

G. A. A. S. A
GREATER AKRON
AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION
LEAGUE COACHES MANUAL

REVISED 10/10/2021 - by the GAASA Board



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1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 - Modification of FIFA Rules

The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association LEAGUE MANUAL is intended to provide information and guidance for club coaches and administrators. The information contained herein recaps the rules & policies under which we play soccer matches in this league. Each item of information is a rule, or group of rules, but this the LEAGUE MANUAL is not the GAASA Rule Book. The wording used here is not always the precise wording of the applicable rule as it appears in the FIFA Laws of the Game, USSF Administrative Handbook, Ohio Soccer Association Constitution and Rules, and/or the GAASA Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions. It is that wording and intent (of the actual rules) which has legal force in matters of dispute. Furthermore, all information and rules in the LEAGUE MANUAL are subject to change without notice.

The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) plays matches under the rules of FIFA, the international governing body. The first rule in the FIFA rulebook allows modification of the Laws of the Game for various age groups and to suit local conditions. GAASA has chosen to modify many rules of the game, as outlined in this publication, to suit play for youth players. Only the rules so modified and published may be changed.

The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association is affiliated in good standing with the Ohio Soccer Association (OSA). OSA is affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and through it, with United States Soccer Federation (the USSF), the governing body in North America. It is the duty and obligation of each member club in this league to follow the rules which will preserve the good standing of GAASA with OSA and with USSF, so that all teams and players in our league will have the right to play in all sanctioned events.

1.2 - GAASA Code of Conduct

Acceptance of this Code of Conduct is a condition of membership and participation in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association ("GAASA"). Clubs that are members of GAASA ("Club") are required to sign this Code of Conduct on behalf of the Club, as well as require that all Club coaches, players, and the players' parents or legal guardians sign this Code of Conduct.

Participation in GAASA-sponsored activities play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in GAASA-sponsored activities should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

Participation in GAASA-sponsored activities is also a privilege granted by GAASA, and its state and national affiliations. For purposes of this Code of Conduct, "GAASA-sponsored activities" shall include activities sponsored by or affiliated with GAASA, the Ohio Soccer Association, U.S. Youth Soccer Association and/or the U.S. Soccer Federation. Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct and/or generally accepted standards of community citizenship can result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to the revocation of the participant's membership in GAASA and/or the Club.

2 - GREATER AKRON DIVISIONS

Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association has many divisions available for teams at all levels of ability for youth teams; there are competitive divisions in both boys and girls (Division 1-2-3, etc.). Girls may play on boy's teams. However, this team is considered a boys' team. Girls may play on girls-only team and this is considered a girls' team. For the purpose of equalizing competition, the GAASA may permit an all-girl team to play in a boys' division at the appropriate level as determined by the league. Boys may only play on a boys' team. Players may not be rostered on more than one team that is registered for play in the GAASA for any given season of play. Please see the registration policy for details & conditions.

Each division is treated separately. GAASA conducts playoffs for designated age groups and divisions at the end of each season for at least the top four teams per division. Occasionally playoffs may be modified from season to season.

Each level of play offered increases in difficulty, and/or the level of skill of the players. For example, Division 1 is the top division, the teams are highly competitive and the players relatively skilled. Classic 2 is still very competitive, but the players are not as experienced or skilled. Classic 3&4 has some skilled players but most are beginners.

GAASA very carefully examines your request to place a team in a given division (using the team declaration process that is now in place), and then based on your own estimate of the team's ability and our past experience with the team and/or coach they will be placed in the appropriate division. GAASA has the **final** say on which division a team is placed in, and reserves the right to move any team up or down in order to balance the level of play and number of teams in each division. In general, such factors as recent history with the team or coach, the number of players from which a club draws its teams, the number and ages of the players on the team, and other things which influence the competitiveness of a team are considered by the GAASA Board in placing your team in a division. The decision of the GAASA Board in placing your team is **final** and may not be appealed or challenged.

Please note that GAASA is permitted to make rules governing its age groups, divisions and team eligibility, which may differ substantially from those of Ohio Soccer Association. Most of these differences govern levels of play and player movement between teams. Before sending money or entering any tournament, you should consult GAASA to make sure your team would be considered eligible.

2.1 - LIST OF DIVISIONS OFFERED BY GAASA

YOUTH DIVISIONS (Under 19 years of age)

11v11 –HS U14-U17 BOYS & GIRLS	HS U18/19 BOYS & GIRLS (Spring Season Only)
11v11 - U14/15 BOYS & GIRLS,	U13 BOYS & GIRLS
9v9 - U12 BOYS & GIRLS,	U11 BOYS & GIRLS
7v7 - U10 BOYS & GIRLS,	U9 BOYS & GIRLS

- Age groups may be combined in the event of an insufficient number of teams per age group.
- Based on the number of teams registered, as many as 6 divisions per age group, per gender may be created.

2.2 - AGE GROUP EXCEPTIONS

2.2.1 - Roster Rules-OHSAA Players

All 7th or 8th grade and older High School registrants for GAASA must ensure they are compliant with all OHSAA regulations, GAASA does not verify or enforce the policies of OHSAA.

2.2.2 - Roster Rules-U14/15 Players

U14/15 players are often in a transitional age. Some players may be in middle school in either 7th or 8th grade, while others could be in HS already. Any U14/15 player who is in 8th grade or lower should play in the youth U14/15 program in either the fall or spring season, however in the spring season 8th graders may register to play in the HS division if so desired. Any U14/15 player who is in high school **must** play in the league's HS division. A player can roster with only one team.

2.2.3 - Roster Rules-U16 and U17 Players

Players that are age U16, or U17 are able to participate in the Boys & Girls HS divisions in the spring season. Proof of HS enrollment is not necessary.

2.2.4 - Roster Rules-U18/19 Players

High school age teams participating in the league HS divisions for the spring season an exception will be granted for a U18/19 player who is enrolled as a HS student during the spring season. The league will require current proof of their status as an enrolled HS student (the most recent report card would be one means of proof). Players who are classified as "Adult Athlete" by USSF are required to comply with all Safe Soccer (risk) national requirements, mandated by federal and state laws. Refer to the OSA Safe Soccer for information: <https://ohio-soccer.org/safesoccer/> Teams are limited to no more than five (5) U19 players on a team.

2.3 - TEAM PROMOTION & RELEGATION

GAASA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MOVE ANY TEAM WITHIN ITS AGE GROUP AS REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BALANCING DIVISIONS COMPETITIVELY OR FOR SCHEDULING PURPOSES, AND TO SUB-DIVIDE DIVISIONS AND/OR LEVELS TO BALANCE THE NUMBER OF TEAMS IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID BYES AND/OR MID-WEEK GAMES, OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

The team movement policy allows coaches and/or clubs to request placement in a specific division to meet their own team development goals and which is done thru the team declaration process now used by the league. The policy also allows the Executive Board to preserve the balance of each division and resolve scheduling issues since the final decision on placing a team in a division always rests with the GAASA Executive Board and **may not be challenged or appealed.**

Every team which finishes first or second in its division during the regular season may be promoted by the Executive Board the following season. Every team that finishes last, and/or fails to show competitiveness, may be relegated to the next lower division the following season.

Teams that finish first in the regular season and are playing in the highest division, in an age group, may request to play up in the next higher age at the same division level (i.e. B0C1 to B1C1, B1C1 to B2C1, etc.). However, the Executive Board will not force the champion of the highest division in an age group to move up to the next older group.

GAASA assumes if a team is roughly 65% the same from one season to the next the league will treat this as an unchanged team regardless of the ability of the players who have come or gone. Coaches should note that it is illegal, under national rules, to force a player off a team roster unless he 1) moves too far away to participate with that team, 2) is injured to such an extent that he can no longer participate, or 3) is suspended by league, state or national authorities for a length of time exceeding the seasonal year.

Occasionally some teams do disband or change due to player participation in other sports. GAASA will take this into consideration if notified **prior to** or at team registration.

2.4 - TEAM DECLARATION

The Team Declaration (TD) process used by the GAASA is an integral part of the scheduling/score reporting program. The information supplied is used to establish divisions and the schedules for each division. It is also the basis for the standings & score reporting contained in the web site.

- Team Declaration occurs prior to every season and each club should designate a key individual to enter the information. Generally, these individuals are the registrar and/or the club president.
- Once the link is made available during Open Team Declaration, the individual will go to www.gaasa.org and click on the link in the upper left corner of the home page.
- Club Names are listed in the upper left drop-down menu, and if you are a representative of one of these clubs, and are a key individual selected by your club, you may declare the team information. Your Club must be in good standings, with a current Bond to be able to declare a team. If your club is not listed, you must contact GAASA to be pre-approved before you can declare a team. Clubs must be registered with the league and approved before being able to declare.
- When entering the Primary Home Field (# and Address), please reference the Directory of Fields page here: <https://greaterakronsa.demosphere-secure.com/fields> For all currently approved fields. Enter the field number first, followed by the field address. If your field is not listed, contact the GAASA President to have your field permit created in Demosphere.
- Complete all required team information marked with an asterisk *.
- Repeat the process for each team

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Nic Olechnowicz, GAASA President. Cell phone is (330) 283-3730 or email: Nic.O.GAASA@gmail.com

2.5 - REGISTRATION

The GAASA website is: www.GAASA.org you will be automatically be redirected to the Demosphere website located here: <https://greaterakronsa.demosphere-secure.com/>

Player and coach registration is the act of signing up to participate and paying fees to a member club of GAASA. Team registration is the act following the league protocol in declaring a team, affiliating the team in the league registration program, placing players on said team and paying fees to GAASA each fall and spring according to dates as published/distributed by the league. Player and coach rostering is the act of placing a player or coach on a specific team.

Team declaration can only occur during the prescribed dates established by the league—late declarations of teams may be permitted. After the initial player/coach GAASA registration as specified by the league, late registration of any player can occur up to the deadline for late player registration as specified by the league. Player/coach registration and team affiliation are to follow established league policy using league software. Players, coaches and teams cannot be activated in the registration system (which allows for passes & rosters to be printed) until the designated fees are paid.

PLAYERS REGISTER once a year, with initial registration in the Fall season. New player passes are required of ALL youth players every year as determined by the league and for new players as needed. New players are defined as those who did not play on a carded GAASA (USSF/USYSA-affiliated) team during the previous season. Players belong to one team for the full seasonal year, which is defined as both the Fall and Spring seasons, and may be transferred only by following league, state and/or national rules. A player's date of rostering with a team is defined by (GAASA) rule as the date on which he plays his/her first match with that team.

TEAMS ARE REQUIRED by GAASA to register each time for both Fall and Spring seasons. Coaches are registered with teams and must be updated immediately if changed at any time.

All adult GAASA participating members acting as volunteers, coaches, team managers, trainers, organization staff/employees, board members, referees, and any other person age 18 or older who may have the opportunity to have direct and/or unmonitored access to children participating in the GAASA program are required to comply with all Safe Soccer (risk) national requirements, mandated by federal and state laws. Refer to the OSA Safe Soccer for information: <https://ohio-soccer.org/safesoccer/> If you have difficulty with this, please contact Bernie Telmanik at Ohio Soccer Association at 440-526-9020 before 4:00pm. GAASA will **only** accept the OSA **approval**, which is sent to USSF, as proof of compliance. The confirmation page of a safe soccer training will **not** be accepted by the league when a club registers a coach/volunteer.

Club responsibility to obtain player/coach passes prior to a game:

- Each player/coach must have a valid laminated pass from GAASA to play in any game during the regular season or a post-season game. Passes obtained 1) parent's applying to preferred club, 2) parent's must read and sign or electronically sign required forms using the GAASA approved software for Medical, Liability, Code of Conduct
- Players may only be rostered on **ONE** GAASA registered team per season.

- **All coaches must have a valid coach pass.** This is obtained by:
 - Approved and maintaining all Safe Soccer (risk) national requirements,
 - Complete a background check and SafeSport training,
 - Concussion certification and Lindsay Law training,
 - Maintaining the minimum coaching certificate/license.
 - Reading and electronically signing the GAASA Code of Conduct
- All fees must be paid as due to GAASA

Players/Coaches can be added to a roster up to a deadline date as posted by GAASA. Contact the club registrar prior to playing or practicing.

Transferring players on rosters between fall season and spring season

- Moving a registered player from one team to another within the same club will count as a transfer and no fee will be charged by GAASA.
- A player who transfers from one club to another club will be considered a new player and will be charged the new player fee by GAASA.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact LuAnn Blazeff, GAASA Registrar. Cell phone is (330) 730-2669 or email: luann.blazeff@gmail.com

3 - COACHING INFORMATION

3.1 - COACH LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All league coaches are required to possess minimum standard license as established by the GAASA league and OSA. Currently that standard is either the Ohio North (OSA) U10/12 or the US Soccer In-Person Grassroots 7v7, 9v9, or 11v11. Coaches must complete the youth modules series provided by the State Association. The league can and will accept comparable license' such as those offered by the NSCAA or European equivalent. Former USSF E, or State D licenses are considered acceptable, however the USSF F licenses is not considered an equivalent.

All new coaches are given one year (two consecutive seasons) to obtain the required coaches license as stated above.

3.2 - CONDUCT

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the players, spectators, and themselves. Each coach is responsible for the conduct of every person, including guest players on their side of the field. A coach is recognized by GAASA as a participant in the match and may receive yellow and red cards from the referee, however the referee is **not** required to warn coaches before issuing either yellow or red cards, the privilege of yellow/red cards is reserved for players only. Please refer to the GAASA fair play section for further guidance in these matters.

Coaching, or shouting instructions or encouragement, at any time, by the club line men is **strictly** prohibited. Coaches are not allowed to roam all the way down to the end line. The recognized coaching area shall be defined by the marked technical area. Clubs are encouraged to mark their fields accordingly. If at any time, you are instructed by the referee to remain within that guideline you shall not challenge his/her interpretation of what is the appropriate distance. To challenge the referee on this point constitutes dissent for which you may earn the equivalent of a yellow card and should you continue

the referee may remove you from the match and you will not find a sympathetic ear from the League.

No person, coach or spectator, may move up and down the length of the touchline for the purpose of coaching and instructing players. Coaches may coach and move within their technical area of the field. The technical area shall be clearly marked with field paint in a dashed line parallel to and spaced 2 yards from the touch line, starting 8 yards from the centerline of the field to the beginning of the technical area on their side of the field, and extending to the top of the marked penalty box on the side of the field they are playing on. Should the technical area not be clearly defined, the referee shall have the authority to limit the coaching staff to the area directly in front of the players bench (which shall be placed a minimum of 10 yards from the centerline of the field). **Spectators are to occupy the half of the field directly opposite their team and cannot take up positions at any point along the end line of the field, including the corners (which they must maintain a distance of at least ten yards from the corner). Spectators and all other individuals are prohibited from taking a position along either end line.**

Spectators, coaches and substitute players are required to remain at least 5 feet back from the touchline on their side of the field to allow the linesman a clear view down the field.

Except for the referee(s) and players in a game, no other person is allowed on the field unless, and until, authorized by the referee.

Fighting by any persons, either in the game or on the sidelines, and/or loud verbal abuse or physical/verbal assault of the referee, shall be grounds to immediately suspend the match if the referee chooses. Such a decision is that of the referee alone. The coach will be held responsible by the league. The league also has the right to begin disciplinary proceedings in the event league officers witness such actions, even when the referee does not choose to take action. If a referee suspends play, or if a match is interrupted for any reason, the outcome of suspended matches will be decided solely by GAASA disciplinary committee based on the referee's report and game reports.

Poor conduct by a team, leading to suspension of a match, will be grounds for forfeiting a match by a score of 0-6 (or the score at the time of suspension, whichever is greater) at a minimum, and GAASA has the right to impose harsher penalties.

3.3 - FORFEITS

A team which has forfeited three (3) games in any given season, will, upon the fourth forfeit, cause their club to lose their bond and the coach of said team can be suspended for a minimum of one year (12 months) per team occurrence effective with the date of the letter of suspension. Forfeits are by a score of 0-6. Should a club lose their bond as a result of forfeits by one of their teams the club must replenish their bond before the current seasons playoffs or risk having any of their qualifying teams withdrawn from the event.

Any club, which has a team suspended after registration, forfeits its bond money, and must bring its bond account back to current requirements before the conclusion of the current season.

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

3.4 - GAME REPORTS

Game Reports are to be filed on an EXCEPTION-ONLY basis, i.e., in the event of a situation (notably good or bad) requiring the attention of the league or in the event of a referee no-show or a Red Card offense. It is the responsibility of the coach and referee to complete in full the GAASA Game Report, and submit it in a timely fashion, for all exceptional situations, good or bad. Referee judgment shall not be challenged in any way. Forms are available on the GAASA Web Site: https://greaterakronsa.demosphere-secure.com/_files/league-info/RegFormGameReports.pdf . Email this completed form and a copy of the official game day rosters/referee report directly to the GAASA President at: nic.o.gaasa@gmail.com and notify him at 330.283.3730 via text that a game report has been submitted requiring prompt attention.

3.5 - ENTERING SCORES

In the event of a Red Card, the referee shall report the score, and refer to the Game Report section 3.4 above. If there is no Red Cards, the winning team is responsible for entering the score. In case of a tie, the Home team is responsible. All scores are to be entered utilizing the on-line Demosphere system ASAP. Reporting scores is an obligation of the team coach. A coach or club official may enter scores, but someone, physically at the game, must report any other matters. Scores must be entered in Demosphere for all games played **within 48** hours of the conclusion of the match. Failure to enter a score in a timely manner may result in a score of 0-0 being recorded. Repeated failure to enter scores in a timely fashion may result in a fine of \$25 per game being assessed to the appropriate coach (winner or home coach in the event of a tie).

Remember to obtain all the passes from the referee. Count to be sure you have them all.

The winning coach (or home team if game is a tie) shall scan/email both team game-day rosters and one copy of the signed Referee Report to the following address: email.gaasa@gmail.com Paper copies may be required to be submitted during GAASA tournament and playoff games.

3.6 - FAILURE TO REPORT TO A GAME

Failure of a team to show up at a scheduled or rescheduled game by the expiration of the 15-minute grace period (the grace period begins with the published game time on the league schedule and not from the **conclusion** of the preceding game) will result in the no-show team forfeiting by a score of 0-6 and paying the total referee fee. These games will not be **rescheduled**. The team in attendance is to notify the GAASA President or the appropriate Vice-President (boys or girls). GAASA Contact information can be found in the Appendix.

Refer to section 3.13 for the minimum number of players to begin a match.

3.7 - CLUB LINESMEN

GAASA furnishes a 3-man referee system only for selected divisions and playoffs. Each team for all other games must supply volunteer club linesmen, unless the referee

indicates a preference to work without any linesmen. This choice is at the discretion of the referee alone.

Each team should be prepared to furnish a mature individual who is able to keep up with play.

Club linesmen will assist the referee by indicating when the entire ball is over the entire touch line (sideline), and will have no other duties including indicating the direction of the throw, unless previously instructed by the referee. The judgment of the club linesman on any matter, including whether the ball is over the touchline, may be overruled at any time by the referee and cannot be challenged by any spectator, player or coach.

3.8 - RUNNING UP SCORES

Soccer is a game. It is intended to be fun for all participants, not just the winning team. Without a worthy opponent, no purpose is served in playing any competitive game; running up a score either by accident or to embarrass an opponent, is pointless.

No matter what the actual score, no more than a 6-goal margin will be recorded or published. The actual score is to be recorded on the GAASA game report and the 6-goal scores are to be reported through the league score reporting tool on the web site. Since forfeits are by a minimum score (0-6), no competitive advantage is gained by winning by more than a 6-0 count.

Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association tries to ensure that teams are put in the correct division at the time of registration. However, it may appear that a team is in the wrong division due to players being dropped from a team or new players being added to a team after the original registration date. This is no excuse for teams to consistently run up the score on their opponent and GAASA will no longer tolerate this action.

3.9 - POSSIBLE METHODS TO CONTROL THE SCORE

When the margin reaches +6 in any match, the referee may remind the winning coach of the GAASA policy, but the referee has no authority to force coaches to adopt one of the following:

- 1 – Switch players around to different positions
- 2 – Establish a minimum number of touches by the team, and/or by each player.
- 3 – Pull one or more players off the field until some parity between the teams is achieved.
- 4 – Limit players from the winning team to the defensive half of the field.

3.10 - PLAYER/COACH PASSES

ALL PLAYERS AND COACHES MUST HAVE A VALID **LAMINATED** PASS to participate in any match during the regular season or a post-season game. If a team cannot produce valid laminated passes within the 15-minute grace period after the scheduled start time, it will result in a forfeit by a score of 0-6 and both coaches should still pay the total referee fee.

Players or coaches found to be in violation of these guidelines and participating in GAASA matches will be subject to disciplinary actions that may also extend to the team's club.

3.11 - GAME DAY ROSTERS AND PASSES

Each coach must be ready to present the referee with the official GAASA GAME DAY ROSTER and laminated color passes for each player and coach planning to participate in the match. The only accepted game roster is the one printed and generated from Demosphere. Coaches may add/remove players on the game day roster up to 24 hours before a game in Demosphere. All guest players must be age/skill eligible to participate on the team. Handwritten (or typed in) guest players are forbidden. Refer to the Demosphere Guide for Team Pages on how to adjust the game day roster:

<https://greaterakronsa.demosphere-secure.com/files/schedules/Demosphere%20Guide%20for%20Team%20Pages.pdf>

Guest players are to be listed on the game roster. At no time can the Roster exceed the maximum number of players (Roster Size) permitted per age group (see section 3.13 below). Refer to the Section 3.15 for complete guest player rules, including the league playing up policy. Violation of the guest player rule can result in disciplinary action being taken against the coach, team and club either separately or collectively.

Each coach must co-operate with the referee at player check-in, and have the team ready to check-in whenever the referee desires. The referee will keep each team's passes and game roster during the game and will return the passes after the game with the winning team (or home team in the event of a tie) getting the game rosters for both teams. All adults within the team technical area are required to have a valid coaches pass for the current season from an active team within their respective club. Youth within the technical area shall be limited to rostered players. No more than three registered coaches (all must have their league pass with them) may be on the team sideline. In the event the listed coach for a team is unavailable for a game, it is acceptable for any properly registered coach from that team's club to cover the game in question.

After the game is over, please remember to secure the passes and enter the score as described in Section 3.5.

Passes of players/coaches who receive a Red Card or are sent off will be retained by the referee as well as both game rosters for review and disciplinary action by GAASA. Refer to Section 3.4 Coaches will be notified as to the disposition of the pass as well as when and how it will be returned by GAASA. Generally, yellow and red cards will be shown when given, but it is **not** necessary for the referee to show a yellow or red card, or to verbally warn any person before taking stronger action, or to directly notify any person that he has been sent off from a match. It is **not** necessary for the referee to obtain or retain the passes of sent off players in order for disciplinary action to proceed. Upon written notification through a game report that a person has been sent off by the referee, disciplinary action will proceed. If you have questions about red cards or disciplinary action, contact the Executive Vice President immediately. The Executive Vice President of GAASA heads the disciplinary committee.

3.12 – Reserved (Not Used)

3.13 - ROSTER SIZES

Players may be registered and added to a team's roster up through the deadline set and announced each season by the Executive Board. A team may never exceed the maximum number of players on its roster.

- The roster limit to register teams for Youth Divisions **U9/10** is as follows:
Minimum on roster: 7 players / 1 coach
Maximum on roster: 12 players / 3 coaches
Minimum: 5 players, 1 coach to start & play a game
- The roster limit to register teams for Youth Divisions **U11/12** is as follows:
Minimum on roster: 9 players / 1 coach
Maximum: on roster 16 players / 3 coaches
Minimum: 6 players, 1 coach to start & play a game
- The roster limit to register teams for Youth Divisions **U13-U15** is as follows:
Minimum on roster: 11 players / 1 coach
Maximum: on roster 18 players / 3 coaches
Minimum: 7 players, 1 coach to start & play a game
- The roster limit to register teams for HS Divisions **U14-U19** is as follows:
Minimum on roster: 11 players / 1 coach
Maximum: on roster 22 players / 3 coaches
Minimum: 7 players, 1 coach to start & play a game

3.14 - SUBSTITUTIONS

The referee must authorize all substitutions by making a direct and unmistakable sign to the coach that he has permission to substitute. Play will not begin until all players leaving the game are off the field.

Substitution, in all levels of play, is allowed with permission:

* At any stoppage in play per FIFA

3.15 - PLAYING UP / AGE LIMITATIONS / GUEST PLAYER RULES

Players shall be assigned to teams based upon the US Soccer Birth Year / Season Matrix. Older players may never play down. All players must come from within the same club.

7v7 & 9v9 teams are limited to players playing up no more than two years beyond their actual age, unless a written waiver has been given by the parents to allow the player to play three years beyond.

Guest Play Examples

U9 Classic 3 player may play U9 Classic 1, 2, 3;
U9 Classic 2 player may play U9 Classic 2 or 1 only;
U9 Classic 1 player may play U10 Classic 1 only

11v11 teams are limited to players playing up no more than three years beyond their actual age. In other words, a true U10 player can guest at U13 but a U11 player on a U14 team is already at the three-year limit and cannot guest play beyond U14. A parent may submit a written waiver to allow an 8th grade or HS U14/U15 player to play up on an older HS team.

Guest Play Examples

U14 Classic 3 player may play U14 Classic 1, 2, 3;
U14 Classic 2 player may play U14 Classic 2 or 1 only;
U14 Classic 1 player may play U15 Classic 1 only

Guest Play Exception

Classic 1 player may play at Classic 2 provided he/she is playing up at least two years (ex.-U11 to U13, U12 to U14). This applies to all similar division examples.

- Guest players are to be listed on the official Demosphere printed game-day roster. The player pass must be obtained from the guest player's official team.
- Guest players must come from a GAASA registered team within the same club.
- The number of guest players a team can have for a game cannot exceed 50% of its field players:
 - 9/10= 3 guest players maximum
 - 11/12= 4 guest players maximum
 - 13 and above= 5 guest players maximum
- Guest Players are not permitted in the Playoffs; teams must play with their registered league rosters in Playoffs.

3.16 - MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Seven players constitute the minimum number needed by each team to start a match for 13U age teams and up; **six** players constitute the minimum number needed by each team for 11/12U age teams; **five** players constitute the minimum number needed by each team for 9/10U to start a game; in all cases, one player must play as a goalkeeper. The referee shall start the match as soon after the scheduled time as possible whenever both teams can field at least the required number of players. The grace period shall **not** be used to allow a team to wait for a full complement of players.

3.17 - TRANSFERS

Replacing registered players with new players is known as making a transfer. Moving a registered player from one team to another within the same club will count as a transfer with respect to OSA, no fees will be assessed.

A player who transfers from one club to another must follow GAASA/ OSA guidelines as required by the league. Refer to the registration policies on the league web site (www.gaasa.org). Fees for a club to club transfer can be found on the fee sheet posted to the league web site under "Registration".

Players from a team that suspends operation who wish to be transferred to another team must submit a request for said transfer to the association's Executive Board in writing via a Player/Team Status Form.

3.18 - REFEREE AUTHORITY

Every referee, including volunteers in no-show cases, has complete and total authority for the conduct of the match and to enforce discipline from the moment he arrives at the field until he leaves. This includes all pre-game and post-game activities.

The authority and judgment of a referee shall not be challenged, nor may his judgment be appealed.

3.19 - REFEREE NO-SHOWS

The referee has until game time to show up to the field of play. Every effort will be made for all teams to play with a USSF registered referee assigned by the duly appointed league assignor. If a referee is not assigned or fails to show, the following steps should be taken to address whether the game is **not played** or **played** using a volunteer:

- All C2 or lower division games must be played using a volunteer referee. The league urges all C1 games to be played using a volunteer referee.
- A reschedule will only be generated for C1 games when the coaches from both teams agree on a new date/time/location and contact the appropriate Vice President (Boys/Girls) via the on-line reschedule process. Should the re-schedule date/time be 72 or fewer hours from the original date/time there can be no guarantee of the assignor being able to assign a referee.
- When playing a match at which the assigned referee does not show up, all effort must be made to use a registered referee, a trained referee or a mature former player. Try contacting local referees to see if they are available to pick up the game. Wait for the 15-minute grace period to see if a league assigned referee will show up (and was possibly delayed from a prior game). If after the 15-minute grace period, begin the match with a volunteer referee as described above.
- If the assigned referee shows up after the 15-minute grace period, they may take over for the volunteer referee at the next available stoppage. The volunteer referee and the assigned referee shall split the referee fees equally.
- The final score of said match must be reported and will be considered valid and recorded by the league to determine standings for playoffs. If a volunteer is used to referee a game, the volunteer is to be paid the same fees as listed for that age group/division. The volunteer's name/address/phone numbers are to be included with the game reports that are mailed in by the coach.
- In the event of a three-man system, and only 1 or 2 of the referees are present, the full referee fees shall be paid to the referee / crew. The fees shall be split equally amongst the crew for a 2-man system.
- In no case may a scrimmage match be played.

When reporting scores to the division commissioner, the coach is to inform the commissioner if there was a referee no-show so that information can be recorded.

3.20 - INSURANCE & INSURANCE CLAIMS

By affiliation and registration with the Ohio Soccer Association (OSA), and through them, US Youth Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation, the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association has both liability and secondary coverage medical insurance for every player, coach, club officer and league official.

There are certain rules, used to monitor and control coverage and/or claims, which pertain to insurance:

- If you do not have your own coverage, then OSA coverage becomes primary and will cover your costs except for a deductible.
- To file a youth player claim, contact OSA; phone 440-526-9020.

- OSA now requires that you file your secondary insurance claims with them at the same time you file your primary coverage claims through your primary insurance coverage.
- Injuries in practice and games, as well as while traveling to and from practice and games, are covered by this insurance, but there are conditions and exclusions, which may apply.

3.21 - LINES OF COMMUNICATION

During the season, it is important that coaches, parents and club officials honor the lines of communication established by the GAASA Executive Board for efficient handling of concerns. Parents and spectators are to address their issue with their club who will then present them to the league on their behalf. Coaches may follow the same path or as outlined below **"IN ALL OTHER MATTERS"**.

Disciplinary problems will always be handled between the person being disciplined and the Executive Vice President of GAASA. The Executive Vice President may notify the Club Representative and/or Club President at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

IN ALL OTHER MATTERS:

- 1 – All communications should be presented ONLY to the appropriate Youth VP, Executive VP or the Executive Director.
- 2 – Once the league has been informed contact will be made with the involved parties.
- 3 – The communication/response will then be provided to the club so everyone knows and is informed about the outcome/answer.
- 4 – In the event this procedure is followed without receiving a response within two weeks, you should write the GAASA Board a complete report and mail it to: P.O. Box 27031, Akron, OH 44319. Please do not call board members.

4- POLICY ON FAIR PLAY, SPORTSMANSHIP AND REFEREE ABUSE

This policy is adopted to assure all persons involved in GAASA soccer matches understand the way the league will address such incidents and understand their participation in the league subjects them to the rules contained in the policy. By taking these steps, we are not trying to find ways to punish the great people involved in our soccer programs; we are simply trying to maintain the sense of fair play that has always been present in our games.

4.1 - LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the GAASA-league officers, club officers, coaches, players and their parents-in addition to the conditions listed below are bound by the accepted Code of Conduct and the conditions set therein. Participation in the league is based on this acceptance and an acknowledgement of this is required at registration. The Code of Conduct can be viewed in the appendix of this manual.

4.2 - PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse is defined by GAASA as unwelcome touching, striking or the verbal threat to do so. The league will not tolerate this conduct. Any physical abuse of a

referee by any coach, player or spectator, or by a referee against any coach, player or spectator, whether occurring preceding, during or following a game, will result in an immediate ban of the offending person from future GAASA games and the incident will be referred to Ohio Soccer Association for consideration of further disciplinary action.

4.3 - VERBAL ABUSE

Verbal abuse is defined by GAASA as a verbal attack of a sustained, excessive, obscene or offensive nature. It is not intended to include mere dialogue or questions by or among coaches and/or referees.

4.4 - UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR

Effective Fall season 2019, GAASA has elected to adopt the policies of OHSA and NFHS rules and regulations on unsporting behavior, abusive language or taunting per rule 12.8. Article 1 and 2.

Article 1. A player, coach, or bench personnel shall be cautioned (yellow card) for objecting by word or mouth or action to any decision given by an official (dissent); or for any incidental use of vulgar or profane language; simulating a foul, or faking an injury.

PENALTY: A cautioned player shall leave the field of play and may be replaced. Should the team with the player elect to play shorthanded, the cautioned player may not re-enter nor be replaced until the next legal substitution opportunity. *Note: this is above and beyond the requirements of USSF, where unsporting behavior cautioned player must leave the field of play after receiving a yellow card. The referee should alert the coach of the offence, so the issue can be quickly addressed.*

Article 2. A Player, coach or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for:

- a. Exhibiting violent conduct;
- b. Taunting – use of word or act to incite or degrade an opposing player, coach, referee, or other individual;

NOTE: the NFHS AND GAASA disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender, or national origin.

- c. Spitting at an opponent, teammate or game official;
- d. Using insulting, offensive, or abusive language or gesture;
- e. Leaving the team area to enter the field where a fight or altercation is taking place unless summoned by an official.

PENALTY: A disqualified player must leave the field and may not return or be substituted for, and the player's team must play short, the disqualified player is restricted to the team area. Disqualified team members who are not players are restricted to the team area and may not enter the game. Disqualified adult personnel must leave the vicinity of the playing area / field.

4.5 - SPECTATORS

Upon any **initial incident** of verbal abuse directed toward a referee, any player, any coach or any other spectator, the referee will stop the match (if it is ongoing) to warn the coach and allow the coach to advise his spectator(s) of the warning and counsel the spectator(s) to cease immediately. If such incident occurs before a match, the referee

will similarly warn the coach and instruct the coach to warn his spectator(s). If such incident occurs following a match, the referee will notify the league and the incident will be considered an initial incident for purposes of the offending team's next game.

A **repeat offense occurring during the same match** will be cause for stoppage of the match, at the sole discretion of the referee, and thereupon the team associated with the offending spectator(s) will forfeit the match. Such team must immediately provide the name(s) of the abusive spectator(s) to the referee. If the team refuses to do so, it will be suspended immediately from all GAASA matches until the offending person(s) is identified in writing to the President of GAASA.

A **second incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by the **same offender** during the **same season** will result in suspension of the player associated with such person for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season. An automatic fine of \$100 will be imposed on that team's parent club.

A **third incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by **any spectator(s)** from the **same team** during the **same season** will result in suspension of that team for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season. An automatic fine of \$200 will also be imposed on that team's parent club.

The league will maintain records of spectator offenses from season to season.

Please take the opportunity to print the Ten Commandments for Soccer Parents at the end of the manual and distribute this to your parents.

4.6 - COACHES AND PLAYERS

Current rules concerning yellow/red card procedures apply.

Current state/national policy states that yellow/red cards are a privilege extended only to players. Coaches can be subjected to disciplinary action by a referee without being shown a card.

4.7 - REFEREES

Upon any **initial incident** of verbal abuse by a referee directed towards any player, coach or other spectator, the coach observing the behavior shall report it to the league using the game report system. The league will notify the referee of the report, and caution the referee against any future similar conduct.

A **second incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by the **same referee** during the **same season** will result in suspension of the referee from officiating league games for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season.

The league will maintain records of referee offenses from season to season.

4.8 - REVIEW

Matters, including the conduct of officials, brought to the attention of GAASA, will be subject to review or submission to the Referee Association for review, but remedies will never include changing the result of a match.

5 - GAME AND FIELD REGULATIONS

GAASA games are played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by these local rules.

THE REFEREE IS THE ULTIMATE AND FINAL AUTHORITY AS TO WHO MAY OR MAY NOT PARTICIPATE, SUITABILITY OF A FIELD FOR PLAY, AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME. NEITHER THE REFEREE'S JUDGMENT NOR HIS RULINGS MAY BE CHALLENGED OR APPEALED AT THE FIELD OF PLAY.

5.1 - LENGTH OF GAMES

DIVISIONS	HALF-TIME	LENGTH OF GAMES
U9/10 Divisions	5 minutes	50 Minutes <u>(2 x 25-minute halves)</u>
U11/12 Divisions	5 Minutes	60 Minutes <u>(2 x 30-minute halves)</u>
U13/14/15 Division	5 Minutes	70 Minutes <u>(2 x 35-minute halves)</u>
U18 Divisions	5 Minutes	90 Minutes <u>(2 x 45-minute halves)</u>

NOTE – Only the referee is the official timekeeper during any match

TIMES ARE THE SAME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS GAMES IN ALL DIVISIONS AND AT ALL LEVELS AS STATED IN THE MANUAL UNDER GAME LENGTH

5.2 - GAME TIME

It is the responsibility of the both teams to arrive on time at the field and early enough to allow the referee to check in the players before the scheduled start of the game.

GAASA allows a 15-minute grace period only to allow teams to correct field preparation problems and for late arrival of teams and officials. This grace period begins at the designated game time and not from the end of the preceding game. The referee is responsible for starting each match as close to the scheduled time as possible.

The Home team coach/players will choose their side of the field; the Opposing team coach/players will take the same side of the field as the home team coach/players (tournament format). All parents and spectators are to take the opposite side of the field from the players.

The referee shall decide the playability of a field due to weather conditions or line marking only.

The penalty for failure to properly prepare a field is forfeiture by the home team by a 0-6 score. The failure of one or the other teams to field the required minimum number of players by the expiration of the grace period shall be penalized by forfeiture of the match by the late/no-show team by a 0-6 score.

5.3 - OFFICIAL GAME

Any game abandoned PRIOR to the end of the first half, no matter what the reason, other than behavior problems, will not be considered official. GAASA will make a

determination whether or not the game will be replayed. Any game abandoned after the conclusion of the first half will be considered official if abandoned due to weather or safety, and the score at that time will be reported as the official score. Any game abandoned by the referee after the conclusion of the first half for other reasons (such as lack of discipline) will be reported to GAASA, which will make the final determination as to the outcome and the final score of the game based on the referee's report.

5.4 - GAME BALL

The HOME TEAM is responsible to supply a suitable game ball, which must be acceptable to the referee.

All U9 to U12 matches will use a Size 4 ball. All other ages will use a Size 5 ball.

5.5 - OVERTIME

There is no overtime in league games. Games tied at the end of regulation time shall be recorded as tie games in the standings, and each team will receive one point towards the Playoffs. Overtime may be used in the Playoffs. See the Playoffs Handout for the overtime procedure used this season.

5.6 - GAME SCHEDULING & RESCHEDULING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

When declaring team's, clubs can enter reasonable constraints on a team as to their availability during a season.

Examples of "**reasonable**" constraints:

- Specific weeknight a team is not available
- Up to two weekends for tournament or school functions
- Available time on specific weekend play day (i.e. team cannot play before 2:30)

Examples of "**unreasonable**" constraints:

- Blocking every weeknight
- Blocking more than two weekends or the blocking of all Saturday or Sunday's in a season
- Restricting a team's availability on the weekend to less than two game time slots (i.e. only available to play at 1pm or after 5pm)

Additionally, clubs can conflict individuals who are the head coach of two teams in the same club. **Some effort** will then be made by the league to provide a schedule that will allow the coach to perform his/her duties with a **minimum** of conflicts.

ALL Reschedules must be agreed by both coaches on an available field and submitted and approved by the GAASA board with a minimum of 7 days prior to the proposed game date and time, to assist the GAASA referee assigners for scheduling referees.

With respect to actual game rescheduling, the following policies and procedures are now in effect:

Once the schedule has been posted coaches/clubs have until the reschedule deadline (consult the league calendar for the exact dates each season) to make any changes without charge. Sufficient time is provided for these changes to be made. Once the reschedule deadline has passed matches may be rescheduled and there will be a fee of **\$100** charged to the team/club requesting the change. These games must be approved

in the system **72 hours** before the originally scheduled start time. So, it is important for all coaches to review their schedules to see if they need to make a change in their schedule between the prescribed dates of the schedule posting and the schedule change deadline. Any changes during this time frame must be done using the online reschedule process that is available on the GAASA website. Coaches from **both** teams involved with the game **must** complete the form. **Should the 72-hour requirement not be honored, the requesting club shall pay the reschedule fee plus all associated referee fees (for both matches).**

Please keep in mind that these policies do not relate to reschedules due to weather, field conditions or referee no-shows. Very infrequently, the U.S. National Team or U.S. Olympic Team may play a match in the area. Teams wishing to attend such matches will be given a reschedule on an as-needed basis.

Every effort will be made to reschedule all games that are terminated prior to the end of the first half because of weather conditions and/or darkness. Both coaches must agree upon all rescheduled games within 48 hours of the original match date and the rescheduled game must take place prior to the last seven days of the regular season. In the event that a date and time cannot be agreed upon within the 48-hour period, scheduling of said game will be made by the appropriate youth VP. Any requests for reschedules of this nature must be submitted thru the online reschedule page for approval by the league **no more than 48 hours** after the originally scheduled game. Any team which fails to show for said reschedule will automatically forfeit by a 0-6 score.

Any unexcused team which fails to show up for play or fields less than the required players for their age group by the expiration of the grace period forfeits by a 0-6 score. **There is no reschedule for team no-shows.**

Any team(s) that reschedules a game without the permission of the league will result in both teams double-forfeiting by a score of 0-0 (NO POINTS) as well as a forfeit of both club bonds. There will also be an automatic 4-game suspension for both coaches involved. If a club bond is revoked, the bond must be replenished within five (5) days from the time the club is notified. Failure to replenish the club bond within the five (5) days will result in all scheduled games, or all teams, or said club being recorded as a forfeit from the time of notification until such time as the club bond is replenished. Coaches who reschedule games on their own must be made aware that if the game is not sanctioned by the league, the insurance provided by OHIO NORTH will not be in effect. This opens up possible litigation to the coach, the club, and the league. **DON'T DO IT.**

5.7 - EMERGENCY GAME CANCELLATION DUE TO FIELD SHUTDOWN

GAASA recognizes the fact that most clubs do not have the final say over the use of their fields. The Board of Education or the Parks & Recreation Division within their community controls most fields. If a field is shut down by one of the above due to inclement weather the following steps must be taken:

1. NOTIFY: The GAASA President (Nic.O.GAASA@gmail.com) as well as by phone at (330.283.3730). THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE TO CALL THE APPOINTED GAASA OFFICIAL IS THE: The Club's President or in their

absence the individual responsible for fields. Call NO LATER than 6:00 p.m. on the night prior to any scheduled game

2. The GAASA President will notify the referee assignor and the assigned referee of the cancellation
3. All reschedules must be handled according to the schedule/reschedule policy as defined.
4. Any club that fails to report by 6:00 p.m. may result in the following:
 - a) Said club being responsible for any and all referee fees and
 - b) Said club's rescheduled game will automatically be rescheduled to the opponent's field.

5.8 - FIELD PREPARATION

It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to have the field in proper condition for regular season and post-season games. The field must be properly marked (**according to the dimensions as prescribed in the section dealing with Field/Age group rules**) to the satisfaction of the referee (in the event that a club must use a site for multiple age groups [7v7 & 9v9, 9v9 & 11v11, etc.] it is only acceptable for a maximum of two fields to be laid out in the same area). This includes nets as well as securely anchoring of the goals to the satisfaction of the referee. In the absence of nets, unsecured goals or a properly prepared field, the referee has the right to suspend the game and then referring the matter for review to the GAASA which may result in the home team forfeiting by a score of 0-6.

Plastic traffic cones (minimum of 2 feet tall), regulation corner flags (on posts with a minimum height of 5 feet, with rounded tops), or spring-loaded corner flags must be positioned at the corners of the field for games. Corner arcs must be marked.

Only the referee can decide the playability of a field due to weather conditions or line marking only.

5.9 - CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

Many entities that own or control your fields (park boards, school boards, etc.) may require a certificate of insurance before they will allow you to play or practice. The purpose of this document is to prove that you belong to an organization that carries sufficient liability insurance, and to add the name of the entity that owns your field to the coverage.

Any GAASA club or team may obtain a certificate of insurance from Ohio North Youth Soccer Association through their web site (<http://www.ohionorthsoccer.org/insurance/>).

5.10 - PLAYER EQUIPMENT

All players except the goalkeeper must wear like-colored jerseys with a permanently attached number for identification. Each goalkeeper must wear a shirt different in color from either team. Goalkeepers do need permanently affixed numbers. All teams playing under the banner of a given club must wear the club designated uniform during league play with the appropriate club markings. Clubs must have a consistent style of uniform from team to team although a club may decide to use two different styles to differentiate between their boys and girl's teams. This policy is to ensure that all teams that play under a club bond have made a commitment to support and participate in the activities of the club and to ensure a clear club identity within the league. In case of a conflict in the color of team jerseys, it is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to change to an

alternate color. If the home team must change colors, the alternate shirts do not need numbers so long as the original numbered jerseys are worn underneath.

Warm-ups, compression shorts (sliders, bicycle pants), or long pants may be worn during a game ONLY if they are the same color as the uniform shorts, and then only with the approval of the referee. Any tape used by players on their socks must match the color of their socks. This option is not at the discretion of either team coach.

Casts and other support equipment such as braces must be padded and covered in such a way as to not be dangerous to another player. It is at the complete discretion of the referee as to whether a player may participate while wearing casts, braces or anything else other than the approved uniform. There is no appeal on each individual decision of each referee; the fact that one referee permitted the item in one game shall not be grounds for approval of the item in a different game.

All players are required to wear SHIN GUARDS in GAASA games always. The cleats on soccer shoes and their condition are at the discretion of the referee. Shoes designed for other sports including baseball, football and rugby shoes are not allowed. Referees should not allow cleats that could potentially injure another player. Cleats that are sharp or otherwise dangerous should not be allowed.

5.11 - PLAYER / COACH PASSES

Any player or coach participating in a league match must be registered to the league per current league policy as outlined on page six and other registration documents made available by the league. A laminated player or coach pass is to be printed and provided for all participants when checking in for a league match. (in the event the rostered coach is unavailable then another coach with a valid coach pass from the same club is acceptable).

Referees will not permit teams to start a match unless valid passes are present before the 15-minute grace period after the scheduled start time of the match.

A team using, or attempting to use, a player or coach who does not have a valid pass will forfeit the game by a score of 0-6. Any attempt to use another person's pass will be dealt with harshly with a minimum suspension of 1 game or more for the coach, the entire team and/or the club.

5.12 - REFEREE FEES

Referee fees will be paid by both coaches in accordance with the fee structure established by the league and listed in the registration fee sheet posted on the league web site. Each coach is to have their half of the referee fee in cash and is to present payment to the referee when submitting his/her game roster & passes. Failure to have the appropriate funds at game time can result in the game being called by the referee and referred to the league for further action which can result in (but not limited to) a forfeit win for the other team.

Games canceled at the field due to weather by the referee will be rescheduled per league policy. In this instance the teams are to pay the referee the game fee. The league will pay the referee for the rescheduled game using the form supplied by the league.

6 - FIELD & AGE GROUP RULES LOCAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

GAASA games are played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by these local rules.

6.1 - BREAKAWAYS AND “PROFESSIONAL” FOULS

Referees are required by the FIFA Laws to deal harshly with fouls against the game...fouls, which are intended to replace soccer skill with brute force. In particular, referees are required to issue red cards to any players who intentionally commit so-called “professional” defensive fouls, no matter how forcefully, in order to stop play of the game, and/or breakaways, when there is a clear scoring opportunity.

6.2 - MODIFIED U9/10 RULES

Number of Players

the maximum number of field players for U9/10u will be 7v7. One player shall be designated as the goalkeeper.

Game Roster Size

9/10U game roster size will be a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 12 players. Five players are needed to start/continue a match.

Substitutions

At any stoppage of play-unlimited

Goals

the goal size will be **6' by 18'-maximum**.

The Referee

Each game will have a registered referee. We will also have mentoring referees helping out the new referees at this age level (9U level usually serves as the entry point for new referees).

Offside

Offsides **does** apply to the 9/10U divisions. The build-out line also serves as the offside line.

Build-out Line

This line is to go from sideline to sideline equidistant between the center circle and the arc at the top of the penalty area. Attacking teams must withdraw behind this line when a keeper takes possession of the ball either with his/her hands or feet. Once the keeper has released the ball opposing players may cross the line.

Build-out line also serves as an offside line for the attacking team. A player cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build-out line.

Restarts

Conform to FIFA and opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball.

Goal Kicks

Goal kicks conform to FIFA-except opposing players must retreat behind the build-out line until the ball is in play

Team taking the goal kick is not required to wait for the opposing team to retreat behind the build-out line before taking the kick.

Goalie Punts

The goalkeeper may not punt or drop kick the ball. An infraction is punished by giving the ball to the opponent for an indirect free kick at the point where the ball crossed the half-way line.

Throw-ins

Conform to FIFA and as outlined on page 10/Substitutions in the Coaches Manual.

Fouls & Misconduct

Conform to FIFA-Kicks maybe direct or indirect depending on the type of offense.

Heading

9/10U teams are not permitted to deliberately head the ball. The penalty is an indirect free kick at the point of the infraction.

There is no penalty if a ball accidentally strikes a player on the head.

When a ball is deliberately headed inside the goal area, the ball must be placed on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Corner Kick

Conform to FIFA-except opponents must be eight (8) yards from the ball

Penalty Kicks

Conform to FIFA-with the exception the PK spot is ten (10) yards from the goal line.

Pass Back Rule

FIFA

6.3 - MODIFIED 11/12U RULES

Number of Players

the maximum number of field players for 11/12U will be 9v9. One player shall be designated as the goalkeeper.

Game Roster Size

11/12U game roster size will be a minimum of 9 players and a maximum of 16 players. Six players are needed to start/continue a match.

Substitutions

At any stoppage of play-unlimited

Goals

the goal size will be **6'x 18' recommended-7'x21' maximum**

The Referee

Each game will have a registered referee.

Offside

Conform to FIFA

Restarts

Conform to FIFA and opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball.

Start of Play

Conform to FIFA

Goal Kicks

Conform to FIFA

Throw-ins

Conform to FIFA

Fouls & Misconduct

Conform to FIFA

Heading

11U teams are not permitted to deliberately head the ball (**12U teams can head without limitations**). The penalty is an indirect free kick at the point of the infraction.

There is no penalty if a ball accidentally strikes a player on the head.

When a ball is deliberately headed inside the goal area, the ball must be placed on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Corner Kick

Conform to FIFA-except opponents must be eight (8) yards from the ball

Penalty Kicks

Conform to FIFA-with the exception the PK spot is ten (10) yards from the goal line.

Pass Back Rule

FIFA

6.4 - PLAYING FIELDS

A soccer field is considered dimensionally acceptable if it is accepted by GAASA for scheduling. At any multi-field facility, the home team has the right to designate which field shall be used for the game no matter what field number is assigned. However, only the referee has the right to determine the acceptability of a field for any given match, and he may abandon the match or require modifications to the field for reasons of markings and/or safety. Each referee has the right to make this determination for each individual match without regard to any previous rulings. The HOME TEAM is responsible for having the field marked, corners marked and nets hung by game time.

All fields must comply with the dimensions and markings listed below. Should a field be found to not be in compliance and the match abandoned by the referee as a result the matter will be referred to the GAASA board for review and disposition which may result in, but not be limited to, the forfeiture of the game by the home team.

Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement. **Please refer to the GAASA/OSA Goal Post Safety Policy in the appendix section of this manual for further information.**

6.4.1 - 9/10U Field Dimensions

- The field of play shall be rectangular. Field dimension is to be 35 yds. x 55 yds/min. to 45yds x 65 yds/max.
- Goal: **6 feet high and 18 feet wide maximum.**

Field Markings

All field markings should be clearly visible using chalk or paint. Corner flags should be used, but cones may be substituted for flags. The penalty area is marked **12** yards from the **center** of the field in each direction and **12** yards into the field of play. The goal box is marked **4** yards out in the same manner and 8 yards from the center of the field in each direction. A penalty spot should be marked **10** yards from the goal. An arc with the radius of **8** yards is to be drawn from each penalty spot. The center circle is **8** yards and corner arcs are **one** yard.

6.4.2 - 11/12U Field Dimensions

- GAASA Field dimension recommendation: 45 yds x 70 yds/min. to 55 yds x 80 yds/max.
- Goal: 6.5'x18 minimum to 7'x21' maximum

Field Markings

all field markings should be clearly visible using chalk or paint. Corner flags should be used, but cones may be substituted for flags. The penalty area is marked **18** yards from the **center** of each goal and **14** yards into the field of play. The goal box is marked **8**

yards from the center of the goal and **5** yards into the field of play. A penalty spot should be marked **10** yards from the goal. An arc with the radius of **8** yards is to be drawn from each penalty spot. The center circle is **8** yards and corner arcs are **one** yard.

6.4.3 - 13-19U Field Dimensions

- The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. Length Minimum 100 yards, Maximum 120 yards. Width Minimum 60 yards, Maximum 75 yards.
- Goal: 8 feet high and 24 feet wide

Field Markings

all field markings should be clearly visible using chalk or paint. Corner flags should be used, but cones may be substituted for flags. The penalty area is marked **18** yards from the inside of each goal post and **18** yards into the field of play. The goal box is marked **6** yards out in the same manner. A penalty spot should be marked **12** yards from the goal. An arc with the radius of **10** yards is to be drawn from each penalty spot. The center circle is **10** yards and corner arcs are **one** yard.

7 - PLAY-OFF & TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

7.1 - PLAYOFF INFORMATION

GAASA conducts Playoffs in all divisions as specified for the current season. Youth playoffs are conducted in a single elimination tournament-style format.

The winner of the Playoffs determines each competitive division champion, not by finishing first in the regular season. The team that finishes first in regular season will also receive recognition and awards for their accomplishments. The purpose of the regular season is to determine a regular season champion and to qualify teams for the Playoffs with the final standings being used to determine the seeding used in the tournament. If multiple teams end the season with identical records they will be declared co-champions and each team will receive awards for being the regular season champion. A tie-breaking system will be used to determine the seeding for the play-offs and the specifics of that will be part of the play-off information posted to the web site.

Clubs are to pay their playoff team fees by the conclusion of the last day of the playoffs. The league will make every attempt to provide clubs a list of their teams which have qualified but it is the responsibility of the club to know which of their teams qualified and therefore know the amount due.

The method of qualifying for the Playoffs is based on the game results for a given season and varies within each division based on the number of teams that enter the league each season. A series of tie-breakers are used to determine divisional standings and then seeding for the play-offs. The tie-breakers are:

- 1. Most points**
- 2. Winner of most games**
- 3. Head-to-head (this is not to be used in the event of a three-way tie)**
- 4. Goal differential (goals scored less goals allowed)**
- 5. least goals allowed**
- 6. goals scored (using only the goals published on the GAASA web site)**

For that reason, a separate handout is prepared each season detailing how, when and where the Playoffs will be conducted. This handout will also detail the qualification criteria for each division that season. This information will be posted on the GAASA Web site about 1 month prior to the playoffs.

7.2 - PLAY-OFF RULES

- Only players who are officially rostered on a team may participate with the team in the play-offs. There are no guest players. The use of an illegal player by a team will result in sanctions that may be taken against the coach, team and/or club at the discretion of the GAASA board.
- Each team must make available, if necessary, their league stamped roster that was submitted at registration at any time during the play-offs.
- Only league game rosters may be used for the play-offs. In lieu of a game number indicate if it is a semi-final or final game. The higher seeded team is the home team and must be aware of any color conflicts.
- All games are full length. In the event of situations that prevent the game from being played to conclusion the following steps are to be followed: 1-if the game is terminated prior to the start of the second half the higher seeded team moves on; 2-if the second half starts and the game is called before it can be finished then the existing score determines who moves on and in the event of a tie the higher seeded team goes to the final if it is a semi-final. If it is a final in either of the above cases the champion will be declared on those criteria. Only the GAASA Board of Directors or the play-off director may alter this policy. The result cannot be appealed.
- If a game should end in a tie at the end of regulation the teams will go straight to a shoot-out governed by the rules of FIFA. If this should occur on a weeknight game and the issue of available light becomes an issue the application of the preceding bullet point will apply. The result cannot be appealed.
- There is no warm-up period on the field the game is to be played. All games will start at their designated time or in the event a delay is caused by the preceding game said game will begin as soon as the referee crew is prepared to begin.
- The winning coach is to bring both game rosters to the designated league representative after the game and after all referees have properly signed and noted any circumstances on the report. In the event of a red card the reports are to only be returned by a referee but the winning coach is required to provide the score.
- Any issues concerning sportsmanship or the lack of it by players, coaches or spectators that result in a referee either stopping a game or filing a report at the conclusion may result in actions against the individuals involved or in lieu of that against the clubs of the participants. These games are conducted for the sole benefit of the players and the league does not look kindly on incidents that detract from the enjoyment due the players.
- All other competition rules and regulations normally in effect for the regular season, and not noted above, apply to all play-off games.

Adherence to these rules is required as a participant.

7.3 - PLAYOFF BOND FORFEITURE

Every competitive team that enters GAASA has an obligation to compete in the Playoffs if qualified. However, GAASA also recognizes the fact that teams may make a

commitment to participate in another tournament before they know for certain that they have qualified for the GAASA Playoffs. Therefore, teams may be excused from the Playoffs if they notify the GAASA Board in writing at least **three (3) weeks** prior to the end of the regular season. If a team is excused, all teams below them in the regular season standings move up one place for purposes of playoff seeding.

If a team qualifies, fails to notify the league regarding an exemption, and still does not take part in the Playoffs, the club forfeits its club bond that must be replenished to current standards at the next registration.

7.4 - AWARDS

Awards, if any, will only be distributed through GAASA Playoffs. The awards offered for any individual season and their rate of distribution will be detailed in the Playoff Handout for the current season. Playoff rules and schedules are posted on the GAASA Web Site at least one month prior to each playoff.

7.5 - STANDINGS

In all divisions, standings are used to determine Playoff eligibility. Standings are determined based on points with 3 points awarded for each win, 1 point awarded for each tie, and no (0) points awarded for each loss. For the rules governing ties in the standings and other Playoff matters, see the Playoff Handout for this season.

7.6 - STATE CUP

Every youth team in good standing with GAASA and OSA, which has maintained a legal roster throughout the seasonal year as a competitive team, is entitled to enter the Bothwell, Governors, or Presidents State Cup Tournament which determines the OSA state champions each fall and spring. Registration for these tournaments can be found on the OSA web site (<https://ohio-soccer.org/cup-series/>).

7.7 - TOURNAMENTS AND TRAVEL

Competitive teams and players affiliated with GAASA are eligible to travel and play teams from other affiliated leagues, either in friendly games or in tournaments. It is important to note that USYSA players and teams are expressly forbidden from playing in other leagues, games or events not affiliated with USSF—you may be suspended from GAASA for breaking this rule!

Grassroots Recreational teams are not permitted to play outside of GAASA, without prior upgrade to a Competitive Team status, which can occur at any time throughout the season/year.

There are many tournaments held throughout OSA, our US Youth State Association. These tournaments and the OSA State Cup Tournament do not require travel permits from the state offices. All other tournaments held outside OSA boundaries, except the National Youth Championship, do require a travel permit. If your team wishes to enter a tournament, please make sure you check with OSA to make certain you have kept your team legal by state and national standards throughout the seasonal year.

OSA travel permit can be obtained for the team(s) needing the permit. There is no charge for the permit. Make sure you get it back approved before leaving for your

tournament. If you have any questions regarding travel permits, contact OSA for assistance.

8 - YELLOW / RED CARD POLICY & OTHER DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

In GAASA, players and coaches can receive red and yellow cards. Two yellow cards equal a red card and an ejection from the match. Ejected players or coaches must leave the area immediately. The referee has the authority to issue both red and yellow cards from the time he arrives at the field to the time he leaves it. The referee never has to warn a player or a coach before issuing either yellow or red cards. Generally, cards will be shown, but it is not necessary for the referee to show the card for disciplinary action to be taken.

The Disciplinary Committee will monitor yellow Card reports. Disciplinary action may be taken, with or without warning, against habitual and repeat offenders. Such action may include phone calls from the Disciplinary Committee to the participant, coach or club officers, letters of warning or reprimand, and/or summons to a disciplinary hearing. However, it is never necessary for any of these actions, or any other form of warning, to occur before stronger disciplinary action can be instigated when deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Committee or the Executive Board.

The GAASA Disciplinary Committee chaired by the Executive VP will handle Red Cards. The coach of the team to which the coach or player was registered will be notified of the committee decision in about 2 weeks or less after the red card report has been received by the committee from the Executive Director.

This policy means the player or coach will serve a minimum suspension of however many games occur within this time frame because the league will have the Player/Coach pass throughout the disciplinary/appeal process, and, “no pass, no play” applies.

Note that every disciplinary action for various Red Card infractions stated in the GAASA Constitution, Bylaws, and elsewhere (see appendix), is **always** stated as minimum. You may be suspended for many more games than the stated minimum, and the Disciplinary Committee has the power and authority to suspend any participant, including spectators, for up to 99 years. Every Red Card will be evaluated on an individual basis and there is no appeal to precedent. Player Passes will be held by the Disciplinary Committee and returned to the team coach upon the completion of the suspension.

In the event a coach is dismissed from a match, the club president and the coach will be notified. If the coach fails to heed the disciplinary action handed out, the team will be barred from further participation for the season, and sterner measures may be taken. This could cause the team forfeit policy and/or club bond forfeit policy to automatically be invoked. The club officers will also be held accountable for further actions within the team.

It is the responsibility of the coach to insure sportsmanlike conduct of players, spectators and guests on and off the field of play. A coach can be dismissed from a match as a result of the actions of spectators, players, or anyone on his sidelines or related to his team in any capacity. There is no room in soccer for fighting, unnecessary rough play, or harassment of any kind by or towards any player, coach, spectator or referee.

The coach's Game Report is the ONLY vehicle to use to express problems concerning a match, including dissatisfaction with the performance (not the judgment) of the referee. Red cards issued by a referee for harassment or unsportsmanlike conduct directed at the referee will be dealt with harshly.

9 - PROTESTS AND APPEALS

9.1 - PROTESTS

1 – ALL protests for any corrective and/or disciplinary action must be submitted in writing in a timely fashion to GAASA

2 – The GAASA Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all protests.

3 – Protests shall be written in triplicate: One copy for the opposing team; one copy mailed with a protest fee of \$100.00 to the President within 48 hours after the date of the game and/or incident; retain the final copy yourself.

4 – The protest fees shall be returned ONLY if the protest is upheld.

5 – The referee's judgment(s) with regard to the physical condition of the field, its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the match and those prerogatives granted him by the FIFA Laws of the Game SHALL NOT BE CHALLENGED.

9.2 - APPEALS

1 – Before there can be an appeal, there must first be a ruling. Only Disciplinary Committee and Executive Board rulings may be appealed. Decisions of a referee can never be appealed.

2 – Appeals will take place, by invitation only, at GAASA Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board will permit the person appealing, the division commissioner and witnesses to attend during the time set aside for hearing the appeal.

3 – A statement limited to 5-7 minutes from the person appealing may be heard; witnesses are limited to 5 minutes each; papers may be presented.

4 – The total time limit for the appeal is 10 minutes as this is not a hearing, but a request to the Board, for a change in a decision that has already been made.

5 – Board members are permitted to ask questions, limited entirely to the particular matter at hand, not regarding other charges that may be pending against other persons in the case.

6 – The result of the findings will be sent to the person(s) involved within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of the appeal.

DISCLAIMER: The GAASA board reserves the right to suspend the above time constraints and procedures stated above if in applying them prevents due process for all concerned. This would be most evident with regards to the playoffs should a protest/appeal affect team entry or placement in the playoffs.

The decision to suspend is solely the responsibility of the board and is not guaranteed.

10 - INDOOR SOCCER

Indoor soccer along with Futsal are activities your team may wish to continue playing together between the fall and spring outdoor seasons.

GAASA and OSA do not sanction or affiliate indoor soccer or recognize it as an actual soccer activity. We will not take disciplinary action against players who take part in indoor soccer activities, but we may take note of such activities when they may affect team placement, player recruiting, and tryout and transfer issues. OSA insurance does cover your indoor soccer activities provided all players have been registered with the league and OSA. All players on a team must be registered for coverage to apply.

Indoor insurance protection is now provided if:

- An OSA affiliated league (where players are already registered to teams) reports, in writing to OSA, sanctions or endorses indoor team participation.
- An OSA affiliated league hosts or coordinates indoor training, games, practices, scrimmages, etc.
- OSA affiliated leagues must request insurance certificates online from OSA in advance of player and/or team indoor participation.
- Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, and other Team Officials must be registered with OSA and must have a valid background check on file with OSA.

OSA rules require that a player leave his currently rostered team and obtain a release before contacting, trying out for, or playing on another team. While these rules do not prevent a player from playing on an indoor team, since OSA and GAASA have no jurisdiction over indoor soccer, playing for a different indoor team than the team to which the player is rostered outdoors could constitute a tryout with that team. If that player should attempt to roster to that new team the following spring, the transfer could be denied based on the illegal tryout.

The best policy for any players considering a team switch is to obtain a release at the end of the fall season. This allows players to try out for new teams. Coaches should note that it is illegal, under national rules, to 1) force a player off a team roster unless he moves too far away to participate with that team, 2) is injured to such an extent that he can no longer participate, or 3) is suspended by league, state or national authorities for a length of time exceeding the seasonal year. It is also illegal to deny a release to a player who wishes to leave a team, regardless of the reason.

If you have any questions about indoor soccer, please consult a GAASA Executive Board member before you take a chance on breaking any of our rules.

APPENDIX

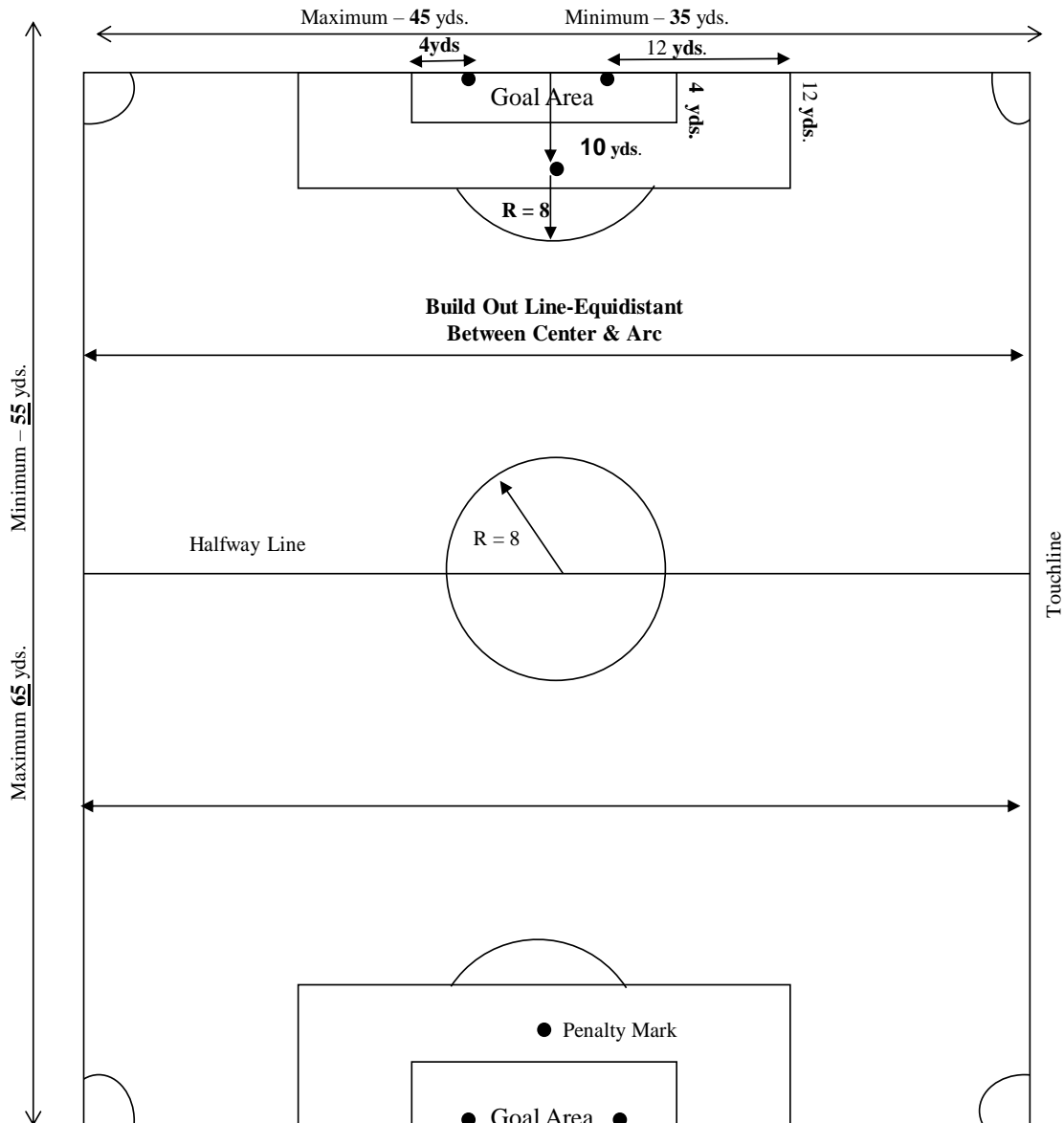
• Field Markings	
○ 7v7	Pg. 34
○ 9v9	Pg. 35
○ 11v11	Pg. 36
• Severe Weather Policy	Pg. 37
• League Concussion Policy	Pg. 38
• Club / Coach Compliance Form	Pg. 39
• League Goal Safety Policy	Pg. 40
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• Principles of Conduct	Pg. 43
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• Disciplinary Actions (excerpted from Constitution)	Pg. 45-47
• GAASA Pre-Match Check-In	Pg. 48
• USSF Birthyear/Season Matrix	Pg. 49
• Ten Commandments	Pg. 50

The Field of Play – 9/10U 7v7 – 65 yds. X 45 yds.

Goals 6x18-maximum

Length: Max – 65 yds.; Min - 55 yds.

Width: Max - 45 yds.; Min – 35 yds.

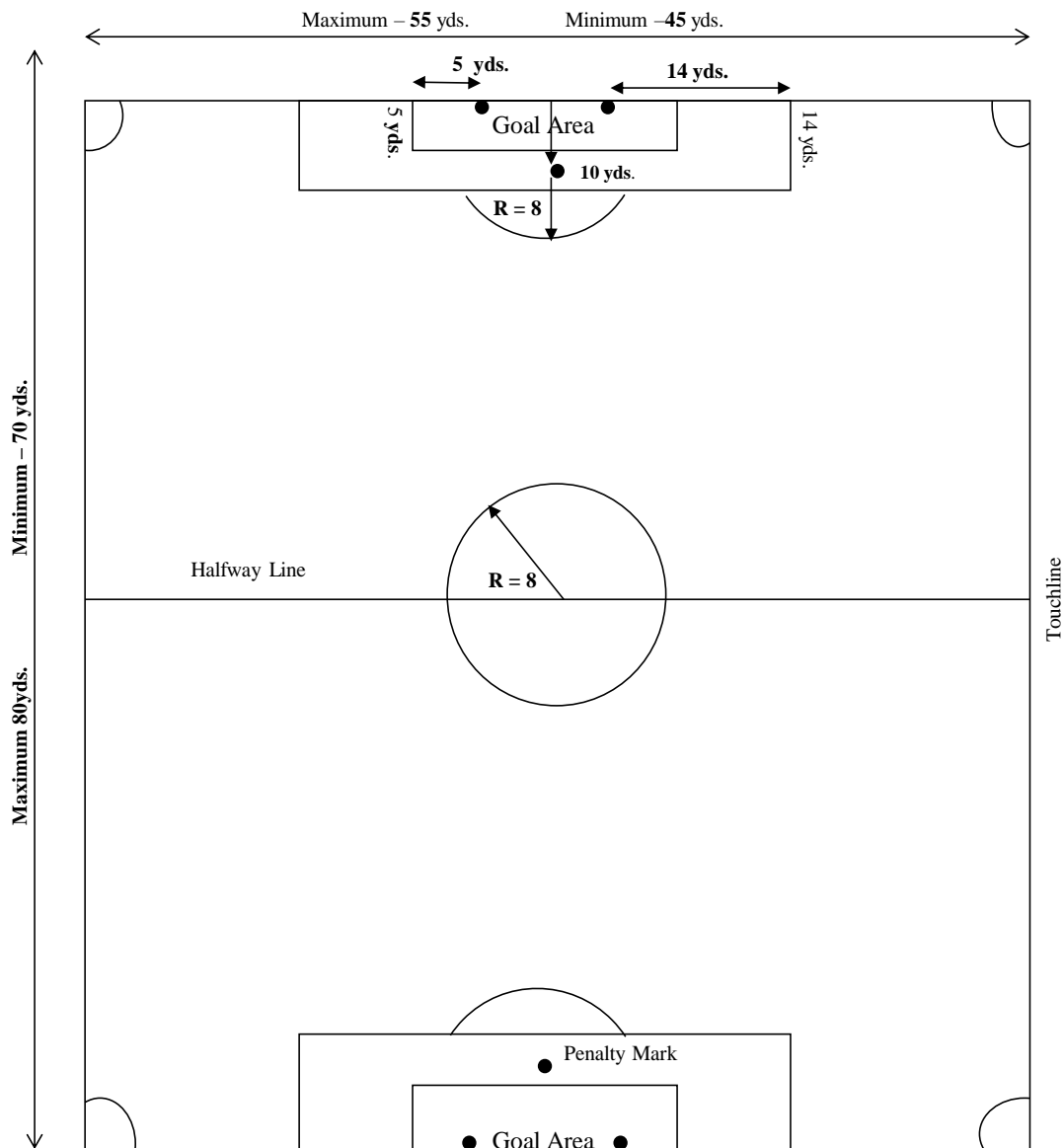


The Field of Play – 11/12U 9v9 – 80 yds. X 55 yds.

Goals 6x18 – Acceptable Options – 7x 21

Length: Max – 80 yds.; Min - 70 yds.

Width: Max - 55 yds.; Min – 45 yds.

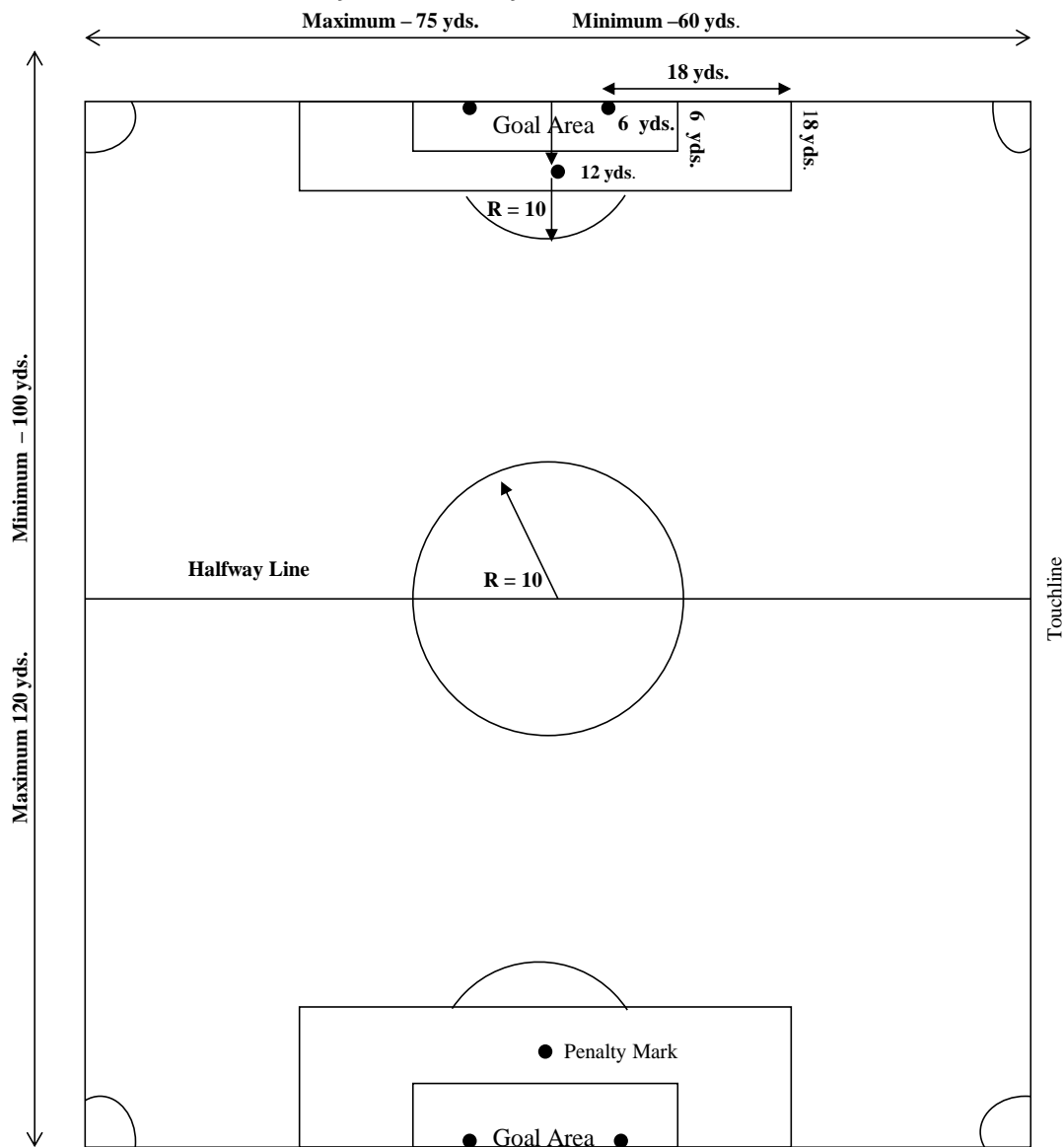


The Field of Play – 13-18U 11v11 – 120 yds. X 75 yds.

Goals 8x24

Length: Max – 120 yds.; Min - 100 yds.

Width: Max - 75 yds.; Min – 60 yds.



Dealing with Severe Weather

This position paper provides basic guidelines for dealing with lightning, windstorms, and other severe weather conditions. The peak season for severe weather occurs in the United States between May and August, typically in the late afternoon and early evening.

1. Lightning

- a. Recognizing the threat
 - (1) Apply the 30-30 rule
When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less, seek proper shelter. If you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule. Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving shelter.
 - (2) Know and heed warning systems and community rules
Many communities or park systems have lightning detection and warning systems. Use this information and obey the rules established by the community or park system.
 - (3) Know and apply the rules or procedures established by the competition authority
 - (4) Minimize the risk of being struck
Referees must protect the safety of all participants by stopping game activities quickly, so that participants and spectators may retire to a safer place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Remember, if you can hear the thunder, you are within reach of lightning.
- b. Seeking proper shelter
 - (1) No place outside is safe near thunderstorms
 - (2) The best shelter is a large, fully enclosed, substantially constructed building. A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a reasonable second choice.
- c. If there is no proper shelter, avoid the most dangerous locations:
 - (1) Higher elevations
 - (2) Wide open areas, including fields
 - (3) Tall isolated objects, such as trees, poles, or light posts.
 - (4) Unprotected open buildings
 - (5) Rain shelters
 - (6) Bus stops
 - (7) Metal fences and metal bleachers
- d. If you cannot avoid these locations, crouch down on the balls of your feet, with your head tucked into your chest and your hands over your ears.
- e. If someone is hit
All deaths from lightning result from cardiac arrest and stopped breathing. CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, respectively, are the recommended first aid. Referees should become involved in such assistance only if they have proper training.
- f. Remain calm. A calm official will often be able to prevent panic by young players.

NO LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES WILL GIVE 100% GUARANTEED TOTAL SAFETY, BUT THESE STEPS WILL HELP YOU AVOID THE VAST MAJORITY OF LIGHTNING CASUALTIES.

2. Other types of severe weather

- a. Severe storms or tornadoes:
Obey local rules and heed warnings (meaning that a severe storm or tornado has been sighted). Clear the field and seek proper shelter immediately – see above. Remember, according to standard weather warning terminology a "warning" represents a more immediately likely occurrence than a "watch."
- b. Hurricanes: There is usually plenty of notice, so games will probably have been cancelled. Look for warning signs.
- c. Hail: Stop the game, clear the field, and seek proper shelter – see above.

NO SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY GUIDELINES WILL GIVE 100% GUARANTEED TOTAL SAFETY, BUT THESE STEPS WILL HELP YOU AVOID THE VAST MAJORITY OF CASUALTIES.

If there is a possibility of severe weather, the referee and assistant referees should discuss these guidelines in their pre-game meeting and ensure that all officials have a clear understanding of their respective duties. Referees should clearly identify what assistance they expect in detecting and bringing to their immediate attention any dangerous weather conditions which may not be directly visible to them. If such conditions develop only after a match has begun, the referee should take the first stoppage opportunity to quickly review these matters with the assistant referees. A brief word to the coaches regarding steps the referee will take to ensure player safety in threatening weather conditions would be useful.

Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association

Concussion Policy

The GAASA support and enforces the State of Ohio “Return to Play” law (HB 143) and as such requires all league members to comply. This means that **all** individuals involved with players must comply with the required training. This includes but is not limited to coaches, trainers, team managers and club officers must acquire the appropriate certification. The training must be **renewed every three years**. Clubs must collect and maintain certificates of compliance from these individuals. At any time, GAASA or OSA may request evidence of compliance with the training requirements and clubs must be able to produce confirmation for each individual.

There are FREE approved online training courses available. **Ohio North mandates that members use the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)** (<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>). The NFHS requires a user to login but allows leagues to track individuals progress and but also allows the individual to log in and print their certification should they require a new certificate or provide their club, GAASA or OSA with proof of compliance when asked. The GAASA requires each club to provide the league with a properly filled out “Concussion Compliance Form” at player registration prior to each season. This form will certify that a club has done their due diligence in seeing that all staff has complied with the policy. No coach is to be permitted to work with players until they have been certified.

The following forms must be carried by club staff for all practices or competitions involving a club's players:

- Youth Sports Concussion Information Sheet (this must also be given to all parents in a club)
- Possible Concussion Notification Form
- Certificate of Completion of Concussion Training-NFHS course

These forms are available on the OSA web site (www.oysan.org) or the GAASA web site.

GAASA/OSA CLUB/COACH COMPLIANCE FORM

This form is to certify that the undersigned club, through its designated representative, has confirmed that all of their coaches and any other individual working players on behalf of the club have met the standards set forth in State Bill 143 ("Return to Play" law) in accordance with OSA policy.

Please read the following certifications:

1. To the best of my knowledge all coaches and other individuals working with players have completed the OSA designated concussion training course.
2. That all teams will have the following documents available during any club activities (games, practices, camps, etc.) involving players (forms available at http://www.oysan.org/For_Coaches/Concussion_Training.htm):
 - 2.1. Youth Sports Concussion Information Sheet-this form must also be presented to all parents according to league policies
 - 2.2. Possible Concussion Notification Form
 - 2.3. Certificate of Completion of Concussion Training (NFHS)
3. I hereby certify as an official contact person and on behalf of _____ (insert name of club), Ohio North and State of Ohio policies regarding concussion training have been met and will be followed coming season as identified below. I acknowledge that non-compliance could impact the ability of the club and its teams to compete in the identified season.

Signature of the person completing this form: Club Name:

Printed name:

Season & Year

Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association

Goal Safety Policy

It is the intention of the Board of Directors of the GAASA that goal safety be a priority. Therefore, the following policy is adopted:

1. The GAASA will require for all programs and every activity:
 - a. The coaches for each game/activity or other responsible person (i.e., Field Director or Community Representative) will make a physical inspection of each goal prior to the game/activity to assure that goals are securely anchored accordance with CPSC guidelines/manufacture's guidelines. (Attached)*
 - b. The coaches for the last game of the day will make sure the goals are safely stored in accordance with the CPSC guidelines/manufacture's guidelines. (Attached)*
 - c. That all parents and guardians are told of the dangers of unsecured goals and the parents' responsibility to keep kids away from goals, and to secure goals if necessary.
 - d. GAASA Board Members will conduct random site surveys.
2. To reach this end, all coaches will receive a copy of the CPSC guidelines, and clear instructions as to how to make goals safe and secure.
3. Coaches will remind their players, and discuss with the team's parents, the necessity of players and siblings not playing, climbing or moving the goals. It is deemed appropriate that players violating this rule may, at the coaches' discretion, sit out a half a game or entire game. Players consistently violating the rule can be subject to a disciplinary hearing of the Board.
4. For non-club/league owned fields and/or goals, it is important to remind the owners of the fields and/or goals of safety requirements. This is in addition to the checking of goals as listed above.
5. The President will have random site surveys done to certify compliance with this policy.
6. The President of the Board will certify to Ohio North no later than November 1 of each year that a policy is in place and enforced.

From the OYSAN Policy: Risk Management Policy Excerpts:

The Ohio Youth Soccer Association-North shall require all member leagues to certify to the state association each year in November by the AGM that Goal Safety Policies have been implemented by the member organization. (Adopted 8/3/04)

BOARD POLICY RM-8:

Board Policy Regarding Goal Safety in Youth Soccer Activities

1. *The Ohio Youth Soccer Association North will require its own programs and for every activity:*
 - a. *The person coordinating the OYSAN activity or other responsible person will make a physical inspection of each goal prior to the activity to assure that goals are securely anchored and stored in accordance with CPSC guidelines/manufacturer's guidelines. (Attached)*
 - b. *That all parents and guardians are told of the dangers of unsecured goals and the parents' responsibility to keep kids away from goals, and to secure goals if necessary.*
 - c. *That staff of OYSAN will conduct random site surveys.*
2. *The Ohio Youth Soccer Association North will require all member organizations for every activity:*
 - a. *To have a written goal safety policy in accordance with CPSC/Manufacturer guidelines which require:*
 1. *A coach or other responsible person to make a physical inspection of the goal prior to practice and games to assure that the goals are securely anchored and stored in accordance with CPSC guidelines/ manufacturer's guidelines. (Attached)*
 2. *The policy to include communicating each year with parents of each player and players about the dangers of unsecured goals, and their responsibility to assure that goals are secure. It is appropriate to have a penalty for players playing on goals.*
 - b. *The league will conduct random site surveys concerning goal anchoring and storage.*
3. *Even if OYSAN or the member does not own the fields and goals, the league still has a responsibility to remind the owners of the safety requirements, and to have a policy for the above.*

GREATER AKRON AMATUER SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Web Site

www.GAASA.org

Email

email.GAASA@gmail.com

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VICE PRESIDENT-YOUTH GIRLS/HS

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Principles of Conduct

Safety

1. My first responsibility is the health and safety of all participants.
2. It is recommended that coaches become certified in the basic first aid and are aware of their club, league or state requirements in this area.
3. Be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games, both home and away:
 - Have and know how to use a properly supplied first aid kit/ice
 - 911 emergency procedures/telephone location
 - location of nearest emergency medical facilities
 - always carry emergency medical release forms and team safety and information cards
 - follow up all injuries with parents/guardians
4. Know and understand the Laws of the Game
5. Inspect players' equipment and field conditions for safety reason
6. Utilize proper teaching and instructing of players regarding safe techniques and methods of play
7. Implement appropriate training programs to make sure players are fit for practice and competition.
8. Supervise and control your players so as to avoid injury situations.

Player Development

1. Develop the child's appreciation of the game.
2. Keep winning and losing in proper perspective
3. Be sensitive to each child's development needs.
4. Educate the players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
5. Implement rules and equipment modification according to the players age group.
6. Allow players to experience all positions.
7. Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback.
8. Practice should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
9. Provide the appropriate number of training sessions and games according to the player's stage of development.
10. Strive to help each player reach his or her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.

Ethics

1. Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
2. Know and follow all rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state, and national associations.
3. Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
4. Be a positive role model
5. Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, refereed, administrators and spectators.
6. Keep sort in proper perspective with education.
7. Encourage moral and social responsibility
8. Just say no to drugs and alcohol.
9. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport.

Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association

Code of Conduct

Acceptance of this Code of Conduct is a condition of membership and participation in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association ("GAASA"). Clubs that are members of GAASA ("Club") are required to sign this Code of Conduct on behalf of the Club, as well as require that all Club coaches, players, and the players' parents or legal guardians sign this Code of Conduct.

Participation in GAASA-sponsored activities play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in GAASA-sponsored activities should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

Participation in GAASA-sponsored activities is also a privilege granted by GAASA, and its state and national affiliations. For purposes of this Code of Conduct, "GAASA-sponsored activities" shall include activities sponsored by or affiliated with GAASA, the Ohio Youth Soccer Association-North, U.S. Youth Soccer Association and/or the U.S. Soccer Federation. Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct and/or generally accepted standards of community citizenship can result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to the revocation of the participant's membership in GAASA and/or the Club.

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a GAASA-sponsored activity and shall conform my behavior to the following Code of Conduct:

1. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored event.
2. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity.
3. I will not, nor will I permit or encourage any other person, to use drugs or alcohol while at a GAASA-sponsored activity and will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in a GAASA-sponsored activity while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, the use of profanity at a GAASA-sponsored activity.
5. I will treat, and will encourage my child to treat, every coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or ability.
6. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity.
7. I will not initiate, nor encourage any other person to initiate, a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity.

I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the foregoing Code of Conduct while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a GAASA-sponsored activity, I will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to revocation of membership in GAASA and/or the Club. Further, I understand that similar disciplinary action may be taken by GAASA and/or the Club if my conduct in activities not sponsored by GAASA are considered to bring discredit to GAASA and/or the Club.

In addition to the above, any member of GAASA who is convicted for any crimes as defined in the Ohio Revised Code-Section 109.572(a)(1) will be subject to immediate revocation of all GAASA membership privileges.

We, the undersigned, have read, understand and agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct. We also agree to accept actions taken by GAASA and/or the Club for failure to conform to the Code of Conduct.

Club Name: _____

Participant's Printed Name

Parent or Guardian's Printed Name

Participant's Signature and Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature and Date

ARTICLE XXXIII - DISCIPLINARY RULINGS AND PUNISHMENTS

Section 1 Member clubs will be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, managers, club officials, and spectators. Member clubs are responsible to ensure that disciplinary actions and punishments of the association towards players, coaches, managers, club officials and, spectators of said club are enforced.

Section 2 If any of the above engages in un-sportsmanlike conduct (as defined by F.I.F.A.) before, during, or after any game, the Disciplinary Committee will take such appropriate action as deemed necessary.

Section 3 Initiation of disciplinary procedures can occur from a referee report or an official protest.

Section 4 The Disciplinary Committee will notify the offender, by mail, as to any disciplinary taken against him/her.

Section 5 The Executive Board, has the right to contact any necessary individual, in writing, involved in an incident, advising of the time and place of a hearing for additional clarification of an incident, prior to making a ruling. Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing will result in a forfeiture of all rights to protest or appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

Section 6 In the event a player is confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offense listed below

- a) Violent Conduct;
- b) Serious Foul Play;
- c) Use of abusive language
- d) Striking, pushing, physical abuse or threatening physical abuse (as defined by F.I.F.A.) in any manner against or at any player.

Then, the player shall be disciplined as follows:

- a) First Offense:

Player may receive a minimum of a two-game suspension for that offense effective the next scheduled game, and may be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action, for each succeeding offense within the same season for the following offenses:

- b) Second Offense:

Player may be suspended for six months from participating in the League's activities in any form effective as of the date of the letter notifying said player of the disciplinary action.

- c) Third Offense:

Player may be suspended for one year from participation in the League's activities in any form effective as of the date of the letter notifying said player of the disciplinary action.

Section 7 Player may receive a minimum of a one-game suspension effective the next scheduled game for the following offenses:

- a) Receives a second caution in the same match
- b) Spits at or near any player, coach, official, or spectator
- c) Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (not applicable to a goalkeeper in his/her penalty area)
- d) Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent who is moving toward the offending player's goal by an offense that is punishable under F.I.F.A. rules by a free kick or a penalty kick
- e) Uses offensive or insulting language
- f) Making threatening gestures against other players, officials, coaches, and/or spectators

Section 8 Any player found to be playing illegally after an ejection would automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) additional games succeeding the first offense.

Section 9 In the event a player, coach, manager, club official or spectator is confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offense listed below in any form directed at or toward the referee (whether scheduled or acting), before during or after the game:

- a) Pushing
- b) Striking
- c) Spitting
- d) Physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse (as defined by F.I.F.A.)

He/she will be immediately referred to OSA for adjudication. The penalties handed down by OSA will be supported by the GAASA.

Section 10 In the event a player, coach, manager, club official, or spectator is confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offense listed below in any form directed at or toward other coaches, manager, or other club officials before during or after the game:

- a) Pushing
- b) Striking
- c) Spitting
- d) Physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse (as defined by U.S.S.F.)

He/she will be disciplined as follows:

- a) Will receive a minimum of a one-year (12-month) suspension effective immediately

Section 11 Any coach or club official who orders his team off the field during a game and refuses to complete the game will be disciplined per the following schedule:

- a) First Offense. He/she will be placed on probation for one (1) year from the date of the letter.
- b) Second Offense. He/she will be prohibited from assuming any position of leadership within the league for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of the letter. Position of leadership shall be defined as being a coach, assistant coach, manager, club representative, committee chairman, or elected official.

Section 12 No player/coach may play in a game without a player/coach pass. Any player/coach found guilty of playing/coaching with a false player/coach pass or with a suspended player/coach pass will be considered an ineligible player/coach and the team he played/coached on shall forfeit the game(s) in which he played/coached by a score of 0-4. The player/coach will be subject to further disciplinary action.

Section 13 Falsification of records of players, scores, etc., including a player who plays for more than one team in a division in violation of the League rules, will be grounds for disciplinary action as follows:

a) First Offense.

- 1) Player may be suspended from playing on any League team for up to one year
- 2) The team may forfeit the games that the illegal player played
- 3) The team (and the team players) may be suspended for up to one year
- 4) The Club may have its bond forfeited

b) Second Offense

- 1) All of the penalties above for the first offense, in addition, the player, team, and/or club may be suspended for up to five (5) years. After the five (5) year suspension, the suspended party(s) must officially reapply to the Executive Committee for league membership prior to being reinstated.

Section 14 Any team found to be in violation of Article XXXV, Section 9, shall forfeit the game(s) in which the violation(s) occurred.

Section 15 Any member who is determined to have violated either the Constitution or the Bylaws of this association subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

Section 16 All players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, club officials or spectator may also be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate state, federal, or national governing bodies and any disciplinary actions by such organizations shall be separate and additional to any disciplinary action taken by the association pursuant to these bylaws.

Section 17 All disciplinary actions taken that would not normally be fulfilled during the current season will carry over into the succeeding seasons.

GAASA Pre-Match Check-In

Last updated 2021-09-15

GAASA has implemented a process for the pre-match check-in of players. Player passes are required to be presented to the match referee. Coaches are to provide the official league game day roster to the referee. The league is still requiring player and coach passes, coaches must have them on hand for games should they be needed for extraordinary circumstances (such as a red card which is addressed below). There are a couple of caveats with this:

- All pictures on the passes are to be in color. Should a referee be given a pass with B/W pictures the referee is instructed to ask for color versions. Clubs have been advised repeatedly to only use color pictures.
- The Demosphere Team App can also be used as a supplemental way of displaying color pictures of the coaches and players. (The Passes are still required).
- Coaches are to have their coach pass with them for all matches and no more than three coaches are permitted on the team sideline for a match.
- Guest players: the league allows teams to use guest players if they come from within the same club, are already an approved GAASA player, and are age appropriate. Write in players are no longer permitted, and guest players should be added to the official game day roster (in Demosphere) for the match, before you print. Maximum guests: 3 for 7v7, 4 for 9v9, 5 for 11v11.
- Total gameday roster size cannot exceed max roster size, inclusive of guest players and eligible players from main roster. Revised Maximum rosters sizes:
 - 7v7 = 12 (U9/U10) 11v11 = 18 (U13-U15)
 - 9v9 = 16 (U11/U12) 11v11 = 22 (U16-U19)
- Should a team violate the maximum guest player rule, or exceed the roster limitations, the game will be reported as a forfeit.
- Game reports are to be filled out for each match with all pertinent match information (jersey numbers, referee name/signature, final score, and referee report, etc).
- In the event of a game cancelation by a referee for weather / field conditions, the referee fees are still to be paid by both coaches. The next rescheduled game referee fees will be paid by GAASA.
- Should a referee or opposing team not show at the scheduled game time, there is a 15-minute grace period.
 - If the team does not have the minimum number of players or coaches, 15 minutes after the schedule time, the game is a forfeit.
 - Referees should typically arrive at the field 15-20 minutes prior to game time. This allows for time to check rosters, passes, game balls, and field/net conditions. If the referee does not show 15 minutes after the scheduled time, select a volunteer to referee the game, pay the volunteer. Coaches should handle all other pre-match check-in procedures with passes/rosters, ball/field/net inspections and proceed with allowing the match to be played.
- Red Card or double yellow-Red: Should a player or a coach earn a red card in a match the coach will be asked to give the player pass to the referee. The coach is required to notify the league immediately of the players situation. Referees are being asked to also notify the league of the situation. The player is to be crossed off any subsequent game roster until the penalty has been served. Any player found to have competed in a match before the suspension has been served both the player and coach will serve additional penalties, which may include not participating in the league playoffs. The referee shall keep both game reports in the event of a red card and return the pass and reports to GAASA.
- Refer to the league manual for more information on any of these topics.

Once the game is over, report the game score on the GAASA.org Demosphere website ASAP, and within 48hrs. at the most. At the conclusion of the game, the winning coach takes both game reports. In the event of a tie, the home team takes both game reports. Be sure all information was properly filled out per above, and scan both reports in color, front and back. Email a PDF file of the game reports to the following email address: email.gaasa@gmail.com. Failure to report the game score and turn in the game reports will result in a fine being assessed.



Birth Year and Season Matrix

When determining the age group for a season, the year the season ends should be used for determining the birth year. Also note that the format "U followed by age" really means that age and younger. For example, U8 should be read as 8 and younger. For more age-group information please reference [U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives](#).

Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Birth Year									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							

The Ten Commandments for Soccer Parents

(Adapted from "The Ten Commandments for Hockey Parents")

Courtesy of [Skate Town](#) - *Put Some Excitement In Your Life*

Thou shalt not impose your ambitions on thy child	Improvement and progress occur at different rates for each individual. Don't judge your child's progress based on the performance of others, and don't push based on what you think they should be doing.
Thou shalt be supportive no matter what.	There is only one question to ask your child - Did you have fun? If games and practices are not fun, your child should not be forced to participate.
Thou shalt not coach your child.	Do not undermine the coach by coaching your child on the side. Your job is to support and love your child and the coach is responsible for the technical part of the job.
Thou shalt have only positive things to say at a soccer game.	If you are going to show up at a soccer game, cheer and applaud, but never criticize. Always strive to set a good example for your child.
Thou shalt acknowledge your child's fears.	A soccer game can be stressful. It is appropriate for your child to be anxious. Assure your child that the coach would not have suggested his or her playing position if you child was not ready for it.
Thou shalt not criticize officials.	Don't criticize those who are doing their best.
Honor thy child's coach.	The bond between coach and player is a special one which contributes to your child's success as well as fun. Do not criticize the coach in the presence of your child. It will only serve to hurt your child's game.
Thy child shall have goals besides winning.	An honest effort, regardless of the outcome, is much more important than winning.
Thou shalt place your child first above everything.	Ask yourself this question - Are your child's goals more important to you than they are to your child? Remember that the focus of youth sports should be fun. A child is constantly changing, and his/her goals, interests and participation in activities will change as well. Parents should remain flexible, patient and always supportive while their child strives to find his/her niche in life.
Thou shalt not expect thy child to become an MLS or College star.	There are more than 3 million children playing soccer in America (and these numbers are conservative). The odds of your child becoming a star in the MLS/College are very slim. Soccer teaches self-esteem and fitness. It provides lifelong friendships and much, much more. Soccer builds good people and you should be happy that your child wants to participate.