



**Eastern Southern Soccer League**  
**111 Glenville Road**  
**Churchville, Maryland 21028**  
**www.esslsoccerleague.com**

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## **I. LEAGUE AND ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The Age Groups of the Eastern Southern Soccer League for the 2014 Season will be: **Girls & Youth U-8, U-10 (8v8); U-12, U-15, U18 Boys, U19 Girls (11v11)**
- B. Age determination for the 2014 season is **July 31, 2014**.
- C. Children may play in a higher age bracket, but not a lower age bracket.
- D. Teams will be put in the age group of the oldest reported player on the team. Example: Your team has ten 11 year olds and four 12 year olds, the team would play in the Under 15.
- E. A team or player may play in an age group higher than their age, but not lower. If a player or team plays in an age group higher than their age in the regular season they will stay within that age group for the tournament. This would be for a single player or team.
- F. A player who “Plays Up” during **2014** will not jeopardize eligibility in his/her regular age group in the future.
- G. Each player must be listed on only **one (1) valid roster** in only one ESSL area. A valid roster is the roster that has been submitted, by age bracket, to the league.
- H. No team may have more than three (3) carded travel or club players on its roster. **These players must be checked off on your roster as a carded player. Rosters must be submitted by the third game of the season to the league. All carded players must play in at least 75% of league games to be eligible to play in the ESSL Fall Classic Tournament. Exceptions (injury & illness) must be voted on.**
- I. New Council Areas entering the ESSL will be on a twelve (12) month probationary period beginning upon the start of the season.

## **II. ROSTERS**

- A. Any additions or changes to the roster are to be made in writing and submitted to the league. These changes and additions can be phoned in, but must be followed up in writing.
- B. Each council will determine roster size for their teams.
- C. A team may make individual player changes until rosters are due **on September 19, 2014. NO ADDITIONS AFTER THIS DATE.**

## **III. PLAYING RULES**

- A. The League will use FIFA Laws of Game except as modified herein. These laws shall apply to this League.



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- B. **Under 8 and Under 10 goal kicks will be taken from penalty spot distance (9 yards); Under 8 corner kick from penalty box. Under 10 corner is to be taken from the corner flag.**
- C. In full sided age groups (**girls & youth U-12 through U-19**), there must be a a minimum of **nine (9) players** present to begin a game. If a team has nine (9) players present, the game must begin. A team can finish with less than nine (9) players (i.e. injuries). Any team that does not have a minimum of nine (9) players present will forfeit. It is recommended that each player receive an equitable amount of playing time. U-10 and U-8 League teams must have six (6) players present, minimum, to start a game. U-10 and U-8 may finish with less than minimum requirement as above (6 present 8v8)
- D. Under 8 and Under 10 League will play 8 vs. 8 and is designed for soccer players in both **GIRLS and YOUTH** league format where instruction continues throughout the game. A maximum of one coach per team in the **Under 8** age group is to be on the field instructing and **encouraging** their players. Coaches are not allowed in the penalty box while the ball is in play. Coaches should also show sportsmanship by recognizing the play of the other team. No coaches are allowed on the field in the Under 10 age group. A referee will be assigned by the home team. The referee will also instruct, especially the why and how of fouls and what the impact is to the game. Incorrect play will be redone or replayed until corrected. Children should experience and play all positions. Offsides will not be called in Under 8; however, players will be discouraged from stationing themselves in an advantageous scoring position (cherry picking) in the opponents half of the field when the ball is in their defensive zone. **Offsides will be called in the Under 10 age group.**
- E. **Forfeit time** will be five (5) minutes after scheduled game time.
- F. Advance notice is 48 hours for cancellation; the League President must be notified so the referees can be notified. No changes to the schedule will be made without approval from the League President.
- G. The length of periods will be:
  - 1. Under 8 and Under 10 Four 12 minute quarters
  - 2. Under 12 and Under 15 Two 30 minutes halves
- H. Game Balls:
  - 1. Under 8 through Under 12 #4 ball
  - 2. Under 15 #5 ball



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- I. For the safety of players, all players must wear shin guards, worn under socks, to be eligible to play (also during practices). Any rubber soled, soft toed, non-metallic, non-screw in spike is legal. Jewelry, (i.e. rings, earrings, watches) may not be worn during the game; band aided earring studs are acceptable. It is recommended that other safety equipment (i.e. mouthpieces, eye protection, cups, etc.) be worn. No hard casts allowed unless padded adequately and meets official's approval.
- J. The **"HOT HEAD"** rule will be in effect for all league games. Any player who receives a yellow or "caution" card shall immediately be substituted out of the game with another player, and may at any time thereafter be substituted back into the game, without liability or penalty.
- K. PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND EJECTION BY REFEREE**
1. Profanity, obscene gestures, gross misconduct and physical violence, or the threat of physical violence will not be tolerated and are not permitted during any game, or at any site, whether on or off the field, by any participant, player manager, coach, parent or any other spectator.
  2. The referees shall eject from the game and from the field site any such person who violates this rule. The ejection by a referee of any player on the field that violates this rule constitutes the issuance of a "red card," whether or not the referee actually displays a red card. A Referee may eject any person from the site without necessity of actually displaying a "red card." Coaches shall be responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Referees shall have the discretion to suspend play or to end any game for any violation of this rule. The referee's judgment shall be final and may not be reversed or appealed.
  3. Any player who is ejected from a game and any other person who is ejected from the site, shall immediately leave and vacate the site of the game, but remain in the parking lot only until the conclusion of that game, and may not that day thereafter re-enter the site of the game. The "site" means all public grounds and facilities where the game is being played, whether at a Harford County park, or at a Harford County Public School, or other park or field or complex of multiple fields.
- L. CONSEQUENCES OF EJECTION FROM A GAME**
1. A player who is ejected from a game may not be replaced with a substituted player for that game. Any player who is issued a red card, or otherwise ejected from any game shall be suspended and ineligible to participated in the next scheduled league and/or tournament game, and may further, the discretion of the player's local area council, the Program Chairperson, or the ESSL, or any of them, be deemed ineligible to participate on any team in this league for the balance of the season, including participation in the tournament. Any suspension that is not completed during a season shall carry over to the following season, if applicable.



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2. A Coach, manager or any other adult participant on any team who is ejected from a game shall be suspended and ineligible to participate in the next two (2) scheduled league and/or tournament games, and may further, in the discretion of the player's local area council, Program Chairperson, or the ESSL, or any of them, be deemed ineligible to participate in this league for the balance of the season, including the tournament, or may be permanently removed. Any suspension that is not completed during a season shall carry over to the following season, if applicable.
3. All Program Chairpersons, all ESSL Area Representatives and all coaches shall be responsible for ensuring these League Rules are followed with regard to red cards, ejections and suspensions.
4. All ejections of any player, coach or other person shall be reported by the coach of the team receiving the ejection to their respective local area ESSL Area Representative and to their Program Chairperson within 48 hours after the game. The local area ESSL Area Representative shall report the ejection to the ESSL League within 48 hours of the receipt of notification. Each program Chairperson shall immediately notify the player or coach of the suspension.
5. If a player is ejected from a game for use of profanity, making obscene gestures, gross misconduct, physical violence, or the threat of physical violence, or if a player refuses to leave the game, the field or the site after being ejected from a game, or who later re-enters the site, or for any other act of gross misconduct, the player's local area council, the player's Program Chairperson, or the ESSL, or any of them, may further determine that player to be ineligible to participate on any team in this league for the balance of the season, including participation in the tournament, and may permanently prohibit the player from future participation in this league.
6. If a coach or assistant coach is ejected from any game, or refuses to vacate the site after being ejected, or who later re-enters the site, the player's local area council, Program Chairperson, or the ESSL, or any of them, may immediately or any time thereafter remove that person as a coach for the balance of the season, including the tournament and may permanently ban that person from again participating as a coach (or as an assistant coach) of any team in this league. Any other person who is ejected from a game may be prohibited from attending future games at any site, if so directed by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
7. Any coach or assistant coach who has been suspended, but who continues to coach or attempts to coach or communicate with any team during any game during the period of the suspension, shall be immediately removed as coach, and shall be permanently prohibited from again coaching (including as an assistant coach) in this league.
8. If, after returning from a suspension, a player receives another red card or is again ejected during the same season, including the tournament, that player shall be suspended from league play for the balance of the season, including the tournament, and shall also be suspended from participation during the entire following season, including the tournament.



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9. Any coach or assistant coach who receives two (2) ejections in the same season (regardless of when or why the first was issued) shall immediately be removed as coach, and shall be prohibited from again coaching in this league for the remainder of the season and the following season.
  10. In the event of an inconsistency between a local area council, a Program Chairperson, or the ESSL with any suspension or other sanctions imposed against the same person for the same violation of these rules, the most severe punishment imposed shall control over the others and be binding.
- M. Substitutions shall be allowed for all age groups on all throw-ins or all goal kicks. Substitutions cannot be made on the fly.
- N. All coaches and assistant coaches of any team in this league may be temporarily suspended, removed or permanently banned from future coaching of any team in this league by either their local area council, by their Program Chairperson, or by the ESSL, for any violation of these Rules or for other good cause.

#### **IV. REFEREES**

- A. The association agrees, manpower permitting, to provide competent soccer Officials for the council's Saturday League programs, according to the following: Under 12, Under 15, Under 18 Boys and Under 19 Girls = 2 Officials per game
1. If the assigned association's referee fails to show up, the coaches can either reschedule the game or mutually agree on volunteer referees, one (1) from each team. If volunteer referees are used, the event shall be considered an official gam. Home teams need to report no shows of officials to the ESSL.
- B. It is required that local councils provide officials for Under 8 and Under 10 age brackets. It is required that these referees attend a clinic prior to the beginning of the **2014 season.**

#### **V. FIELDS**

- A. Under 8 and Under 10 League will be scheduled to play on small fields (80 yards length x 50 yards breadth, where possible and no longer than 6 foot x 18 foot goal posts). Under 12 and above fields must be at least 100 yards length x 60 yards wide where possible.
- B. Where possible, team areas should be on one side of the field and spectators on the other side. Coaches must stay in their area as defined by FIFA rules.

#### **VI. CANCELLATIONS**



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- A. The local representatives notify each other by 7:30 a.m. and all teams involved before 8:00 a.m. Saturday if the field is unplayable because of weather. The local representative will then notify the Official's Association by phone no later than 8:00 a.m. Host site is responsible for notifying the visitors of the cancellation.
  - B. The soccer league will not schedule make up games – this is the responsibility of the local chairperson.
  - C. If the first game of the day is called due to weather, at any site, all games will be cancelled at that site as well for the remainder of the day.

**VII. PROTEST PROCEDURE**

- A. The council does not keep standings of teams, nor does the council need win/loss records for tournament placement. For this reason, the only item that can be questioned is the eligibility of a player. If a team wishes to contest the eligibility of a player, the concerned coach must arrange a meeting with the program chairperson.
- B. The decision of the program chairperson may be appealed to the league.