

## U14 Boys and Girls REC Soccer League Bylaws

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Middle School Boys and Girls REC Soccer League (MSBGHSL) formed by the Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC) the Springfield Youth Club (SYC) and the Burke Athletic Club (BAC) is to provide an opportunity for U14 and U13 boys and girls on REC soccer teams to play soccer in competition against teams of similar composition. Sportsmanship, fair play, and a friendly atmosphere among all participants, including coaches, players, officials, and spectators are required for participation in the MSBGHSL.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

All participating teams agree to the following rules. Failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in forfeiture of all games played and disqualification from further participation.

1. Clubs will form their teams on the same basis that they use in forming their regular REC teams. Registration must be open to all eligible players. Each club agrees that teams are not formed on a "cut" or "all star" basis. Players who are registered as "travel" or "select" but are not playing or practicing during the current season on a travel team are eligible to play during the current season only as long as that status exists. There are no exceptions to this rule of being disassociated from the travel team.
2. The MSBGHSL age group will be determined by the current U14 and U13 age division lists posted on the VYSA web site for that year. Players playing up or down will be in compliance with their club's rules.
3. All players must play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and able to participate.
4. Team rosters certified by the age group league director of each sponsoring club must be set prior to the start of the second game of the season. The roster will include name, birth date, and uniform number. Roster and player changes may be made after the start of the second game of the season only with the express approval of the other League Directors. Certified rosters will be made available upon request to all club commissioners, league directors and coaches.
5. The seasonal format for the MSBGHSL will be determined by agreement of the League Directors/Age Group coordinators prior to start of the seasonal year. League Directors will be the respective U14 age group commissioners or directors from BRYC, SYC, and BAC. The League Directors are appointed by their respective clubs. Schedules will be published with game fields and home teams clearly identified.
6. Team/coach telephone lists will be published and distributed to each coach.
7. Normally, 50% of each team's games will be at home Clubs are responsible for providing a suitable field with nets, lines, corner flags, and a stitched size 5 game ball for all home games. This may require inspection and positive action by the coach/club in advance of game start time. Should a field develop problems that can be corrected through positive action, such as sweeping puddles or application of topsoil /mulch in wet or boggy areas, then it is the responsibility of the

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Home coach to take this action so the scheduled games may be played.

Further, clubs should provide three USSF certified officials. Single or two man systems may only be used in an emergency provided all officials are USSF certified. When scheduled certified officials fail to show, both coaches may agree on use of substitute officials (e.g. Parent referee). The goal is to find a way to play a fair match.

8. Both teams will be responsible to confirm home game times, field directions, and uniform colors not less than two days prior to game day. No home team will reschedule a game without the concurrence of the visiting team. All games are expected to be played unless cancellation is approved by the League Directors (BRYC, SYC, and BAC). Unauthorized cancellation could result in a forfeit. Requests to reschedule a game must be submitted to the League Directors at least seven days before the scheduled game date.

9. Home teams are responsible for resolving all uniform conflicts. Visiting teams will cooperate fully in resolving any uniform conflicts.

10. In the event of weather cancellations, home teams are responsible for notifying visiting teams of the cancellations at least 2 hours prior to scheduled game time, if possible. If weather causes the cancellation of all games on a Saturday, the LD's will reschedule all of the games based on field availability and in coordination with the referee coordinators. If an individual game can not be played, the Home team will coordinate with the visiting team within seven days to reschedule a cancelled game as soon as a field and referees can be assigned. The cancelled game will be rescheduled no sooner than seven days after the original game date. As an alternative, the visiting team should check to see if its home field is available. If it is available, and both coaches agree, the game could be moved to the open field. Game officials will be handled IAW item 7 above. Once the schedule has been approved and finalized, non-weather related cancellation requests will not be entertained

11. The showing of red or yellow cards, and coach or spectator caution or dismissal, will be reported to the League Directors at the end of the game. Both coaches are responsible for reporting all offenses to League Directors via email with in 12 hours after the occurrence

12. Home teams have first choice of which side of the field of play it occupies for its substitutes, coaches, and spectators. The choice should be made as early as possible to avoid confusion and inconvenience to the visiting team. Each team is responsible for ensuring its spectators remain on its side of the field or agreed upon location based on sun and field conditions.

### **Rules of Competition**

1. FIFA Laws of the Game will apply except as modified by this section. Club commissioners will provide a copy of these rules to the referee coordinators of their organizations.

2. Game time for U14 Boys is 35-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime. Games may end in a tie.

3. Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee at the following times:

- a. Throw-in, your favor

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- b. Throw-in, team not in possession of the ball may substitute an unlimited number of players if the team in possession of the ball is also substituting.
- c. Goal kick, by either team
- d. After a goal, by either team
- e. Halftime
- f. A team may substitute one player for an injured player when the referee stops play. The opposing team may also substitute one player at that time if the injured player is replaced.

4. Teams must field a minimum of seven (7) players to start a match. A team has until game time plus 10 minutes to field seven players or they forfeit the game. If the 7th player arrives within 10 minutes of scheduled game time the game will commence immediately at the discretion of the referee. If a team is playing down one or more players the opposing team will play down to no more than the same number of players plus one (e.g. 7 vs. 8).

5. Blow out scores run contrary to the spirit of this league. This is recreation soccer and the concept is to make the sport enjoyable for all players. We hope to keep the focus of our joint league away from concepts of victory at all costs; to one of good sportsmanship and keeping the recreation soccer fun.

Each coach will have a game management plan to keep the score differential at 5 points or less. You may even want to consider instituting this plan earlier (goal differential of 3 or 4) if you feel your team has a considerable edge over your opponent. As part of your game management plan you may consider some or all of the following but not limited to: playing down one or more players (taking off your strongest players not your weakest); moving your hot strikers to defense and your less experienced players to offense; encourage your team to focus on other aspects of the game such as ball control, passing, only shooting after everyone has touched the ball; and shooting with the player's weak foot to name a few. You may want to discuss your game control plan with your players in practice or before the game to avoid game time confusion.

6. A game halted due to unsafe playing conditions prior to halftime will be replayed. A game halted at halftime or later due to unsafe playing conditions will stand as indicated by the score at the time of termination.

7. League Standings will be determined by the following:

WIN	3 points
TIE	1 point
LOSS	0 points

8. In the event of a forfeit, the score will be recorded as 1 – 0.

9. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams at the end of the season based on League Points described in paragraph 7. In case an uneven number of games are played due to weather related cancellations, standings will then be based on virtual points. Virtual points are calculated using the average number of points earned per game and multiplied by the total number of games for the season, in this case eight (8). League Directors will aggressively reschedule games to avoid having to use virtual points as much as practical. In the event of a tie in total points in the standings at the end of the season; ties will be broken according to the

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following criteria:

- a. Head to head competition (Not used if more than two teams tie)
- b. Most wins
- c. Least goals allowed
- d. Bonus points. For each winning game subtract goals allowed from goals scored. A maximum of three bonus points per game may be earned. In a forfeit only one bonus point is awarded.
- e. Once a tie breaker eliminates a team the procedure will start over.

10. In the event a trophy game is tied at the end of regulation time, the teams will conduct a shoot out to determine the winner. Each team will use the players who were on the field at the end of regulation time. Each team will sequence their players, 1 through 10. The first five players will kick. If at the end of the first five rounds the game is still tied the sixth player on each team will kick. If the game is still tied the seventh player will kick. The process will continue until one team wins or all players have kicked. If, after all players have kicked once, the game is still tied the winner will be determined by coin toss.

11. The cost of trophies and other league expenses will be shared by the participating clubs on a pro-rata basis based on the number of teams.

12. Both coaches are responsible for reporting the score of the game as soon as possible after the game is completed, but no later than 12 hours after the game. Each coach will report results to his league director and cc the other club league director.

### **Discipline**

#### 1. Misconduct

A red-carded player must leave the field immediately and may not be substituted. A sent-off coach or sent-off spectator must leave the field area immediately. All red carded participants (coaches, players, and spectators) will be required to sit out the next game the team plays. Names of carded players or dismissed coaches or spectators will be reported immediately following the game to the League Directors.

#### 2. Game Suspension and Termination

Should a referee terminate a game due to disciplinary problems, the League Directors will investigate the circumstances and rule on the game. Additional action will be taken if warranted.

#### 3. Maintaining Control

Coaches are responsible for maintaining control of themselves, their players, and spectators on their sidelines. Coaches, players, and spectators are to refrain from making remarks to the officials or opposing players before, during, or after the match. "Trash Talk" is prohibited by all participants on or off the field of play. Coaches or spectators are prohibited from entering the field of play unless invited on by the Center Official. Abuse of officials by members of the U14BHSL will not be tolerated. Disregard of this by-law could become the basis for suspension at the discretion of the League Directors.

#### 4. Complaint Process

Coaches who feel that another team or coach has violated this by-law must notify his or her

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League Directors within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. The complaint must be formalized in writing and submitted to the League Director of the coach or team that the complaint is towards. While both League Directors will confer with each other, the League Director of the team whom that complaint is against shall formally respond to the coach filing the complaint.

### **Protests**

1. Protests are strongly discouraged. A coach may not protest the subjective decision of a referee. The only acceptable reason for a protest is for a technical mistake by the referee. In the event a protest is deemed necessary, the coach or Club Representative must notify one of the League Directors within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. The protest must be formalized in writing and submitted to one of the League Directors within 72 hours of the protested event or condition. Referee judgment may not be protested.
2. The League Directors, in consultation with the commissioner, will resolve the protest and notify all parties in writing of the resolution as soon as possible. Any person with a conflict of interest in the protest agrees not to participate in the resolution of the protest. Should both League Directors have a conflict of interest, they will designate two league coaches not having a conflict of interest, to resolve the protest. However, the League Directors will still have administrative responsibility to assure the protest is resolved.