

CLUB LEAGUE RULES

1) Team Activities

- Team activities are restricted to three per week (exceptions can be made with permission from the Club League Director)
- Each activity should last no longer than 90 minutes.
- They include games, practices, and instructional meetings.
- These restrictions do not apply to other activities approved by KVSA for the purpose of further developing our players. Examples of activities not covered are: Director Led training sessions, Advanced Player Pool games and practices, Premier Guest Player program, and camps.

2) Playing Time:

- Each player must play at least 25% of the game.
- Interpretation:
 - 50% is the minimum allowed, and less playing time should only be used in case of extenuating circumstances, such as late arrival, injury, disciplinary reasons, etc.
 - You may take into account attendance and commitment as a factor, but keep in mind that the level of commitment here is somewhere between the Recreational and Premier leagues.
 - If players are to develop they need playing time. Ideally they should play at least 50% of the game or more.
 - League games should emphasize development. If a player is weaker the coach must work to improve that player rather than take away playing time.

3) Coaches' Responsibilities:

- **Job Description:**
 - Refer to the section entitled "Coaches' Job Description" for all the details.
- **The Coach Must:**
 - Foster good sportsmanship. Lead by example.
 - Teach the letter and spirit of the rules (world, national, state and local):
 - FIFA: www.fifa.com
 - USYSA: www.usyouthsoccer.org
 - KSYSA: www.ksysa.org
 - KVSA: www.kawvalleysoccer.com
 - Foster player development. Refer to our Player Development Objectives.
 - Foster the coach's self-development. Refer to the Coaching Development Objectives.
- **Team Formation:**
 - The league directors will form teams after the player evaluations.
 - Coaches are prohibited from recruiting players that are registered to other teams within or outside KVSA. Kansas State Youth Soccer Association has anti-recruiting rules. Violators are subject to fines and suspension from coaching. KVSA may also suspend coaches. Please report any violations.
 - From year to year, players will be shuffled into new teams. This promotes player and coaching development.
 - Teams will remain the same from fall to spring. Minor changes will be made if deemed necessary.
 - All players will be rostered under the League Director.

- **Equipment:**
 - Check with the Equipment Manager for availability of coaching aids.
 - Care for the equipment appropriately.
 - All equipment issued to you remains KVSA property and you must return it at the end of each season.
- **Team Management:**
 - The head coach is responsible for all aspects of the team's functioning, performance and experience.
 - Refer to the section on "Team Management" for more details.
 - Work closely with the League Director and the Team Manager. They will provide you with invaluable assistance, allowing you to focus on coaching the team.
 - Hold a Pre-Season Team Meeting with the parents.
 - See the section entitled "Team Meeting Agenda". It gives you a sample of what you might cover at a parent's meeting. Feel free to use it as it is, or edit it to suit your needs.
 - Use this opportunity to ask for volunteers for the team manager position, if you don't already have one. Let the League Director know who will be your team manager, so they can receive the proper training.
 - Use this opportunity to give your team members the following information:
 - ◆ Calendar of events: camps, practices, games, scrimmages, tournaments, etc.
 - ◆ Rosters and contact information.
 - ◆ Announcements discussed at coaches' meetings.
 - ◆ League rules and procedures (give them a copy of this).
 - ◆ Coach's Philosophy, goals, etc.
 - ◆ Player responsibilities and conduct.
 - ◆ Parents' responsibilities and conduct.
 - ◆ Rainout procedures and contact numbers, alternate practice sites, etc.
 - Teach your players the practice and game day procedures.
 - The coach is responsible for the conduct of players and parents on the team. Control the conduct of your parents and players during games. Referees have the authority to stop the game and expel spectators, players, or the coach. See the section on "Ejections and Suspensions".
 - Design a proper emergency procedure in case of injuries or inclement weather.
- **Conduct:**
 - Coaches are responsible for their own conduct, that of the players, and the parents.
 - The referees are charged with restoring good conduct.
 - Coaches are subject to ejection for their own misconduct, or for the misconduct of their players and parents.
 - A coach who is ejected must leave the playing and viewing area and is not allowed to coach by proxy or in any form.
 - The game will only be restarted after the coach leaves. If the coach refuses to leave within the time specified by the referee, the game will be terminated immediately, and the coach will be suspended by KVSA.

4) Carding:

- Club League players will be registered with KSYSA; we will only issue player cards if a player or team is going to participate in an activity that requires it (tournament, etc.). If you require a card, you must provide us with a picture (small head shot).
- KSYSA membership provides insurance coverage for all activities involving member organizations, including out of town tournaments.
- We also benefit from the protection and structure of the state association's rules and regulations.
- Only players rostered to a team will be allowed to play for that team in league play. Tournament teams can have guest players, if properly documented (player card, guest player agreement, travel form, etc).
- The referees are charged with checking player cards prior to the start of each game. We will waive this requirement for in-house league play.
- The team managers will be the custodians of the player cards during the season.

5) Rules of the Game

- **General Rules:**
 - All FIFA Laws of the Game will be followed, except as modified below.
 - These modifications follow US Youth Soccer Association guidelines.
 - Referees are charged with enforcing the rules.
 - Enforcement will be based not only on the letter, but the spirit of the Laws. In addition, the principles of Fair Play, Non-Interference, Advantage and safety will be observed.
- **Substitutions:**
 - An unlimited number of substitutions are allowed.
 - Substitutes must check with the assistant referee at the center flag, and wait for the head referee's permission to enter the field.
 - You may substitute:
 - Prior to a throw-in by your team.
 - Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 - After a goal by either team.
 - At half time.
 - During an injury time-out for either team.
 - When substituting the goalkeeper, always notify the referee, even at half time.
- **Coaching Box:**
 - The coach and all players not on the field must stay within the coaching box, except when a player goes to the center flag for a substitution. .
 - The coaching box will be clearly marked on the ground, and includes the team's bench.
 - Both teams are to be on the same side of the field.
 - Each team may only move within one half of the sideline.
 - During inclement weather teams are allowed to move so players can have their back to a harsh wind.
 - Parents must stay on the opposite side from the players, behind the restraining line, so as not to obstruct the assistant referee's view of the sideline.
- **Equipment:**
 - **Shin guards** are required for all games and practices. They must be completely covered by the socks.
 - **Casts:** must be covered by a soft material to protect other players from injury.
 - **Shoes** must meet soccer specifications. No toe cleats, spikes, or pointed studs.
 - **Hoods** are not allowed, but stocking caps, headbands, and gloves are.

- **No jewelry** during practices or games: earrings, beads, watches, bracelets, necklaces, chains, or hard hair clips. Medical identification bracelets are allowed, if necessary.
- **Blue jeans, zippers, buttons, etc.,** are not allowed.
- **Uniform:**
 - All players must wear matching uniform. This includes the jersey, shorts, and socks.
 - Players without the proper uniform may not be allowed to play.
 - Any extra layers of clothing in cold weather must be worn under the main uniform, and must match the dominant color.

6) Age Group Modified Laws:

	U-10	U-12	U-14
Field Size	60 x 40	80 x 50	110 x 70
Field Numbers	4, 5, 6, 7, 8	10, 11, 12, 13	14, 15
Goal Size	6' x 18'	6' x 18'	8' x 24'
Ball Size	#4	#4	#5
Number of Players	6	8	11
Goal Keeper	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duration (min./half)	25 x 2	30 x 2	35 x 2
Offside Rule	Yes	Yes	Yes
2nd Throw-In	NO	NO	NO
Slide Tackling	Yes	Yes	Yes
Direct Kicks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Penalty Kicks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corner Kicks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free kicks in box	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distance from free kicks (yards)	8	8	10
Distance from corner kicks (yards)	10	10	10
Distance from goal kicks (yards)	PK area	PK area	PK area
Score directly from kick-off	Yes	Yes	Yes

7) Referees:

▪ Responsibilities:

- Our referees are charged with enforcing all the rules that are mentioned on sections 4, 5, 6 above, and others not listed.
- Besides the FIFA Laws of the Game, as modified by KVSA, the referees must be guided by the following principles:
 - **Non-Interference:** it is in the spirit of the laws that soccer is a players' game, that it should have a continuous flow. The referee should remain in the background as a facilitator, and not impose his or her presence unnecessarily.
 - **Rule of Advantage:** when a foul occurs the referee should not call it if doing so would give an advantage to the offending team. The guilty party may be penalized after the play is over.
 - **Age Group Emphasis:** games will be called more tightly for the younger age groups to emphasize safety, and more loosely for the older age groups to emphasize continuity of play and "controlled aggression", a necessary characteristic for mature players.
 - **Fair Play**
 - **Safety.**
- All referees are required to attend and pass the official USSF Referee Certification course, and they must be recertified continuously.
- The Referee Coordinator and Referee Supervisors help administer the referee program, and also continuously mentor and train our new referees "on the job".

▪ Powers:

- In order to discharge their responsibilities, our referees have been given all the necessary powers. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - The referees' calls are final (protesters may file a referee evaluation after the game, or discuss any issues with the referee coordinator).
 - The referees decide on safety issues, such as field conditions, weather, equipment, and uniform. They have authority to call off the game.
 - The referees will check players for equipment and KSYSA player cards (Player cards are waived for Rec and Club play).
 - Players without proper equipment or player cards may not be allowed to play.
 - **Misconduct:**
 - ◆ Players, spectators and coaches are subject to ejection by the referee for misconduct. Coaches are responsible for the players' and spectators' conduct and may be ejected for failing to control them.
 - ◆ A coach who is ejected must leave the playing and viewing area immediately before the game is restarted.
 - ◆ Refusal to leave the playing and viewing area within the time specified by the referee will result in the suspension of the coach and the immediate termination of the game.
 - ◆ A player receiving a red card will be ejected from the remainder of the game and suspended for the next game.
 - ◆ Referees are allowed to caution a coach (yellow card) for improper conduct. A second yellow card during the same game will result in a red card and expulsion from the game and the soccer complex. The coach will be automatically suspended from the next game.
 - ◆ The referee shall report all cautions, ejections, and the identities of the parties involved in these incidents, to the Referee Coordinator.
 - ◆ The KVSA Board may impose additional penalties upon review of the incidents.

- **Appeals:**

Referees are subject to the following checks on their performance.

- Coaches and parents must not address the referees during the course of the game, but coaches can address them at half time or after the game to ask for clarifications.
- Coaches and parents should fill out the Coach's Comment Card, which they receive before each game. The card serves for detailed comment, good or bad, and will be read by the referee coordinator, providing valuable feedback that can be used to further develop our referees. If you want the Referee Coordinator to call you, note it on the card. You will be called before the next game.
- You may speak directly to the Referee Coordinator or a Referee Supervisor immediately after the game.
- If there is a concern that requires immediate attention during the game, have a parent or assistant coach find the Referee Coordinator, a Referee Supervisor, or a Board member.
- If you are still unsatisfied, you may request a meeting with the KVSA Board to review your concerns.

- **The Referee in Context:**

- **You are the context.** What sort of context do we provide for our referees? A confrontational or a nurturing environment?

- **The Confrontational Environment:**

- The referee feels surrounded by hostility. On the field they interact with two teams struggling to win a game, who take out their frustrations on the referee. On the sidelines: aggressive team mates and coaches on one side, fans on the other. When the referee makes a genuine mistake, or when the parties mistakenly disagree with a call, everyone rails against the referees. The stakes are high, and so are the emotions. Fans, players, and coaches quickly turn confrontational. It becomes a stressful, hostile, and even traumatizing experience for the referee. In some cases fans scream, hurl abusive comments, sarcasm, and insults at them. They question every call.
 - ◆ How would you feel about your job if that happened to you on a regular basis? How would that affect you if you were a young person confronted by older, more powerful people? How would you feel if that referee were your child?
- Outcome of a confrontational environment:
 - ◆ Youngsters drop out frequently, and the main reason are the stresses involved in dealing with the crowd. The turnover rate is very high, and that means that each season we have to train new referees from scratch.
 - ◆ This makes it hard for KVSA to staff the more than 60 games per week we hold.
 - ◆ And it makes it even harder to train and develop the staff over time, so that we can have the confident, experienced, quality referees that we all want.
 - ◆ We will only have the quality referees that we want when our refereeing staff has the opportunity to develop over a long time. This requires a nurturing environment so they stay with it and feel appreciated, which will motivate them to do a good job.

- **The Nurturing Environment:**

- The best context is a nurturing environment. It fosters the right values, and it fosters learning.
- We want to make the relationship between coaches, players, parents and referees a friendly and nurturing one.
- Whose side are the referees on? Parents, coaches and referees are on the same team, trying to provide the best soccer experience for everyone's children. Referees are on

everyone's side. They are merely facilitators, making it possible for everyone to enjoy this great game. The game would not be possible without the rules. Some calls will go in your favor, and some will not. Everyone wins in the end when the laws of the game are maintained.

- KVSA invests a lot of time and resources toward training and developing referees. KVSA's policy is that coaches, parents and players must not undermine these efforts by engaging in hostile behavior toward referees. Even better: show them your appreciation!
- That does not mean that referees don't make mistakes. What it does mean is that coaches, parents, and players should be part of the solution, rather than aggravating the problem. The goal is to have an outstanding refereeing staff.
- Our refereeing staff needs a **nurturing environment** in order to develop, and that environment is **made up of coaches, parents, and players**.
- KVSA promotes an ethic of sportsmanship. The aim is to create a "culture of soccer" involving the feelings, attitudes, and behavior of all its members.

➤ **Possible Sources of Conflict and Solutions**

- Why are there occasional conflicts between coaches and parents on one side, and referees on the other?
- There are two possible reasons for conflicts and dissatisfaction with referees.
 - ◆ **First:** the coach or parent who complains is wrong. You could be wrong about the rules, or you could be wrong about a factual matter (maybe you did not see what really happened). You might be mistaken concerning the rules of the game, concerning the reasons for the referee's actions, you may be ignorant of the 5 principles of soccer (see above), or you may not have seen the play correctly. The parent or coach might be overcome by the emotions of the moment and confuse a referee's call that goes against his team with a wrong call. Calls that go against your team and wrong calls are not the same thing. The rules of soccer call for judgment on the part of the referee. Coaches and fans may make different judgments on certain plays. But that does not make the call wrong.
 - ◆ **Second:** our referees may make mistakes. The reason may be their inexperience, limited knowledge of the game or the rules, fatigue, etc. They may not see a play correctly because their view was blocked. Referees must make instantaneous judgments in interpreting the laws of the game. Sometimes they make the wrong judgment due to incomplete information.
- **What is the best solution for each of these problems?**
 - ◆ First, how do we know whether the referee made a mistake or it is we who are mistaken about an issue? Don't make a fool out of yourself - why assume automatically that the referee is wrong? The best policy is to approach the referee at the appropriate time and ask for clarifications (at half-time or after the game).
 - ◆ Keep an open mind because, as certain as you may feel, it is possible that it is you who are mistaken. If it turns out that you are wrong, and not the referee, you will be glad you did not make a scene or attack a young person who was just doing a good job.
 - ◆ If it turns out that the referee was wrong after all, he or she will be more willing to acknowledge a mistake and learn from it when your approach is friendly and respectful. You will have helped that young person learn and grow, and this benefits everyone.
 - ◆ If the referee is wrong but does not realize it, do not engage in a confrontation. You cannot intimidate someone into agreeing with you. Referees need to think for themselves, and it is actually a good quality for them to trust their own judgment, even if they are mistaken. Rather than confronting them, fill out the Coaches'

Comment Card, or speak with the Referee Coordinator. He or she will instruct them appropriately.

- ◆ If you need immediate care of a situation, follow the procedure outlined above, in the section titled “Appeals”.
 - ◆ **In approaching our referees, always ask yourself whether your demeanor will help generate a friendly, nurturing environment. That includes your body language, tone of voice, and choice of words.**
 - ◆ Educate yourself about all the Laws of the Game, the league rules, and the principles of refereeing, so you can be a more knowledgeable spectator. Go to the FIFA web site, follow the links to the Laws of the Game, and settle those nagging questions and doubts you’ve always had about the laws of soccer. In that manner you can also help us educate your children about the laws of the game. The site is: www.fifa.com. Also: www.usyouthsoccer.org and www.ksysa.org
 - ◆ KVSA has strong referee and coach development programs. Development takes time. Speak to the Age Group Directors about coaching issues, and to the Referee Coordinator or Supervisors about refereeing issues. Do your part to create a nurturing environment in which our referees (and coaches) can flourish and mature over time.
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