obtaining and returning all pertinent information to the Director such as franchise fees, registration forms, rosters, etc.

7. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all roster information, including assistant coaches names and phone numbers, remain current throughout the season.
8. **Participate in the Public Works Coaches Certification program, including completion of a Criminal Background Investigation, and adhering to the N.Y.S.C.A. Code of Ethics.**
9. Coaches are reminded that administering any type of drug to players is absolutely prohibited and is in violation of NYSCA Coaches Code of Ethics, SMYSL Advisory Board, and the Department of Public Works. Violators will be subject to expulsion from Public Works programs.

III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP:

- A. The maximum roster size (**U-14 Division**) is limited to eighteen (18) players (a roster may exceed eighteen players at the discretion of the League Director). The minimum roster size is twelve (12) players.
 1. Rosters and registration forms are due by the designated date listed on the soccer calendar. Additions to rosters may be made by submitting a registration form to the League Director. Those players are eligible to play once the signed registration forms have been received by the Public Works office. Written notice must be received from the Association President when a player has withdrawn from the respective association once the season has started.
 2. Rosters are frozen at 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the second weekend of scheduled games.
 3. Teams will consist of a maximum of one head coach and two assistants.
 - a. For NYSCA insurance purposes, a NYSCA certified coach 16-17 years of age must be coaching under the supervision of a certified coach 18 years or older. NYSCA certification is not available for coaches under the age of 16.
 - b. NYSCA Certification Fees and Criminal Background Checks for each Head Coach will be paid for by the Department of Public Works (covered through League Franchise Fees).
- B. **Seven-A-Side (U-7, U-9) and Eight-A-Side (U-12)** rosters cannot consist of more than 12 players and no less than 10 players.

C. Team Selection Policy:

1. Players will be distributed evenly among teams according to age, sex, and experience.
 - a. Exception: The U-7 league will be allowed to maintain the same roster for both Spring and Fall seasons, during each calendar year. However, new U-7 teams will be formed prior to the start of the Spring Season each year. This rule only applies to the U-7 teams.

D. Select Player Status:

1. Any player who is currently participating in a select program shall be considered select status.
2. Select players must be distributed as evenly as possible among teams in each individual age division, per association.
3. 11 vs 11: No team may have more than two (2) select players on their team/roster.
8 vs 8, 7 vs 7: No team may have more than one (1) select player on their team/roster.

IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

A. Any team which knowingly plays a non-rostered or illegal player will automatically forfeit that game that the illegal player(s) participated in. In addition;

1. The coach will be suspended for the next two (2) scheduled games.
2. In the event it is determined that the illegal player is from another team within the Public Works SMYSL league, then the player will be suspended from their assigned team for the next two (2) scheduled games.
3. Any further violations of the player eligibility rule may result in the coach and/or player(s) being suspended for the remainder of the season.

B. U-7 Division:

- (1) Spring Season: Player's age determined as of March 10 of current year.
- (2) Fall Season: Player's age determined as of August 1 of current year.

C. **U-8, U-9, U-10, U-12, U-14 and U-18 Divisions:**

- (1) Player's age determined as of August 1 of previous year.

D. **Residency:** Players must be residents of Charles County (except those who participate in the Accokeek program).

1. Players who move from one area to another once the season begins must finish the season where they started. These players cannot be placed on another team.

V. **MATCH RULES:**

A. Except as otherwise stated, the current Federation International Football Association (F.I.F.A.) Laws of the Game shall govern all Public Works-sponsored soccer league games.

B. **Starting the Match:**

U-7, U-8, U-9 Divisions: A minimum of five (5) players per team are needed to start a match.

U-10 East Division: A minimum of six (6) players per team are needed to start a match.

1. No offsides.
2. Two (2) throw-ins.

U-12 Divisions: A minimum of six (6) players per team are needed to start a match.

U-14 Divisions: A minimum of nine (9) players per team are needed to start a match.

1. A fifteen (15) minute grace period shall be observed.
2. As soon as the minimum is achieved, the match must start (prior to the grace period elapsing).
3. If a team starts the match with the minimum number of players, and that team falls below the minimum number for any reason other than an injury, the match will be terminated and that team will forfeit the match.
4. If a team falls below the minimum players due to an injury, the injured player will be given a 10 minute grace period to return before the game is forfeited.
5. HOME TEAM--The second team listed on the schedule shall be the home team. Home team will be given choice of sideline. Visiting team will take opposite side of field.

U-18 (COED) Divisions: A minimum of seven (7) players per team are needed to start a match.

1. Three (3) girls must play at all times. If this does not occur the team with the lower amount of girls will play down one (1) boy per girl missing.
2. No player on any high school soccer roster is permitted to play.

C. **Field of Play:** The following age divisions shall play on the designated field.

1. **U-7:** 150' Long x 90' Wide (Small Field)
2. **U-8:** 105' Long X 90' Wide (Small Field)
3. **U-9, U-10, U-12:** 200' Long x 130' Wide (Intermediate Field)
4. **U-14, U-18:** 320' Long x 170' Wide (Regulation Field)
5. Special Rules:
 - a. Spectator Line: A solid line two yards outside of and parallel to the sideline. All coaches, players, and spectators must stay clear of the lane to provide a safety area for all concerned. The official linesman must operate in this corridor.
 - b. Coaching Area: Coaches and players are to be located within ten yards in either direction of the mid-field line. Coaching will be limited to this area. Persistent violation of this rule will result in a caution and possible disqualification. Solid lines five yards long and perpendicular to the spectator line will denote this area.
5. Corner flags are required at all fields.
6. Goal Area: The following goal areas will be used for the respective leagues.
 - a) **U-7 Division:** 3 yards X 6 yards (9' x 18').
 - b) **U-8 Division:** 3 yards X 12 yards (9' x 36')
 - b) **U-9, U-10, U-12 Divisions:** 4½ yards X 9 yards (13.5' x 27').
 - c) **U-14, U-18 Divisions:** 6 yards X 20 yards (18' x 60').
7. Goal Sizes:
 - a) **U-7 Division:** 19' W x 7' H.
 - b) **U-8 Division:** 4.50' W x 9' H.
 - b) **U-9, U-10, U-12 Divisions:** 19' W x 7' H.
 - c) **U-14, U-18 Divisions:** 24' W x 8' H.

D. Duration of Match:

1. Games will be played in halves; except U-7 & U-8, which will be played in quarters.
2. Half-time will not exceed ten (10) minutes.
3. Game Times will be as follows:
 - a) U-7: (4)-10 minute quarters.
 - b) U-8: (4)-10 minute quarters.
 - c) U-9, U-10: (2)-20 minute halves.
 - d) U-12: (2)-25 minute halves.
 - e) U-14, U-18: (2)-35 minute halves.

E. Players Equipment:

1. **The following equipment items are approved for use during the current season. Referee examination of player's equipment prior to the match is mandatory.**
 - a) Ball Sizes:
 - 1) U-6: #3 Ball
 - 2) U-7: #3 Ball
 - 3) U-8: #3 Ball
 - 4) U-9: #4 Ball
 - 5) U-10: #4 Ball
 - 6) U-12: #4 Ball
 - 7) U-14: #5 Ball
 - 8) U-18: #5 Ball.
 - b) Uniforms:
 - 1) Home teams must wear scrimmage vests if a color conflict exists.

- 2) The Goalie must wear a jersey with colors which distinguish him/her from the players of both teams and from the referee.
- c) Footwear:
 - 1) Players must wear sneakers or shoes with molded cleats. No street shoes of any type are permitted.
- d) Shin Guards:
 - 1) MANDATORY for game and practice participation.
- e) Eye Glasses:
 - 1) Players wearing glasses must secure them with a strap.
- f) No metal belt buckles allowed.
- g) Jewelry will not be worn by any participant.
- h) Casts of any kind must be covered on all exterior surfaces with no less than ½ inch thick padding. Only casts below the elbow will be permitted. A release letter from a qualified physician must be presented to the League Director before approval to play will be granted.
- i) No protective gear of any kind can be worn unless approved by League Director.

F. Substitution Rules (U-12 Division/U-14 Division):

1. There is no limit on the number of substitutions; U-7 - two (2) complete quarters must be played.
2. Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, and at the following times:
 - a) Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession.
 - b) Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 - c) After a goal by either team.
 - d) After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
 - e) At half-time.
 - f) The official must be notified only when substituting the goal keeper.

3. All substitutes must enter the field of play from the vicinity of the mid-field line. Players may leave the field from any point. Players entering the field of play shall wait until the substituted player exits.
4. No substitute for a disqualified player.

G. Goalkeeper:

1. In the judgement of the referee, intentionally charging the goalkeeper will result in a direct kick and ejection of the charging person(s).
2. There will be NO direct kick in the 5-6 age group.
3. During a seven-a-side match, the goal keeper:
 - a. can play the ball anywhere on the field of play.
 - b. Cannot play the ball with their hands if the ball is intentionally played to them by their own player's feet, unless it is from a kick in.

H. Referee's Whistle:

1. When a call is made, the referee should make a verbal call as well as a hand signal.

I. Slide Tackle:

1. Prohibited in U-7, U-8, U-9, U10 and U-12 Divisions.
 - a) Penalty card will result for violation.
2. Permitted for U-14 and U-18 Division.

J. Injury:

1. Play will stop at the discretion of the referee.
 - a. No spectator or coach is allowed in the field of play unless invited by the referee.
2. Play restarts with drop of ball.
3. If bleeding results from an injury, the player will be removed from the game until the bleeding has stopped and the open wound is bandaged. If there is excess blood on the player's jersey, it will have to be changed.

K. U-7 Division Special Rules:

1. No offsides.
2. Goal Kicks may be taken as far out as the penalty kick mark. The goal box will be extended out six (6) feet (by an imaginary line to include the penalty mark, for goal kicks only).
3. There will be no penalty kick for the U-7 division.
4. Coaches should not be in the goal area at any time.

L. Seven-A-Side Rules (U-7, U-9 and U-10): All Seven-A-Side games will be played using F.I.F.A. rules with the following modifications:

1. Field of Play: All games will be played on Intermediate-size soccer fields. (Exception: U-7 Division will play on Small Field.)
2. Rosters: No Seven-A-Side roster should consist of more than 12 players. Rosters will be frozen on the Friday prior to the second weekend of scheduled games.
3. Substitutions can be made on the fly. There will be no limit to the number of substitutions made during a game.
 - a. The official must be notified only when substituting the goal keeper.
 - b. Any player receiving a yellow card can be substituted. Any player receiving a red card cannot be substituted.
4. Penalty kicks: Penalty kicks will be taken from the Penalty Mark on each field.
5. Offsides: There will be no "offsides" in this league.
6. Free Kicks: The opposition should be at least 6 yards from the kicker.
7. Throw-ins: There will be throw-ins (instead of kick-ins).
8. Goalkeepers: Goalkeepers can play the ball anywhere on the field of play. Goalkeepers may not touch the ball with their hands when they are located outside of the penalty box.
 - a) Goalkeepers cannot play the ball with their hands, if the ball is intentionally played to them by their own players' feet--they can, however, kick the ball beyond the mid-line (any distance is permitted). Goalies are allowed to score.
9. Referees: All Seven-A-Side games will only require one official.

10. Penalty Accumulations: A player receiving a red card will be ejected from the game, and cannot be he substituted. In addition, he or she will be suspended from that point, and the next game.
 - a. Any player receiving a yellow-card will have to sit out of the game for a minimum of two (2) minutes--these players can be substituted.
 11. Goal Kicks (U-8): Done from the 15 yard line/box - not the 5 yard line. Kicks taken by the defender. Goalkeeper should be in goal during the kick. 10 yard stand back rule.
- M. **Five-A-Side Rules (U-8 Division)**: All Five-A-Side games will be played using F.I.F.A. rules with the following modifications:
1. Field of Play: U-8 will play on Small Field.
 2. Fouls/Kicks:
 - a. All kicks are indirect opponents should be back five(5) yards from the ball.
 - b. No kicks from inside the goal box. If a foul occurs there, the ball will be placed at the nearest point outside of the box.
 3. Offsides: No offsides and no slide tackling.
 4. Throw-ins: Players are offered two(2) chances to throw the ball in correctly. Opposing team will get the ball after two(2) failed attempts.
 5. Substitutions can be made on the fly. Coaches must stay off of the playing field.
- N. **Eight-A-Side Rules (U-12 Division)**: All games will be played using F.I.F.A. rules:
1. Offside: Will be enforced in these leagues.
 2. Substitutions: See Section V, F. for explanation of F.I.F.A. substitution rules.

VI. LEAGUE REGULATIONS:

- A. **Program Attendant**: There will be a Program Attendant scheduled at each game site.
1. The Program Attendant will be responsible for maintaining copies of the rules, guidelines, and team rosters at the game site.

2. The Program Attendant is not responsible for resolving problems at the game site, however, they will be responsible for preparing and submitting game reports, incident and accident reports, and information concerning protests or other problems/concerns.
3. If a protest occurs during a game the Program Attendant will collect all pertinent information for submission, and the game will continue being played under protest (the attendant will not be responsible for resolving these matters at the game site).
4. If a Program Attendant is not available during a contest then each head coach may report any unusual situations to the League Director concerning their game.

B. Conduct:

1. NYSCA Coaches Code of Ethics must be signed and adhered to by all coaches.
 - a) Violations may be cause for dismissal.
2. Players that receive a yellow card during the match will be removed from the game. The player may re-enter the match during the next substitution opportunity.
3. Any coach or player receiving two (2) yellow cards in one game will automatically receive a red card and be disqualified from the match.
4. A coach or player disqualified during a match will be suspended for the next scheduled match. Anyone who is ejected from the game must leave the playing area within sixty (60) seconds and may not return to the field after the match. Failure to do so could result in a forfeit.
5. The respective Association will be responsible for replacing suspended coaches.
6. Team coaches are responsible for the actions of their spectators and could be penalized as a result. Spectators are not allowed to stand along either end line (or around the goal-box area).

C. League Standings: Points are kept as follows, and wins/losses. No standings will be recorded for the U-6 and U-7 Divisions.

- a) Win = 3 points
- b) Tie = 1 point
- c) Loss = 0 points

D. Tie-Break Procedures: will only be used if teams are tied in regular season standings.

- A) Won/Loss record in head to head competition.

- B) Point differential in head to head competition.
 - 1. Least points allowed by teams still tied.
 - C) If possible and necessary, a play-off will be held.
1. If teams are tied at the end of regular season and one of the teams has won one (1) or more games by forfeit:
- a) Game(s) which were won by forfeit will not be included in the head to head competition (tie break procedures).
 - b) The game in which each opponent played against team which forfeited, will be eliminated from the head to head competition.
 - c) Example: Team A and B have identical won/lost records at the conclusion of regular season. Team C has a forfeit to Team A, but won or lost to Team B by playing a game and not forfeiting. Because of the forfeit of Team C to Team A, the game with Team C and B will also be recognized as a forfeit and both games with Team C will not be included in the head to head competition (tie break procedures). This rule may be duplicate as often as necessary.
- F. **Awards:** Any awards given by Associations or parents will not be endorsed by Public Works, and may be given solely at the Association's discretion.
- G. **Protests/Complaints:**
- 1. Formal protests must be made in writing and submitted to Public Works within two (2) business days of the incident.
 - 2. All protests must be accompanied by a \$25.00 check from the protesting organization. If the protest is valid and upheld by the League Director, the check will be returned to the organization.
 - 3. Rule interpretations must be protested at the time of the incident, and before play resumes. If the official's decision is not accepted, the coach must immediately notify the Program Attendant of their intention to protest.
 - a) The Program Attendant will notify the opposing coach that the game is being played under protest--and will record the protest on the game report.
 - b) In the event a Program Attendant is not available, the protesting coach must request that the referee notify the opposing coach that the game is being continued under protest.

c) Protests may not be made after a game has been completed.

4. Protests involving officials judgement will not be considered. The only grounds for protests will be for misinterpretation of rules or player eligibility.
5. The League Director will investigate and have final ruling on all protests.
6. No verbal complaints concerning referees, players, other teams, etc., will be addressed--all complaints must be made in writing and submitted to the League Director.

H. Schedule Changes:

1. THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULE CHANGES OTHER THAN FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER OR CONFLICT IN FIELD SCHEDULING.
2. Any match which is rescheduled and played without the authorization of the League Director will result in a double forfeit. Both teams will receive "0" points for league standings.

VII. INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

- A. In case of inclement weather the following procedures will be used to notify teams of game cancellations:
1. Teams scheduled for the first game of the day will report to the playing site as scheduled, unless prior notification is received from their respective Association President or Public Works staff.
 2. Public Works staff will review playing conditions at the various soccer fields (if necessary) to determine if the field is playable. If any playing field is unsafe for scheduled games, the staff will identify these field(s)--by placing information about any cancelled games on the Public Works, Parks and Grounds, telephone recording. For weekend game cancellation information, coaches may call (301) 932-3479 for a recorded message. So that this information line is easily accessible to all coaches, please do not give this phone number out to players or parents.
 3. Public Works staff will notify Association Presidents of game cancellations as soon as possible. Presidents will inform coaches, who in turn will notify players. The League Director will notify the officials' commissioner/assigner.
 4. If weather conditions change while a match is in progress or the field is in unsafe playing condition--the game official will make the decision to cancel games at the game site.
 5. Matches cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled according to field availability and time.

6. Matches cancelled during the first half of play will be rescheduled in their entirety. Matches cancelled during halftime will be continued from that point (score remains same when game is rescheduled). Matches cancelled after the start of the second half will be counted as a complete game.
7. Thunder and Lightning - If thunder and/or lightning can be seen or heard, participants, spectators and staff are in danger. The contests must be stopped and protective shelter sought immediately. In the event that either situation should occur, 15 minutes will be allowed to pass after the last sound of thunder and/or lightning (before the contest may resume).