

KSCL RULES OF CONDUCT AND COMPETITION

These rules and regulations apply to all divisions of the Kosciusko County Soccer League (KCSL), except where specifically noted. If occasions arise that are not fully covered by these rules, the Executive Committee of the KCSL has absolute authority to decide such cases.

I. Conduct & Responsibilities

a. Coaches

i. It shall be the responsibility of each coach to:

1. Conduct him/herself in a manner consistent with the goals and values of the KCSL, encourage good sportsmanship and clean play at all times, and enforce the rules of KCSL.
 - a. **Negative comments and/or complaints about officiating will not be allowed.**
 - b. **Profanity or threatening behavior will not be tolerated.** This behavior, during a game, will result in a yellow or red card at the discretion of the referee. If a red card is issued, the violator(s) will be required to leave the premises.
 - i. The violator(s) shall stand suspended pending review by the KCSL Executive Committee and may be dismissed.
 - ii. If the violator(s) is not reported to the Director of Officiating by the referee, no further action shall be taken.
 - c. Assault of any individual taking place at any time during a KCSL activity will be automatically and permanently removed from all League participation.
 - d. Smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed at the CCAC per our contractual agreement. If you witness someone engaged in this behavior, please advise them of our obligation.
 - e. Any team knowingly playing an ineligible person shall forfeit all games in which the offending player was involved.
 - f. Each coach is responsible for the actions of his/her **players, coaches, and spectators**, and is required to take all precautions to prevent threatening or assaulting of referees and players before, during, and after games.
2. Participate in **positive coaching that instructs and encourages all players.**
 - a. When conditions exist within a team under the jurisdiction of the KCSL which reflect poor management and/or are not in the best interests of the game or League, the Executive Committee shall have the power to investigate such conditions and make any changes to correct them.
3. During the Spring season, coaches are to conduct **one** scheduled practice per week. Additional practices are **not** permitted.
 - a. Practice times and locations are determined by the KCSL and are not to be revised unless permission is granted by the League.
 - b. See current KCSL Rules Summary for further detail.
4. Provide instruction during games from the designated sideline location only, being careful not to interfere with the coach or players from the opposing team.

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- a. Certain divisions allow for a single coach to remain on the field of play during the game.
 - b. See current KCSL Rules Summary for further detail.
 5. Sign the provided scorecard presented by the referee at the completion of each game. These scorecards are used for team standings and for game protests. **It is the coach's responsibility to check for accuracy before signing.**
 6. Rate each player on his/her team, at the end of the season, using the method dictated by the League. This will be kept confidential and used only to assist in balancing teams for future seasons.
- b. Players
 - i. Participation
 1. All KCSL players present for a game shall participate for not less than one half (50%) of the game. The only exception to this requirement is in the case of disciplinary action by the coach or the League.
 - a. If a coach desires to take disciplinary action on a player resulting in decreased playing time, he/she must first provide notice to the Director of Coaching.
 - b. The coach must inform both the player, parent (if possible), and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
 - c. This rule is not in effect if the player is injured or elects not to continue play.
 - ii. Proper Dress
 1. The following **requirements** regarding dress will be enforced:
 - a. Each player will be issued and must wear a team jersey during games.
 - b. Wear proper soccer cleats (no toe cleat) or gym shoes
 - c. Each player must wear shin guards under socks at **all games and practices**. (Socks are to cover the shin guard completely.)
 - d. Each team will be issued a goalie jersey or vest. These are to be worn over the game jersey to distinguish the goalie from the other players.
 - e. All jewelry, rings, necklaces, barrettes, etc. must be removed prior to competition. Newly pierce ears must be covered by tape or band aids.
 2. The following **recommendations** regarding dress are suggested:
 - a. Issued game jersey is tucked into shorts
 - b. Wear **black or white** socks.
 - c. Wear black shorts.
 - i. Solid black bicycle shorts are permissible **under** uniform shorts
 - d. Sweat pants and sweatshirts are permissible if worn **under** the proper uniform
 - i. Hooded sweatshirts should have the hood tucked into the shirt to prevent choking hazard.

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3. Each player will be inspected by a referee prior to the game to insure that proper equipment is worn. The referee will have final discretion over the proper dress of each player.
- c. Parents and Spectators
 - i. **All spectators are required to view the game from the side opposite of the field from the teams.** (See field maps for guidance) **No spectators are allowed along the goal/end lines or behind goals.**
 - ii. Spectators are encouraged to cheer on their team with positive comments. Any negative comments toward players, coaches, or referees will not be allowed.
- II. Rules of Competition
 - a. Duration of Games
 - i. All games must be played to the full duration listed. The referee may call the game before the specified time due to forfeiture or weather.
 - ii. All games shall start at the scheduled time. After 10 minutes, the offending team will lose the game by forfeit with a resulting score of 1-0.
 - iii. When a game, once started, is delayed for more than 15 minutes and the game has not entered the second half, it shall be rescheduled in its entirety. If the game is suspended during the second half of play, the game will be considered complete and the resulting score will be reported.
 - iv. The duration of games vary, depending on division.
 - v. See the current KCSL Rules Summary for further detail.
 - b. Standings, Playoffs, and Championships
 - i. The League reserves the right to evaluate each division and make a determination whether or not there will be an end-of-season tournament.
 - ii. Notification of such tournaments will be made toward the latter part of each regular season.
 - c. Equipment
 - i. The League will distribute the following equipment prior to the first game: soccer balls, practice cones, game jerseys, goalkeeper jerseys or vests, and coach's packets.
 - ii. At the end of the season, the following equipment must be collected: soccer balls, practice cones, goalkeeper jerseys or vests.
 - iii. Ball sizes for each division will be as follows:
 1. See the current KCSL Rules Summary for further detail.
 - d. Game Rules
 - i. The KCSL shall follow the rules of competition as designated by FIFA and the USSF. Certain FIFA/USSF rules are re-stated herein for emphasis only. Exceptions to these rules are listed herein and shall take precedent.
 - ii. Number of players on the field
 1. See the current KCSL Rules Summary for further detail.
 - iii. Substitutions
 1. Substitutions may be made **any** throw-in or corner kick, regardless of which team is possessing the ball.
 - a. Excessive substitutions, so as to impact the amount of live play on the field is not permissible, and could result in a warning or ejection by the referee for unsportsmanlike conduct.

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2. Both teams may substitute during the following:
 - a. Quarter or halftime
 - b. After a goal
 - c. Goal kicks
 3. In case of injury, if the referee stops play, the **injured player must be substituted**. The opposing team has the option to substitute one player at this time.
 4. Substitutions may be made only when recognized by the referee and must enter the field from the centerline.
 5. The referee is to be informed of a goalkeeper change no matter when the change is made during the course of a game.
 6. Failure to follow these substitution rules may result in the player not being allowed to enter the field, an indirect kick, and/or a yellow (caution) card for unsportsmanlike conduct. Continued failure may result in forfeiture.
- iv. Goalkeepers
- ~~1. The goalkeeper may not "punt" the ball, while airborne, beyond the field's half line. An indirect kick shall be awarded to the opposing team for this infraction. Removed for Spring 2016 season.~~
 2. The goalkeeper must release the ball within 6 seconds from the time the ball is in their possession and under control. An indirect kick shall be awarded for this infraction.
 - a. This rule is in effect for all divisions U10 and above.
 3. The goalkeeper may not play the ball with his/her hands if the ball was played directly to him/her from the foot of one of their own players. An indirect kick shall be awarded for this infraction.
 - a. This rule is in effect for all divisions U10 and above.
- v. Coaches on Field
1. One coach from each team is allowed on the field in certain age divisions.
 - a. See the current KCSL Rules Summary for division details.
 - b. The coach is restricted their own defensive half of the field between the centerline and penalty area line.
 2. If teams participate in an end-of-season tournament, coaches will not be allowed on the field for those games.
- vi. Throw-Ins
1. The retaking of incorrect throw-ins will be at the discretion of the referee on the field, keeping in mind that proper instruction is the ultimate goal of the league.
- vii. Goal Kicks
1. Certain age divisions will require the opposing team to retreat to the field's half line until the ball has been kicked by the kicking team. See the current KCSL Rules Summary for division details.
- viii. Slide Tackling
1. **Slide Tackling is not allowed in any division of the KCSL.**
 2. A direct kick will be awarded for this infraction.
 3. Vicious or repeated slide tackling will result in the offending player receiving either a yellow (caution) card or red (ejection) card.

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ix. Red/Yellow Card Infractions

1. A system of points will be used to determine further league action for any player issued a yellow or red card during the KCSL season. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, points may carry over into subsequent seasons.
 - a. A yellow (caution) card will result in the offending player receiving a five-minute suspension during the game in play. The referee will be responsible to keep the time and allow the player to return to the field during the next regular substitution opportunity, after the suspension time has elapsed. Receiving a yellow card will be worth one (1) point.
 - b. A red (ejection) card will result in the offending player receiving a suspension for the remainder of the game in which the infraction occurred **and** the following game in its entirety. The offending team **may not** substitute for the ejected player during the game in which the infraction occurred. Receiving a red card will be worth two (2) points.
 - c. The league President and Director of Officiating shall be notified by the referee of the game of any yellow and/or red cards issued. The method for notification shall be notation of the infraction on the referee's score card and shall include the NAME of the player carded.
 - d. If a player receives a total of six (6) points during a season, he/she will be expelled from the League.

x. Heading

1. KCSL, in concert with the Indiana Soccer Association, and US Soccer's player safety initiatives, will implement rule changes associated with "heading" for 12 and younger players.
 - a. All players, U11 shall not engage in heading in training or in games.
 - b. All players, U12 and U13 are limited to a maximum of 30 minutes of heading training per week, and will further limit each player to a maximum of 20 headers per week.
 - c. All players, U11 and younger who play on a U12 or older team should not head the ball in training or games. [Compliance with this initiative is the coach's responsibility.]
 - d. All players, U12 or U13 who play on a U14 team or older will comply with the aforementioned U12 and U13 heading restrictions.
 - e. Referees will enforce heading restrictions as per the age-level of the contest. [Individual player compliance with the aforementioned heading restrictions is the coach's responsibility.]
 - f. If a player, who is competing in U11 games or younger, deliberately heads the ball in a game, the referee will award an indirect free kick (IFK) to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the

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point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

e. Protests

- i. All protests must be made, in writing, and filed with the Director of Officiating and will be presented to the KCSL Executive Committee. A \$5.00 deposit must accompany any protest. Coaches lodging a protest must make the announcement to the appointed referee at the time of the incident or upon completion of the game. Failure to make this announcement will void any possible protest. If the protest is overruled, the deposit will remain in the League treasury. Written protests are to be received within 72 hours of the incident.
- ii. Protests are limited to interpretation of game rules and/or league rules. The judgment of the referee is **not** subject to protest. The decision of the referee will stand while the game is in process.
- iii. Protests concerning the eligibility of players must be received no later than 14 days after the game in question. If the eligibility protest is upheld, all games in which the ineligible player was used will be forfeited. The Executive Committee reserves the right to take further action against the guilty party up to and including suspension.
- iv. The burden of proof shall be on the protesting team. All teams affected by the protest shall be present at the meeting called to rule on the protest. The appointed referee shall be present if the Executive Committee deems it necessary. A written notice of the decision will be sent to all teams in the division.
- v. No protest of any kind will be accepted after 72 hours have passed following the game in question.

f. Injuries

- i. All injuries to a KCSL participant must be reported to a member of the KCSL Executive Committee by the coach of the injured player.
- ii. Notification must be made within 24 hours.

The KCSL Executive Committee will be comprised of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.