

LORAIN COUNTY SOCCER LEAGUE RULES /// REVISED AUGUST 2010

A. RULES

The rules used by the L.C.S.L. shall be the same as the current F.I.F.A. and U.S.Y.S.A. rules, with suitable League changes and/or exceptions as noted herein.

B. The LCSL is a recreational league. A Recreational League is an intra-club league in which:

- (1) the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster player selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
- (2) the club administering the league accept as participants in the league anyand all eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms or registration);
- (3) a system of rostering player is employed for the purpose of creating a fair or balanced distribution of player talent among all teams participating;
- (4) league rules require that each player play at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline.
- (5) players are not permitted to travel out of state for purposes of soccer play unless the team's regular league is out-of-state, and proper permission hasbeen obtained.
- (6) the only tournaments permitted are recreational tournaments within the boundaries of Ohio North

C. ROSTER

- 1. Only properly registered coaches, players and teams will be permitted to participate in the L.C.S.L.
 - a. Proper registration is as defined by OYSA-N and by the L.C.S.L. Registrar.

- 2. Team roster sizes are as follows:

Age Group	Maximum Roster size
a. U7-U8	10
b. U9-U10	12
c. U11-U12	14
d. U13-U14	18

- 3. A roster change can only be made during the period allowed by OYSAN, allowing time for the LCSL Registrar to submit changes to OYSAN.

4. Roster changes must be submitted to the L.C.S.L. Registrar, five (5) days prior to their game for consideration for approval.
 - a. If a team roster is less than the maximum number of players for their age, it may be added to, subject to the approval of the L.C.S.L. Registrar and Rule B 2 above.
 - b. A player may be registered to only one L.C.S.L team per age division during a season. If a team roster is at its maximum, a player must be removed from the roster before another player can be added. Roster additions and deletions must have League Registrar approval.
5. Each U-9 and older player will have a player pass. It is mandatory that the referee check each player pass and give permission for the player to play based on verification of the pass unless otherwise notified by the Referee Assignor or League Scheduler.
6. Each team's player's passes must be presented to the referee 15 minutes before the game.
 - a. If a team does not present passes and the opposing coach agrees to play the game without them, the game results stand and may not be protested for non-presentation of player passes, -OR-
 - b. The game may be forfeited.
7. The LCSL is a Recreational League. (See part A 1) In keeping with the rules of a recreational league, no more than 50% of the players on any LCSL roster may also be rostered on any competitive league team (Premier, AASL, NOGSL). Communities are encouraged to identify players that play in the AASL and the NOGSL when registering their LCSL players. Communities found to have more than 50% of any team's roster populated by competitive players will be removed from league play and a grievance will be filed by the LCSL with the community. (see Rule N below for procedures)
 - a) the 50% rule refers to the existing roster of the team in question, **not** the maximum roster size possible for the team
 - b) teams found in violation of this rule will be automatically ineligible for that season's playoffs
 - c) teams found in violation of this rule will be removed from league play, but will be invited to return and will be eligible for season play-offs ONLY IF the team plays up an entire age division and still has less than the 50% of the total roster (but not the maximum roster) of the team.

D. AGE GROUPS

The LCSL fields teams from the U7 to the U14/U15 divisions.

E. DURATION OF GAME

1. playing time for each class in Rule C above shall be;
 - (a) U-7 and U-8 FOUR 10 MINUTE QUARTERS
 - (b) U-9 and U-10 TWO 25 MINUTE HALVES
 - (c) U-11 and U-12 TWO 30 MINUTE HALVES
 - (d) U-13 and U-14 TWO 35 MINUTE HALVES
2. Extra time shall not be played in League matches.
3. Extra time may be permitted in playoff/tournament competitions, but only if specified is the rules of those competitions.

F. SUBSTITUTIONS OF PLAYERS

NOTE: NO SUBSTITUTIONS ARE TO BE MADE UNLESS REFEREE HAS INDICATED THAT THE NEW PLAYERS MAY COME ON THE FIELD. IF THERE IS NO SIGNAL FROM THE REFEREE PERMITTING SUBSTITUTION, PLAYERS MUST REMAIN OFF THE FIELD.

1. Half-time (BOTH TEAMS)
2. During injury time out (BOTH TEAMS – ONE FOR ONE)
3. After a goal has been scored (BOTH TEAMS)
4. Prior to a goal kick being taken (BOTH TEAMS)
5. At the time of a throw in. If the team controlling the throw in has player substitutions, opposing team may substitute at this time as well. If the team controlling the throw in does not plan to substitute, opposing team may not substitute. (08/03).
6. U-7 and U-8 ONLY; Between Quarters

G. CORNER KICK/GOAL KICK

1. Long corners per FIFA.

H. POINT SYSTEM FOR SEASONAL STANDINGS

1. Win – 3 points
2. Draw or Tie– 1 point
3. No Play- 0 points
 - a. Score of a match not played will be recorded as a --No Play--, with both teams receiving 0 points.
 - b. U9-U14 teams not submitting scores by the end of season deadline or after two weeks of the game (whichever comes first) will be given 0 points towards standings for each unreported game score. Neither team will receive points toward standings
 - c. Games rescheduled after the final schedule is released may receive a -no play--. (see H, 3)
4. Win by Forfeit: 3
 - a. Score of forfeit matches shall be recorded as a 3-0 win and 3 points to the non forfeiting team towards standings.
5. Win with excessive scoring – minus (-) 1 point (10/96) see 9a.
6. Loss – 0 points
7. Loss by Forfeit – 0 points
 - a. Score of forfeit matches shall be recorded as 0-3 loss for the season and 0 points towards standings for the forfeiting team.
 - b. Score of double forfeit matches (i.e both teams forfeit) shall be recorded as 0-0 match for the season with NO points being awarded to either team.
8. The sum of these points (see section G) shall determine the ranking of the teams in a division. The team having the most points shall be declared the **FIRST PLACE TEAM** and the team with the least shall be in **LAST PLACE**.
 - a. Excessive scoring: Any team scoring **TEN POINTS OR MORE** beyond the score of its opponent (i.e. 10-0, 11-1, 16-6, etc) will be penalized one point towards playoff standings for each offense after the first offense. Example: (1) excessive win-no points deducted, (3) excessive wins-(3) points deducted from team standings.
 - b. In the event there are two teams in the same division with an identical point count, tie breakers will be as follows:
 - 1) Team record (points).
 - 2) Results of head to head competition.
 - 3) Goal differential with a maximum of 3 per match (i.e. if a team wins by a score of 6-2, they will be +3 per this rule, not +4)
 - 4) Goal differential vs. top-ranked common opponent. (i.e. if 2 teams tie for 2nd place, how did they do against the 1st place team. If they won or lost by the same score against the 1st place team, move on to the 4th place team, etc.)

- c. The following will be used to determine seeding for the post season playoff / tournament:
 - 1) Age classes with one (1) divisions, the first four (4) teams will qualify, with the first place team seeded 1st and the fourth placed team seeded 4th.
 - 2) Age classes with two (2) divisions, the first two (2) teams of each division will qualify. The first teams in "A" division will be seeded 1st and the second place team in "A" will be seeded 2nd. The first place team in "B" will be seeded 3rd and the second place team in "B" will be seeded 4th.
 - 3) Age classes with three (3) divisions, the first four (4) teams from the 'A' division will qualify and be seeded 1st place seeded 1 through 4th placed seeded 4. In the "B" division the first two (2) teams will qualify and be seeded 5th and 6th. In the C division the first two teams will qualify and be seeded 7th and 8th. A separate playoff may be held for the A teams and the B/C teams at the decision of the LCSL Board.

I. SEASONS

- 1. The League shall have two distinct seasons, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.

J. UNIFORMS AND PLAYER EQUIPMENT

1. Players must wear shirts, shorts, socks, SHIN GUARDS, and League approved footwear. (i.e. no metal spikes, toe cleats, baseball or football cleats)
2. The Referee may refuse participation to any player wearing unacceptable equipment.
3. The HOME team must change uniforms in the event of similarity to the visiting team's uniforms. No player may play without a shirt.
 - a. Failure of the home team to change uniforms or wear pinneys may result in the home team forfeiting the game.
4. In the event of extreme weather; players may wear sweats UNDER their uniform. The sweats should be the same color as the uniform, or similar so as not to confuse the referee or other players. Hooded sweatshirts are not permitted. Headbands and hats in inclement weather are up to the discretion of the referee.
5. Each community has committed colors for their teams, and any changes in those colors are to be reported to the League prior to the start of the season.

K. REFEREES

1. Referees are obtained by the League Referee Assignor, with preference given to the Firelands Soccer Referee Association.
 - a. Referees should be licensed F.I.F.A. officials.
2. The Referee will notify each linesman prior to the game not to coach from the sidelines.

L. TIMING (TEAMS & REFEREES)

1. Referees and teams must be present at the field of play 15 minutes before scheduled game time.
2. If a team arrives late, the Referee must report the tardiness to the League Scheduler on the game records.
3. If a team fails to present itself for a scheduled game more than 15 minutes AFTER scheduled game time, that team forfeits the match. (See rule G-8)
4. In the event the Referee reports late to a scheduled match, the coaches should advise the League Scheduler.
5. Should a referee not arrive and more than 15 minutes have passed since scheduled game time, the opposing coaches shall appoint a mutually agreeable person to referee that match and play counting it as an Official Game. The coaches should also notify the Vice President of the Referee's failure to be there.

M. SIZE OF THE BALL FOR PLAY

1. The home team shall provide balls for each match subject to the approval of the Referee.
2. U-7 and U-8 matches shall be played with a #3 ball.
3. U-9 through U-12, matches shall be played with a #4 ball.
4. U-13 and U-14 matches shall be played with a #5 ball.

N. SITES/FIELDS

1. Local Associations will provide sites (at the time of team commitments) for League matches with the field dimensions as declared in the F.I.F.A. laws, or in the L.C.S.L. modified laws as defined by the age classification.
2. If the local association cannot provide a field meeting the criteria as stated in M. 1, they must either:
 - a. Obtain permission form another local community to use their correctly sized field as original communities 'home' field OR
3. Move the team up to an age group for which the local community has a field that meet the required criteria. --OR--
4. Play all away games.
5. The League will provide a schedule listing location, date and time of all matches.
6. All fields will be marked in the proper F.I.F.A. manner and it is strongly recommended that each field include an extra line, a minimum of 3 feet outside and parallel to the touchlines, for the purpose of keeping non-players away from the field.
7. NO ANIMALS are permitted on or near the field.

O. PROTESTS/APPEALS/COMPLAINTS (See Rule A)

1. All protests or appeals must be based on violations of current F.I.F.A. or L.C.S.L. rules.
 - a. **Referee judgment calls may not be appealed.**
 - b. Complaints based on personality or inter-community conflicts will not be accepted by the League.
2. Protests/Appeals about games, coaches or players must be delivered to the Sportsmanship Director IN WRITING within 48 hours of the disputed match.
3. Valid protests shall be replied to in writing within 7 days of the disputed match by the Sportsmanship Director.
4. If requested, the League President can appoint a Dispute/Grievance Committee. The Committee will be comprised of the sportsmanship Director and the Executive Board of the LCSL.

a) Communities involved in the dispute may appoint ONE member of their community to present or respond to a grievance.

b) If a committee member is personally involved in the dispute, he/she shall remove him/herself during the dispute. If a committee member does this, his/her community may replace him/her with another representative that has no direct involvement with the matter being discussed.

5. Complaints regarding Referee behavior must be submitted to the Vice President IN WRITING within 48 hours of game involved (see N1a&b). (4/04)

P. EJECTION

NOTE: Both the LCSL and its parent organization OYSA-N have a zero tolerance policy with regard to verbal or physical abuse by players, coaches, officials or spectators.

1. **VERBAL ABUSE:** Verbal abuse of the Referee and for participants by a player or coach will result in:

a. **FIRST OFFENSE:** One game suspension;

b. **SECOND OFFENSE:** and all other subsequent offenses, suspension pending review by the Board, hearing the matter, with a **MINIMUM PENALTY OF A TWO** game suspension and a **MAXIMUM OF A LIFE** suspension from the L.C.S.L.

2. **PHYSICAL ABUSE:** Physical abuse of the referee, players or coaches by a player or coach as reported by the referee will result in immediate suspension pending a review by the LCSL Board hearing the matter to determine whether further action must be taken by OYSA-N.

3. **Ejection or Issuance of Red Cards:** Upon the first ejection or issuance of the first red card by the referee to a player or coach, the penalty to the player or coach involved will be an automatic **ONE GAME** suspension. Such ejection shall be for the next game played after the issuance of the red card or ejection.

4. For subsequent red card violations during the same season the penalty will be a **MINIMUM** penalty of one game suspension. In addition, if, in the judgment of the Sportsmanship Director, the circumstances surrounding the subsequent red card violation warrant review by the LCSL Board, he/she may continue the suspension and bring a complaint to the Board. The player or coach will be suspended until the hearing. The Board should move disposition of the matter as it deems appropriate.

5. It is the Referee's duty to notify the League Scheduler immediately of ejected players and coaches.
6. Each coach and member association shall be responsible for the conduct of its teams and/or spectators.
7. Any or all misconduct situations should be reported to the Sportsmanship Director by anyone witnessing the misconduct.

Q. FIELD UNPLAYABLE

1. The Referee is the sole judge at game time of whether a field is playable.
2. If a local organization does not want its fields used due to conditions it deems unplayable, it must so advise the League Scheduler BEFORE 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays, and BEFORE 4 p.m. on weekdays. To make sure that the League Scheduler receives this information, it is strongly recommended the League Scheduler be contacted by email and by phone to assure receipt of this information.
3. After 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays and 4 p.m. on weekdays, only the Referee may declare the field unplayable.

R. MAKE-UP/RESCHEDULING OF MATCHES

1. If a field is declared unplayable, the League Scheduler shall immediately be notified by phone and by email.

The procedure for rescheduling due to a weather-related game cancellation is as follows:

- 1) the opposing teams will agree upon a time for reschedule.
- 2) The home team will verify field availability
- 3) BOTH Coaches will confirm the date and place of the rescheduled game with the League Scheduler
- 4) The League Scheduler will contact the Referee Assignor for an official.

NOTE: All requests for game changes are subject to field and referee availability and as such cannot be guaranteed.

2. Under normal circumstances there is no other reason to reschedule matches, as each member organization will have previously advised the League Scheduler of anticipated conflicts to be scheduled around in order to facilitate the Scheduler's scheduling of the season.
3. A fee of \$25.00 will be charged to the community requesting any rescheduled matches for any reason plus referee fees if applicable. All non-weather requests must be made 7 days prior to the requested game date.