



Lakeshore Soccer Club House League Rules and Guidelines 2018

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Glossary

Important rule changes for the Summer 2018 season are highlighted in yellow.

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1. Objective

The objective of the Lakeshore Soccer Club is the education of players and coaches in sportsmanship and soccer skills.



2. Laws of the Game

The following are the modifications to the IFAB Laws of the Game, 2017/18. The modifications are in accordance with the 131st AGM of the IFAB held in London on 3rd March 2017. All rules in this document shall supersede any Laws of the Game if there is a conflict with the IFAB Laws of the Game. Every Law modified in this document shall be split into three sections: Modifications from the Laws of the Game, Responsibilities of Coaches, and Guidance for Parents.

The URL for the IFAB Laws of the Game (2017-2018) can be found at:

http://static-3eb8.kxcdn.com/documents/274/092646_180517_LotG_17_18_FINAL_EN.pdf

2.1 Law 1 - The Field of Play

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.1.1 The Club uses fields and goalposts as they are made available from cities in the Club's territory. As such, all sizes and shapes of fields and goalposts are deemed regulation for the Club's purposes.
- 2.1.2 The following items and field markings are not required for House League games on all field sizes:
 - Flagposts (a corner flagpost is required in each corner if used, otherwise all corner flagposts will be removed)
 - Corner areas
 - Technical areas
 - Nets
 - Centre mark
 - Penalty arc
- 2.1.3 The following items and field markings are not required for 7-side and 5-side House League Games:
 - Goal areas
 - Centre circle



- 2.1.4 On some fields, goalposts are also used for Canadian football or rugby. If the ball hits any part of the football uprights above the crossbar, it is deemed out of play and a goal kick or corner kick is awarded.
- 2.1.5 7-aside and 5-aside House League games shall be played on narrower and shorter fields. These fields measure approximately 55 metres long by 40 metres wide. Fields shall be marked with a centre circle with a radius of 6 metres, a penalty area of 10 metres by 25 metres in front of each goal. Goals shall be approximately 5 metres wide by two 2 metres high. The penalty mark, if marked, is 8 metres from the midpoint between the goalposts.
- 2.1.6 For 5-aside House League games, cones may be used to decrease the width of the field. Cones may never be used to decrease the length of the field.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.1.7 Coaches must remain in their technical areas throughout the game unless authorized by the referee or other match officials. If the technical area is not marked on the field, the coach shall stay in an area that extends 1 metre on either side of the team's designated seating area and up to a distance of 1 metre from the touchline. Failure to stay in the technical area may result in forfeiture of the match and further discipline.
- 2.1.8 Ensure that the players are either seated in the team's designated seating area or are standing behind the bench.

Guidance for Parents

- 2.1.9 Spectators shall not be allowed along the same touchline as the players unless a permanent seating area is installed.
- 2.1.10 Spectators shall not be seated behind either goal line.
- 2.1.11 Spectators should be never closer than 1 metre to the touchline.
- 2.1.12 Pictorial of a standard 11-aside field with all markings and items is on next sheet:





2.2 Law 2 - The Ball

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.2.1 Various ball sizes shall be used at different levels. The table below specifies what size ball shall be used for different age categories. In cases where age groups are combined, the larger ball size is to be used.

Division	Ball Size
U05, U06, U07, U08	3
U09, U10, U11, U12, U13	4
U14, U15, U16, U18, U21, U99	5

Size 3 balls may be substituted for size 4 balls if no suitable size 3 ball is available.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.2.2 The team designated in the schedule as the Home team shall provide 2 properly inflated balls for each game. If the Home team can not provide adequate balls, the visiting team will be required to provide 2 properly inflated balls.
- 2.2.3 In the U06 to U21 divisions, the Club shall provide each team with 2 balls at the beginning of the season which shall be retained by the coaching staff at the end of the season.
- 2.2.4 Coaches should make every effort to ensure that the balls provided to them do not get lost and that they keep at least one ball in good condition for games. Defective balls should be returned to the office for exchange.

Guidance for Parents

- 2.2.5 The Club will provide a ball for each player in the U04 and U05 divisions.



2.3 Law 3 - The Players

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.3.1 If a team cannot field the minimum number of players, the opposition may have players switch teams for that game. The game sheets shall reflect the change in rosters for that game.
- 2.3.2 Games in the U08 division are played with 5 players on each side and shall be referred to as 5-side games. The minimum number of players for a team in 5-side games is 4. A maximum of 2 farm team players shall be permitted on a team for any one game provided that the total strength of the team is not thereby increased to more than 7 players in that game.
- 2.3.3 Games in the U09 through U10 divisions are played with 7 players on each side and shall be referred to as 7-side games. The minimum number of players for a team in 7-side games is 5. A maximum of 3 farm team players shall be permitted on a team for any one game provided that the total strength of the team is not thereby increased to more than 10 players in that game.
- 2.3.4 Games in the U11 through U12 divisions are played with 9 players on each side and shall be referred to as 9-side games. The minimum number of players for a team in 9-side games is 6. A maximum of 4 farm team players shall be permitted on a team for any one game provided that the total strength of the team is not thereby increased to more than 13 players in that game.
- 2.3.5 The substitution of players by either team shall be permitted only at the following times:
- a) In the event of an injury;
 - b) Immediately after a goal is scored;
 - c) When a goal kick is awarded;
 - d) At half-time;
 - e) At throw-ins;
 - f) When a player is shown a yellow card and the coach asks to change that player.
- 2.3.6 There are no limits to the number of players substituted or number of substitutions made in a game.



- 2.3.7 Because of the many opportunities to substitute players, and the fact that there is no added time, the referee may refuse to allow a team to substitute if it is deemed as time wasting. This may occur in the final 2 minutes of the match.
- 2.3.8 All U21 players must present their own passport at every match. Failure to do so will result in that player not being able to play.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.3.9 The objective of the farm team system is to provide the parent team with a sufficient number of players to field a team and meet their commitment to play all games as scheduled. As much use as possible should be made of the farm team system. It is designed to allow flexibility but should not be abused.
- 2.3.10 With the exception of the U04 and U05 division, each team shall be allocated a farm team in a division directly below it. The parent team may draw players from the farm team for League games when it does not have enough of its allocated team members to meet its commitments (e.g., during peak vacation periods).
- 2.3.11 It is only permitted to call up players that are at most 1 age category below the level for which they are being called up for. (i.e. a U14 team can call up players from U12 only)
- 2.3.12 While efforts are made to ensure that farm and parent teams are scheduled to play at different times, if a conflict does occur, the farm team must have priority for its own scheduled games. In a case such as this, the parent team is permitted to draw players from another team in the same division as its farm team.
- 2.3.13 It is recommended that the parent team coaches get to know their farm team coaches and players. Playing a friendly game or organizing a combined practice session are suggested. Please plan ahead and contact your farm team coach early in the season.
- 2.3.14 The recommended process to follow when farm team players are required by the parent team is:
 - a) Parent team coach calls farm team coach and requests players;
 - b) Farm team coach supplies players' names and phone numbers to the parent team coach;
 - c) Farm team coach calls players and informs them that a request to "play up" has been made; and
 - d) Parent team coach calls farm team players to request their participation.
- 2.3.15 When a request to play up is being made, etiquette dictates that the coaches from both the farm and parent teams should keep the player's parents informed with regard to time, date and location of games.



- 2.3.16 A team should not use the system to increase its playing strength when its numbers are already adequate. For example, an 11-aside team with 15 players available would not be allowed to call up a player from the farm team to make up a roster of 16 or more players.
- 2.3.17 Farm team coaches should strive to give a variety of players the opportunity to play up with the parent team. This may be best achieved by using a rotation system of players over the course of the season.
- 2.3.18 When farm team players are called up, they should be allocated the same amount of playing time as the parent team players.
- 2.3.19 In some divisions some teams may be allocated two farm teams, while in other divisions the farm team may have to be shared. In some cases, the farm team may not have the same coloured uniforms as the parent team.

Guidance for Parents

- 2.3.20 None

2.4 Law 4 - The Players' Equipment

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.4.1 Medic Alert bracelets may be worn by a player who suffers from allergies. If worn, the medic alert bracelet may be worn if covered firmly with tape around the player's wrist.
- 2.4.2 If the weather is cool, players may wear appropriate pants underneath their shorts and/or a long sleeve shirt underneath the team shirt of any colour. The long sleeve shirt cannot have a hood attached.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.4.3 Coaches shall ensure that goalkeepers wear shirts which adequately distinguish them from the rest of their own team, the opposing team and the referees.

Guidance for Parents

- 2.4.4 In the U04 to U21 divisions, the Club shall provide each player who registers during the normal registration period with a team "kit" (shirt, shorts and socks).



- 2.4.5 The basic compulsory equipment of a player shall consist of a shirt, shorts, socks, shin guards (must be worn under the socks) and appropriate footwear. Kneepads are optional. Goalkeepers may find it desirable to wear a tracksuit or sweatpants, gloves, kneepads and elbow pads.
- 2.4.6 A player shall not wear anything (e.g., rings, watches, other types of jewelry, protective equipment or casts, metal or pointed studs on footwear) which, in the opinion of the referee, could cause injury to the player or an opponent.
- 2.4.7 Studs on boots (cleats) may be rubber or plastic but may not be pointed or dangerous.

2.5 Law 5 - The Referee

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.5.1 For 7 aside and 5 aside games, the referee may be the only official during the game. If so, the referee will have additional responsibilities that would have been assumed by the other match officials.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.5.2 Whenever a player or coach is sent off or cautioned, the referee shall submit a full written report to the VP Referee in Chief as soon as possible.

Guidance for Parents

- 2.5.3 Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match.
- 2.5.4 The referee may refrain from awarding a free kick where he thinks that stopping the play would give an advantage to the offending team. This does not preclude the referee from administering a caution or sending off a player when play is eventually stopped if the infraction merits it.
- 2.5.5 Pictorial of referee signals are on the next 2 sheets:



Indirect free kick



Direct free kick



Advantage (1)



Advantage (2)



Penalty kick



Red and Yellow card



Corner kick



Goal kick



2.6 Law 6 - The Other Match Officials

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.6.1 For 11-aside or 9-aside games, it may occur that one or two volunteer assistant referees (parents or coaches) may be required for the game if the assigned referee(s) do not show up to the game. Remember they are there to help the referee and do so only by indicating when the ball is out of play (which means the whole ball has crossed the line, on the ground or in the air) and, if asked, to signal for throw-ins. They are not to signal infractions or offsides.
- 2.6.2 For 7 aside and 5 aside games, it is acceptable for there to be no other match officials.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.6.1 For 11 aside or 9 aside games, it may occur that one or two volunteer assistant referees (parents or coaches) may be required for the game if the assigned referee(s) do not show up to the game. Remember they are there to help the referee and do so only by indicating when the ball is out of play (which means the whole ball has crossed the line, on the ground or in the air) and, if asked, to signal for throw-ins. They are not to signal infractions or offsides.

Guidance for Parents

- 2.6.7 As the assistant referees will be moving up and down the length of the field, parents and spectators should make an effort to stay at least 1 meter away from the touch line as to not block the path of the assistant referee.
- 2.6.8 The assistant referee is there to assist the referee. Any instruction or guidance that the assistant referee gives should be respected as any instruction or guidance coming from the referee.
- 2.6.9 Pictorial of referee signals are on the next 3 sheets:



Substitution



Attacking free kicks



Defending free kicks



Throw-in for **attacker**



Throw-in for **defender**



Corner kick



Goal kick



Offside



Offside on the **near side** of the field



Offside in the **middle** of the field



Offside on the **far side** of the field



2.7 Law 7 - The Duration of the Match

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.7.1 Games shall be scheduled so that the following times (in minutes) are available:

	Warmup	1st Half	Half - time	2nd Half
U05 to U08	15	20	5	20
U09, U10	15	25	5	25
U11 to U14	15	30	5	30
U15, U16	15	35	5	35
U21 to U99	15	45	5	45

The scheduled game time shall coincide with the start of the 1st half.

2.7.2 The referee is responsible for timing the game and ensuring the two halves are of equal time. The referee will not add time for time lost through injury or delay for regular season House League games.

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.7.3 Coaches should be aware that “wasting time” is part of the game however due to time constraints and due to the objectives of Lakeshore Soccer Club, the referee may disallow substitutions during the final two minutes of the game.

Guidance for Parents

2.7.4 Players are asked to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the game for warmup and equipment check.



2.8 Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.8.1 None

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.8.2 At the beginning of the game, the choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The call is normally given to the Visiting team. The team winning the toss shall have the choice of ends. The team losing the toss shall take the kick-off.

Guidance for Parents

2.8.3 To be in play from a kick-off or free kick, the ball must clearly move. A goal may be scored directly from a kick-off.

2.8.4 After any temporary suspension of play other than a goal, penalty or ball out of play, the referee shall drop the ball at the place where it was when play was suspended, unless it was within the goal area at that time, in which case it shall be dropped on that part of the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped. A player shall not play the ball until it has touched the ground.

2.9 Law 9 - The Ball in and Out of Play

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.9.1 None

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.9.2 None

Guidance for Parents

2.9.3 The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or the touchline, whether on the ground or in the air.



2.10 Law 10 - Determining the Outcome of a Match

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.10.1 Competition rules do not require a winner for all House League regular season games. Refer to the Knockout Cup rules for determining the outcome of a match for a Knockout Cup game.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.10.2 None

Guidance for Parents

- 2.10.3 A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

2.11 Law 11 - Offside

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.11.1 There is no offside in 5-a-side or 7-a-side games. However, the referee will penalize a team that is obviously and intentionally taking advantage of the offside position during play. Persistent use of this tactic (often referred to as "cherry picking") is considered unsporting behaviour and will result in a caution from the referee.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.11.2 Though a play may look offside, the judgement shall be left to the referee and the assistant referees as they are the only individuals who will have the ability to be in position to identify an offside play.

Guidance for Parents

- 2.11.3 None



2.12 Law 12 - Fouls and Misconducts

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.12.1 None

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.12.2 None

Guidance for Parents

2.12.3 In the case of a handball, the offence must be considered by the referee to be deliberate. Thus, if the ball hits a player's hands when they are at his side or when a female is protecting her breasts, no foul has been committed.

2.13 Law 13 - Free Kicks

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.13.1 For 5-aside and 7-aside games, all free kicks, except those in the penalty area, are direct free kicks.

2.13.2 For 5-aside and 7-aside games, the goal area and the penalty area are the same.

2.13.3 For free kicks during 5-aside and 7-aside games, all opposing players must be 5.15 metres from the ball and, if the kick is in the kicking side's penalty area, outside that area as well. If the free kick is in the kicking side's penalty area, the ball must go outside the area before it can be played again. If the free kick is within 5.15 metres of the defending team's goal line, the players may stand along this line, inside the goalposts, in order to defend the free kick.

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.13.4 On an indirect free kick the ball must be touched by a second player (of either team) before a goal can be scored. Referees will indicate indirect free kick by raising their arm straight up, keeping it in that position until the ball touches the second player mentioned above.

Guidance for Parents

2.13.5 None



2.14 Law 14 - The Penalty Kick

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.14.1 For 5-aside and 7-aside games, all players except the goalkeeper and the kicker must be outside the penalty area and 5.15 metres from the ball. All other rules from the 11-aside game apply.

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.14.2 None

Guidance for Parents

2.14.3 The following table describes the outcome of the penalty kick:

	Goal	No Goal
Encroachment by attacking player	Penalty is retaken	Indirect free kick
Encroachment by defending player	Goal	Penalty is retaken
Offence by goalkeeper	Goal	Penalty is retaken and caution for goalkeeper
Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
Illegal feinting	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker
Goalkeeper and kicker at the same time	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Retake and caution for kicker and goalkeeper



2.15 Law 15 - The Throw-In

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.1 None

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.2 None

Guidance for Parents

- 2.3 When the whole of the ball passes over a touch line, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it. The thrower, at the moment of delivering the ball, must face the field of play and part of each foot shall be either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from behind and over his head. The ball shall be in play immediately after it enters the field of play, but the thrower shall not again play the ball until it has been touched or played by another player. A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw-in.
- 2.4 If, when a throw-in is being taken, any of the opposing players dance about or gesticulate in a way calculated to distract or impede the thrower, it shall be deemed unsporting behaviour, for which the offender(s) shall be cautioned.



2.16 Law 16 - The Goal Kick

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

- 2.16.1 For 5-aside and 7-aside games, once the ball crosses over the goal line for a goal kick, the referee will signal for the goal kick. Once the referee has given the signal for a goal kick, all players from the opposing team of that taking the goal kick must retreat to the halfway line as quickly as possible. Players who do not retreat to the halfway line immediately after the referee has signaled for a goal kick will be cautioned for delaying the restart of play. The opposing players may only enter the attacking half of the field once the ball is in play. The kicker need not wait for the opposing players to retreat to the halfway line to put the ball into play.
- 2.16.2 For 5-aside and 7-aside games, the goal area is the same as the penalty. Goal kicks may be taken anywhere in the penalty area.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- 2.16.3 None

Guidance for Parents

- 2.16.4 When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line excluding that portion between the goalposts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked directly into play from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. A goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his hands from a goal kick in order that he may therefore kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked beyond the penalty area, i.e., directly into play, the kick shall be retaken. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or has been played by another player. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick. Opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball has been kicked out of the penalty area.



2.17 Law 17 - The Corner Kick

Modifications from the Laws of the Game

2.17.1 For 7-aside and 5-aside games, opponents must be 5.15 meters from the corner arc until the ball is in play.

Responsibilities of Coaches

2.17.2 Because the corner flagpost is not required for a House League game, some players may find it helpful to bend or remove the flagpost if it is present. Coaches should be aware that this is not allowed. If a corner flagpost is present, players should place the ball anywhere in the corner area where the corner flagpost would not obstruct the player from kicking the ball.

Guidance for Parents

2.17.3 None



3. Other Guidelines for Coaches and Parents

3.1 Responsibilities of Coaches

- 3.1.1 Coaches should bear in mind the objective of the Club set forth in Chapter 1. While enthusiasm by coaches is necessary and appreciated, excessive competitiveness is not to be encouraged.
- 3.1.2 Coaches are responsible for the instruction, discipline and safety of players and parents assigned to them.
- 3.1.3 When coaches are unable to attend games or practices they must ensure that a responsible person, who is has a validated coaching passport, is designated to replace them.
- 3.1.4 Coaches are role models for their players and, as such, should endeavour to instil a sense of fair play and sportsmanship to the team. On no account shall coaches enter into verbal disputes with referees, other coaches, players, parents or spectators. Undue pressure on players and referees will not be tolerated.
- 3.1.5 Coaches should ensure that whenever possible all players are given equal playing time.

3.2 Guidance for Parents

- 3.2.1 Parents should bear in mind the objective of the Club set forth in Chapter 1. While enthusiasm by parents is necessary and appreciated, excessive competitiveness is not to be encouraged.
- 3.2.2 Parents are role models for their children and, as such, should endeavour to instil a sense of fair play and sportsmanship to them.
- 3.2.3 Please ensure that your child arrives promptly for games and practices. Ten minutes prior to the scheduled start time is recommended.
- 3.2.4 Please ensure that the coach or team manager is notified if your child is unable to attend a game or practice.
- 3.2.5 Please have your child dressed in the team uniform (with black shorts).
- 3.2.6 Parents should keep in mind that the coaches are volunteers giving personal time to provide a recreational activity for your children.



- 3.2.7 Parents must also remember that the referee is calling the game to the best of his ability. The referee is a symbol of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship, and, as such, refereeing decisions should not be questioned.

3.3 Team Management

- 3.3.1 Clinics are offered prior to and during the season for House League coaches and parents. These clinics are strongly recommended as they cover topics such as rules, tactics, practice drills, goalkeeping, team management and sportsmanship. More advanced clinics leading to formal coaching qualifications are also usually available, though a fee may be charged for such courses. Assistance in technical aspects of coaching can be obtained from the Club's Technical Director.
- 3.3.2 Practice schedules are published at the beginning of the season. Practice fields are made available to all coaches for booking of their practices at the same time. The fields are therefore allocated on a 'first come – first served' basis. There is no guarantee that a practice field obtained by a coach will necessarily be in the most convenient area for all the players.
- 3.3.3 Coaches, players and parents should be aware that practice locations and times may be modified over the course of the season. Field maintenance and repairs, scheduled and special events staged either by the Club or by other community organizations, as well as other unforeseen occurrences may necessitate a modification to the practice schedule. Coaches will be informed of any changes to the practice schedule as soon as possible.
- 3.3.4 Coaches should endeavour to instil a sense of group responsibility and spirit in their teams. Players should be strongly encouraged to attend practices and to inform the coach or manager if they are unable to attend. Players should be encouraged to inform the coach or manager if they cannot attend games so that farm team support can be arranged if necessary. It is also advisable to check on vacations and the long term availability of players at the beginning of the season. In any case, no sanctions (e.g., reduced playing times) are to be taken against players who do not attend games or practices regularly.
- 3.3.5 Efforts are made during scheduling to avoid clashes with other sports, but this is not always possible. If such clashes do occur, the following ground rules should be followed:
- a) Games should take precedence over practices;
 - b) League games should take precedence over exhibition games.
- 3.3.6 Teams play a 12 game regular season schedule. There is a Knockout Cup Competition (U10 to U21 divisions) at the end of the season.



- 3.3.7 Game sheets are available on the Lakeshore Soccer website and can be downloaded from there with the latest additions or deletions.

3.4 Allocation of Players

- 3.4.1 Players shall be allocated to teams at the beginning of each season by the Division Manager under the direction of the Club Manager and/or the V.P. House League.
- 3.4.2 Players shall be allocated to teams in the first instance on a geographical basis. This means that the composition of teams will vary from year to year.
- 3.4.3 In allocating players to teams, there will not be any deliberate attempt to keep players together through the years. Although requests from players to play with friends will be taken into consideration, there are no guarantees regarding player placement.
- 3.4.4 Players joining the Club after the normal registration period (i.e., during late registration) shall be allocated to teams as space permits.
- 3.4.5 Transfer of players from one team to another shall only take place with the consent of the Division Manager, Club Manager and/or V.P. House League.
- 3.4.6 Only under exceptional medical circumstances and with the express permission of the VP Recreation shall a player be permitted to play in a division lower than that appropriate to the player's age.
- 3.4.7 As teams are being formed prior to the start of the season, one or two roster spaces are not filled on each House League team in order to accommodate players being cut by the intercity teams. When the Division Manager is informed of the specific player(s) involved, an attempt is made to place these incoming players on the local House League team that is geographically convenient.
- 3.4.8 The House League strives to maintain parity within a given division. To this end, intercity cuts may be placed on teams outside their local area.

3.5 Conduct of Games

- 3.5.1 Coaches and players should shake hands with the opposing team following every game.
- 3.5.2 Coaches need to be in control of the sideline areas. Support and enthusiasm is expected from parents, spectators and supporters but coaches cannot allow the sidelines to become interruptive or distracting of the play. When necessary or required, coaches must step forward to calm, control and ensure safety on the sidelines.



- 3.5.3 During the game, coaches shall ensure that they, their assistants, substitute players and anyone associated with their team remain on the side of the playing field, clear of the touch line and within a reasonable distance of the centre line.
- 3.5.4 All equipment should be kept clear of the playing area. Balls particularly should be kept under control during the game and substitute players should be discouraged from private games/practices while awaiting their turn to play.
- 3.5.5 The Home and Visiting teams should take up neighbouring benches (left or right of the halfway line). A "coaching box" of about 7.5 metres may be marked on some local fields. If this area is not clearly defined on the field, coaches may operate within a reasonable distance of their benches, but not in the area belonging to their opposition. Please note that there is a maximum of three coaches, assistant coaches or other passported personnel allowed in the technical area with the players.
- 3.5.6 In Micro divisions, teams should take up a position behind, but well away from, their goal line and goal area.
- 3.5.7 All spectators should be on the opposite side of the field to the players' benches. In Micro divisions, some spectators and parents should remain in the same area as their team's players to help keep the sideline area organized and safe. In Micro divisions, it is helpful if some parents and/or spectators encircle the playing field in order to keep the ball from going out of bounds.
- 3.5.8 In U08 through U21 divisions, on no account shall coaches, substitute players or spectators be allowed to remain behind either goal line.
- 3.5.9 In the U04 to U07 divisions, one coach from each team shall be permitted to coach from the field of play. On no account shall the coaches interfere with the play or enter the goal area while play is in progress.
- 3.5.10 The referee is empowered to interrupt or stop a game if deemed necessary for reasons such as weather conditions, and/or verbal abuse and/or continuous intervention by a coach or spectator, or any other abusive behaviour.
- 3.5.11 At the referee's discretion or at the request of a coach (at an appropriate stoppage in play), the game may be interrupted briefly to allow players a water break. Water breaks are to be requested only when no substitute players are available. The referee will not permit a water break to be used as a delaying tactic or to interrupt the pace of the game. Water breaks should be requested by the coach at the beginning of the game.
- 3.5.12 Coaches should ensure that, as far as possible, all players are given equal playing time irrespective of their level of skill or enthusiasm. This is applicable to League play, Soccerfest and Knockout Cup competitions.



- 3.5.13 Only players who are formally registered in the Club's House League are permitted to participate in League games. Use of unregistered or ineligible players (i.e. those not from a farm team) will result in a disciplinary hearing with the possibility of sanctions for the coaches responsible.
- 3.5.14 Although there are no statistics or standings kept in House League, the score shown on the game sheet will be taken as the official result of the game. After each game, both coaches should ensure that the score and the team names are correct before signing the game sheet. During Knockout Cup play, discussions concerning the correct final score shall be resolved before all parties leave the field.
- 3.5.15 This does not mean that coaches should enter into arguments over disputed scores - the referee's word is always final in such cases but coaches should ensure that no recording errors have been made.
- 3.5.16 It is in no one's interest to have the score run up due to a lack of players or to an unbalanced roster. To this end, a mercy rule exists for the U21 division. When a goal differential between two teams reaches 7 goals, the game will be considered completed. The referee will inform both coaches that the score will stand as is and the coaches are to report that score when they enter the game sheet. The game will then continue between the two teams, but no score will be counted by the officials.

3.6 Scheduling and Rescheduling

- 3.6.1 In general, games will not be rescheduled unless exceptional circumstances occur. Inability to raise a team is not normally considered sufficient reason for requesting rescheduling of a game. Games for the U21 division that have been cancelled due to rainouts or inclement weather will be rescheduled by the Club Scheduler automatically.
- 3.6.2 Games shall not be rescheduled by coaches themselves. Requests to reschedule games shall be made to the Division Manager who shall, in turn, consult the Scheduler; such requests will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. It may not be possible to reschedule any or all games.
- 3.6.3 Where a game is cancelled by the mutual agreement of both coaches, it shall not be rescheduled by the Club. However, the coaches are free to use their practice credit to each book 1/2 a field for an hour to play the game. The Club Manager must be advised as soon as possible in order cancel the referees for the match.
- 3.6.4 The scheduled game time shall coincide with the start of the pre - game warm - up period (which is of 10 minutes duration).



- 3.6.5 If 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, one team is unable to field the minimum number of players, the game shall be forfeited.
- 3.6.6 If 15 minutes after the scheduled game time, both teams are unable to field the minimum number of players, the game shall be cancelled and not rescheduled.
- 3.6.7 Games abandoned by the referee because of discipline and/or behavior problems shall be referred to a disciplinary committee in order to determine the outcome.

3.7 Knockout Cup Competitions and Other Competitions

- 3.7.1 A Knockout Cup competition shall be organized in each division, from U10 to U21.
- 3.7.2 Individual or selected House League teams may participate in other competitions inside or outside the Club as the Executive so decides.
- 3.7.3 House League players (starting at U08) will be selected to take part in our Club Soccerfest and possibly in similar tournaments organized by other Associations. For additional information, contact the Club Manager.

3.8 Inclement Weather

- 3.8.1 Inclement weather alone will not be considered as an adequate reason for postponing or abandoning a game except in the case of an electrical or thunderstorm. Regardless of the weather conditions, teams should show up at the field and abide by the referee's decision.
- 3.8.2 If a city decides to cancel games because of excessive rainfall or poor field conditions, coaches will be notified (with as much notice as is possible) by their Division Managers or similar authority.
- 3.8.3 Individual cities (usually through city maintenance staff and/or park attendants) may close fields because of bad weather or poor field conditions at any time and without prior notice. Teams must comply with these requests.



4. Complaint Procedure

- 4.1 Complaints with regard to coaches not fulfilling their responsibilities will be examined by the Executive Board when the following procedures have been followed:
 - a) Complaint is made within 72 hours of the incident concerned;
 - b) Complaint made in writing and addressed to the appropriate Division Manager or to a member(s) of the Executive Committee; and
 - c) The letter is signed by the complainant.
- 4.2 On receipt of a formal complaint, a true copy of the complaint, together with the complainant's name, shall be immediately transmitted to the person involved in the complaint, and he will be given the opportunity to submit a formal reply in writing to the Executive.
- 4.3 Coaches must keep in mind that referees are often novices and may make mistakes interpreting and applying the rules. An essential part of a player's education is to learn to accept the referee's decisions without protest. Coaches must act as role models for their players by accepting refereeing decisions gracefully and by always treating the referee with a high level of respect.
- 4.4 Nevertheless, constructive comments of a referee's performance is welcome and necessary and should be addressed to the Director of Officiating.
- 4.5 Written complaints on refereeing decisions or actions should only be made in very exceptional circumstances. If a coach feels that "special administrative attention or review" is required because of a refereeing situation that occurred during the course of a game then they must do the following:
 - a) Inform the referee at the field, at the end of the game, that an appeal will be filed and write it on the game sheet at the end of the game;
 - b) File a signed, written report to the Director of Officiating within 72 hours of the incident.