



Arlington Soccer Association

# Recreational Soccer Program

Administrative Handbook

Updated: December 2017

**GENERAL:**

The Arlington Soccer Association (ASA) is affiliated with the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA); the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

Lack of knowledge of the Arlington Soccer Association (ASA) rules will not relieve any club, coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in the ASA from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. All clubs, team officials, coaches, parents, and players, by participating in ASA play, are bound by these rules.

The soccer year shall be comprised of two (2) separate seasons of play; Fall (Sept – Nov) and Spring (March – June).

ASA's Recreational Soccer Program utilizes the child's school grade, with some exceptions, to determine placement of players on to teams; and teams into age groups.

In response to ASA decisions, no individual may employ the aid of any lawyer or the courts of any State or of the United States without first exhausting all available administrative remedies within the body of organized soccer to include ASA, the VYSA, the USYS, and the USSF.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:**

ASA regularly participates in risk-management programs, including performing background checks on the coaches/adults that work with the children of ASA.

**GAME FORMATS:**

ASA utilizes the following game formats:

- Kindergarten group – 4 vs 4 (no goalkeepers)
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade groups – 4 vs 4 (no goalkeepers)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade groups – 7 vs. 7 (6 + GK)
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade groups – 9 vs. 9 (8 + GK)
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade groups – 11 vs. 11 (10 + GK)

**REGISTRATION:**

Each player must register with ASA and be assigned to a member club or team of the Association. In no instance shall a player participate in official ASA games or practices or other programs without having completed the applicable registration process. Only players who are on a team's official game roster may participate in an official ASA game or practice.

A player may only be placed on a team's official game roster if the player's registration and financial obligation have been completed prior to all established deadlines.

Team coaches must never allow any unregistered players to participate on their teams, or make promises to parents regarding player placements. All players must go through the ASA registration process and be placed on the appropriate team by ASA/Club personnel.

**FEES:**

Each player who registers with Arlington Soccer Association shall pay a "Player Registration Fee" as

recommended by the Recreational Committee and approved by the ASA Board of Directors.

The Player Registration Fee will not be prorated or reduced for registrations received once the season has begun.

Players may receive financial assistance from ASA if the player's family meets the eligibility requirements and complete the required paperwork.

The ASA Player Registration Fee covers (for Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade):

- ASA administration, staff and operation expenses
- Financial aid program
- Referee fees
- An ASA uniform (provided once every 4 seasons)
- VYSA player registration and insurance coverage
- Field preparation, equipment & maintenance
- Team coach background checks
- Arlington County Fee (\$8 per player, per season, for Arlington County and City of Falls Church registrants; \$20 per player, per season, for other non-residents)

The ASA Player Registration Fee covers (for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade):

- ASA administration, staff and operation expenses
- Financial aid program
- Referee fees
- VYSA player registration and insurance coverage
- Field preparation, equipment & maintenance
- Team coach background checks
- Fall tournament hosted by ASA
- Arlington County Fee (\$8 per player, per season, for Arlington County and City of Falls Church registrants; \$20 per player, per season, for other non-residents)

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Financial assistance to play in the ASA is available to those who qualify by completing established procedures.

Players may receive an established amount of financial assistance from ASA if the player's family meets the eligibility requirements and completes the required paperwork.

Players are automatically eligible for financial aid if:

- They are currently enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program at their school
- Their family gets SNAP, WIC, or MEDICAID benefits

## **REFUNDS**

If a player completes the registration process, but is never placed on a team or contacted by a team representative, that player may receive a full refund of the fee paid.

No refunds will be given after the first game of the season, except if a player experiences a season-ending injury. Players experiencing a season-ending injury (proved by providing a signed and dated letter from a doctor stating such) will be granted a pro-rated refund based on the number of games left in the season. Late fees, if applicable, cannot be refunded due to a season-ending injury. All refunds are subject to a \$5 processing

fee to cover the cost of credit card processing fees. While rare, if the weather or some other unavoidable circumstance limits our program in any way, no refunds or other adjustments will be made.

A player can request a refund before the first game of the season, but will be subject to a \$5 processing fee.

All requests for refunds should be submitted to the ASA Registrar or the player's Club Manager. ASA Staff will decide on all exceptions to the refund policy and the amount of any refund; based on facts and circumstances.

#### **PLAYER ASSIGNMENTS TO ASA CLUBS:**

Players registering with ASA, in the Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade groups, are typically assigned to a member club in accordance with the player's residence in established public elementary school districts or attendance at an Arlington school.

- Players previously registered with ASA may remain with their assigned club even if their residence changes.
- If a player selects a club outside of the district where the player lives or attends school, the player should be informed of the proper club residential district and encouraged to be assigned to the club having the responsibility for the appropriate district.
- If a player, after being so informed, still desires to be assigned outside their proper district, the ASA may allow the assignment. Permission to roster a player from outside the club's assigned area may only be done with the permission of the Club Manager from the player's assigned district.
- Clubs may not recruit players from outside their assigned areas.
- Players who register after established deadlines are not guaranteed to be placed with the club or team of their choosing. Placement will be made based on available openings on association-wide teams.

Prior to the established deadlines, registered players will be allocated to their appropriate club for team placement; provided there is space on that club's team(s) in the player's age group. Club Managers will be responsible for forming teams and submitting the number of properly formed teams (see team requirements) to the Assistant Rec Director.

Properly registered players will be available to their appropriate club if that club's team in the player's age group is in need of a player. If the club's team in the player's age group is full, the player will be assigned to the most appropriate club/team that is in need of a player.

If a team has not reached the maximum roster size, a player may be assigned to that team. The team coach and/or Club Manager may not refuse the addition of a player if the team has open roster spots, as determined by ASA.

**AGE GROUP PLACEMENT OF PLAYERS:**

All players, once registered and assigned to a club, should be placed on a team in their appropriate group, according to the player's current school grade.

No player will be permitted to play-up **with the exception** of those who had previously played up before this rule came into effect. Players are no longer permitted to submit play-up requests to the ASA Recreational Soccer Director.

In the event that a player is out of sync with other students his or her age (i.e.: due to repeating or skipping a year or more of school), that player may elect to play with either of the appropriate grades.

**TEAM FORMATION:**

Each season, Club Managers will be responsible for forming teams in each age group and submitting these teams to the Assistant Recreational Director (ARD) prior to the established Team Formation Date.

A player may only be placed on a team's official game roster if the player's registration and financial obligation have been completed prior to all established deadlines.

A player may only be placed on the roster of one (1) ASA Recreational team. A player may be registered and rostered with a select team and a Recreational team; in accordance with ASA rules (*see select player rule*).

Before a team can be submitted to the ARD to be placed in the schedule, the team must meet established criteria. These criteria are:

- Each team must contain a minimum number of properly registered and rostered players. The minimum number of players for a team to be viable is the number of players needed to field a full side at the age group they are playing in. For example, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team needs seven (7) players to be viable.
- Each team must contain a contact person (usually the coach) and an email address for that contact person.

The following chart shows current information for each age group:

## ASA Recreational Soccer Formats

Age Group	Game Format	Team Size*	Team Cap**	Restart from Sideline	Game Length (mins)	Min # of Player to Start	Field Size***	Ball Size	Referee	Offside	Free Kicks	Report Scores	Select Players Allowed? ****
K	4v4 (no GK)	8	8	Coaches restart with roll-in	4x8	3	30x20	3	Coaches	No	Indirect Only	No	No
1 <sup>st</sup>	4v4 (no GK)	8	8	Kick-in	4x10	3	30x20	3	Coaches	No	Indirect Only	No	No
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4v4 (no GK)	8	8	Throw-in (with forgiveness)	4x12	3	30x20	3	1 Ref	No	Indirect Only	Yes	1
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7v7 (6+GK)	11	13	Throw-in	2x25	5	60x40	4	1 Ref	Yes	Indirect & Direct	Yes	2
4 <sup>th</sup>	7v7 (6+GK)	11	13	Throw-in	2x25	5	60x40	4	1 Ref	Yes	Indirect & Direct	Yes	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	9v9 (8+GK)	14	17	Throw-in	2x30	6	75x47	4	1 Ref	Yes	Indirect & Direct	Yes	3
6 <sup>th</sup>	9v9 (8+GK)	14	17	Throw-in	2x30	6	75x47	4	1 Ref	Yes	Indirect & Direct	Yes	4
7 <sup>th</sup>	11v11 (10+GK)	16	-	Throw-in	2x30	7	112x75	5	1 Ref	Yes	Indirect & Direct	Yes	4
8 <sup>th</sup>	11v11 (10+GK)	16	-	Throw-in	2x30	7	112x75	5	1 Ref	Yes	Indirect & Direct	Yes	5
HS	11v11 (10+GK)	18	-	Throw-in	2x30	7	112x75	5	3 Refs	Yes	Indirect & Direct	Yes	5

\* Teams cannot exceed the team size limit without the permission of the team coach. Managers must receive this approval from the coach before adding any player to the team past the team size limit. Teams under this number of players cannot refuse a player being added to the team.

\*\* Teams cannot exceed this limit except under approval from the Recreational Soccer Director, the Club Manager, and the team's coach.

\*\*\* These are ideal measurements. Some field sizes may vary.

\*\*\*\* Any player who is also involved in a program that requires tryouts are considered 'select' players, and fall under this cap.

For all teams, after the fourth league game has been played, no additional players may be rostered to that team; unless approval has been given by ASA staff.

**DATE OF ELIGIBILITY:**

A player is eligible to participate in an official ASA game or practice only when that player's name appears on the official team roster as generated from the ASA registration system.

Two business days must be allowed between the receipt of a player's complete registration and that player being placed on a team's roster. Typically, complete registrations must be into the ASA office before Wednesday at 5:00pm for a player to be eligible to participate in games that weekend.

**TEAM ROSTERS:**

Coaches, or persons subbing as coach, are required to always have in their possession at the field of play an official ASA Team Roster showing all eligible players.

For the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade groups, team coaches will be reminded prior to the season that only properly registered and rostered players may participate in official ASA practices and games. Coaches should have a copy of their team roster at all games.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 4<sup>th</sup> grade groups, each team's roster will be reviewed by the referee(s) before each game. Prior to the start of each game, each team will provide the game referee(s) with their official ASA game roster. The referee(s) will meet with each team coach, remind the coach that only players whose names are on the roster may participate in that game and compare the number of names on the roster with the number of players ready to participate in the game.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older groups, the referee will perform a pre-game check-in. This check-in will consist of all the team's players standing in front of the referee. The referee will read off each name on the roster. As a player's name is read, that player steps behind the referee. Only those players whose name appears on the roster may participate in that game. Players deemed ineligible to play due to the referee's review must sit out of that game.

All players who are rostered with a travel team or in the ASA developmental program must be identified as such on the ASA team roster. (*see select player rule*)

If a team does not have a roster at a game, the game may continue with the following actions taken:

- The referee will mention in the game report the team(s) that did not have a roster.
- The coaches involved in the game, in addition to reporting the game score, will report in an email or phone call to the ARD, that a team did not have a roster.
- The ASA, upon receipt of a report that a team did not have a roster, will contact the team and the appropriate Club Manager to inform them of the rule and stress compliance.
- Upon further review, the game may be declared a forfeit by the Rules and Discipline Committee for non-compliance, with the results of the game reflecting

the forfeit.

Referees will allow for a 10 minute grace period to allow a team to get up to the minimum number of players to start a game and avoid a forfeit. The game clock will start on time, and the amount of time needed for the grace period will be subtracted from the first half of the game. Prior to its start, if a game is declared a forfeit, regardless of reason, it may only be played as an unofficial scrimmage. In a scrimmage, the following conditions will be in effect:

- The referee is encouraged, but not required, to stay depending on numbers.
- ASA does not sanction the game and relinquishes all liability.
- ASA registered player allowed by the coaches may participate.
- Players who are not registered with the ASA may not participate.
- The game must finish in the originally allotted time.
- The score of the game will not be recorded or counted in the divisional standings.

The score of a forfeited game will be reported as 4 – 0, in favor of the team that is in compliance. If both teams are in noncompliance, the game will be declared a forfeit, with the score reported as 0 – 0, but with neither team receiving the points.



## SELECT PLAYERS ON ASA RECREATIONAL TEAMS:

For purposes of the ASA rules, a select player is rostered:

- On a travel team - (by VYSA definition; regardless of gender, age or location)
- Participates in the Arlington Soccer Association's Developmental Program; or any other program where players are selected for participation based on ability.

For the purposes of an upcoming season, a player's select status is determined as of that season's Team Formation Date.

The maximum number of select players that a Recreational team in an age group may have on its roster is listed below. This number is currently in a 'phase down' as adopted by the Recreational Committee, which will conclude the Fall of 2020:

Grade	Format	Team Size	# of Select Players Allowed			
			Fall '17	Fall '18	Fall '19	Fall '20
K	4v4	8	0	0	0	0
1	4v4	8	0	0	0	0
2	4v4	8	1	1	1	1
3	7v7	10	2	2	2	2
4	7v7	10	3	2	2	2
5	9v9	12	3	3	2	2
6	9v9	12	4	3	3	2
7	11v11	16	4	4	3	3
8	11v11	16	5	4	4	3
HS	11v11	16+	5	5	TBD	TBD

## **GAME PROCEDURES:**

Before each game:

- Coaches should introduce themselves to the referee/other coaches and confirm that the players on their team comply with ASA policies.
- Coaches should discuss with the referee/other coaches any ASA playing rule that may be different from a rule of another league.
- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older groups, provide an official team roster for the referee to review.
- In the 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade groups, assist the referee with the pre-game check- in.

After each game:

- Coaches should thank the referee/other coaches and give any praise deserved.
- Report the score of the game (2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older), as well as submit a review of the opposing coach, players, and parents through the score reporting software.
- If there were any **outstanding** behavioral issues surrounding an opposing coach, parents, or players, please report directly to your club manager. Contact info can be found on ASA's website.

## **PLAYING TIME:**

For the purpose of fostering the good of soccer and the development of all ASA players; all field players will play a roughly equal amount as all other field players in every scheduled game. Any disciplinary issues, for which a coach may wish to restrict playing time below what would be considered equal playing time, must be discussed and approved in advance with the ASA Recreational Soccer Director.

It is also recommended that players be rotated through and allowed to play all the positions on the field during the course of the season.

## **USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYER:**

If a team is found to have used an ineligible player, as determined by ASA staff, Recreational Committee or their representatives, the penalty will be forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player participated, with the results of the game reflecting the forfeit. Additional penalties, including sanctions against the player, coach and or member club may be imposed by the ASA Recreational Committee, ASA Board of Directors, and/ or their established subgroups.

The ASA Recreational Committee, on its own motion in the absence of a proper protest, may find a team to have used an ineligible player and may assess such penalty as it deems appropriate.

## **AGE GROUP PLACEMENT OF TEAMS:**

Once formed, all teams must be placed in their appropriate group (current school grade) - according to the grade of the oldest player on the team; unless it meets the exception listed below. If a team meets the exception, there is no permission needed to place that team outside its correct age group. All other requests for placing a team outside its correct grade group must be submitted to the ASA Recreational Soccer Director.

- The oldest player on the team has been approved for playing on that team and therefore does not impact the team's placement in the appropriate group.

Requests for exemptions to the team placement policy must be submitted, by the Club Manager, in writing (email is accepted) to the ASA's Recreational Soccer Director at least three (3) days prior to the Team Formation Date. The Recreational Soccer Director must respond to the Club Manager before the Team Formation Date. Typically, the decision on a request will be based on whether the team's developmental needs are not being met by playing in its correct age group and how each player on the team will be affected.

Permission for a team to participate in an age group outside the team's appropriate age group is for one (1) season and, if desired, must be re-submitted for approval at the beginning each season.

#### **DIVISIONAL MAKEUP:**

The purpose of placing teams into divisions is to:

- In the Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade groups; to group teams together to make game schedules. Kindergarten divisions will be given random animal names, and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade divisions will be given different colors. The divisions will be formed at random by the ARD.
- In the **spring** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade season, and both seasons of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older groups; to schedule teams with similar skills to compete against each other. Divisions will be numbered as 1, 2, 3 etc, except 2<sup>nd</sup> grade which will continue to use colors.

Prior to each season, for each age group, divisions will be formed by the ARD. The teams and number of teams in a division may change from season to season. The total number of teams in an age group, and the appropriate grouping of those teams, will determine the total number of divisions needed in each age group.

Prior to each season, teams will be placed in the appropriate division.

In the spring 2<sup>nd</sup> grade season and both seasons for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older groups, the results from the previous season will be used to assist with the team placement for the coming season.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade group, in the fall and spring seasons, game scores will be reported (but not published), using the established score reporting procedures, for the sole purpose of properly placing teams for the next season.

Club Managers must inform the ARD regarding teams who have changed names between seasons. These teams will be held to the established criteria to determine if it is considered a new team or a returning team.

The ARD and the Club Managers will ultimately determine the placement of all teams. After the Team Formation Date, the ARD will place all teams into divisions.

- These divisions will be formed randomly for the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade groups; formed randomly for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Fall season; formed based on the previous season's results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Spring season and formed based on

the previous season's results for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older age groups.

Once divisions are formed, the club managers will review the divisions to confirm their teams' placement. After this review, the game schedule for each division will be formulated. Once the game schedule is completed, teams will not be moved from a division during that season.

Teams who have more than 75% of the players from last season's roster will be considered a returning team and should be held to that team's results from the previous season.

Teams who have less than 75% of the players from the last season's roster will be considered a new team and should not be held to that team's results from the previous team.

Club Managers must inform the ARD of the changes in these teams and consult the ARD in regard to the appropriate placement of these teams.

All new teams will be placed in the appropriate division based on input from the team's Club Manager and the team's coach.

Divisions for kindergarten generally will be formed with eight teams, but can range from 6 to 10 teams based on the total number of teams in the specific age group.

Forming divisions with an even number of teams is desirable; as it provides each team with an opponent each weekend.

Divisions for 1<sup>st</sup> grade through high school will be formed with a minimum of four (4) teams and a maximum of team (10) teams.

The number of teams in a division will determine the schedule of play for that division in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older groups, the divisional schedule based on the number of teams is listed below:

- 4 Teams – each team plays the other teams twice in the season + 2 randomly scheduled games.
- 5 Teams – each team plays the other teams twice in the season.
- 6 Teams – each team plays the other teams once in the season + 3 randomly scheduled games.
- 7 Teams – each team plays the other teams once in the season + 2 randomly scheduled games.
- 8 Teams – each team plays the other teams once in the season + 1 randomly scheduled game.
- 9 Teams – each team plays the other teams once in the season.
- 10 or more Teams – teams are allocated eight 8 regular season games and will not play all the other teams. Game assignments will be done by means established by the ASA Recreational Committee.

**DIVISIONAL STANDINGS:**

In all ASA regular season league games, in all age groups, games that are tied at the end of

regulation time will remain a tie game. There will be no overtime.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older groups, a team's standing in its division and the division champion will be determined by the number of points it receives based on its win/loss record during the season. Points will be awarded as follows:

- 3 points for a win
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss

For 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older, in the event that teams, who have played an equal number of games, are tied on points, and a separation of those teams is needed, the following tiebreaker system will be used:

- Head-to-Head (except when three teams are tied)
- Most wins during the season
- Fewest goals allowed during the season
- Best Goal Difference (goals scored – goals against) in all games – with a maximum goal difference of +4 or -4 for each game.
- Coin toss

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade do not use tiebreakers. If two or more teams are tied on points, those teams will be declared co-champions.

For all ages, if the top teams in a division have played an **unequal** number of games, and are within 3 points of each other per game in hand, then those teams will be declared co-champions.

#### **SCORE REPORTING:**

In the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade groups, scores will not be reported, will not be published and will not be used to determine divisional placement.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade group, during the Fall and Spring seasons, game scores will be reported (but not published), using the established score reporting procedures, for the sole purpose of properly placing teams for the next season.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older groups, game scores will be reported and league standings will be published. It will be the responsibility of both teams to report the score of each game; using procedures established by the ASA.

When reporting scores, the exact score for both teams must be provided. In the published results, the score will be adjusted to show a maximum goal difference (goals for – goals against) of +4 or -4 for each game. For example: a game score of 7 – 1 will show in the published scores as 5 – 1.

If a game score is not reported, by either coach involved, within two (2) weeks from the completion of the game, the score will be entered as 0-0 and neither team will receive any points for the game.

In the event of disagreements on the score of the game, the ARD will communicate with the Referee Commissioner, who will communicate with the game referees, to determine the score of the game.

**PROMOTION/RELEGATION:**

In all circumstances, the promotion/relegation procedures will be flexible and able to be modified by the ARD and the Club Managers.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older groups, at the close of each season, based on the season's standings, the two (2) teams at the bottom of a division will drop to a lower division and the two (2) teams at the top of a division will advance to a higher division. Promotion and/or relegation for a team can be amended through consultation between the ASA and a Club Manager.

Teams who have 75% or more of the players from last season's roster will be considered a returning team and should be held to that team's results from the previous season.

Teams who have less than 75% of the players from the last season's roster will be considered a new team and should not be held to that team's results from the previous team.

Club Managers must inform the ARD of the changes to these teams and consult the ARD in regard to the appropriate placement of these teams.

**CANCELLATION OF GAMES AND PRACTICES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

ASA is assigned playing fields by the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreational (DPR) and the City of Falls Church's Department of Parks and Recreation. These groups make the decision on the closure of fields and the cancellation of scheduled games and practices due to inclement weather.

If the County has closed a field due to weather or wet conditions, no games or practices may be conducted on that field.

Games that are cancelled due to weather or field conditions will be automatically rescheduled by ASA. These games will be considered regularly scheduled games and requests for changes to these games will not be accepted; unless it is for an academically related school function. While the ASA will make every effort to schedule each team its full allotment of games, it is possible, due to field availability, that cancelled game may not be rescheduled.

Games that are terminated by the referee due to weather conditions will follow the following procedures:

- If terminated during the 1<sup>st</sup> half; the game will be rescheduled by the ASA. Coaches should report to the ARD, by email, that the game was canceled by the referee.
- If terminated after the conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> half; the game will be considered complete and the score at the time of the termination will count as the final score. Coaches should report the game score, using established score reporting procedures.

To determine the status of games and practices during periods of inclement weather; please check the Arlington County Inclement Weather Line (703- 228-4715). For games and practices scheduled on fields in the City of Falls Church, the Inclement Weather Line is (703)248-5125.

Regardless of the weather conditions and field status, to ensure the safety of the players:

- It is ultimately the referee's decision to suspend or cancel a game.
- It is ultimately the coach's decision to suspend or cancel a practice.

#### **GAME SCHEDULE CONFLICTS AND SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

Special requests for game schedules are not accepted by ASA.

Requests for changes to regularly scheduled games will not be accepted unless it is for an academically related school function. To request that a game be rescheduled, the Assistant Recreational Director must be notified at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled game.

#### **AUTHORITY TO CANCEL, POSTPONE OR RESCHEDULE GAMES:**

All decisions regarding the cancellation, postponement and/or rescheduling of games are the responsibility of the Assistant Recreational Director. No Coach or Club Representative shall cause a game to be canceled, postponed or rescheduled.

#### **PAID COACHES/TRAINERS:**

ASA Recreational coaches and/or parents shall not hire paid coaches or trainers for recreational teams.

ASA member clubs may arrange for paid coaches to conduct club sponsored clinics or specialized training programs. These programs should be coordinated with the ASA's Recreational Soccer Director.

#### **UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT:**

For Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the ASA will provide a full uniform, included with the registration fee, one time during a four (4) season cycle, to each registered player. If a player requires another uniform during this time, it is available for purchase. Each player must wear the official uniform of their club for ASA league games. Older versions of a club's uniform are acceptable. In accordance with FIFA rules and for the safety of the players, all players must wear shinguards, and may not wear anything that may potentially injure themselves or any other player. Socks must fully cover the shinguards. No jewelry, including earrings, may be worn by players. Placing tape over piercings does not void this rule.

For the high school program, each player must wear the official uniform of their team for ASA league games. Uniforms are not provided by the league, and teams may choose the uniform they wear to games. No team uniform may contain any sponsorship, picture, logo or wording that is inappropriate for youth soccer, as determined by the recreational committee. In accordance with FIFA rules and for the safety of the players, all players must wear shin-guards, and may not wear anything that may potentially injure themselves or any other player. Socks must fully cover the shinguards. No jewelry,

including earrings, may be worn by players. Placing tape over piercings does not void this rule.

#### **YELLOW AND RED CARDS:**

In the Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade groups, there will be no yellow or red cards issued to players. If the referee or game leader feels that a player has acted recklessly or in a dangerous manner, the referee or game leader will ask the player's coach to make a substitution for that player. The player may return to the game at a later time. There will be no suspensions or ramifications issued to the player.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade divisions, the FIFA rules regarding yellow and red card will apply. Any player receiving a second yellow card, or a red card, in a game will be required to leave the game without substitution. The player's team must play short-handed for the remainder of that game. The player will also be required to sit out the next official ASA game played by the player's team. The player's team will be allowed to play that game with the full allotment of players. It will be the team coach's responsibility to enforce the sit out rule.

In the High School divisions, FIFA rules regarding yellow and red card will apply. Any player receiving a second yellow card, or a red card, in a game will be required to leave the game without substitution. The player's team must play shorthanded for the remainder of that game. The player will also be required to sit out the next official ASA game played by the player's team. Any player who receives a red card for fighting will be required to sit out their team's next official two games. The player's team will be allowed to play those games with the full allotment of players. It will be the team coach's responsibility to enforce the sit out rule.

In the event a rostered player, who is not currently one of the established players on the field, enters the field to participate in a brawl, the team of that player will immediately forfeit the game, and the offending player(s) will receive a straight red card for fighting.

Team coaches will be required to report any player who is ejected from a game (2 yellow cards or a red card) with the game score report.

A player receiving a red card may be subject to additional penalties imposed by ASA staff, the ASA Recreational Committee, the ASA Board of Directors and/or their established subgroups.

Referees for all ASA games will be instructed that, if the behavior of a coach, assistant coach or spectator, in the opinion of the referee, violates the ASA Code of Conduct, the referee may show that persona red card and require the person to leave the playing area before the game continues. Failure to comply with the referee's instructions will be cause to terminate the game (see also: Conduct of Adults; Conduct of Coaches).

#### **DECISIONS:**

Any questions or situations not covered by these rules or interpretation thereof shall be referred to the ASA Recreational Committee and the Recreational Soccer Director. All major rules changes may require approval by the ASA Board of Directors.



## **OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS:**

All complaints concerning behavior must be put in writing and sent to the Rec Soccer Director.

No protest will be permitted on game situations involving "Referee Judgment" calls. Only protests involving player eligibility and/or refusal of the referee to follow established ASA Rules are permitted.

Protests involving player eligibility, refusal of the referee to follow established ASA rules, or other issues such as opposing coach/team behavior, must be submitted in writing (email is OK) by a person serving in an official capacity as a team coach or club manager.

Procedure for filing a protest:

- Protests must be submitted to the ASA's Rec Director and the Club Manager of the opposing team from the originating Club Manager within forty- eight (48) hours after a game has been completed. An email of the notice to protest is acceptable, however, will not be considered valid until the written documentation is received in the ASA office.
- The supporting materials for all protests must be submitted in writing or email, signed by both the protesting coach and the Club Manager to make the protest valid. An electronic version should be submitted to the opposing Club Manager at the same time.
- The opposing team's Club Manager shall have an additional forty-eight (48) hours upon receipt of the initial protest, to respond to the protest.
- Once a protest or response has been delivered, no further contact with ASA personnel will be permitted regarding the protest.
- Receipt of the protest documentation will be confirmed to all parties and submitted to the ASA's Rules & Discipline Committee for action. This committee will contain a minimum of three (3) people, will establish necessary administrative policies and will report to the Recreational Committee.
- The procedures set forth in this rule are to be considered jurisdictional and the protest of a game result not complying with these procedures may be rejected.

## **CONDUCT OF ADULTS** (and others in attendance at games or other ASA events):

The conduct of adults should be examples of good sporting behavior. Their behavior should set an example for all players of ASA. ASA will not tolerate conduct that may be interpreted as poor sporting behavior by coaches, parents or other adults. It is the responsibility of the team coach to maintain and enforce appropriate conduct of adults during games and practices. Examples of inappropriate conduct are:

- Shouting dissent over a call from the sidelines
- Criticizing the referee's performance in front of players
- Debate over a call or the referee's performance after the game has finished
- Other acts of disrespect toward the referee or game officials
- Using abusive or degrading language
- Making physical threats
- Being under the influence of intoxicating substance
- Supporting or encouraging poor sporting behavior by players

- Harassing referees, members of the other team or their supporters
- Entering the field of play except for injury