

Southwest District Soccer League

Rules & Regulations

Updated: February 2023



***SOUTHWEST
SOCCER***



Table of Contents

1.0 Management.....	2
2.0 League Registration	3
3.0 Bonds	5
4.0 Responsibilities of Club and Team Officials	6
5.0 Player Identification.....	7
6.0 Player Eligibility	8
7.0 Scheduling	10
8.0 Rescheduling	11
9.0 Postponement and Defaulting of Games.....	12
10.0 The Game	13
11.0 Game Start Time	14
12.0 Uniforms and Equipment.....	15
13.0 Game Sheets/ Reporting.....	16
14.0 Match Officials	17
15.0 League Standings	20
16.0 Promotion / Relegation.....	21
17.0 Cup Competitions.....	22
18.0 Indoor Competitions	24
19.0 Discipline	25
20.0 Protests / Appeals	26
21.0 Other Provisions.....	27
APPENDIX A	28
APPENDIX B:	29
APPENDIX C	30



1.0 Management

- 1.1 The Executive of Southwest Soccer at their Executive Meeting may modify, add or delete any Rules or Regulations for the betterment of the League. The clubs will be notified within fourteen (14) days of any changes.
- 1.2 The Board of Directors shall be empowered to amend all appendices at an executive meeting. The Board of Directors shall give minimum notice of fourteen (14) days to all clubs prior to any changes to become effective in the Appendices.
- 1.3 League members may submit rule change requests on a League provided form between the third Friday in September and the third Sunday in October.



2.0 League Registration

- 2.1 Team registration fees shall be determined, set annually, and posted on the website no later than December 1st.
- 2.2 Membership is open to any properly constituted club in good standing as defined in Southwest Soccer's Constitution. The Southwest District Soccer League is a District competitive and recreational league. Club teams from other districts may apply but are subject to Southwest Soccer and Ontario Soccer policies.
 - 2.2.1 Membership is open to Associate Member academies registered to and in good standing with Southwest Soccer.
- 2.3 All teams whose clubs are not members of Southwest Soccer require a signed playing out permission form from their district and a playing in form approved by Southwest Soccer.
- 2.4 Each team must play/register in its own age level unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors and it must comply with the Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures. Teams not registered at their own age level will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 2.5 Each member team must provide the League with names, email addresses and telephone numbers of their carded coaches and managers, and the location of fields, along with the team application form.
- 2.6 Registration Dates
 - 2.6.1 All U8 – U12 squad registrations must be submitted by February 1st.
Registration fees, as per Appendix B, are due by the last Friday in February.
 - 2.6.2 All U13-U21 team registrations must be submitted by February 1st.
Registration fees, as per Appendix B, are due by the last Friday in February.
 - 2.6.3 All Senior Recreational and Competitive team registrations (men's and women's) must be submitted by February 15th.
Registration fees, as per Appendix B, are due by the last Friday in March.
- 2.7 Any team application submitted by a club after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the league and will be subject to the late registration fee outline in Appendix B.
- 2.8 Team registrations received after March 1st require League Director approval.
- 2.9 Teams being withdrawn from the League will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.



3.0 Bonds

- 3.1 A performance bond, as per Appendix B, will be posted with the League by each youth club or open team registered to play in the League.
- 3.2 Bond amounts listed to take effect upon clubs/ academies (or open teams) entering the League, or upon a current club/ academies (or open team) exhausting their bond by 50% and being required to repost said bond.
- 3.3 Any Member having their performance bonds forfeited will have ten (10) days to replace such bond or further action will be taken by the Executive Committee.
- 3.4 Southwest Soccer may request an additional bond, as per Appendix B, from any members who have had excessive amounts of Discipline in the previous season.
- 3.5 The bond is payable to 'SWRSA' by separate cheque or e-transfer (to generalmanager@swrsa.ca) along with the team registration fee.
- 3.6 At the end of each outdoor season a club may request in writing the return of a posted bond or it shall be deemed to remain for the following year or season. Any member that request the return of their bond shall lose all club standing as to Division placements for following years and would have to reapply to join the league.
- 3.7 All bond requests for refund must be accompanied by proof of payment.
- 3.8 A bond can be held from the outdoor season to the indoor season and/ or indoor season to the outdoor season.
- 3.9 Members with monies owing to the League will forfeit bonds as of January 1st and will be required to repost bond prior to registering for an upcoming season.



4.0 Responsibilities of Member Organizations and Team Officials

Member Responsibilities

- 4.1 Each member must identify one club contact via the provided online form to handle all communications with the league. All club contacts are to abide by the Southwest Soccer League Club Contact Responsibilities as posted.
- 4.2 The host organization for Southwest Soccer League games shall ensure fields are properly permitted, cleared, and safe for set up.
- 4.3 Home organizations will be responsible for the provision of: a suitable field (League discretion) and markings; goal nets; corner flags; two properly inflated game balls; change rooms (if available) and field lights (when required). Fields must meet Ontario Soccer regulations, guidelines and the Development Matrix. Failure to do so will result in a fee as per Appendix C.
 - 4.3.1 Home fields must be located in the same towns or cities that the organization has been approved to operate as members of their district association.
 - 4.3.2 With the written permission of the member organization in the city or town in which the field is located a member may submit to the league for consideration to host outside of their organizations town or city.
- 4.4 The team benches must be at least two (2) metres back from the touch line, inside the technical area as defined by FIFA.
- 4.5 Members that do not provide fields in accordance to Ontario Soccer standards will not be eligible to host on Home fields. The opponent will become responsible for booking the field & referees at the expense of the original home organization.
- 4.6 At all District league, cup, or exhibition games both teams must be positioned on one side of the field with all spectators on the opposite side of the field.
- 4.7 Spectators shall not be allowed in or behind the bench area or behind the goals. Team officials shall be responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Spectators must remain two metres back from the playing area.
- 4.8 Organizations will be held responsible if a game is abandoned because of the actions of its players, officials or spectators and will be subject to disciplinary action and a fee as per Appendix C, if found guilty.

Team Official Responsibilities

- 4.9 "Team Official" shall mean coach, assistant coach, manager, or assistant manager who will be registered and carded by the District association. Only carded team officials who have signed the game sheet are eligible to be on/at the team bench and are deemed to have coached.
- 4.10 All team head coaches and assistant coaches must comply with Coaching Certification Requirements as identified in Ontario Soccer's Operational Procedures.
- 4.11 A maximum of four (4) carded team officials shall be permitted at the bench. More than the maximum, will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.

- 4.12 A carded club head coach or technical director may be on the bench at any time or as a 5th Team Official provided they are recorded on and have signed the game sheet
- 4.13 The League must be notified in writing of any change made in team officials during the season within (7) seven days of the change.
- 4.14 In all games no persons without current Ontario Soccer identity cards will be allowed on the side of the field with the team.
- 4.15 Any team found to have a non-carded and/or non-registered person on the bench acting as a team official will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 4.16 Team Officials will not be allowed to smoke or vape while coaching their teams. A team official that does not comply will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 4.17 Team officials will coach within one metre of their bench and are not permitted to walk up and down the touchline or obstruct and/or obscure the view of the assistant referee.



5.0 Player Identification

- 5.1 All players and team officials must possess an “Ontario Soccer Registrant Book” (ID book) or “Ontario Soccer Identification Card” (ID card) and have such document available for presentation at the game in which he/she is playing/coaching upon request. Failure to present an ID card / ID book shall render the player/ team official ineligible for that game.
- 5.2 It is the duty and right of the team officials to request a card check at all games.

Authorized ID Cards / ID Books Inspection Procedure for Players and Team Officials:

- a) All players and team officials form two individual lines by team
 - b) Each player/ team official holds their own ID card/ ID book with the photo showing.
 - c) A team official from the opposing team, with a copy of the game sheet and official Ontario Soccer roster, will inspect each ID card/ID book to the player or team official
 - d) Match the photograph to the player or team official.
 - e) Match the name to the team roster for ID Card/match validated current season/year information for ID book
 - f) Match the players’ jersey number to the game sheet
 - g) Check the ID Card expiry date
 - h) Check back for discipline
- 5.3 Any team failing to check their opponent’s ID Cards/ID Books forfeit the right to protest based on player/team official eligibility.



6.0 Player Eligibility

6.1 Player Registration

- 6.1.1 Each competitively registered youth team (U13-U21 Competitive Divisions) may register a maximum of 20 players.
 - 6.1.1.1 Maximum game day roster size for competitively registered youth teams is 18 players.
- 6.1.2 Each recreationally registered youth team (U13-U21 Recreational Divisions) may register a maximum of 25 players.
- 6.1.3 Each U9 and U10 squad may have a maximum of 12 players per game day roster.
- 6.1.4 Each U11 and U12 squad may have a maximum of 16 players per game day roster.
- 6.1.5 No player shall be registered after August 1st of each year for outdoor competition.
- 6.1.6 Players registered to a team (organization) shall not be permitted after August 1st to transfer to another team (organization) within the league.
- 6.1.7 Teams from the same organization, playing in the same division may not interchange players, except U12 and under divisions as per Ontario Soccer open rosters. Teams will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 6.1.8 A youth player may only register for one youth team in the district league.
- 6.1.9 A senior player may only register for one team in the district league unless the second team is a 'conference', 'over 30', 'over 35' division team.
 - 6.1.10 Only (3) three competitively registered players will be permitted per team in each men's or women's division per game. This game day maximum includes those registered to the team, same organization call-ups, or playing via Temporary Eligibility Permit.
 - 6.1.11 Since a player is permitted only one player ID book/card, it is the responsibility of the member organization fielding the District Level team to monitor the player ID Books/Cards, and advise the league administrator in writing as to the name of the player(s) registered competitive.
 - 6.1.12 Competitive players are not permitted in any conference divisions.

6.2 Call-ups/Guest Players/Temporary Eligibility/Trial Registration Permits

- 6.2.1 Teams may use trial/ temporary players as outlined in Ontario Soccer published rules.
- 6.2.2 Teams may use call-ups/guest players for League games that are registered to their own organization or deemed registered to their own organization through an affiliation agreement.
- 6.2.3 Call-ups, Guest Players, TEP's, and Trials are subject to the following restrictions:
 - a) Not more than five (5) players can be dressed for any one game by either or a combination of the above methods.
 - b) A player can be called up into the Recreational, Competitive, or Open Divisions up to a maximum of six (6) times per season.



- c) Each player can be a call up in Recreational Divisions an unlimited number of times per season
- d) Regional/Provincial/OPDL players cannot be a call up for any youth team or open-age recreational team.
- e) A youth call-up must be registered at a lower classification or age group.

6.3 Call-Ups to Youth Teams from Combined Age Groups

- 6.3.1 Players registered in combined age groups can be called up to a higher classified division based on their registered date of birth in the Ontario Soccer's registration system. Ex: A Local League player registered in a U13/U14 league division can be called up to the U13 Recreational or Competitive division provided their date of birth and Ontario Soccer registration is that of a U13 player.

6.4 Playing Up at the Grassroots Level (U8 to U12)

6.4.1 Definitions

- 6.4.1.1 **Call Up:** A call up is a player registered at a lower classification that on occasion participates with a development or target squad.
- 6.4.1.2 **Playing Up:** A player Playing Up is registered to the program one age division higher than their year of birth dictates.

- 6.4.2 In all Grassroots divisions, call ups are only permitted from the club's house league program in the same age division based on date of birth.

- 6.4.3 All Grassroots players Playing Up require district approval via the Grassroots Player Evaluation Forms.

- 6.4.4 All Southwest Soccer Grassroots Call up and Playing up limitations abide by the Ontario Soccer Grassroots Procedures. Refer to the [Ontario Soccer Operational Procedures](#) (Section 6, Procedure 5.4, 5.5) for details.



7.0 Scheduling

- 7.1 The proposed playing schedule will be as per Appendix A if fields are made available by member organizations.
- 7.2 All games will be scheduled to be completed by the end of August.
- 7.3 Use of the alternate night to be at the discretion of the home organization and of the League Administrator, in the case of rescheduled games, extreme long distance travel (150 km or more), and home field availability. Games involving extreme long distance travel will be scheduled on the weekends.
- 7.4 Only the League scheduler and League Administrator or their delegates are authorized to schedule or reschedule games for the League.
- 7.5 Any game(s) scheduled or rescheduled by team officials, members or persons not authorized per Rule 7.4 will be declared null and void. Teams participating in a game not authorized by the League will default all points from the game and be subject to a fee as per Appendix "C".
- 7.6 When possible, the league may implement a pre-assigned black out week per age division as identified below:
 - 7.6.1 U13 – U21 shut down week is Last Week in July
 - 7.6.2 U9 – U12 and Open divisions shut down week is First Week in August.
- 7.7 Home organizations are expected to confirm or complete field time information with the League via emailed spreadsheet within seven (7) days of receiving the home schedules from the league.
- 7.8 The league guarantees each team registered a minimum of fourteen (14) and a maximum of eighteen (18) games. These games may consist of a combination of league and exhibition games.
 - 7.8.1 Depending on length of season, and division size the resulting schedules may be reduced and/or unbalanced.
- 7.9 The following regulations regarding scheduling will apply:
 - a) A minimum of four (4) teams will be required to form a division. In a division of four (4) teams, each team will play the other teams a total of five (5) times, playing a total of fifteen (15) games.
 - b) In a division of five (5) teams, each team will play the other teams four (4) times, playing a total of sixteen (16) games.
 - c) In a division of six (6) or seven (7) teams, each team will play the other teams three (3) times, resulting in schedules of fifteen (15) or eighteen (18) games respectively.
 - d) In a division of eight (8), nine (9), or ten (10) teams, each team will play a home and away game against each of the other teams within its division for a total of fourteen (14), sixteen (16), or eighteen (18) games respectively.
 - e) In a division of eleven (11) teams, all teams will play at least one game against each of the other teams within its division and an unbalanced schedule to a maximum of eighteen (18) games.
 - f) In a division of twelve (12) teams, teams will be randomly divided into groups of six (6). Each team will play a home and away game against each of the other teams within its group and one (1) game against each of the teams in the other group for a total of sixteen (16) games.

- 7.9.1 In the under nine (U9) to under twelve (U12) aged divisions, all game day rosters will be scheduled in 8 to 12 festival format competition days. Festival format play will consist of 1 or 2 matches on a single competition day.
- 7.9.1.2 The number of matches offered per festival is dependent on host field availability and number of game day rosters.
- 7.9.2 In under nine (U9) to under twelve (U12) aged divisions, all games will be scheduled for the playing day identified in Appendix "A" in a festival format with the following exception and limitation:
 - a) In the occurrence of a *non-festival format* scheduled playing day, a reschedule request may be submitted in alignment with rescheduling procedures. Rescheduled day must align with the published playing day.
* a non-festival format consists of two game day rosters scheduled to participate in a single match. *
- 7.9.3 In the under eight (u8) division, all game day rosters will participate in 6-9 festivals for a maximum of 9 competition days and up to 18 games.



8.0 Rescheduling

- 8.1 The League Administrator must approve all changes made after the final schedule is completed. No game will be postponed or rescheduled unless the respective Administrator has received a Game Change request as submitted through the League website. Any team postponing a game without league approval will be subject to discipline as per Appendix "C".
- 8.2 Once the schedule has been published teams (U13 through U21) will have the opportunity to complete up to two (2) game change requests in April using the Game Change Function at no cost.
 - 8.2.1 Upon completion of the two (2) game change period in April, teams will be provided with the opportunity to reschedule one (1) game throughout the season at no cost provided terms of Rule 8.4 have been met. Teams exceeding the additional one (1) game request will be subject to the rescheduling fee as per Appendix "C".
- 8.3 All rescheduling must be completed by the two coaches in coordination with the home club via the Game Reschedule Request Tool located on the league website. Follow the link for details on the Rescheduling Process.
 - 8.3.1 The two coaches must agree upon a new time, date and location before submitting a Game Reschedule Request Tool on the web site or via [Game Change Request Google Form](#). The coach or designate who submits the original request must indicate which team is requesting the change.
- 8.4 All reschedule requests must be submitted to Southwest Soccer via the Game Reschedule Request Tool at least 10 days in advance of the original scheduled date with a minimum of 7 days prior to the newly requested game date.
 - 8.4.1 All reschedules being requested less than 10 days in advance must be completed via [Game Change Request Google Form](#) . An additional rescheduling fee will be applied for all requests under 10 days as per Appendix C
 - 8.4.2 Game change requests received less than 72 hours in advance of the originally scheduled game will not be entertained and will be played as scheduled or defaulted. Teams defaulting games will be subject to a fee as per Appendix 'C'.
 - 8.4.3 Reschedule requests received without an agreed upon new time, date and location will not be entertained. The game shall proceed as scheduled.
- 8.5 Games Postponed as identified in Section 9 are subject to reschedule in coordination with the League. These games must be rescheduled within ten (10) days in alignment with the following process:
 - a) Within ten (10) calendar days of the postponed game the home organization is required to provide the League Administrator with three (3) date and time options with a suitable venue that do not conflict with either teams published schedule.
 - b) Upon receipt of the three (3) date and time options the League Administrator shall communicate with the Visiting Organization to select an agreeable date. If none of the provided dates are agreeable the League shall request two additional dates from the Home Organization. The two dates must be in alignment with Appendix "A". A new ten (10) calendar day window will be granted.
 - c) Upon receipt of the two additional dates and times the League Administrator shall select one date and schedule the game.

- d) Failure of the home organization to provide non-conflicting date and time options within either ten (10) calendar day periods will result in the Visiting Organization becoming the Home Organization and the process to be repeated with five (5) calendar day time periods. Field expenses to be incurred by the original home club.
- e) Failure of both organizations to reschedule the game in alignment with this process will result in the League scheduling the game on a date and location determined by the league. Both the home and visiting teams will be charged the maximum allowable under Appendix C.

- 8.5.1 Weather and Field related problems would not incur any game change fees.
- 8.6 Rescheduled games must be completed by the 14th day of September. Teams may request a rescheduled game to occur during the blackout periods.
- 8.6.1 If a game is postponed within the week leading up to September 14th, it must be rescheduled and played no later than 7 days after the 14th.
- 8.7 League games scheduled within 48 hours prior to an Ontario Cup game may be rescheduled.
- 8.7.1 It is the responsibility of the member organizations to notify the League and the opposing team of any Ontario Cup conflicts. Failure to notify the League within ten days of the conflict will result in a default of the League game, and be subject to a fee as per Appendix C
- 8.8 If a grassroots game is stopped by a match official for reason of inclement weather, ground conditions, failing light, etc... the game will be deemed complete and will not be rescheduled.



9.0 Postponement and Defaulting of Games

- 9.1 All games will be played as scheduled unless postponed under one the following reasons:
- At the discretion of the referee, postponement is necessary due to bad weather or field conditions. Ontario Soccer adverse weather conditions must be followed.
 - A game is postponed at the discretion of the league
 - A game is postponed at the discretion of the City or field owners.
- 9.2 If a match official has stopped a game for reason of inclement weather, ground conditions, failing light, etc... prior to reaching fifteen (15) minutes into the second half the game must be rescheduled as per Rule 8.5.
- 9.2.1 The game official shall be the sole judge of time elapsed.
- 9.3 Failure to notify the league of postponed games within 72 hours will result in a default by the home organization, and be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 9.4 Default – in the event that one team does not field the minimum required number of players to start a game, they will be considered to have defaulted the game and will pay half referee fees at the field. They will also be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 9.5 Default with Notice – In the event that a team advises the league, in writing, less than 72 hours in advance that it will be unable to field a team for a scheduled league or cup game, the game shall be recorded as a default and will not be rescheduled. The team will be subject to a fee of \$200.00 per occurrence as per Appendix C.
- 9.5.1 A Notice of Default will not be accepted more than 72 hours in advance of the originally scheduled game. Up until the 72-hour mark it is expected that the teams will make every attempt to agree upon a new time, date and location to complete a reschedule.
- 9.5.2 If notice is provided less than 24 hours in advance the defaulting team will be subject to an additional \$50.00 administration fee as per Appendix C.
- 9.5.3 If notice is provided by visiting organizations less than 24 hours in advance, home organizations may submit field costs to the league for reimbursement. Submitted claims must be accompanied with proof of the rental fee.
- 9.6 No Shows – In the event that a team does not show up for a regularly scheduled game or cup game, it shall be deemed that the team has defaulted and will be subject to a \$250.00 fee as per Appendix C. In addition, teams not showing shall pay all opponent game fees and expenses as submitted to and approved by the league.
- 9.6.1 All claims must be submitted via the [Opponent No-Show google form](#) within 5 days.
- 9.7 The League Director shall suspend teams defaulting more than three games in a season from further play pending a decision on membership status.
- 9.8 Game official fees to be handled as per section 14 of these policies.



10.0 The Game

- 10.1 In U9 and U10 divisions, the game shall not start should there be less than five (5) players.
- 10.2 In U11 and U12 divisions the game shall not start if there are less than six (6) players available to each team at the kick-off.
- 10.3 In U13 and older divisions, the game shall not start should there be less than seven (7) players available to each or either team at the kick-off.
- 10.4 Game duration will consist of 2 equal halves as per Appendix A.
- 10.5 The League shall use the following ball sizes:
 - a) U8: size 3 (4 super light)
 - b) U9-10-11-12; size 4
 - c) U13 and older: size 5
 - d) Open: size 5
- 10.6 Player substitutions shall be permitted with the consent of the referee.
- 10.7 Substitutions may be allowed during the following stoppages in play: A goal kick; any kick-off; a team's own throw-ins, (the other team may substitute if the first team does); or for an injured player only.
- 10.8 In Grassroots Divisions substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play with the exception of penalty kicks.
- 10.9 No substitution is allowed for any player(s) ejected for a red card offence.
- 10.10 All substitutions must enter the field at the halfway line.
- 10.11 All substituted players must leave the field without delay.
- 10.12 U8 Festival Rules are identified in a separate published document linked here [U8 Festival Rules](#)



11.0 Game Start Time

- 11.1 All games will start promptly and not later than fifteen (15) minutes after scheduled time. If necessary, referees are to report any breach of these rules and the teams responsible, to the League. The Executive Board shall decide the outcome of the game.
- 11.2 Weekday games must commence no earlier than 6:30 pm and no later than 7:00 pm for unlit fields, or 9:00 pm if a lit field is available.
- 11.2.1 Weekday games in May, June, and July must commence no earlier than 7:00pm where the travel distance from visiting organization headquarters to the field is sixty (60) kilometers or greater.
- 11.3 Games will begin no later than 6:30 pm after August 1st on unlit fields.
- 11.4 Weekend games shall commence no earlier than 10:00 a.m. and no later than 3:00 p.m., except open division, cup games, and festival games.
- 11.4.1 Members may request an extension of one hour earlier or later than the identified weekend start times. A request must be submitted per game. Only upon receipt of league approval shall a game start time commence prior to 10:00am or after 3:00pm.
- 11.4.2 Members seeking an additional extension to weekend start times must complete an online reschedule requiring agreement from both clubs and league approval.
- 11.5 Only the League can assign other times at their discretion or as required.



12.0 Uniforms and Equipment

- 12.1 All players shall wear regulation soccer equipment as prescribed by FIFA and Ontario Soccer for all games.
- 12.2 All teams must play all their District games in their primary registered team colours as published on the league website, or be subject to a fee as per Appendix C. Where registered colours are similar or not sufficiently distinctive, the home team must change. Goalkeepers must wear uniforms distinctive from both teams and match officials.
- 12.2.1 It is the Team Officials responsibility to update the team colours on the league website in a timely manner.
- 12.2.2 Team uniforms must only bear the name and/or logo of the club with which they are registered. No other branding is permitted on the team jersey, except for sponsorship branding. A sponsor may not be a non-sanctioned soccer association. If a team is found promoting a non-sanctioned association through any means including but not limited to uniforms, apparel, signs or digital presence, they may face expulsion from the league. There will be no refunds given if a team is expelled.
- 12.3 All players shall wear numbered shirts for all games.
- 12.3.1 No two (2) players on the same team shall wear the same number and no player shall change his number during the game without the consent of the referee.
- 12.3.2 Numbers shall be a minimum of eight (8) inches in height and of a contrasting colour to the body of the shirt. Such number will be recorded against the players' name, on the game sheet. All numbers must be legible.
- 12.4 Players Equipment – “A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.”
[Law 4 – CSA](#)
- 12.4.1 Jewelry – All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed. Exceptions – Medic Alert Bracelets
- 12.4.2 Protective Equipment – Hats and bandanas are not allowed on the field of play. Headscarves and turbans are CSA approved as per [Ontario Soccer rules](#). Exceptions – the goalkeeper/ player may wear a hat for medical reasons (with a medical letter) however the hat may not be a baseball cap; if the cap has a peak it must face forwards and have a soft peak and must not contain metal or plastic parts. Eyeglasses are permitted providing they are sport spectacles and are safe for the players themselves and for other players.
- 12.5 Casts – hard plaster casts are considered to pose a danger to both the wearer and other players and are not permitted on the field of play.
Exceptions – soft, lightweight casts will be permitted providing the cast does not present a danger to the individual or any other player.
- 12.5.1 Officials have the final say on the safety and inclusion of identified casts at the field.



13.0 Game Sheets/ Reporting

- 13.1 Official game sheets, as found on the League site, must be completed by the teams. Teams failing to use league game sheets will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
 - 13.1.1 The game sheets shall consist of 3 copies, one for each team and the referee.
- 13.2 Only players listed on the game sheet may sit on the bench, are eligible to play, and all are deemed to have played unless they are crossed off. Players under suspension shall not be entered on the game sheet and will not be at the player's bench.
 - 13.2.1 Players are not required to sign the game sheet.
- 13.3 When guest players (call-ups) are used, teams are to use the Call-Up function on the league website. This will pre-populate the information onto the game sheet. If they are being handwritten, they must be printed clearly and have (call up) written beside the name. Failure to properly identify guest/call ups will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 13.4 All team officials present must be listed and sign all game sheets; the signatures shall verify the eligibility of all players listed. If a team official is listed but not present, they must be crossed off. Failing to sign all game sheets and verifying player eligibility will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 13.5 All 3 copies of completed game sheets must be turned over to the referee 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 13.6 It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that all sections are complete, including the game number, date, time, location, field conditions, referee names/registration numbers, player/team official names/registration numbers and jersey numbers, goal scorers and cards are correctly marked on the game sheets. Failure to complete all sections are subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 13.7 Teams using players on a Temporary Eligibility Permit or Trial Registration Permits must submit the authorized signed copy with the game sheet to the match official or be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 13.8 For each District League or cup match, the team officials of both teams shall report the game results within forty-eight (48) hours of the game, on the League website. Failure to do so will result in a fee as per Appendix C.
- 13.9 For all U9-U12 games, within 48 hours of the game, team officials shall report on the league website selecting whether the game was completed or not. No stats or standings shall be reported.
- 13.10 For all U13-U21 games the following must be recorded accurately: the game score; the names of the players, goalkeeper and goal scorers and the details of any discipline cards handed out by the referee.
- 13.11 Game reports that have not been submitted within 7 days of the conclusion of the match may have the points for the game in question withheld from the negligent team(s) and a fee, as per Appendix C, prior to reinstatement of the result.
- 13.12 The league retains the right to complete outstanding online game reports based on match official games sheets.



14.0 Match Officials

14.1 Game Official fees are as per Appendix B.

14.1.1 All youth home organizations (U13+) are responsible for the full payment of game officials either at the game or by a payment schedule as established by the Youth team's club policy

14.1.2 At all open games the teams shall split the referee fees for each game.

14.1.3 Fees are to be paid to game officials prior the beginning of the game. Failure to pay officials will result in a fee as per Appendix C.

14.1.4 At all grassroots division competitions the game day rosters shall split all Match Official Fees.

14.2 In the case of Match Official no shows, the match official is obligated to return fees for the vacant position to the teams. If a match official does not repay this fee, teams may file a report with the league and the match official will be disciplined by Southwest Soccer.

14.3 Referee fees based on game not being completed in full:

Scenario	Fee Paid	By Whom
Postponement of a game before Kick-Off due to inclement weather	Half-Fee	Youth Game- Home Organization Open Game- Split between teams
Postponement as the field, in the referee's discretion, is unplayable	Half-Fee	Home Team
Default – A team has less than the minimum number of players required to start the game	Half-Fee	Defaulting Team
Default with Notice – more than 24 hours' notice Provided	No Fee	
Default with Notice – Less than 24 hours' notice Provided	Half Fee	League
Default with Notice – Less than 4 hours' notice	Half-Fee + mileage if incurred	League (Mileage paid at \$0.25 once Team No Show claim form is submitted)
No-Show – One or both teams do not show up	Half-Fee+ Mileage	League (Mileage paid at \$0.25 once Team No Show claim form is submitted)

14.3.1 The half game fee noted above shall be paid only if:

- a) The referee collects and completes the game sheet(s) and provides a short written report explaining why the game did not start;
- b) The appointed referee and assistant referees, who were present at the field, shall include their names, Ontario Soccer Registrant Number and signature(s) in the space provided on the game sheet(s);
- c) Hand a fully completed and signed copy of the game sheets to the coach/manager of the team(s) that is/are present.

14.3.2 In the event that both teams do not show, the league shall pay the game officials half the game fees, provided the game officials reports and request such fees within 5 days of such game.

14.4 The League or its designate will assign registered officials to U9 through u21 games via Ref Centre.



- 14.5 Referees shall be assigned to all age groups. Assistant Referees shall be assigned to all age groups except U8, U9, and U10. All members that use un-carded referees will be liable to further discipline by the Executive Committee (Except in the case of a referee no show).
- 14.5.1 Assistant Referees shall **NOT** be assigned to U11 and U12 divisions for the Outdoor 2023 season.
- 14.6 Referees must meet the following requirements:
- a) Ontario Soccer D1 referees shall be allowed to officiate any U9 or U10 game.
 - b) Ontario D4 referees or better shall be required for U11, U12, U13, U14, or U15 games.
 - c) Ontario Soccer D6 referees or better shall be required for U16, U17, U18, U21 or open games.
- 14.6.1 D1 through D5 referees (under 18 years old) may only take part in games in which the team age classification of the teams involved in the game are a minimum 2 years younger than the official.
- 14.6.2 A first year D4, D5, or D6 referee may not be appointed as a Match Official to a game involving Competitive teams where their new grade is the minimum requirement, but may be appointed as an Assistant Referee.
- 14.6.3 All Assistant Referees must be a D4 or better.
- 14.7 Officiating complaints will only be acknowledged if received in writing by the league administrator. Complaints will be reviewed by the Board and may suspend the official from refereeing further games in district league.
- 14.8 The game official is responsible for providing the teams a copy of completed game sheets within 15 minutes of the end of the game. All game officials must print and sign all game sheets with their name.
- 14.9 In the event that the appointed game official is not in attendance within fifteen (15) minutes after a scheduled kick-off the referee no-show must be reported to the League using the [Match Official No Show Google Form](#)
- 14.9.1 For Grassroots games, the two teams MUST agree on an alternate game official or person and proceed with the game. Failure to proceed with the game will result in the game being removed from the schedule
- 14.9.2 For competitive, recreational, and open divisions the two teams may agree on an alternate game official and proceed with the game. If the two teams are not in agreement the game will be rescheduled as per Rule 8.5.
- 14.10 The game official must submit completed game sheets accompanied by any Disciplinary Reports, Trial Registration Permits or Temporary Eligibility Permits to the District office within forty-eight (48) hours of the final whistle.
- 14.11 Lightning/Severe Weather Policy: Ontario Soccer's Severe Weather Policy states – as soon as you hear thunder, quickly get to a safe location. If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning, Environment Canada warns. Ontario Soccer's Severe Weather Policy, promotes this when faced with severe weather conditions during league-play. Knowing this, the referee's is to use their discretion having the final say over delaying, restarting or abandoning a match due to severe weather or the threat of imposing weather. Referees are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling. The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any game.



14.12 Heat Advisory Policy

In the event of a heat advisory (as issued by Environment Canada) it is MANDATORY for match officials to provide water breaks as follows:

1. At the midway point of each half.
2. Provide a 60 second break.
3. Game clock is stopped during mandated water breaks.

This is MANDATORY for player safety and cannot be ignored. If a heat advisory has not been issued and team officials are seeking water breaks, the request to the match official should occur prior to the game. These water breaks will be permitted at the discretion of the referee. The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all matches sanctioned by SWRSA. The Match Official has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. Waiting to stop play or not waiting to start play may result in a serious injury or loss of life. Match Officials are expected to act responsibly when dealing with such events during matches they are controlling.

14.13 Match Official Travel Expenses (Open Divisions Only)

Depending on distance traveled a Game Crew may be entitled to claim a travel expense through the league. Southwest Soccer has been split into four zones for the purpose of identifying applicable set travel expenses.

Follow the link for details including the identification of zones, eligibility, and the preset amounts of the [Match Official Travel Expenses](#).



15.0 League Standings

- 15.1 The League champion shall be the team that accumulates the greatest number of points in all games provided for by the League schedule of that age group.
 - 15.1.1 No points will be awarded for age divisions up to and including the U12 age group. There are no statistics or standings kept for these age groups and no League champion.
 - 15.1.2 For U13 and older, points will be awarded based on the formula of three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss.
- 15.2 If the League, for any reason, awards points for an un-played, postponed, or defaulted game, the team deemed to be the winner shall receive three (3) points for a win and the score shall be recorded as 3 to 0.
- 15.3 In the event that more than one (1) team is tied for first place at the end of the regular schedule the following criteria will be used in order to determine the League Champion:
 - 1. Head to Head Record
 - 2. Head to Head Goal Differential
- 15.3.1 If still tied a head to head play-off game will be scheduled by the league administrator at a neutral field. Field and Match Official costs will be split equally between the teams and paid at the time of the game.
- 15.3.2 If more than two teams are tied at this point: 3 teams will be round robin, 4 teams a single knockout, with the two winners playing off against each other.
- 15.4 If teams are tied for the same position in any part of final standings except for first place, the results between the teams will be determined by:
 - 1. Head to Head Results
 - 2. Goal difference – League standings
 - 3. Most Wins
 - 4. Least goals against – League standings



16.0 Promotion / Relegation

- 16.1 Youth Competitive division teams from the District League may be eligible for promotion into the Regional League (WRSL), and some Regional League teams may be relegated to the Competitive division at the District level. Promotion/Relegation Rules will be developed with the Regional League (WRSL) respecting the Ontario Soccer guidelines.
- 16.2 Winners of the Recreational Divisions in the District League will be promoted to the Districts Competitive division.
- 16.3 In open divisions the top team of each division is eligible for promotion and lowest team is subject to relegation.
- 16.4 An open division team may request to be placed in a lower level for the following year, subject to the approval of the League. Such request must be received by the registration deadline of such year.
 - 16.4.1 If a team is moved to a lower level the League may promote an additional top team to keep the levels in balance.
- 16.5 Team placement within a division is subject to league registration numbers and division offerings.



17.0 Cup Competitions

- 17.1 To be eligible to play in a cup game scheduled after August 1st, a player must have played a minimum of three regular season games with the team or the team will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 17.2 Only players properly registered to the team (Ontario Soccer rosters) may play in the youth cup, open cup – call ups are not permitted and will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.
- 17.2.1 A player may only play for one team in the competition.
- 17.3 A draw will be made at the start of the season to determine the schedule.
- 17.3.1 No changes will be made to schedule without League approval.
- 17.3.2 The League Administrator or Director may make changes in venue as the need arises.
- 17.4 **Home and Away teams shall split all Match Official Fees.**
- 17.5 All game reports shall be submitted on the league website within 48 hours.
- 17.6 All games shall have registered officials as required for their level of play. If 3 officials are required and less than (2) two officials are present, the game shall proceed only if both coaches agree. If not a rescheduled game shall occur within (7) days.
- 17.7 If a game is tied at the end of regulation the winner shall be determine by kicks from the penalty mark as per FIFA rules.
- 17.8 **Youth Cup:**
- 17.8.1 Each youth team registered in the League prior to the Kick-Off Meeting will participate in the District Cup competition. Competitive and Recreational teams shall only compete amongst their own level of competition.
- 17.8.2 Cup games will be single game knock out format.
- 17.8.3 **Youth Cup games will be played on Fridays unless otherwise arranged by the league. Dates will be selected by the league.**
- 17.8.4 Youth Organizations may be required to host Preliminary Rounds for divisions in which they have a team registered.
- 17.9 **Open Cup:**
- 17.9.1 Each open team registered in the League prior to the Kick-Off Meeting will participate in the District Cup competition. Competitive and Recreational teams shall only compete amongst their own level of competition.



17.10.2 Open teams may opt out of the cup competition prior to the registration deadline for the current year.

17.10.3 Open cup format and fees will be determined annually at the discretion of the district league and published prior to the registration deadline.

17.10.4 In the event that the Open Cup operates under single knock-out format the cost of the fields will be splits as follows: a) Home Team pays for the field b) Away Team reimburses the Home Team 50% of the field cost up to a maximum of \$50.00 c) Away team has the right to request proof of field costs from the Home Team.



18.0 Indoor Competitions

- 18.1 Southwest Soccer will monitor the need for indoor soccer expansion in the District and operate such divisions if viable.



19.0 Discipline

- 19.1 All discipline will be handled by the district in accordance with Ontario Soccer Procedures under [SWRSA's Discipline System](#).
- 19.2 Discipline/fees handled under league rules will be addressed under Appendix C.
- 19.3 If a single team accumulates 4 dismissals; 8 cautions; or 10 combined discipline reports they will be subject to a fee as per Appendix C.



20.0 Protests / Appeals

- 20.1 A team official must inform the referee if the game is “being played under protest” and they will record this on the game sheet prior to the beginning of the game. The game shall be played. A team refusing to play will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 20.2 An email notice, using the [Game Protest Form](#), must be received within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- 20.3 A copy of the protest must also be sent to the opposing team’s Organization.
- 20.4 Protests must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$200 in the form of an e-transfer. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be refunded. An administration fee of \$50 will be charged for each case regardless of the outcome.
- 20.5 ONLY correctly submitted protests will be heard by the Discipline Committee.
- 20.6 No protests pertaining to the decision of a match official will be heard.
- 20.7 No protests pertaining to fields, conditions, equipment, jersey colours or other appurtenances of the game will be heard.
- 20.8 Appeals against decisions made by a District League shall be submitted, in writing, to the District and a copy of the letter of appeal shall be sent to the League.
- 20.9 The letter of appeal shall be accompanied by the appeal fee of \$250, in the form of an e-transfer, along with a copy of the decision being appealed and a completed [Appeal to Southwest Soccer Form](#).



21.0 Other Provisions

- 21.1 Any matter not covered by the SWRSA Constitution and/or Rules and Regulations, shall be governed by the provisions of the Ontario Soccer Published Policies.
- 21.2 Notification of complaints; infractions; requests to the Board and other matters requiring attention from the League Director will only be considered if submitted by the Executive of a member club. Such requests from coaches, team managers, parents etc., will be referred back to the appropriate member club.



APPENDIX A: 2023 District League Game Duration and Playing Nights

Grassroots Divisions	Half Length (mins)	Playing Day / Night
All U8	20	Saturday
BU9	25	Saturday
GU9	25	Saturday
BU10	25	Saturday
GU10	25	Saturday
BU11	35	Saturday
GU11	35	Saturday
BU12	35	Saturday
GU12	35	Saturday

Competitive Division	Half Length	Playing Day / Night	Alternate Day / Night
U13	40	Wednesday	Monday
U14	40	Thursday	Tuesday
U15	45	Monday	Wednesday
U16 Boys	45	Tuesday	Thursday
U16/17 Girls	45	Tuesday	Thursday
U17 / U18 Boys	45	Monday	Wednesday
U18 Girls	45	Monday	Wednesday
U21 Women's	45	Thursday	Tuesday
U21 Men's	45	Thursday	Tuesday
Preliminary Round Cup games		Friday	



APPENDIX B: 2023 DISTRICT LEAGUE FEE SCHEDULE

OUTDOOR REGISTRATION FEES – 2023 SEASON		
U8 (per Game Day Roster)		\$ 150.00
U9 – U12 (per Game Day Roster)		\$ 350.00
U13 – U18 (per Team)(Rec or Comp)		\$ 400.00
U21 Competitive (per Team)		\$ 400.00
Open Age (per Team) (Rec or Comp)		\$ 400.00
Bond - Youth Club		\$ 300.00
Bond – Senior Team		\$ 200.00
Late Team Registration		\$ 100.00
INDOOR/FUTSAL REGISTRATION FEES – 2023 SEASON - TBD		
U9 – U12 (per game day roster)		TBD
U13 – U18 (per team)		TBD
Open Age (per team)		TBD
GAME OFFICIAL FEES - Outdoor 2023	Referee	Assistant Referee
U8 Development	\$25.00	N/A
U9 / U10 Development	\$30.00	N/A
U11 / U12 Development	\$40.00	N/A
U13 Youth Competitive	\$50.00	\$35.00
U14 / U15 Youth Competitive	\$55.00	\$40.00
U16 Youth Competitive	\$60.00	\$45.00
U17 / U18 Youth Competitive	\$65.00	\$50.00
U21 Senior Competitive	\$80.00	\$55.00
Open Age Senior Competitive (KDSL)	\$85.00	\$60.00
Open Age - District Recreational (TMSL)	\$80.00	\$55.00
One Referee System for District Recreational <i>(not permitted in Competitive)</i>	Referee Fee + 50% of one Assistant Referee Fee	
GAME OFFICIAL Scheduling		
League scheduling game officials to an Exhibition Game		\$8.00 Per Game
DISCIPLINE FEES		
Protest Submission		\$ 200.00



APPENDIX C: 2023 DISTRICT LEAGUE DISCIPLINE STRUCTURE

Section	Fee Description	Fee
2.4	Teams not registered to play in their own age level	\$100.00
2.9	Withdrawing a team after the registration deadline, prior to March 1st	Team Fee
2.9	Withdrawing a team between March 1st and April 15th	Team Fee, Bond, + \$300
2.9	Withdrawing a team after April 15th	Team Fee, Bond, +\$1000
4.3	Home club failing to provide required game provisions	\$50.00
4.11	More than 4 team officials on bench (TD or CHC accepted)	\$50.00
4.15	Non-carded and/or non-registered person acting as a Team Official on bench	\$100.00
4.16	Team officials smoking or vaping while coaching	\$100.00
6.1.7	Non-Grassroots teams interchanging players	\$200.00
8.1	Postponing game without League approval	\$100.00
8.2.1	Team Exceeds Reschedule Request Limit (per game)	\$100.00
8.4.1	Reschedule Request received within 10 days of original game	\$150.00
8.4.2 / 9.5	Default with Notice (Less than 72 Hours' Notice)	\$200.00
8.4.2 / 9.4 / 9.5.2	Default with Notice (Less than 24 Hours' Notice)	\$250.00
9.6	No Show – Team does not show up for a game	\$250.00 + Opponent Expenses
12.2	Teams not playing game in primary team colour	\$50.00
13.1	Failing to use League official game sheets	\$50.00
13.4	Team official failing to sign all game sheets	\$50.00
13.4 / 17.2	Dressing players not properly registered/eligible	\$100.00
13.3 / 13.6	Team failing to complete all game sheet sections	\$50.00
13.7	Team not submitting temporary or trial permits	\$100.00
13.8	Failing to submit game report on league website within 48 hrs	\$50.00
13.11	Failing to submit game report on league website within 7 days	\$100.00
14.1.3	Team failing to pay game officials	\$100.00
17.1	Player playing in cup game not yet played in 3 League games	\$100.00
17.3.1	Changing cup schedule without League approval	\$100.00
19.3	Team Accumulations: 4 dismissals; 8 cautions; or 10 discipline reports (Total through any form of league play)	\$50.00
Various	Any club/team failing to comply with any other League policies or procedures not previously listed in Appendix C	Up to \$300
	Withdrawal from U8 Festivals:	
a.	Withdrawal more than 2 weeks prior to the festival	\$100.00 per squad
b.	Withdrawal less than 2 weeks prior to the festival	\$200.00 per squad
c.	Withdrawal less than 1 week prior to the festival	\$300.00 per squad
d.	Failure to show up to a festival	\$500.00 per squad