

# Hamilton & District Multi-jurisdictional Club League

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The administrators and team officials must conduct themselves in such a manner as to set an example that if followed, would enable every player to be a credit to the game.
2. Clubs are responsible for teams registered in the League. Any Rules or Regulations not followed by teams, officials or players will be dealt through the League Executive.

### Mission Statement

Our league is committed to the ongoing development of players and coaches in the game of soccer. The advancement of both coaches and players through skill development, sportsmanship, respect and personal conduct are goals that will guide our program with success.

### 1. Management

- The League Executive Committee will conduct the affairs of the League.

### 2. League Fee

- The League fees will be determined yearly by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### 3. Team Registration

- All team registrations must be received by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the playing year. All registrations are to be accompanied by the League fee.
- A \$100.00 team bond must accompany each application.
- Late Registration fee of \$50.00 will be applied after March 1<sup>st</sup>. No acceptance after March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Any team withdrawing after March 1<sup>st</sup> will forfeit their registration fee.
- Teams withdrawing after April 1<sup>st</sup> will forfeit their registration fee and be fined an additional \$100.00.
- A maximum of 2 teams per age group per Club will be allowed.
- Each team may register a maximum of 14 players for Mini Soccer and 25 for other teams.
- Each team may dress a maximum of 14 players for Mini Soccer and 18 for other teams.
- Each team must notify the League in writing within seven (7) days of any change in team officials, or team official's information. (Email address, phone numbers etc)
- Each team must play in its own age level unless otherwise approved by the League Executive Committee and it must comply with the OSA Published Rules.
- Teams from the same club playing in the same division may not interchange players.

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### **4. Team Regulations**

- All players on a team must be in possession of a valid O.S.A. Player Registration Book to be eligible to play including call up players. Player's books must bear the players signature and the District stamp of approval. No Book, No Play.
- Players are not allowed to play in the House League programs other than call-up players.
- No Competitive registered players may play in the League.
- Call-up players must come from within their own respective Club Recreational program.
- A call-up may play a maximum of nine games.
- Players from an outside Club's recreational program may play a maximum of three games as per OSA Published Rules, with a valid temporary registration permit.
- No division shall operate with less than four teams.
- Each team will be allowed to block out two game dates. Each block may consist of a maximum of three consecutive days.
- The League will avoid scheduling any games during the Canada Day weekend and the August Civic Day weekend unless both teams and the League agree to play a game.

### **5. Team Officials**

- All Team Officials must be registered with the District Association.
- All team officials must have a NCCP certification. Mini Soccer officials must have a minimum Child level certification while actively pursuing higher levels. Youth Soccer and above must have a minimum Senior Level certification.
- Team Officials will not be allowed to smoke or swear while coaching their teams. The League Executive will deal with inappropriate conduct.
- A maximum of four team officials will be allowed on the bench.

### **6. Team Responsibility**

- Team officials will coach within one (1) meter of their bench and are not permitted to walk up and down the sideline.
- The game shall be played by two teams each consisting of not more than 7 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper for Mini Soccer age groups.
- A team must field at least five (5) registered players for a Mini Soccer game, seven (7) for other ages, and if not, the game shall be forfeit and the score recorded as 3-0. Disciplinary action may result at the League's discretion.
- If any team fails to appear at a scheduled League game, they shall be subject to League discipline. All forfeits shall be recorded as 3-0.
- Only the League or their delegates are authorized to schedule or reschedule games for the League.



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### **8. Uniforms**

- All players shall wear basic soccer equipment as outlined by OSA Rules.
- Players shall not wear anything that endangers themselves or other players at the referee's discretion. No jewelry or hard cast or hard braces.
- Players asked to leave the field for equipment reasons may not re-enter until the Referee is satisfied the equipment is permissible.
- All teams must play all their games in their registered team colours.
- All Players including goalies must be identified by a number, minimum size "8" on the back of their shirt and such number will be recorded against the players' name on the game sheet. All numbers must be legible
- The home team shall change to an alternate shirt if team colours conflict.
- Goalkeepers' uniforms must be distinguishable from that of the game officials and all out field players.

### **9. Referees**

- The home team is responsible for the payment of game officials.
- All Referees must be aware of the rules for Mini Soccer.
- All game officials must sign all game sheets and record on the back of all copies of the game sheets any infraction for which players were ejected.
- Minimum age for a referee will be 14. A minimum 2-year age difference between the Referee and the age group of the players must exist.
- U11 and under will require one referee, U12 and over one Referee and two linesmen. A game may begin at the Referee's discretion with one Linesman and a volunteer.
- Clubs not providing proper officials will be subject to disciplinary action by the League Executive. Minimum Level three Referee is recommended.

### **10. Game Start Time**

- The referee will endeavor to start each game at the scheduled time designated by the League. An allowance of not more than fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled time shall be made if either team has less than five (5) players in attendance for mini soccer or seven (7) players for older age groups.
- It is preferred that games will start no later then 7:00 pm. Earlier games may be permitted but is depended upon travel distances and must be approved by the League. No game may start before 6:30 pm.

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### **11. Game Duration**

- The length of games will be two (2) thirty (30) minute halves with a five (5) minute halftime break for Mini Soccer age groups.
- U11 and U12 will play two (2) thirty-five (35) minute halves, U13 and U14 will play two (2) forty (40) minute halves and U15 and above will play two (2) forty-five (45) minute halves, all having a five (5) minute break between halves.
- If for any reason a game is terminated before full-time the following shall apply:
  1. if  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the time has been played the score shall stand
  2. in all other matters the League shall determine the outcome of the game.

### **12. Game Schedules**

- Unless for weather related conditions no game will be rescheduled.
- Only the League or their delegates will reschedule any postponed games. The game must be rescheduled and played within seven (7) days, if fields are available. Clubs failing to provide and suitable replacement date within 72 hours will forfeit the home field. The League will notify the teams a minimum of 72 hours in advance of any rescheduled game.
- Clubs shall provide available playing nights for each team at the time of registration.
- All teams shall play a maximum of one game per week. Special circumstance as approved the League shall be the only exception.

### **13. Start of Play**

- At the beginning of the game, choice of halves and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team, which wins the toss, shall decide which goal to attack in the first half. The other team will take the kick-off.
- The game shall be started by the referee giving a signal. The ball will be in play when it is kicked forward into the opponent's half of the field. For any infringement of this rule, the kick-off shall be retaken.
- Should the player taking the kick-off play or touch the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted by a kick-off, to be taken by a player of the team against which the goal was scored.
- After the first half of play, the teams shall change halves and the kick-off shall be taken by a player of the team opposing that, which started the game.
- For any stoppage not mentioned elsewhere in these rules, the referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball at the place where it was when play was stopped, unless play was stopped in the penalty area. In this case, the ball shall be dropped on the penalty-area line at the point nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped. The ball shall be in play as soon as it touches the ground.
- A goal may be scored directly from a kick-off.

## **14. Offside**

- There will be no offside for Mini Soccer age groups (U10 and Under) only.
- All other age groups will follow OSA rules.

## **15. Free Kicks**

- All free kicks in **Mini Soccer Age** groups shall be indirect except for those infractions, which are awarded to the attacking team while in the opponent's penalty area.
- **All other age groups shall follow OSA rules.**
- The free kick shall be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the free kick is awarded to the attacking team within its opponents' penalty area. In this case, the free kick shall be taken from the penalty mark eight (8) yards from the goal line.
- A player taking a free kick within his own penalty area shall kick the ball into play beyond the penalty area. The ball shall be in play when it has been kicked and moved and has passed outside the penalty area. All opponents shall be outside the penalty area and not less than 6 yards from the ball until it has been kicked. For any infringement of this rule, the free kick shall be retaken.
- A player taking a free kick shall not play or touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player. For any infringement of this rule, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- A goal may not be scored directly from an indirect free kick.
- A min 6 yards clear distance will be given for a free kick in Mini soccer age groups.

## **16. Penalty Kicks for Mini Soccer**

- A penalty-kick shall be taken from the penalty-mark eight (8) yards from the goal line.
- All players, with the exception of the defending goalkeeper and the player taking the kick, shall be outside the penalty-area but within the field of play, not less than 6 yards from the ball until it has been kicked.
- The goalkeeper shall remain on his own goal line facing the kicker, and between the goal posts, until the ball has been kicked.
- The player taking the penalty-kick must kick the ball forward. The ball shall be in play when the ball is kicked and moves forward. The player shall not play or touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player.
- If necessary, the time of play shall be extended to allow a penalty-kick to be taken.

### **For any infringement of this rule:**

If by a member of the defending team, the kick shall be retaken if a goal has not been scored.

If by a member of the attacking team, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and a free kick

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awarded to the defending team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

If by a member of both teams, the kick shall be retaken whether a goal has been scored or not.

If, after the kick has been taken, an outside agent interferes with the ball or the goalkeeper, the kick shall be retaken.

### **17. Fouls & Misconducts**

All other age groups with the exception of Mini Soccer shall follow OSA rules.

#### **Mini Soccer**

A player who, in the opinion of the referee, intentionally commits any of the following offences, shall be penalized by the awarding of a free-kick to the opposing team:

- Spits at an opponent
- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Holds an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately, (except a goalkeeper from within his own penalty area).
- Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball.

*Should a player commit one of the above offences within his own penalty area, a penalty-kick shall be awarded.*

### **18. Throw-Ins**

All other age groups shall follow OSA rules.

#### **Mini Soccer**

- When the whole of the ball has crossed the touch-line, either on the ground or in the air, the ball shall be kicked-in from the point where it left the field of play, by a member of the team opposing that of the player who last played or touched it.
- The player taking the kick-in shall face the field of play and kick the ball from on or behind the touch line. The ball will be in play immediately after it enters the field of play.
- If the player taking the kick-in plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- At the taking of a kick-in all opponents must be at least 2 yards from the ball.
- A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-in.

## **19. Goal kicks**

All other age groups shall follow OSA rules.

### **Mini Soccer**

- When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts, having last been played or touched by a member of the attacking team, a goal kick shall be awarded to the defending team.
- A player of the defending team shall kick the ball into play from any point within the goal area.
- At the taking of a goal kick, all opponents shall be outside the penalty area until it has been kicked into play. The ball shall be in play when it has traveled directly beyond the penalty area.
- If the player taking the goal kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

## **20. Corner Kicks**

All other age groups shall follow OSA rules.

### **Mini Soccer**

- When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts, having last been played or touched by a member of the defending team, a corner-kick shall be awarded to the attacking team.
- The corner-kick shall be taken from within the corner-arc nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line. All opponents shall be not less than 6 yards from the ball until it has been kicked. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- If the player taking the corner-kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
- A goal may be scored directly from a corner-kick.

## **21. League Standings**

- The League Champion shall be the team which accumulates the greatest number of points, based on the formula of three (3) points for a win and one (1) point for a tie, in all games provided for by the League schedule of that age group.
- In the event of a tie for first place between two or more teams at the end of regular season, the following criteria will be used to determine the League winner.
  - a) Head to Head Results
  - b) Goal difference
  - c) Least goals allowed
  - d) Coin toss

## **22. Discipline**

- Discipline shall be dealt by the Hamilton & District S.A.

## **23. Protests**

- Protests must be submitted by the Club, to the League, within 48 hours of the occurrence, excluding weekends and holidays, with a copy to the opposing team's Club.
- A \$100.00 protest fee must accompany the protest.
- Protests based on decisions of the referee's interpretation of OSA Rules will not be acknowledged.
- All league decisions may be appealed to the Hamilton & District S.A. as per the Published Rules.

### **Revisions:**

**May 16, 2005**

**January 23, 2006**

**February 13, 2006**