

LEHIGH VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Rules of Play

I. PREFACE

The highest standards of good sportsmanship and fair play shall be followed both on and around the field of play. The Lehigh Valley Youth Soccer League (LVYSL) supports the goals of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and seeks to implement the recommendations set forth in *Best Practices for Coaching Soccer in the United States* where practical and encourages clubs and teams to do the same. See http://images.ussoccer.com/Documents/cms/ussf/Best_Practices.pdf.

As a travel league, LVYSL expects players, teams, and clubs applying for entrance to have certain common characteristics.

- Travel players are individuals that make soccer a high priority. They spend many hours practicing and will arrange their schedules to a large extent to make games and practices. Players and their families are willing to travel anywhere within the geographical region served by the League to play games.
- Travel teams have adequate number of coaches and travel players so that they can manage the occasional absence and inevitable injuries and illnesses.
- Travel clubs are expected to provide adequate field space and time to allow for scheduling. In addition, they are expected to provide sufficient administrative and other support to provide for registration of players and teams.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR TRAVELING TEAMS

A. Coaches Licenses

1. The *Coach License Requirements* document is published separately by the LVYSL.
 - LVYSL lists its minimum requirements, by age group, for coaches' licenses and equivalent certifications issued by state and national organizations.
 - As these organizations change licensing requirements or add new licenses, this document will be updated.
2. Head Coaches participating in LVYSL seasons should hold the minimum required license equivalent as listed in the *Coach License Requirements* document, and assistant Coaches in all age groups shall hold a minimum "Youth Module" equivalent. In addition, a photocopy of each coach's license must be submitted to the LVYSL for our files.
3. No Coach shall be issued a pass from LVYSL until they reach 21 years of age. Those under 21 are still encouraged to assist in practices and take coaching courses available to them. Coaches shall be issued just one pass per travel year.
4. All Coaches shall display a sense of sportsmanship and promote sportsmanship to the players and parents of LVYSL teams.

B. Passes & Rosters

1. Each traveling team shall be duly registered and must present to the referee a current, properly validated pass for each player and coach at each game. In the case of a missing

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- pass, note procedure in II.L.4.
2. The use of ineligible players, coaches or passes will result in appropriate penalties as described in *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section V.
 3. A player's age as of August 1 of a calendar year will determine his or her age group eligibility for the seasonal year.
 4. League registrars will not process registration materials without the minimum number of primary players for all teams.
 - There will be a maximum of 22 rostered players on teams registered as U13 to U19. For each team participating in a large-sided game a maximum of 18 players may be on the line-up form. Only players listed on the line-up form may be dressed in uniform on the team sideline. At least seven of those players are required to start a match.
 - There will be a maximum of 14 rostered players on the line-up form for teams registered in 8 v 8 age groups. At least six of those players are required to start a match.
 - EPYSA requires that each team maintain a minimum number of its original players for the entire seasonal year to keep a team alive. Teams registered in 8 v 8 age groups must keep a minimum of 7 original players and teams registered in 11 v 11 age groups, must keep a minimum of 9.
 - EPYSA Audit Rules will apply as well as *LVYSL Rules of Play*.
 5. EPYSA issued rosters and passes must be surrendered upon request (request may be made by verbal, written or electronic means) to LVYSL or an official of an active member club of LVYSL within 10 days of the request.
 6. A coach will only be issued one pass per seasonal year even if he or she is responsible for multiple teams.

C. Player Release

1. At the end of the Spring season, players may try out for any team they desire for the following registration year.
2. During the season, a player may request a release from a team. Provided the player has no outstanding obligations to this team (i.e., financial, uniform, suspension, etc.), a coach or club official must grant the release. It is then the responsibility of the new coach or club official to effect proper transfer of registration with their league registrar.
3. A player may be released from a team by his/her coach, without the player's consent, only for the following reasons:
 - The player has violated USYSA, EPYSA or LVYSL disciplinary rules.
 - The player has moved beyond a reasonable travel distance.
 - The player is injured in such a manner that he/she will not be able to participate for the

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remainder of the seasonal year.

- The player is deceased.
- 4. Clubs releasing a player without obtaining a signed PS-1 or without the consent of a player who does not meet one of the items in paragraph II.C.3 above, will be subject to 'Bad Standing' status in LVYSL and EPYSA.

D. Dual Rostering – Secondary Players

1. Any player may be placed on more than one roster provided proper EPYSA procedures are followed and the player declares one primary team.
2. A dual rostered player may play in more than one game on a given day provided they meet their obligations to their primary team on that day. It is recommended that players play no more than three games per weekend; however this will be left to the parent/guardian's judgment.
3. A player may not be a secondary player in the same age group in the LVYSL if both teams are playing in the same LVYSL season. An exception will be made for female players wishing to play on a male team.
4. Failure to comply with the above will result in the player becoming an ineligible player subject to penalties defined in *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section V.

E. Fields

1. It is the home team's responsibility to ensure that the playing field is properly maintained, lined and prepared for play in accordance with Law I in the *FIFA Laws of the Game*.
 - Small-sided should be a minimum of 40 x 70 yards and maximum of 50 x 80 yards.
 - Large -sided should be a minimum of 50 x 100 yards and a maximum of 100 x 130 yards.
 - In each case, the length must be greater than the width.
2. Furthermore, a line shall be established running from corner flag to corner flag, three yards from the touchline on each side of the field. This line shall serve as a restraining line for all players, coaches and spectators.
3. It is recommended that the home coach contact the visiting team coach no later than the Tuesday prior to any scheduled match to confirm field location, jersey color and other administrative details.
4. Where practical, licensed coaches and players for both teams will occupy one sideline and spectators will occupy the other sideline. Coaches should stay between their side of the halfway line and the "18" (extended); three yards behind the touchline line.

F. Soccer Balls

It is the responsibility of the home team to provide two regulation game balls for the match. Ball

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will be replaced only at the direction of the referee. Ball size is addressed in *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section III.

G. Starting Times

1. Initial schedules will consist of games beginning no earlier than 8:00 AM and ending by 30 minutes prior to sunset on Saturdays and beginning no earlier than 12:30 PM and ending by 30 minutes prior to sunset on Sundays, except games for U15 to U19 divisions will be scheduled initially on Sundays and may begin as early as 10:00 AM. No more than one game per day and two games per week will be scheduled per team. To the extent practicable, fields will be scheduled in block format (one game after another), and simultaneous games at the same field complex will be eliminated in order to allow for efficient use of referees.
2. Game Commissioners will consider circumstances requiring special scheduling needs. These requests must be submitted in writing with the official club season entrance form.
3. No games will be scheduled on the following weekends to minimize conflicts with tournaments: Columbus Day; Thanksgiving; Easter; and Memorial Day.
4. Division placement will be determined by the Games Commissioners and the VP-Operations. Geography will be the primary consideration in division formation at the U9 and U10 age groups. The league will consider both geography and level of competition in forming U11 divisions. U12 and older divisions will primarily be formed based on level of competition. In forming U11 and older divisions, league personnel will consider input from clubs and teams regarding division requested, previous league play, recent tournament results, impact of player personnel changes, and any other information team personnel may feel would help rank their team. LVYSL's intention is to provide a range of competition to allow all teams to play age-appropriate soccer; however, the league will consider allowing teams to play up in order to ensure competitiveness.

H. Scheduling and Schedule Changes

1. The league recognizes that there are higher priorities than soccer and, therefore, will allow teams to reserve a limited number of days as "no game" dates. Travel teams are expected to be organized enough to understand and be able to identify these obligations in advance of the league scheduling process. Each team will be allowed to request up to four weekend days off each season at the time of season entrance. This request must be made on the season entrance form and once season entrance closes there will be no further opportunity to request a day off. Provisions may be made to change schedules for the very rare instance where a higher priority was not planned in advance. Approval of such changes are at the discretion of the games commissioner and should be reviewed with him or her prior to initiating the rescheduling process.
2. Optional Club Scheduling. Each club will be given the opportunity to schedule game times on home fields. The league scheduler will assign game dates. Upon completion of the game date scheduling process by the league scheduler the league will announce the availability of the schedules for home field scheduling. Each club field coordinator interested in home field scheduling will indicate his or her intention by email to the league scheduler within 24 hours of the schedule availability announcement. The league scheduler will proceed with scheduling game times for those clubs that do not respond or otherwise indicate they are not

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- interested in home field scheduling. For those clubs that choose to schedule times on home fields, game dates assigned by the league scheduler cannot be changed and all games must be scheduled back-to-back on each field allowing for integration of other soccer competition schedules (for example, State Cup and other travel leagues). This means that there should be between 15 and 30 minutes between the expected end of one game and the beginning of the next. If multiple fields at the same location are being assigned the league will require sensitivity to referee utilization. For instance if there is only one game on each of two fields at the same location, these games should be scheduled back-to-back as described above to minimize the number of referees required at one location. Game schedules are due to the league scheduler no later than seven days after the schedule availability announcement.
3. All games are expected to be played once the schedule is published.
 4. Requests for schedule changes once the season begins will be allowed for the following reasons:
 - State Cup Match Conflict.
 - Soccer Tournament Conflict.
 - Loss of Field – Due to closure or unplayable conditions.
 - Cancelled match due to weather related conditions.
 - ODP Conflict – As an EPYSA function and program that LVYSL encourages for all league players, ODP conflicts will be considered based on requesting team's roster size and number of requesting team's players involved.
 5. The reschedule process must be initiated by contacting the opposing team as soon as possible and no later than 24-hours after a team becomes aware of the need to reschedule. Authorized representatives of the teams (coaches, assistant coaches, or managers listed on the LVYSL website) must come to an agreement regarding the place, date, and time for the rescheduled game before entering any request in the LVYSL on line reschedule request database.
 - a. If the two coaches cannot agree upon a new date, time and location the Games Commissioner will arbitrate the disagreement and will have the final say as to when and where the game will be played.
 - b. After a date, place, and time has been agreed to by representatives of both teams, an authorized representative of the requesting coach's club must submit the agreed upon reschedule request to a representative of the opposing coach's club using the league website Reschedule Request procedure. After the opposing club representative approves the reschedule request, the website program will forward it to the Games Commissioner for approval. When the Games Commissioner approves the request, email messages are automatically sent to both coaches and the Referee Assignor. It is the responsibility of the requesting coach and club representative to determine field availability prior to the filing the request.
 - c. The opposing club representative must respond to the Reschedule Request procedure within 24 hours of the submittal to the website. No reschedules may be submitted to the

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website prior to discussion and agreement by coaches and club representatives of both clubs as to the new date, time and location. Notify your Games Commissioner if the opposing club does not respond in a timely manner to suggested offerings of reschedule dates.

6. Requested changes must be given 10 days advance notice of the proposed rescheduled match unless occurring in the last two weeks of scheduled play for a season. Reschedules within the last two weeks of play must be submitted within 72 hours after the original scheduled game time. Reschedule requests not meeting these criteria will be rejected and risk being deemed a forfeit. Submission time will be based on the time it is electronically approved by representatives of both teams -- in other words when it enters the Games Commissioner's queue.
7. Any game not played due to any other conflict will be considered a forfeit for the team refusing to play and said team will be subject to penalties described in *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section V: Item F.
8. If a game will not be played for any reason, referee fees may be avoided if the referee assignor is contacted by telephone at least 48 hours in advance of the game in need of cancellation or within 24 hours after team representatives became aware of the need for game cancellation whichever comes first. Failure to abide by these deadlines will result in a charge to the cancelling team's club for all referee fees associated with the cancelled game. Submittal of an on line reschedule request does not eliminate the obligation to notify the referee assignor by telephone. If a reschedule request will be submitted the notification to the referee assignor should coincide or precede the reschedule request submittal. Please note that if the team cancels the referees and the reschedule is denied due to it not meeting the rules for an acceptable reschedule the game will be deemed a forfeit. This rule applies regardless of whether the need to cancel is a legitimate reschedule or a forfeit. Referee fees will not be waived for any game cancellation due to forfeit or any other reason that team representatives should have been aware of if at least 48 hours notice is not given to the referee assignor.
9. It is each team's responsibility to understand and apply these rules accordingly. Any questions regarding Schedule Change requirements should be directed to the Executive Director, for possible reference to the appropriate Games Commissioner, if necessary. Frivolous use of the online reschedule process by submitting reschedules that are clearly not allowed by these rules or otherwise violate these rules will result in club fines of up to \$25 per occurrence. The magnitude of these fines will be determined by the LVYSL Board on a case by case basis depending on frequency and severity of the abuse.

I. Weather Related Postponements

1. League Postponements:

In the event of widespread inclement weather, the Games Commissioner(s) may postpone all league games. Such postponements shall be made at least two hours prior to the scheduled start of the first game of the day.

2. Team Postponements:

The home team coach or club official may postpone an individual game because of weather or poor field conditions. If a game is to be postponed by the home team coach or club official,

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the decision must be made at least two hours prior to game time and he or she must call the referee assignor to cancel the game a minimum two hours prior to game time. Please check the website for current referee assignor contact information.

3. Referee Postponements:

The referee also has the discretion to declare a field unplayable. In the event the referee declares the field unplayable prior to the beginning of the match, the home team shall pay the referee their portion of the appropriate fee.

4. For all weather related postponements the coaches shall then reschedule according to the following procedures.

- a. Contact the opposing coach and agree upon a date for rescheduling. The game must be rescheduled within 72 hours and played within 3 weeks or prior to the last game scheduled that season (whichever is earlier). If the Games Commissioner is not notified within 72 hours of the new date, the game will be considered a forfeit by the home team.
- b. If the two coaches cannot agree upon a new date, time and location the Games Commissioner will arbitrate the disagreement and will have the final say as to when and where the game will be played.
- c. Using the league website Reschedule Request procedure, the requesting coach must submit the agreed upon reschedule request to the opposing coach. After the opposing coach approves the reschedule request, the website program will forward it to the Games Commissioner for approval. When the Games Commissioner approves the request, email messages are automatically sent to both coaches and the Referee Assignor. It is the responsibility of the requesting coach to determine field availability prior to the filing the request.
- d. The opposing coach must respond to the Reschedule Request procedure within 24 hours of the submittal to the website. No reschedules may be submitted to the website prior to discussion and agreement by both coaches as to the new date, time and location. Notify your Games Commissioner if the opposing coach does not respond in a timely manner to suggested offerings of reschedule dates.

J. Late Team Arrival

1. There will be a maximum of fifteen minutes allowed for lateness, after which time the referee will declare a forfeit.
2. Seven players are required for a large-sided game to start play. Six players are required for small-sided games. A match must not start nor continue if fewer than seven players (large-sided) or six players (small-sided) are available for either team.
3. In the event of a forfeit:
 - The referee(s) shall immediately refund any fees collected at the field.
 - The referee will report the forfeit to the referee assignor.

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- A check will be issued to the referee(s) by the LVYSL and deducted from the performance bond of forfeiting team's club.
4. For late referee arrivals see *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section III.F.

K. Appeals

1. Referee decisions may not be appealed. Misinterpretation or misapplication of the Laws of the Game should be submitted to the Referee Assignor in the referee evaluation section of the game report.
2. A club or team may appeal the suspension of a player or coach.
3. For appeals, a written letter of appeal must be sent to the LVYSL President within 72 hours of the completion of the game with a copy to the LVYSL Executive Director as outlined in Article VI.B of the *LVYSL By-Laws*. All appeals shall be accompanied by a \$50 fee, which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld and forfeited if the appeal is denied.

Exception: A protest concerning player eligibility may be made to the President and copied to the Secretary at any time prior to the last scheduled game of the season.

L. Line-Up Form

1. Each team coach must present the referee with 3 copies of the line-up form with the date matching the current date-stamped, original official roster prior to the start of each game.
2. Line-up forms must include the names of all rostered players along with the proper player jersey number. The coach at or near the bottom shall also sign the line-up. Any player crossed out or not listed on this form is not eligible to participate in that game.
3. Each line-up form shall also include the club name, age group and gender (i.e. LMYA U-14 Boys), the date of the game, the names of the participating teams, league assignor registrar stamps, and spaces for official's signatures.
4. A player whose player pass is not available for a given game must print his or her name, provide his or her birth date, and sign the back of the line-up form in the presence of the referee.

M. Game Scores and Referee Assessments

Game results must be reported on line at (www.lvysl.org). The deadline to complete report scores and referee assessments is 72 hours after the completion of the match. The fine for failing to report (i.e., Not Reported) is \$10 for each occurrence. The fine for a late filing is \$5 for each occurrence.

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III. RULES GOVERNING PLAY

USYSA, EPYSA and FIFA *Laws of the Game* except as modified below will govern all LVYSL games.

A. Number of Players

1. There will be a maximum of 14 registered players (U9 – U12) and a maximum of 22 registered players (U13 – U19) on the line-up form for a large-sided game. Only 18 players may be on the team sideline for each team at a game. At least seven of those players are required to start a match.
2. There will be a maximum of 14 registered players on the line-up form for U9 - U12 teams. At least six of those players are required to start a match.

B. Substitutions

1. An unlimited number of substitutions will be permitted in all games to encourage participation. Furthermore, a substituted player may re-enter the contest an unlimited number of times.
2. Substitutions shall only be permitted when the ball is not in play and only on a team's own throw in, after a goal, at half time, on either team's goal kick or during a stoppage for injury.
3. If there is a stoppage of play due to an injured player on the field, that player must be substituted for and may not return until the next opportunity for substitution.
4. The opposing team may substitute at the time of the yellow card (1 for 1).

C. Length of Game and Ball Size

1. The length of the game and ball size shall be in accordance with USYSA Rule #2107 as set forth below.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>GAME LENGTH</u>	<u>BALL SIZE</u>
U-17/U-18/U-19	90 Minutes	5
U-15/U-16	80 Minutes	5
U-13/U-14	70 Minutes	5
U-11/U-12	60 Minutes	4
U-9/U-10	50 Minutes	4

Note: No overtime will be played in LVYSL play. All games ending in a tie will be recorded as such in the league standings.

D. League Standings

1. The following point system shall be used to determine league standings:

Win = 3 points
 Tie = 1 point

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2. In the event of a tie for first place in the standings at the end of the regular season, there will be no playoff and the following tie-breaking system will be used to determine the champion.
 - Head to head result.
 - Most goals scored head to head (i.e., aggregate score).
 - Goal differential during all games (maximum 3 per game).
 - Least goals allowed during the entire season.
 - Co-champions.

E. Uniforms and Equipment

1. The home team must change jerseys if there is a color conflict with the opposing team. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit by the home team, as the home coach should have contacted the opposing coach prior to the game.
2. All players are required to wear shin-guards, which shall be completely covered by socks in accordance with Law IV in the *FIFA Laws of the Game*.
3. Shirts must be tucked in. The goalkeeper must wear a jersey that contrasts with the uniform of both teams and the referee.
4. No jewelry, including earrings, or any other item deemed unsafe by the referee, is permitted.

F. Referee

Referees are to be treated with respect and should not be subjected to abusive statements or questions from the sidelines. Improper conduct will be reported to the league and EPYSA for disciplinary action. It should be noted that this conduct includes actions performed at anytime while the referee is present.

1. Games at the Under-9 through Under-13 age groups will be assigned a single referee while games in the Under-14 and older age groups will be assigned a full three-man referee crew.
2. Any person(s) who in any way threatens a referee or assistant referee will be brought before EPYSA and the league for disciplinary action.
3. The referee will return the coach's and the players' passes upon completion of the game, except in the event of misconduct, which would require disciplinary action from the league. Refusal to surrender a pass upon request of the referee is grounds for disciplinary action by the league.
4. In the event that no referee is present for the game, the league suggests that the game be played. The following procedure should begin immediately at the scheduled game time if no referee is present. Teams should not wait for 10-15 minutes hoping that a referee will appear.
 - a. A substitute referee shall be selected using the following procedure:
 - Coaches should attempt to agree on a competent substitute.
 - Each coach may nominate one person to work one half of the game.

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- If the coaches feel they are the only qualified persons to referee the game, each should work one half of the game. However, coaches should try not to officiate their own games if at all possible.
- b. Once a referee has been selected:
- The coaches must see passes of the opposing team and line-ups must be exchanged.
 - Line-ups for both teams must be submitted to the referee assignor by the designated referee.
4. In the event that no mutually agreed upon referee is selected, the game must be rescheduled according to Section II.I.4.
 5. If the correct number of referees doesn't show up prior to the start of the game club linesmen may be used.
 6. Upon the arrival of a late referee, the official referee will take over at a game stoppage.

G. Spirit of the Game

1. Recorded scores will not reflect more than a 5-goal margin of victory.
2. Teams and coaches are expected to line up and shake hands upon completion of the game. It should be noted that misconduct during this process is treated the same as misconduct during the game, with offenders subject to disciplinary action.
3. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and spectators. The coach is expected to control his/her sideline and to put an end to any conduct detrimental to the good of the game. Coaches are also expected to address problems noted to them by the referee.
4. Coach and assistant coaches accepting a pass issued by LVYSL agree to abide by the *LVYSL Rules of Play*.

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IV. EXPULSION FROM GAME AND SUSPENSIONS

Except as described below, all send-offs shall be penalized in accordance with EPYSA Arbitration Board Article VI.

Statement of Philosophy: It is the intent of the following suspension penalties to promote fair play and sportsmanlike behavior on the part of all players and coaches. The purpose of the LVYSL is to provide competitive soccer for players of all ages and to promote fair play at all levels. The league sincerely hopes that no player or coach will ever be sent off in accordance with Law XII in the *FIFA Laws of the Game*. However, in the event of a send-off, the following penalties will be enforced with the sincere wish that players and coaches who face the suspensions will consider their behavior and change their actions in future matches.

- A. A player or team official who has been ordered from the field of play or the sidelines shall automatically incur the penalty set forth in *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section V.
 - 1. The referee may order said individual to leave the immediate area of the field so that the game may be resumed with as little interference or disruption as possible.
 - 2. The referee's game report shall immediately initiate action against the ejected individual.
- B. A player, while under suspension, shall not be released by his club until the completion of the team's playing season or the end of the seasonal year.
- C. A team official, while under suspension, shall not change his team and/or club affiliation.
- D. All periods of suspension shall run continuously.
 - 1. Game suspensions in order to be valid must be served during regulation length games.
 - 2. Game suspensions in effect at the end of one playing season or registration year shall remain in effect even into the following playing season or registration year until the full period of suspension has been satisfied.
 - 3. Suspensions as the result of offenses committed during the final game of a playing season or registration year shall carry forward into the next year.
 - 4. Game suspensions received as a result of misconduct in a league game or as a result of infraction of league rules must be served in the league in which the suspension was applied or any league affiliated with LVYSL or EPYSA.
 - 5. Game suspensions received as a result of misconduct in a USYSA "Cup" game or as a result of infractions of said "Cup" rules and regulations must be served in "Cup" games. However, if the suspended individual's team has concluded its participation in "Cup" competition, the suspension will then apply to LVYSL league games that follow.
 - 6. A player or team official who receives a suspension for an extended period of time (i.e. a period of months or years) shall be suspended from all soccer activity during the term of the suspension.
 - 7. Spectators suspended see *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section V.I

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V. PENALTIES

All penalties shall be in accordance with EPYSA Arbitration Board Article VII. All players and team officials shall be subject to the minimum penalties described below. Additional disciplinary actions above and beyond USSF, EPYSA, or LVYSL guidelines may be assessed by appropriate league officials or by a discipline committee appointed by the President of the LVYSL.

A. Use of an Ineligible Player or Coach

1. A club which, without sanction, fields a player or coach who is found to be ineligible because of improper or non-registration, shall suffer forfeiture of all games in which said player or coach participated.
2. In addition, a minimum fine of \$50 per ineligible player or coach per game, in which the player(s) or coach(es) participated, shall be levied by the LVYSL against the offending club.
3. Any team or club official who knowingly permits the use of an ineligible player may be subject to additional penalty as determined by the LVYSL board.
4. If a team is found to be using a player who is not on the state approved stamped roster for that team, the league game will be forfeited and the ineligible player fee will be assessed accordingly.

B. Players (i.e. Red Card) or Coaches (i.e. Ejected) Sent from the Field of Play

Note: It is the sincere hope of the LVYSL that the highest standards of Sportsmanship and fair play are demonstrated in all LVYSL games. Understanding that this may not always occur, it is the feeling of the LVYSL that a significant penalty shall apply to players who are guilty of misconduct. The intention of the following penalties is to deter misconduct and the hope is that our coaches and players will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen on and off the field. Finally, all penalties are the minimum for each offense. Pending review by the board, further penalties may be applied for offenses considered to be "very serious."

1. Player sent off for violent conduct.

First Offense Minimum 3 Game Suspension

Second Offense Minimum 6 Game Suspension

2. Player sent off for serious foul play.

First Offense Minimum 2 Game Suspension

Second Offense Minimum 4 Game Suspension

3. Player sent off for offensive, insulting, foul/abusive language or gestures directed at referee, coaches, players, and spectators.

First Offense Minimum 2 Game Suspension

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Second Offense Minimum 4 Game Suspension

4. Player sent off for spitting at an opponent or any other person.

First Offense Minimum 2 Game Suspension

Second Offense Minimum 4 Game Suspension

5. Player sent off for persistent misconduct (equals receiving 2 cautions in the same game).

First Offense Minimum 1 Game Suspension

Second Offense Minimum 2 Game Suspension

6. Player sent off for handling the ball which results in the prevention of a clear scoring opportunity.

First Offense Minimum 1 Game Suspension

Second Offense Minimum 2 Game Suspension

7. Player sent off for fouls which results in the prevention of a clear scoring opportunity.

First Offense Minimum 1 Game Suspension

Second Offense Minimum 2 Game Suspension

8. A Coach Sent From the Field for any reason.

A coach who is sent off (ejected) for any reason will be suspended immediately from all LVYSL events/teams until the completion of a minimum of 3 games for the team which the suspension was received, pending review by the board regarding whether additional penalties should apply. Furthermore, if said season has fewer than three games remaining, the suspension will carry over to the next season.

C. Persistent Misconduct

A player, who in a given season accumulates 3 individual cautions, shall be suspended for 1 game. A second accumulation of 3 cautions (total of 6) within the same season shall result in an additional suspension of two games.

1. Further misconduct on the part of the individual shall be sufficient cause for the LVYSL Executive Board to consider additional penalty.
2. In all cases of misconduct outlined in *LVYSL Rules of Play* Section V.B and C, action will be initiated by the referee's game report.

D. Refusal to Play

A team or club which refuses to play a scheduled league game shall forfeit said game and be held liable for the payment of a \$100 fine and all applicable referee fees.

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E. Abandonment of Games

1. A game in progress shall not, under any circumstances, be terminated by either or both of the competing teams without the approval of the referee.
2. Should a team abandon a match without said approval, the team:
 - Shall forfeit the game.
 - Shall be liable for payment of \$100 and all applicable referee fees.
 - Shall be liable for additional penalty pending investigation of a LVYSL Arbitration Panel.

F. Forfeited Games

Note: It is the sincere desire of the LVYSL that all scheduled games be played to provide competition for all teams entered in a given season. Forfeits are a disappointment to the teams and to the league. The purpose of the following penalties is to deter any and all forfeits. It is the sincere desire of that no forfeits occur and no fines be levied.

1. A forfeited game will result in a 3-0 victory for the opponent.
2. The forfeiting team will be responsible for applicable referee fees.
3. The forfeiting team will also be subject to a \$100 fine payable to the league. Such fines will be deducted from the club's performance bond.
4. Any shortfall created in a club's bond due to forfeits and other fines shall render that club in poor standing with the LVYSL until such time as the performance bond is re-posted to the full amount.
5. The referee assignor shall, at his/her earliest convenience, inform the league of all forfeited games and any referee fees due.

G. Player Transfers

An individual, who intentionally submits false or misleading information related to his/her past player record or club affiliation in order to register as a player, or effect a player transfer, shall be suspended for four games.

1. A club, which intentionally submits false or inaccurate information, to affect a player registration or transfer or to prevent an otherwise legitimate player transfer shall be subject to a fine of \$50.
2. A club, which "recruits" or attempts to recruit a player from another club to change affiliation shall be subject to a fine of \$50 and be placed on probation for 1 year. Said club shall also be subject to fines and penalties in accordance with EPYSA rules.
3. Only 5 players may be transferred to a team during the seasonal year (September 1 to August 30) through the EPYSA database.

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Rules of Play

H. Payment of Fines and Re-Posting of Forfeiture Bonds

1. Barring cause under appeal, fines not paid and forfeit bonds not re-posted within the time limit stipulated below shall result in the delinquent club to be declared to be in "bad standing." Clubs in "bad standing" shall be ineligible to participate in further competition in LVYSL games until the appropriate financial obligations have been fulfilled.
2. The LVYSL time limit for the payment of fines and/or the re-posting of forfeit bonds shall be 30 days from the date a fine is imposed or a bond is declared forfeited.
3. A minimum balance of \$50 shall be in club performance bond accounts at all times.

I. Detrimental to the Good of the League

Any action or behavior by players, coaches, or spectators that is determined to be detrimental to the league will be subject to fines and penalties as determined by the LVYSL board.

J. Application of LVYSL Rules of Play

Each club is responsible for ensuring teams understand and apply these rules accordingly. Any questions regarding these requirements should be directed to the Executive Director, for reference to an appropriate Board member, if necessary. Repeated failure of teams to abide by these rules may result in clubs being placed in bad standing or removed as members of the league.

K. EPYSA Arbitration Rules

EPYSA arbitration rules shall have precedence over LVYSL rules where conflicts exist.

L. Appeals protest and grievance procedure

Appeals protest and grievance procedures are outlined in Article VI of the *LVYSL By-Laws*. The By-Laws are available from club and league officials, as well as, on the LVYSL website.

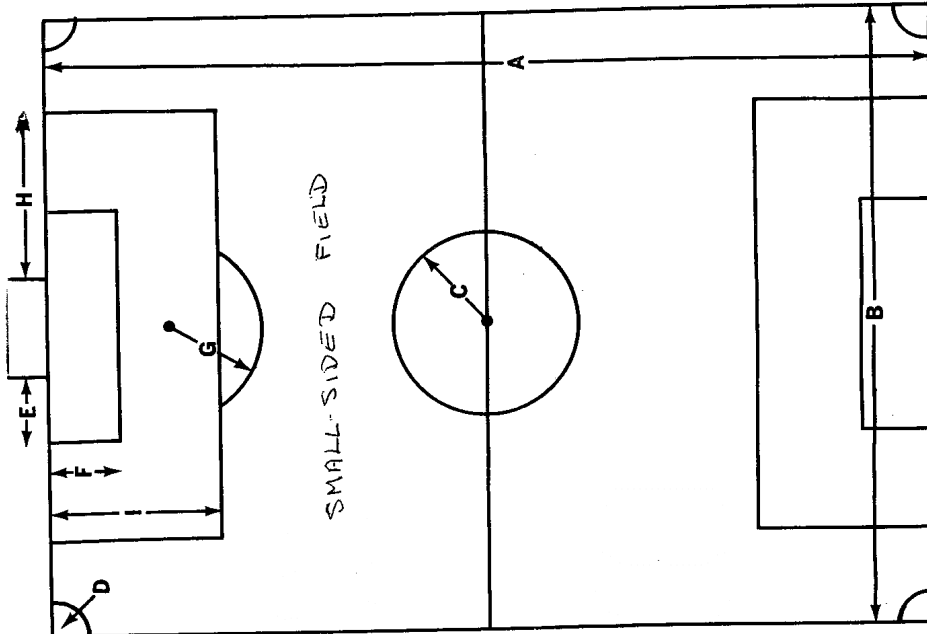
LEHIGH VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Rules of Play

LAW I

The Field of Play

The field of play and appearances shall be as shown in the following plan:



DIMENSIONS

- U-10
- A-Max. 80 Yds.-Min. 70 Yds.
- B-Max. 50 Yds.-Min. 40 Yds.
- C-8 Yds.
- D-1 Yd. R.
- E-6 Yds.
- F-6 Yds.
- G-8 Yds.
- H-14 Yds. I-14 Yds.

