



RULES OF PLAY

September 1, 2008

I. Applicability

A. These rules apply to games and teams of the Jack London Youth Soccer Sports League (JLYSL) scheduled in recreational flights sponsored by JLYSL or its Clubs. Teams from JLYSL playing in competitive leagues, tournaments, or in recreational leagues sponsored by, or in conjunction with, other leagues are still subject to the Zero Tolerance Policy and sanctions from the JLYSL Discipline Committee as described below.

B. All contests played in this league will abide by the Laws of the Game as established by FIFA and those modifications established by the CYSA and this league as amended each year.

C. Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, managers, coaches, team assistants, parents and spectators. It is the responsibility of each Club to insure that the actions of its teams on and off the field do not bring disrespect upon this League.

II. ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ABUSE

A. All players, parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to demonstrate sporting behavior before, during and after games, scrimmages, and practices. The League has adopted a "Zero Tolerance Policy" towards verbal or physical abuse or harassment by anyone involved in the league in any capacity.

B. Any participant including, but not limited to, parents, children, coaches, board members, volunteers, and fans in the JLYSL program who are abusive (verbally or physically) toward any person including, but not limited to, Opposing Teams, Parents, Coaches, Referees, Players, Spectators, etc. will be suspended. Suspended means that said person may not attend any JLYSL soccer games or sponsored functions including practices. Suspended parents will still be required to drop off and pick up children for practices and on game day.

c. Sanctions

1. **First Offense** - Two (2) week suspension. This step may be skipped in the case of physical abuse or severe verbal abuse.
2. **Second Offense** - Suspension for the remainder of the season and possibly the following season.
3. **Third Offense** - Suspended for life (if you are banned for life you may ineligible to participate in any JLYSL activities).
4. In cases of severe abuse, we reserve the right to escalate the disciplinary process to include all three steps on the first offense.

III. **PARENTS AGREEMENT**

A. All parents must sign a Parent's Agreement recognizing the JLYSL Zero Tolerance Policy and the Parent's Pledge.

B. Parent's Pledge

As a parent of a Jack London Youth Soccer Sports League player, I agree to:

1. Support my player, their teammates, and their coach's efforts at all times.
2. Respect the opponent players, coaches, fans, and game officials at all times.
3. Cheer encouragement to my player and teammates, but NOT instructions.
4. Get my player to the games, practices and training sessions prepared and on time. Prepared means with water, shin guards and appropriately attired.
5. Avoid any confrontation with game officials, coaches, or opposing team parents. I agree to refrain from any unsporting behavior including verbal or physical abuse of players, coaches, and game officials, before, during and after the game.

IV. **COACHING AND SIDELINE BEHAVIOR**

A. The primary rule of sideline behavior is that coaches, players, and spectators may not make comments toward or about their opponents and their play, or toward or about the referees and their decisions.

B. For each team, an adult with a team official's pass that is valid for the team playing shall be present and responsible for his/her team during the entire match, and he/she shall sign the match card.

C. All coaches must sign a Coaches Agreement recognizing the JLYSL Zero Tolerance Policy and the Coaches Pledge.

D. Coaches Pledge

As a coach of Jack London Youth Soccer Sports League I pledge to:

1. Make the health and safety of all participants my number one responsibility. I will never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of the players.
2. Support and display a positive attitude toward all players, coaches and parents at all times.
3. Respect the opponent's players, coaches, and fans, and the game officials at all times.
4. Be a positive role model and set the standard for sportsmanship.

E. Coaches are responsible for the actions of all spectators on their touch line. Spectators will not incite disruptive behavior and will not make profane or derogatory remarks or gestures against anyone, including dissent arising from the referees' decisions. Either the coach or referee may require offending spectators to leave the field.

F. Coaches are responsible for the actions for all of the rostered players on their touch line. Players will not make profane or derogatory remarks or gestures, dissent from the referee's decision, or incite disruptive behavior.

G. Coaches and other team officials are responsible for maintaining order on the team bench and among accompanying spectators during matches. Should a substitute player, member of the coaching staff, or a spectator unlawfully enter the field of play, the referee may stop all play. Should an incident escalate beyond the coaches' control and result in match abandonment, the entire team or teams, including all registered players and all members of the coaching staff will be subject to discipline by the Disciplinary Committee. Discipline may include suspension of all registered players and all members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the season. A more severe penalty may be assessed against specific individuals if their actions so warrant.

H. Coaching from the sidelines, i.e. giving direction to one's team on points of strategy and position, is permitted provided that:

1. The coach remains in the technical area
2. No physical or mechanical devices are used
3. The tone of voice is informative and not abusive.

4. No team official, substitute or player is to use profanity.
5. No team official, substitute or player is to incite disruptive behavior of any kind.
 - I. The technical area will be within 10 yards of the halfway line and at least two yards from the touchline. **Wherever possible, the bench areas will be on opposite sides of the field.** The home team shall have the choice of sides. When teams are on opposite sides of the field, all their supporters and parents must be on the same side as their team. No supporters or parents are allowed behind either goal line.
 - J. When, in the opinion of the referee, field conditions require that teams to be on the same side of the field, the two technical areas will extend 20 yards in opposite directions from the center-line. In this case, all the parents and supporters must be on the same half of the sideline as their team.
 - K. At fields where space allows it, a spectator line will be marked parallel to the touchline along the entire length of the field, two yards back from the touchline. All spectators and substitutes are to remain behind the spectator line while the match is in progress. The line may be marked in a color other than white (e.g., orange). Spectators and non-players may not be behind the goal line.
 - L. Team officials, substitutes or players who fail to comply with the provisions of this section may be cautioned or ejected from the match.
 - M. Any coach who is ejected from the game by the referee will remove himself or herself from the sidelines area immediately and must remove him or herself from the field and parking area immediately thereafter. He/She will be suspended from attending or coaching the next scheduled game and can be suspended for longer if so determined by an inquiry of the JLYSL disciplinary committee.
 - N. If a spectator or spectators fail to respond to a team official's request to cease and desist from irresponsible behavior, the referee is empowered to terminate the match and/or remove the parents if the coach is unable or unwilling to control the sideline spectators. In a case of terminating the match, the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee will decide the disposition of the match and the disciplinary actions.

V. SPORTSMANSHIP RULE

Before resuming play after one team attains a four-goal advantage, the referee will advise both coaches of the invocation of this rule and request the winning team to remove one player from play.

- A. If the winning team scores more goals, an additional player will be removed for each additional goal before resuming play. At no time will an Under-12 or

older team be required to play with less than seven players including the goalkeeper. Under-10 teams will not be required to play with less than five players. This rule will not be applied to Under-8 matches, although the League expects that coaches will make adjustments in accordance with the spirit and intent of this rule.

B. If goals are scored by the losing team after the invocation of this rule, the winning team may increase the number of players on the field at the same rate as they were removed: one player for each goal.

C. The selection of the player to be removed from the field under this rule will be made by the coach of the winning team. It is expected that the strongest and best players will be removed first.

D. In the spirit of this rule, a winning coach should also consider making other adjustments, such as sitting stronger players or changing tactics, if the game continues to remain one sided.

E. If one team plays with at least the minimum required players, but less than allowed, (playing short), than the other team will not be required to play short, but should, in the spirit of good sportsmanship, adjust player strength, or tactics, if it is evident that the game is one-sided.

F. The failure or refusal of any coach to abide by this rule will be grounds for possible disciplinary action including, for example, the loss of points that would otherwise be awarded for a win or the suspension of the offending coach.

VI. TEAMS AND DIVISIONS OF PLAY

A. The Under-8 age group will be sponsored by the individual clubs. Several clubs may join together to sponsor a joint Under-8 division. Clubs may also subdivide the Under-8 age group into multiple divisions. No league championship may be awarded, and team standings will not be kept.

B. Under-10 and older age groups will be divided into two divisions, Division III and Division IV.

1. Division III teams are upper level, advanced or development level teams formed by tryouts. Division III teams may be formed for U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U16 and U19 age groups with U10 including U9, U12 including U11, U14 including U13, U16 including U15 and U19 including U17 and U18. Age groups for Division III teams shall be determined as a function of the age of the oldest player on the team. Age pure Division III flights are possible. It is intended that Division III teams will provide a level of play between house league and select competitive (Division 1) teams. During the fall season, Division III teams will typically play in the District 4 Competitive Playing League.

2. Division IV teams are composed of house recreational players who are not associated with Division I or III teams. Age groups for Division IV teams shall be determined as a function of the age of the oldest player on the team.
 3. The recommended formation and selection process for these divisions is given in Appendix A "Team Selection/Equalization Process."
 4. Division III teams may be placed in higher flights within the League divisions, or play at the District level, at the discretion of the Match Secretary. During the Fall season, the Under-16 and Under-19 age groups in Division IV will play either in the JLYSL, in the District 4 Competitive Playing League, or in divisions sponsored by, or in conjunction with, other leagues.
- C. The JLYSL Match Secretary will make the final determination of age group flights, seeding of individual teams within those flights and any adjustments deemed necessary during the course of the season. An adjustment of the flights within the age groups will be made after 2 to 4 weeks of play to encourage equality of competition and overall season records. Emergency adjustments may be made at any time.
- D. The Age Group Match Secretaries will place the teams of a given age group into flights in order to provide balanced and competitive play. In addition to information gathered from the Club registrars, age group coordinators and coaches, the Age Group Match Secretary's will use the previous season's standings and the number of returning players to determine the appropriate placement of teams.
- E. Invitation to any district-affiliated invitational tournaments will be extended to the teams that, in the opinion of the Match Secretary, will best represent the JLYSL in such competition. The Match Secretary shall consider the total points accumulated by the teams at the time the Match Secretary must make a decision.

VII. MEDICAL RELEASES and TEAM ROSTERS

- A. The coach must have a SIGNED MEDICAL RELEASE, conforming to the requirements of the State organization (CYSA-N), for all players at all games, scrimmages and practices. Otherwise, no game, scrimmage, or practice can take place.
- B. Teams must have available a valid team roster stamped by the League Registrar, completed with all required add and drop forms attached. In case of protests, this roster must be made available to the requesting official. For tournaments, the team roster must be available at the tournament site in case a dispute arises.

- c. For the Fall season, team rosters will be limited to the following sizes:
 - Under 10 teams – 13 Players
 - Under 12 teams -- 15 players
 - Under 14 teams – 16 players
 - Under 16 and 19 teams – 18 players

VIII. SPECIAL RULES

- A. For all youth soccer age groups, charging the goalkeeper will not be permitted at any time when in the penalty area, whether the goalkeeper has possession of the ball or not. Charging the goalkeeper consists of intentional or avoidable contact with the goalkeeper by an opposing player
- B. An opposing player shall not attempt to play the ball while the goalkeeper has possession of the ball. Possession shall be defined as the keeper having hand contact with the ball.
- c. It is required that every player present plays at least 50% of that match.
- D. For matches between Under-10 teams, the following modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game will apply:
 - 1. The ball will be size 4.
 - 2. The number of players on the field for a team will be eight, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
 - 3. Throw-ins will conform to the Laws of the Game with one re-throw allowed after an explanation if the first is illegal.
 - 4. Opponent must be at least 8 yards from the ball prior to kick-offs, corner kicks and free-kicks.
 - 5. The following are the same for Under-10's as for the older ages:
 - a) The offside rule will be enforced.
 - b) Slide tackles are allowed if executed properly (Not from behind, not making contact with the player before contacting the ball.)
 - c) Direct free kicks and penalty kicks are allowed.
 - d) Substitution procedures are as described in Section XV.
- E. For matches between Under-8 teams, the modifications to the rules of play listed in Appendix B will apply if no written rules have been developed by the Club sponsoring the match.

IX. LEAGUE PLAY

The League will schedule two seasons for most age groups. Teams may, but are not required to, play in both seasons.

A. Fall Season

1. Standings will be kept for the Fall Season and trophies awarded to the first and second place winners of all flights.

2. The Fall season will begin in late August or early September and continue through the middle of November.

B. Spring Season

1. The Spring Season will be more informal. No standings will be kept and no trophies awarded.

2. The Spring season will begin in late March or early April and continue through late May or early June.

C. The length of games for each age group shall be as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Game Length</u>	<u>Game Interval</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>
U-19	Two 45 minute periods	110 minutes	Size 5
U-16	Two 40 minute periods	100 minutes	Size 5
U-14	Two 35 minute periods	90 minutes	Size 5
U-12	Two 30 minute periods	80 minutes	Size 4
U-10	Two 25 minute periods	70 minutes	Size 4
U-8	Two 20 minute periods	60 minutes	Size 3

D. The half-time interval shall be 5 minutes

E. All matches that are tied at the end of regulation time shall stand as ties, and no extra time periods will be played.

F. All games must finish before the next game is scheduled to begin and should consist of two equal halves. This applies even if the game has started late.

G. It shall be the responsibility of both teams to have a game ball. The referee shall select the ball from the home team as the match ball unless it is not up to standards.

H. Flight winners shall be determined on the following basis: Standings will be based on common schedules. Only those games played against teams in the division the team was in at the end of the season will be considered. Three (3) points will be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. The team with the highest percentage of possible points earned is the winner. The results of all head to head competition (including the flighting

games at the start of the season) will be used to break ties. If, after considering these results, the teams are still tied, they will be deemed co-winners. Goal differential will not be used to break ties.

I. In the case of a tie for first or second place awards will be provided as follows:

1. When teams are tied for first place, they will all receive first place awards and no awards will be awarded for second place
2. When teams are tied for second place, they will all receive second place awards

J. The referee can abandon the match if any team does not show up with a licensed coach, with the minimum number of players, with the player passes and team roster, with the signed Medical Release Forms, or otherwise delays the start by more than 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time (or if the field is not available, within 5 minutes after the field becomes available). After abandoning a match, the referee should leave the location and send in the game card reporting why the game was abandoned. If the referee starts a game past its scheduled time, he must make certain that the game ends before the next scheduled game is to begin.

K. If a match has been abandoned, it is up to the Match Secretary in charge of the age group to determine the disposition of the game, i.e.: whether it should be cancelled, rescheduled, or declared a forfeit. In most cases, the team that did not show up or delayed the start will forfeit the game. In the case of forfeiture, the score shall stand 0-1 against the forfeiting team.

L. Matches that are terminated during the first half may be re-played as complete matches. Matches terminated during the second half will be considered full matches, and the score at the time of the termination will be recorded as the final result.

X. RAIN-OUTS/CANCELLATIONS/POSTPONEMENTS/RESCHEDULING

A. Prior to the start of a match, the JLYSL Field Coordinators are responsible for determining whether the fields are playable or not. After the start of the match, the referee shall have sole authority as to whether the field conditions are dangerous or not, and if the match should continue.

B. In all cases, it is up to the coach requesting rescheduling to contact the opposing coach and arrange for a date and time suitable to the opposing coach before contacting the Age Group Match Secretary to ask for a field slot.

C. If the league has canceled play because of bad weather or other factors, the Age Group Match Secretary will reschedule the match only if requested by the coaches from both teams, and if fields are available.

D. Requests for postponements to permit play in tournaments sanctioned by the League should be given in writing (E-mail) to the Match Secretary at least 14 days prior to the conflicting league match. When continued play in a tournament depends upon the results of earlier matches, such teams shall notify the Match Secretary of their status by telephone within 36 hours of such matches.

XI. FIELDS AND FIELD EQUIPMENT

A. Prior to the beginning of the season, the League Field Coordinator shall assign responsibility for specific playing fields to a specific Club, team or organization. Such assignment shall be based on the proportion of teams entered into league play.

B. Field responsibility includes:

1. Providing access to the grounds and restrooms (if available);
2. Supplying goal nets and corner flags, their set up prior to commencement of the day's first match and their removal upon completion of the day's last match;
3. Ensuring that all permanent and semi-permanent movable goals are securely bolted together, stable and structurally sound;
4. Setting up any required temporary goals and anchoring them securely;
5. Setting up and removing the goals and nets as required;
6. Arranging for or marking the field as required;
7. Cleaning up and securing the grounds and facilities.
8. The organization responsible for the field is also responsible for determining prior to the commencement of the day's first match, whether the field is playable and available and, if not, advising the appropriate league official(s) as soon as possible. Once play is underway, the referee shall be the sole judge of whether play can continue.

C. U10 fields will be 60-85 yards (180 to 255 feet) long and 36-55 yards (112 to 165 feet) wide - space permitting. A halfway line should be marked, as should a center circle with an eight-yard (24 feet) radius, and four corner arcs each with a one-yard radius. The goalkeeper may handle the ball only in the penalty area, which shall extend 14 yards (42 feet) from the midpoint of the goal line in each direction along the goal line and 14 yards (42 feet) into the field of play. The goal area will extend 6 yards from each goal post and six yards into the

field of play. The goals will be either 6 or 7 feet high and 18 or 21 feet wide (inside dimensions).

D. Any deficiencies in the condition of the field or the field setup should be reported to the Club Field Coordinators by E-mail to gophers@jlysl.org.

XII. PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

A. Players wearing orthopedic casts (whether covered or not), braces (metal, carbon fiber, hard plastic and like devices) or any item considered by the referee to be dangerous to themselves or other players shall not be eligible to participate in the match.

B. Players wearing eyeglasses or sport goggles shall be permitted to play.

C. No player with a bleeding or oozing wound or wearing blood-soaked clothing, as determined by the referee, shall be allowed to take part or to continue playing in any match. A wound has to be adequately covered and blood-soaked clothing has to be exchanged before the player can be allowed to take part in the match.

D. If the teams arrive at the field wearing jerseys of a similar color, the home team must change their jerseys to a different color, unless the referee requests otherwise. However, as a courtesy, the visiting team should preempt this situation by wearing a distinct color (preferably white or light) when their club's colors are identical to, or conflict with, the home team's colors.

E. No player may participate while wearing hard-soled street shoes, without shoes, or without shinguards that offer a reasonable degree of protection.

F. Shin guards shall be worn properly in order to provide adequate and reasonable protection. Shin guards shall be professionally manufactured, age/size appropriate, and unaltered. Both socks shall be of the same color and entirely cover the shinguards.

G. Players may wear long sleeve shirts or sweat shirts under their jerseys provided that all players on the team wearing such shirts shall wear shirts of the same color. Players may wear compression shorts, biking shorts or tights under their uniform shorts provided that such shorts or tights are the same color as the team's uniform shorts

H. With the exception of goalkeepers, all players will wear a standard team uniform only, with a clearly visible number. Goalkeepers will wear jerseys that contrast with jerseys of teammates, opponents, and referees.

I. Prior to the match, the referee will make sure that each player's equipment is in proper order.

XIII. REFEREES

- A. The referee's judgment with regard to the physical conditions of the field and its acceptability for play, with regard to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the match, and with regard to those prerogatives granted to him/her by the Laws of the Game as published by FIFA, will not be challenged.
- B. Referees shall inspect each player's equipment before the start of play or before any player will be permitted to play in the match.
- C. In the absence of a qualified referee, the coaches must agree on a solution. No match may be postponed or delayed for lack of a licensed referee.
- D. There is zero tolerance for harassing a youth referee. Violators will be dealt with harshly by the JLYSL Discipline Committee. Any violation will be treated at a minimum as a caution to the violator even though one might not have actually been given out. A youth referee may be reluctant to caution an adult during the game.
- E. Any complaints about a referee should be directed to the JLYSL Referee Coordinator (jlyslrefs@jlysl.org). Coaches, players and spectators should not confront the referee before, during or after the game. However coaches, players, and spectators are encouraged to give their appreciation to the referees.

XIV. PLAYER and COACHES PASSES and TRANSFERS

- A. The referees shall verify the identity of each player and coach with his/her player pass. The referee shall collect the passes of all players and coaches who will be participating in the match. Any player who does not have a valid player pass shall not play in the match. Any player whose name is not entered on the match card shall not play until their name has been entered. A roster is not sufficient verification of identity. The referee will not allow a game to continue without an adult present with a coach's pass that is current and valid for that team.
- B. If a player plays in a match when not properly registered or when otherwise ineligible to play, his or her team shall automatically forfeit that match and may face further disciplinary action. All allegations relating to the use of ineligible players shall be addressed to the Disciplinary Committee. Any coach who plays a player that is not properly registered with his or her team will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension
- C. A valid player pass shall consist of:

1. All information filled in on the card, including date of birth. A current player photo glued to the card and stamped with the appropriate authority's stamp.

2. Passes are to be laminated to preserve the authenticity of the information on them.

D. These requirements may not be dispensed with under any conditions other than League Board approval.

E. If the whole team fails to present player passes at the start of the match, the match should be played as a practice match, if the coach can produce proof of registration and insurance coverage (individual player goldenrod forms). However, if the player passes are presented before the end of the match and the referee has verified the players' registrations, the match will count as an official match. The referee should note this on the game card.

F. Repeated failure to have player passes at the start of the matches shall subject the coach/manager to disciplinary action or the team to forfeiture of their matches.

G. Player transfers

1. Once a player is registered with a team, the player can only be released from that team during the season with the coach's permission, unless the player or his/ her parent wishes to appeal to the League President for a transfer.

2. No more than three players may be transferred from a team without Board approval.

3. The proper transfer forms must be approved and stamped by the Registrar, and attached to the team roster.

XV. SUBSTITUTIONS

A. Players may be substituted only during a stoppage of the match. The number of substitutions will be unlimited. Substitutions may be at following times:

1. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
3. After a goal by either team.
4. After an injury, by either team when the referee stops play.
5. When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted. The substitution must be made prior to the re-start of the match.
6. At half time.

B. The number of substitutes shall be unlimited. Any player removed from the match may re-enter the match an unlimited number of times, at a stoppage of the match as specified.

C. Substitutes shall enter the field only at the halfway line on their team's side of the field, and enter only when the referee has signaled the substitute to come onto the field. Players must leave the field at the halfway line on their team's side of the field unless the referee has signaled or has given concurrence for a player to leave the field elsewhere.

D. In any case, a substitute may not enter the field of play until given a signal to do so by the referee.

E. At the taking of a penalty kick, any player on the playing field may exchange positions with the goalkeeper provided that the referee is informed.

XVI. PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

A. The use or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, immediately before, during, or immediately after the playing of a match by any player, coach, other team official or spectator is expressly prohibited.

B. Any player, team official, league official, spectator or any other member of this league who violates this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action by the league.

C. Spectators shall not possess or consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at any match. If a spectator or spectators continue to violate this rule, the referee must not allow the match to continue.

D. The use of tobacco will not be allowed within 25 yards of any JLYSL affiliated activity involving youth players.

E. Any player, coach or other team official who violates these prohibitions shall be subject to disciplinary action by the league.

XVII. **GAME CARDS and SERIOUS PROBLEM REPORTS**

A. Prior to the match, the home team shall supply the referee with a stamped game report card. The home team shall fill out the necessary information on the card including the date, time, field location and team names. This is to be done prior to handing the card to the referee.

B. Any player(s) or team official(s) who did not play in the match because of a suspension should be so noted on the match card and initialed by the referee. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure this has been done.

C. The names of all team players with jersey numbers must be listed on the match card. Players not expected to play for any reason must have a line drawn through their names by the team official prior to presenting the match card.

D. The referee shall enter all appropriate game information on this card. This includes:

1. names of the officiating crew,
2. goals scored,
3. any warnings given to coaches,
4. cautions or send-offs given to coaches and players

E. The following information is needed for each person that received a warning, caution or send-off :

1. Name
2. team
3. CYSA ID
4. Jersey number (if applicable)

F. Upon completion of the match, the referees shall check the card for accuracy before signing his/her name.

G. The referee is responsible for sending the game card to the JLYSL Referee Coordinator, or his designated assistant, within 72 hours of the match

H. A game report card must be filed for every match played, even if the match is abandoned or terminated.

I. Either coach may review the game card at the conclusion of the match.

J. If the referee sends off any player or team official, the referee will retain the game card and mail it along with the pass or passes of any ejected players and/or coaches to the Chairperson of the League Disciplinary Committee or his designee.

K. Any coach, team official, player, parent, referee or spectator may electronically file a Serious Problem Report via the JLYSL web site. These reports will be addressed to the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee will decide the appropriate action.

XVIII. **WARNINGS, CAUTIONS, SEND-OFFS, AND DISMISSALS**

A. A "**WARNING**" may be given to a player, coach or other team official by the referee in order to indicate to that person that their conduct is not proper. The "warning" is given on an informal basis and can be given while the match is in progress. The person warned is thereby placed on notice that further improper conduct may result in a more serious and formal action by the referee.

B. A "**CAUTION**" is administered by the display of a yellow card directed to an offending player during a stoppage in play after the incident has occurred. It is a formal statement to a player that he or she is guilty of misconduct and that any further misconduct requiring a "caution" will result in being sent off from the match. Coaches and other team officials will be dealt with in similar fashion but without the display of cards.

1. Team officials and players may be cautioned for any of the following offenses:

a. Entering or leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.

- b. Persistent infringement of the rules
- c. Unsporting behavior (players), irresponsible behavior (coaches)
- d. Dissent by word or action
- e. Delaying the restart of play
- f. Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick

2. When play is stopped, the referee shall:

- a. Inform the player or team official that he/she is being cautioned, the reason for the caution, and the consequences of further misconduct.
- b. Record the team official's name or player's name and number on the game report card, together with the nature of the offense.

3. The use of the yellow card is the preferred method of informing everyone that a caution is being issued to a player. Yellow cards should not be shown to team officials who are being cautioned.

c. A "**SEND OFF**" is administered by the display of a red card directed to the offending player during a stoppage in play after an incident has occurred. It is a formal statement to the player that he or she is being sent off from the match. A player who has been sent off may not be substituted for during the rest of the match. Coaches and team officials will be dealt with in similar fashion but without the display of a card.

1. Team officials may be dismissed or players may be sent off for the following offenses:

- a) Violent conduct or serious foul play
- b) Foul or abusive language
- c) Persistent misconduct after having received a caution
- d) Spitting at an opponent or any other person
- e) Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball or by committing an offense punishable by a free kick or penalty kick.
- f) Irresponsible behavior (coaches)

2. When play is stopped, the referee shall:
 - a) Record the player's name, jersey number and registration number, or the coach or other team official's name, on the match card with a brief description of the incident.
 - b) Retain the player's pass or team official's pass and the match card.
 - c) Verbally notify the person of the send-off and the reason.
3. The use of the red card is the preferred method of informing everyone that the referee is sending off a player. Red cards should not be shown to team officials who are being dismissed.
4. The referee must file a Serious Problem Report when a player is sent-off or a coach is dismissed. The format of the report can be downloaded from the District 4 Referee web site (www.d4ra.com). A copy with the player's or coach's pass must be sent along with the game card to the League Disciplinary Committee Chairperson or designee within 24 hours.
5. The referee must prepare a Serious Problem Report describing the details of the incident whenever a caution is issued to a coach. A copy of this report should also be sent to the JLYSL Discipline Committee (discipline@jlysl.org). Referees should note cautions for players on the game card.
6. Players who have been sent off are ineligible for league play until cleared for play by the League Disciplinary Committee or by the Chairperson acting at his or her discretion.

XIX. **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

A. Proceedings

1. The JLYSL Disciplinary Committee may initiate disciplinary proceedings against any player, team official, referee or spectator from any member club or team.
2. The proceedings may be initiated based on information brought to the attention Disciplinary of the Board of Directors or the Disciplinary Committee through referee reports, complaints, serious problem or other reports, and otherwise.

3. The disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated by notice to the appropriate party containing a brief statement of the reasons for the initiation of the proceedings.

4. Parties against who such proceedings have been brought may, with a proper investigation, be put on probation, be suspended, barred completely, or otherwise disciplined.

B. Composition

1. The Committee shall be composed of:

- a) The Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the President
- b) The JLYSL Match Secretary or Vice President
- c) The JLYSL Referee Coordinator.
- d) Up to two other persons appointed by the President.

2. The Disciplinary Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the JLYSL President.

3. The Disciplinary Committee is at all times subject to rulings of the JLYSL Board of Directors.

4. No one other than the regular committee members may attend a committee meeting unless invited by the Chairperson.

C. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson will prepare a monthly "Disciplinary Report" for distribution at the monthly Board of Directors meeting. Club and team summaries will be provided regarding their players, coaches and team officials.

D. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson will attempt to notify the coach of any disciplinary decision and penalty within 48 hours of the decision, and will make arrangements with the appropriate Club Representative to return the player pass after the suspension is served.

E. Serious Problem Reports

1. The JLYSL Disciplinary Committee shall review all serious problem reports and reply to the person who submitted the report.

2. The Chairman shall determine the appropriate course of action to address the problem consistent with the guidelines in Section XIX below.

3. If the Chairman delegates the investigation of a serious problem report to the Disciplinary Committee(s) of one or more clubs, the Chairman shall then review the actions taken by the Club to make sure that they are consistent with the Guidelines below.

4. If necessary, the Chairman may convene the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee to further investigate the incident and take additional disciplinary actions.

5. The Chairman should report to the JLYSL Board of Directors the results of all investigations and disciplinary actions taken by the clubs or by the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee.

F. Club Disciplinary Committees

1. Each Club must have a Disciplinary Committee to address serious problem reports that are delegated to them by the Chair of the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee.

2. Each Club must prepare a written procedure for investigating serious problem reports and taking disciplinary actions.

3. The Chair of the Club Disciplinary Committee must report the results of all investigations and disciplinary actions to the Chair of the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee.

G. Meetings of the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee

1. The Chairperson shall determine the time and place of the meetings.

2. If prompt action is necessary, the JLYSL President and the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson shall conduct a vote by phone or E-mail. Further, the President and Disciplinary Committee Chairperson may agree to call a special meeting in case of an emergency.

H. Confidentiality

1. No names shall be disclosed outside of the Disciplinary Committee meetings except in case of appeal and as minimally necessary to affect the discipline. This does not apply to notice of the result of disciplinary action.

2. Proceedings and discussions are not to be disclosed outside the committee meeting. Exceptions occur in the case of appeals.

XX. GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. The JLYSL Disciplinary Committee Chairperson shall have discretionary power in applying the following guidelines for player discipline:

1. For a rostered player or team official offenses involving a suspension of no more than two matches, the Chairperson shall implement the

sanction and report such sanctions to the Board at the next league meeting.

2. For offenses involving an entire team or for offenses involving a suspension of more than two matches, the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee shall be consulted.

B. The procedure above is for first offenses during the current CYSA season. Repeat offenses will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. The Committee shall decide upon the gravity of the offense with the degree of punishment corresponding to the gravity of the offense.

C. In all cases, notice of disciplinary action or other decisions shall be by mail within seven days after the decision. Telephone and/or E-mail notification to the coach of the affected player(s) shall be within 48 hours following the decision. All other concerned parties, to include but not be limited to Club Presidents and Match Secretaries, will be notified through league and club channels.

D. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors as described in Section XXII.B below.

XXI. **OFFENSES AND PUNISHMENTS**

A. The Disciplinary Committee and Chairperson shall act on disciplinary matters and shall have discretionary powers in determining the degree of penalties to be applied to players and team officials. The penalties stated below are guidelines for the punishment for the first offense. The penalties may be increased or decreased according to the circumstances. The penalties may be imposed for conduct occurring before, during or after a match. The guideline penalties do not include the match in which the offending conduct occurred. Penalties for second and subsequent offenses will be greater than those for first offenses. In addition, if circumstances warrant, a team as a whole may be subject to penalties. Coaches serving suspensions may not participate in matches for that team, or any other team, until the full suspension has been served.

B. Suspensions

A "SUSPENSION" means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in soccer. This is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn, unless specifically stated otherwise by the Discipline Committee. The temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege extends to all teams to which the suspended individual is affiliated.

C. Violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy

See the sanctions in Section II.B above

D. Serious Foul Play by a Player:

1. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, intentionally impeding an opponent thereby denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity and denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by handling the ball.

Suspend for 1 to 3 matches

2. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, tripping, holding, unlawfully charging or pushing an opponent denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity; intentionally tripping, holding, pushing; unlawfully charging or tackling an opponent from behind or charging in a dangerous and violent manner.

Suspend a minimum of two matches

E. Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language or Gestures by a Player::

1. Foul or abusive language or gestures.

Suspend for 1 to 3 matches.

2. Taunting or mocking by word or action a player, referee, assistant referee, team, official, or spectator.

Suspend for 1 to 3 matches,

3. Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures directed at referee or assistant referee.

Suspend for 2 to 4 matches.

4. Threatening, by word or action, a referee, assistant referee, team official, or spectator.

Suspend for 3 to five 5 matches.

5. Offensive, insulting or abusive language containing racial epithets or ethnic slurs.

Suspend for 1 to 3 matches in addition to any penalties otherwise imposed.

F. Persistent Misconduct by a Player after Receiving a Caution:

Suspend for 1 to 3 matches.

G. Violent Conduct by a Player:

1. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, spitting, or other unseemly act, on or at another person; striking or attempting to strike another player, team official or spectator; unlawfully entering the field of play during an altercation.

Suspend for a minimum of two matches.

2. Attempting to fight or strike (including spitting at) another person.
Suspend for 2 to 4 matches.
 3. Fighting.
Suspend for 3 to five 5 matches.
 4. Pushing or striking (including spitting at) a coach or other team official.
Suspend for four 4 to 5 matches.
 5. Pushing, striking (including spitting at), or physically attacking a referee, assistant referee, or fourth official.
Automatic 1-year suspension and referral to the CYSA BOD.
 6. A substitute player entering the field to commit violent conduct.
Double the penalty that would have been imposed on a player who had been allowed on the field.
- H. Player Misconduct in Consecutive Matches:
1. If the same or different members of the same team are sent off the field of play and shown the red card **for violent conduct** twice within 4 consecutive matches.
Suspend coach for 1 match.
 2. If a rostered player has committed a violation of the JLYSL Zero Tolerance Policy (see Article II) twice within 3 consecutive matches.
 - a) Suspend player for 1 match.
 - b) Place the coach on probation for 1 match.
 3. If the same or different rostered player of the same team has committed a violation of the JLYSL Zero Tolerance Policy (see Article II) three times within 3 consecutive matches.
 - a) Place all players on probation for 1 match.
 - b) Place the coach on probation for 3 matches
- I. Excessive Number of Cautions to a Player
If a player is cautioned three times in any season, he/she will be automatically suspended for the team's next match. No appeal will be heard. Suspensions will result for each accumulation of three cautions during the season. Should a second caution in the same game result in a send-off, the first caution of that game will not be counted as one of the accumulated cautions.
- J. Misconduct by Coaches or Other Team Officials:
- Coaches and all team officials are reminded that they are responsible for the conduct of their sidelines. A coach may be cautioned or sent off based on the conduct of the sidelines regardless of whether the coach or other team official participated in or encouraged the conduct. When sent off the

field of play, a coach must immediately and completely leave the vicinity of the field. The suspension of a coach or team official applies to all coaching activities for that individual. The game will be abandoned if the ejected coach is the only registered coach of the team.

1. Coaches or other team official when sent off from the field of play for an infringement of the Laws of the Match shall have 2 matches added to the suspension that would normally be levied against a player for a similar infringement.
2. Receipt of a caution - Probation for 5 weeks.
3. Being sent off.
 - a) Appropriate suspension, plus probation for 1 year.
 - b) A coach who is dismissed for irresponsible behavior will be suspended for a minimum of two games
4. Playing or attempting to play an ineligible player, including a player on suspension.

Suspend for 3 to 5 matches, for each incident, plus 1 year probation.
5. Coach or team official, but not player, attending match while on suspension.

Suspension for an additional five matches for each incident.

k. Probation:

1. The disciplinary chairperson or committee shall have the authority to place a player on probation for the same period as the guideline penalty. If an individual on such probation is sent off during the probationary period, the full penalty for the more serious offense will be applied and no appeal will be allowed.
2. Coach or team official receiving a caution while on probation for a caution.

Suspend for 1 to 2 matches plus probation for the remainder of season
3. Coach or team official being sent off while on probation for a caution.

Suspend for 3 to 5 matches plus probation for 1 year.
4. Coach or team official sent off while on probation for a send-off.

Suspend for one year.

L. Discipline for Tournaments and Other Matches:

The Discipline Committee will review incidents which have been referred to it as a result of send-offs in tournament or other matches and take action if additional punishment is warranted.

M. Referee Abuse/Assault

Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after a match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may also occur at later times if directly related to the duties of a game official as a referee. Misconduct will be classified as referee abuse or referee assault.

1. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
2. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spilling any beverage on a referee's personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm.
3. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
4. The penalty for referee assault for all age groups will be suspension for a minimum of one (1) year and review by the Board of Directors regarding further disciplinary action.

N. General

1. Suspensions shall carry forward into the next season and, if necessary, the next playing year.
2. Suspensions from League matches shall affect eligibility for tournament play. Players, coaches, and team officials suspended from League matches may not participate in tournament competition prior to completing their suspension. If a player or coach is suspended for 1 or 2 matches of a tournament, arrangements must be made with the Disciplinary Chairperson to take the pass but obtain proof from the tournament referee or administrator that the required suspension has been served.
3. Suspensions will result for each accumulation of 3 yellow cards or official cautions during the season. There will be no appeal. Should a second caution in the same match result in a send-off, neither caution of that match will be counted as one of the accumulated yellow cards or official cautions.

4. Players sent off for threatening a referee, team official or a spectator will be suspended for at least three league matches. A coach who is dismissed of any of these reasons will serve an additional two games suspension.

XXII. **PROTESTS, APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS**

The Disciplinary Committee decides protests of the results of matches. Decisions concerning protests and disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the League Board of Directors for consideration and resolution at the earliest meeting following official receipt of the notice of appeal

A. Protests

1. A coach wishing to protest the results of match or forfeiture shall
 - a) Send a complete and detailed letter or E-mail to the Disciplinary Chairperson, the League President, the match referee and the opposing coach. The letter or E-mail must be postmarked within three days after the match.
 - b) Send a check for \$25, made out to JLYSL, to the Disciplinary Chairperson. The check shall be returned if the Committee decides in favor of the protest.
2. The referee and the opposing coach shall be asked by the Disciplinary Chairperson to send a letter to the Disciplinary Chairperson explaining the events and occurrences surrounding and leading up to the original decision. Where necessary, the Chairperson may elect to elicit more information through telephone interviews.
3. Decisions of the Committee must take place within 30 days of receipt of the protest. Decisions of the Committee do not take place in an adversarial atmosphere. All parties will be informed by mail of the decision.
4. Protests will be automatically denied if:
 - a) They do not directly affect the final result (win, tie, loss) of the match in question
 - b) They are based on a judgment call of the referee as per FIFA Law V, Paragraph 2.
 - c) They are based on the lack of a referee, field markings, etc.

B. Appeals

1. Decisions of the League Disciplinary Committee are subject to appeal

to the League Board. Such appeals must be submitted in writing to the League President and must be postmarked no later than seven (7) days following the postmark date of the letter notifying the party to be disciplined of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. Any sanction applied by the League Disciplinary Committee will remain in effect until the League Board considers the appeal. Appeals shall be decided upon at the earliest League Board meeting scheduled.

2. A check for \$25, payable to JLYSL, must accompany the letter to the League President when appealing the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The check will be returned if the appeal is upheld.

3. Adverse decisions-of the League Board may be appealed to the CYSA-N Board of Directors. Appeals must be directed to the District Commissioner and be received within 48 hours of notice of the decision. Appeals must be accompanied by a \$50 check made out to CYSA-N.

c. Complaints

There are times when a protest is not in order but when a complaint or Serious Problem Report should be filed using the link on the JLYSL web site (www.jlysl.org). Quality of officiating, problems in the scheduling or notification, extreme rudeness of spectators and the like could be subjects of a Serious Problem Report. These reports will be addressed to the JLYSL Disciplinary Committee (discipline@jlysl.org) and to the President of the League. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee will decide the appropriate action to address the problem.

1. Complaints about fields should be addressed to the Club Field Coordinators at gophers@jlysl.org

2. If the complaints are not dealt with adequately, they should be brought to the attention of the JLYSL President at president@jlysl.org.

APPENDIX A

TEAM SELECTION/EQUALIZATION PROCESS

I. Prior to any other selections, the Bay Oaks will hold tryouts; and teams will be selected by the Bay Oaks, based on the tryouts, or any other information available to them. Selection must be made quickly (time to be determined, but the intended time frame is a week or two at the most).

II. Clubs will then select players for their Class 3 teams. Tryouts are typically required. If after having a tryout, a club decides it cannot field a Class 3 team in a particular age group, it need not.

III. Each club will decide how many Class 3 teams it can fill, and what skill level is needed for District play.

IV. Players are free to decide whether they wish to play Bay Oaks or at a level in the other clubs. They may not be coerced to play at these levels regardless of their personal skills. On the other hand, they may not be held back from trying out for these levels.

V. Class 4 teams will be formed and matched using the following process:

A. The Match Secretary will poll the clubs to find how many teams will be playing in each age group. He/she will then determine the number of flights appropriate to each age group.

B. Each club will form teams by whatever method is consistent with their club's team formation philosophy, and then give each team a relative ranking and an estimate of which flight each team should play in.

C. The Match Secretary may use a questionnaire to fit rankings or use other methods which accomplish the same purpose and then manipulate team ranking as needed to get even competition/flights.

D. Flights will be organized so that one flight has the strongest teams and the next has the next strongest teams, etc.

APPENDIX B - RULES FOR U-8's

For matches between Under-8 teams, the following modifications to the rules of play will apply if no written rules have been developed by the Club sponsoring the match:

- I. The field of play will be 50-60 yards (160 feet) long and 30-40 yards (106 feet) wide. A halfway line should be marked, as should a center circle with a radius of six yards and four corner arcs, each with a one-yard radius. The goalkeeper may handle the ball only in the goal area, which will extend eight yards (24 feet) from the center of the goal line in each direction along the goal line and eight yards (24 feet) into the field of play. Goals will be five feet high and 15 feet wide inside dimensions.
- II. The ball will be a size 3.
- III. The maximum number of players for one team on the field at any one time is seven, one of who shall be the goalkeeper. The maximum number of players on a roster is eleven. The league recommends and requests that teams be limited to a roster of 10 players. Every player present must play a minimum of 50% of the game.
- IV. Official referees can be used if available. In the absence of a licensed referee, the coaches must agree to a solution. No match can be postponed for lack of a licensed referee.
- V. The match is to be divided into two halves of 20 minutes each with a "substitution break-" midway through each half, and a 5 minute halftime.
- VI. Serious violations of the offside law shall not be permitted.
- VII. All free kicks shall be indirect with the opponents at least six yards from the ball. No penalty kicks shall be awarded. Corner kicks and kick-offs are direct kicks.
- VIII. For infractions within the goal area:
 - A. All kicks assessed against the defending team shall be taken from a spot on the edge of the goal area at that point on the line parallel to the goal line that is nearest to the point of infraction, as per FIFA.
 - B. Free kicks assessed against the attacking team may be taken at any point within the goal area in which the infraction occurred, as per FIFA.
- IX. Throw-ins will conform to the Laws of the Game with re-throws allowed after an explanation of incorrect throw-ins.
- X. Sliding tackles are regarded as dangerous play at this age level and are not allowed.
- XI. No club or league standings shall be kept and no championships shall be awarded.