

Bylaws of The Akron Premier League

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES, RULINGS AND PUNISHMENTS

Section 1

Member Clubs will be held responsible for the conduct of their Players, Coaches, Managers, Club Officials, and Spectators during the duration of any game.

Member clubs are responsible to ensure that any disciplinary action and punishment deemed necessary by the Association towards Players, Coaches, Managers, Club Officials and Spectators of said club are enforced fully.

Section 2

If any person or representative of any club within the Association, engages in any conduct deemed to be unsportsmanlike either before, during or after any game, the Executive Vice President will take such appropriate action as deemed necessary against the offender and the Club.

Section 3

In the event the Executive Vice President has a conflict or is unavailable to administrate a disciplinary decision, the President shall perform such disciplinary duties.

Section 4

Initiation of disciplinary procedures can and will occur, as a result of:

- a. A disciplinary referee report
- b. An official protest
- c. An investigation of facts by the Board upon receipt of a complaint from a member or Club.

Section 5

The Executive Vice President will notify the offender and Club Manager by registered mail, as to any disciplinary taken against him. The Player or Club then has 48 hours from the receipt of such letter to advise the Executive Vice President, by the quickest means, of any protest they will be taking against the action.

Section 6

The Executive Board, has the right to contact any individual, in writing, involved in any incident, advising them of the time and place of any Disciplinary hearing, so that the individual concerned may attend for additional clarification of an incident, prior to making a ruling. Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing will result in a forfeiture of all rights to protest or appeal the decision.

Section 7

In the event a player is found guilty by the disciplinary Committee of any unsportsmanlike behavior or is deemed to have committed one or more of the following offences:

- a. Violent conduct;
- b. Serious foul play;
- c. Use of abusive language;
- d. Striking, pushing, physical abuse or threatening physical abuse in any manner against or at any player
- e. Intentional offensive contact with the referee or linesman either before, during, or after the game

Such player will be disciplined as follows:

- a. **First Offence**: Player may receive a minimum of a two (2) game suspension for that offense, effective the next scheduled game, and may require further disciplinary action, for each succeeding offense within the same season.
- b. **Second Offence**: Player may be suspended for six (6) months from participating in the League's activities in any form, effective as of the date of a letter notifying said player of the disciplinary action.
- c. **Third Offence**: Player may be suspended for at least one (1) year from participation in the League's activities in any form, effective as of the date of the letter, notifying said player of the disciplinary action.

Any Player who receives a Red Card for those offences that are deemed sending off offences, as determined by the FIFA Rules of the Game, which include:

- a. Receiving a second Yellow Card in the same match

- b. Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (not applicable to a goalkeeper in his/her penalty area);
- c. Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent who is moving toward the offending player's goal by an offense that is punishable under F.I.F.A. rules by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- d. Making threatening gestures or remarks against other Players, Match Officials, Coaches, League Officials and/or spectators;
- e. Any dangerous play
- f. Spitting at an opponent or Match Official
- g. Laying hands, in any form on any Match Official:

Will be subject to these Disciplinary Rules as stated above. In addition to these rules, any Player who accumulates 3 successive Yellow Cards in successive matches will result in a one (1) game suspension.

Section 8

Any player found to be playing illegally after an ejection or Disciplinary action, will automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) additional games succeeding the first offense in section 7

Section 9

In the event a Player, Coach, Manager, or Club Official is confirmed to have committed the offence of:

- a. Pushing, striking, spitting, threatening or causing physical harm or abuse (as defined by U.S.S.F.) in any form at any Match Official, (whether scheduled or acting) either before, during or after game;

They shall receive a minimum of a one year (12 month) suspension from the League, effective immediately.

If serious injury is inflicted then the minimum suspension period will be 5 years (60) months.

After the five (5) year suspension is served, the offender must officially reapply to the Executive Committee for League Membership, prior to being reinstated.

In addition, if any Player, Coach, Manager, or Club Official is found guilty of the following offences, they will be punishable as follows:

- a. Pushing, striking, spitting, physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse (as defined by U.S.S.F.) in any form at other coaches, managers, or other membership club officials; minimum of one year (12 month) suspension, effective immediately.
- b. Spits at any player, coach, League Official, and/or spectator; 5 Game suspensions minimum.
- c. Uses offensive, insulting language or Racist Comments; 5 Game suspension minimum.
- d. Aggression to a game official; 5 Game suspension minimum.

Section 10

Any Coach or Club Official who orders his team off the field during a game and refuses to continue or complete the game at the request of the Match Officials will be disciplined according to the following schedule:

- a. **First Offence**. Suspended for one (1) year from participation in the League's activities in any form, effective from the date of the registered letter.
- b. **Second Offence**. Prohibited from assuming any position of leadership within the League for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of the letter. Position of leadership shall be defined as being a Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Club Representative, Committee Chairman or Elected Official.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit a Coach from terminating participation in any game after the issuance of a red card for any violent conduct as defined herein.

Section 11

No player may play in a game without a player pass., registered in their name.

Any player found guilty of playing with a false player pass or with a suspended player pass will be considered an ineligible player and as such will forfeit the game.

In this instance, the opposing team shall, by default, register a win, with a score of 0-3.

The player will be subject to further disciplinary action according to section 8 of these rules.

Section 12

All disciplinary actions taken that cannot be carried out and fulfilled during the current season will carry over into the succeeding season.

Section 13

The Executive Board has the full rights of power of attorney for all league players and team managers regarding signatures, consents, and approvals for any paperwork regarding league activities including, but not limited to, insurance, liability waivers, and release of information. The Executive Board must notify any and all league players and team managers of any signature, consent, or approval completed on their behalf within 1 week of completing it. Falsification of records of Players, scores, or any other official League paperwork, including a player who plays for more than one team in a division in violation of the association rules, will be grounds for disciplinary action as follows:

- a. **First Offense**: Player may be suspended from playing on any association team for up to one year. In addition, the team may forfeit any games the illegal player played in that were won by the team having the illegal player, and the team may be suspended for up to one year. The offending Club may forfeit its bond.

- b. **Second Offense**: All of the penalties set forth on the first offense, in addition the Player, Team and/or Club may be suspended for up to 5 years, and must officially reapply to the association for league membership prior to being reinstated.

Section 14

Any member who is determined to have violated either the Constitution or the Bylaws of this association is subject to Disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board

Section 15

All Players, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers, Club Officials may also be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate State, Federal, or National Governing Bodies and any Disciplinary action by such organizations shall be separate and additional to any Disciplinary action taken by the Association.

Section 16

Any Member of the Team Staff, including Players, Coaches and Assistant Coaches are subject to a twenty five dollars (\$15.00) fine, in addition to any Disciplinary action, if a

red card is received. Such payment is to be made to the League Board within 7 days of the receipt of the Red Card. Payments must be made to the league.

□ Suspended Player Pass will be release until the league receives the payment.

Section 17

All Teams must be current with the penalties, fees and any other charge before the end of the regular season.

If a team has a past due amount with the League, they will not be allowed to participate in any play off, League Championship Game, if they qualify.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Section 1

Referees shall be required to send a completed Referee report to the Referee Liaison immediately after each completed game. This report must be signed and dated and completed in full

Stand In/Acting Referees, supplied by Team Members if required, should communicate the Match result, yellow cards issued and red cards issued as soon as practicable, after the game to a Member of the Board.

Section 2

Referee fees are determined yearly and notification of said fees will be included in the registration materials.

The cost of a referee shall be shared equally between the two teams. The referee is not entitled to payment, if he arrives more than fifteen (15) minutes late for a scheduled game without due reason or without informing a Team or Board Official of his delay.

Section 3

In the event a referee fails to report for a game, Coaches/Managers of the two teams may appoint an Acting Referee in the absence of the appointed Referee and play the scheduled game. The Acting Referee is entitled to the full payment of the Match Official.

Section 4

The Referee and or Match Officials, will be on the playing field a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled playing time. During this time, he shall inspect the field of play and fulfill his duties as stated in F.I.F.A. Laws of the Game and the Association bylaws.

Section 5

The Referee shall make the final determination regarding the playability of the field. The Referee's decision on this matter is final.

In the event the game is not to be played, there will be no compensation paid by either club to the Officials.

The referee must report to the Referee Liaison of all postponed games via the game roster as soon as possible.

Section 6

Prior to all games, each player will line up with their Player pass.

The Referee will take each player's pass and hold them until the conclusion of the game. They will be returned to a representative of each Club.

Player passes of ejected players shall be retained by the Referee and forwarded to the Referee Liaison with a full report concerning the incident.

Those Players ejected from the any game are required to leave the field immediately, without hesitation and depart the area. Ejected players may not return to the area.

Referees have the right to delay any game restart, should the player removed from the game refuse to depart the area.

Section 7

The Match Officials have the authority to terminate a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct of Players, Officials, Spectators, or other infringements of the rules of this League. A full report must be submitted to the Referee Liaison as soon as possible after the termination of the game.

Section 8

All other decisions as to the game, are at the discretion of the Referee.

Section 9

No Referee shall officiate a game in which an immediate family member (Spouse or Child) is playing, unless he gains the approval of the opposing team, and this is obtained prior to the commencement of the game, and the opposing team so indicates on its official game roster.

FORFEITS

Section 1

A team which has forfeited three (3) games in any given season, will, upon the fourth forfeit, forfeit their club bond and the Coach of said team may be suspended for a minimum of one year (12 months) per occurrence effective with the date of the registered letter of suspension.

Section 2

A team who forfeits any of its scheduled League games shall pay the referee in full and an additional thirty (\$30) dollar fee, to the League, as a fine for the violation.

Both of these fees are to be paid within 5 days of the forfeit, to both the Match Official and League.

Failure to make good on these, will result in Disciplinary Action and the possibility of an additional fine and fees.

Section 3

Any club which has had a team suspended after registration and has forfeited its bond money, must bring its bond account back to current requirements at the next registration.

Section 4

In the opinion of the Executive Board, any team which forfeits any of its last three games, or commits any other action prior to the playoffs, in order to gain a competitive advantage, automatically forfeits its right to compete in the playoffs for that season.

PROTESTS

Section 1

Any protest regarding a League game shall:

- a. describe the details of the grounds for the protest in writing;
- b. be mailed with a fee of \$25.00 to the Executive Vice President within 48 hours after the date of the game being protested.

Section 2

The Executive Vice President shall forward a copy of the protest to the opposing team coach, by registered mail. The opposing Team will then have two (2) days from the date of receipt, to respond.

Section 3

The Executive Vice President shall notify all necessary individuals of the date and time of a scheduled hearing. Attendance to a disciplinary hearing for this purpose is by invitation only.

Section 4

The Executive Vice President shall notify all concerned parties of the decision within two (2) days of the hearing.

Section 5

Fees may be returned if the protest is deemed to be valid by the Board. Red Card fee will be removed or returned if found not guilty by the Board. The reversal of a Red Card will also be reflected in the Disciplinary reports and logs of the Referee Liaison and such amended action taken to remove the negative report.

Section 6

The Referee's judgment may never be challenged concerning field conditions or judgment calls made during a game.

Any concerns before, during or after a game by a member of the teams playing, they are to make their Team Captain aware of the concern and he will approach the Referee with the said concerns.

Section 7

Any Protester who fails to appear before the Board after written notification will forfeit their right to appeal.

Section 8

Protests not filed within 48 hours of the incident will not be acted upon.

PROCEDURE FOR FILING AN APPEAL

Section 1

Any appeal of a disciplinary hearing decision or any other Executive Board decision must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation to the Executive Vice President, within 1 day after the game in discussion.

Section 2

An acknowledgment will be made, in writing, by the Executive Vice President, informing of the date and time for the appeal to be presented.

Section 3

The purpose in speaking to the Executive Board is to give the reasons which might change their decision. This is not a hearing but a request for reconsideration of a decision.

Section 4

The process during the appeal is as follows:

- a. Reading of the charge
- b. Documents received regarding the situation
- c. Statement by the person who is appealing the decision. This will be limited to 10

minutes.

- d. Any member of the Executive Board may ask questions but it will be limited to only questions regarding the appeal.
- e. If any witnesses are to speak on behalf of the person appealing, the witness will also appear before the Executive Board and will each be limited to five (5) minutes.
- f. Conclusion and final remarks.
- g. The result of the findings shall be sent in writing, by the Executive Vice President, to the person appealing within two (2) days.
- h. The failure of the Board to send findings within two (2) days shall result in the appeal be found to be successful.

MATCH RULES

Section 1

Prior to each game commencing, the Referee will call the Team Captains and Managers together and ask any relevant questions regarding the Teams. The referee will review the players' passes in the League application, including Substitutes, that are expected to take part in the game. The League will issue a check to the referees for their services. This must be completed at the end of the game.

Section 2

Each game will be played for a duration of 90 minutes, 45 minutes each half.

Half time will be 15 minutes in duration, with the Referee calling the game back to play following this break.

In the event of excessively hot weather, the Referee may allow fluid breaks during the course of the game, to allow players to take on fluids. **This will be decided prior to the game commencing.**

During the game, the Referee will indicate to each Team on the sidelines that he is about to take a water break so that water can be placed on the sideline by other Team members. The Referee will then stop the game at the next natural break in play. **Water must be taken on, while on the field. NO player is to leave the field of play during this time.** If any player does leave the field of play, he will be required to stay off the field until play restarts and the Referee indicates that he can rejoin the play (as per playing leaving the field due to injury protocol). The Referee will call the game back as soon as practicable after the short break and restart from the place the game stopped. Any time taken will be added to the end of that half.

If, due to circumstances on the field (Injuries etc), time has to be added to the half, this is at the sole discretion of the referee. If at the end of the second half, one team is ahead by a more than 2 goals margin, The Referee, at his discretion may terminate the game at any point after the 90th minutes but prior to the added time being played.

Prior to kick off, the Referee will call the registered Teams for that game to line up. This includes all substitutes who will have an active part in the game. The Referee will conduct an inspection of all the Players, to include:

- a. Inspection of the underside of the cleats (no metal cleats allowed)
- b. Every player to be wearing knee length socks and shin guards correctly
- c. Shirts to be tucked in
- d. Absolutely no jewelry to be worn during the game. The only exception is Wedding rings, and these must be taped and covered up on the finger.
- e. Only the Official Team jerseys are to be worn.
- f. The ability to play safely. Any player who looks as if they are under the influence of any alcohol will not be allowed to play.

Only those players on the field during this time will be allowed to participate in the game. Any player arriving after this time, will only be allowed to play at the discretion of the Referee and after completing all the inspection items above.

Each team must field a minimum of 7 players to start the game. Any players arriving after this are subject to the rules above.

Any Team with less than 7 players at the designated kick off time will, at the discretion of the Referee **and** the opposing team be allowed to continue to play.

All Fees payable to the Match Officials will still be due in this instance.

The Referee will try and kick off at the scheduled kick off time, to the best of his ability. It is important that teams honor any request by the Referee prior to the game starting, to ensure this happens. It will be the responsibility of the Team Captains to assist in any request by the Referee.

Section 3

As stated in this Handbook, the Referee has the authority to ensure a safe environment for all players, including weather related issues.

If, during a game, the weather declines to such a degree that the Referee deems continuing the game to be dangerous or if lightening is seen in the area, he will stop the game and allow the inclement weather to pass. Only on his decision will the game re start from the point where it was stopped.

In the event the weather continues for an extended period of time, he will abandon the match. This will be at his sole discretion.

In the event of an abandoned match due to weather issues, providing that the game was in the second half and less than 20 minutes were remaining, the score of the game, at the time of abandonment shall stand.

If the game had more than 20 minutes left, a makeup game will be replayed at a date and time determined by the Board.

All Fees for the makeup game will have to be paid once again to the Officials, as if it was a regularly scheduled game.

Section 4

Referees and Officials are there to maintain a safe and fun playing environment. They are required to make instant decisions and may at times, not have access to linesman or 4th Officials to communicate with. This does not give players the right to contradict or harass any Match Official as to their ability to officiate these games.

Relevant actions on the field and subsequent Disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.

The Referee's job starts as soon as he arrives at the ground, and does not stop until he leaves the ground.

Players are expected to be sportsmanlike in their behaviors, including the shaking hands at the end of the game, regardless of score, bookings etc.

Championship Game

The Championship game is played as one single match at the Akron Indoor Field.

In the event of severe weather conditions and the game cannot be played on the outdoor field with 11 vrs 11, The game must be played in the indoor field and it will be played 7 vrs 7.

If a tie stands at the end of regular time, a 15 min. halves (30 extra minutes) will be played. 5 penalty kicks will follow if a tie remains after the extra time, with 1 penalty kick per team thereafter if tie persists.

The referee decides which goal will be used for the kicks: a. If either goal could be used for the kicks, then, in the presence of the two captains, the referee tosses a coin to decide which goal will be used. b. For reasons of safety/security, state of the field of play, lighting or other similar reasons, the referee may decide which goal will be used without tossing a coin. Such decisions are final and require no justification. To ensure that the procedure is strictly observed, the referee is assisted by his team, who also note down the numbers of the players on each team who have taken kicks from the penalty mark.