

## Blossomland Soccer League (BSL) 2025 Policies and Procedures

### TEAM REGISTRATION

1. Team Registrations and fees must be received by the Registrar (alternate recipient of fees may be President or Treasurer) no later than Feb. 28 to be eligible for the coming season.
2. Team Registration includes team registration form and team fee for that season.
3. BSL Team fee for all teams is \$250.00.
4. Teams *returning* from the previous season AND having representative attendance at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November / December / January will have a \$50.00 reduction in team fee to \$200.00.
5. All team registration fees are ***non-refundable***.

### PLAYER REGISTRATION

1. Player registration fees to the BSL are \$90.00 for the season. (Note: Some teams may opt for an additional fee to be collected by the BSL during registration. This amount will be added to the \$90.00 BSL fee and collected on behalf of the team. These additional fees will be provided to the individual team after the close of registration for the season)  
Final day for registration shall be determined by the current requirements agreed upon with the BSL and MSA. Usually this will be 21 – 30 days after the first scheduled game of the year. The actual date may vary from year to year. Registrations must be complete and paid in full by that day.
2. Pass cards shall not be issued until all required paperwork is received, approved, player fees received, and reported to MSA.
3. Non-players are required to submit all required paperwork for registration but **do not pay** a registration fee. These personnel are not allowed to play in any games **or** practice sessions. Non-player personnel are limited to 3 registrations per team. Usually Coach, Manager, or Trainer. (If more are required please contact the registrar.)
4. Pass cards are provided to the team management and is their responsibility.
5. Each team size is limited to a total of 30 registrations per team.
6. A maximum of 24 players may dress for play in each game.  
Non-Playing participants may be with their team during the game but NOT dressed to play, provided they are listed on the Game Roster AND go through the check in procedure.  
**Exception** is any participant serving a suspension may NOT be with their team during a game.
7. This is an adult soccer league. All participants (players and management) must be at least eighteen (18) years of age as of April 1 of the current season.
8. All new players to the BSL who have participated in organized soccer in a country outside of the United States are required to submit a completed **International Clearance form**. These are forwarded to the USSF office for release and approval. Once this form is submitted to USSF they have temporary approval to participate. This approval may take anywhere from 14 to 30 days or longer, please allow accordingly. Acceptable forms of photo ID for this form are limited to government issued Passports, Visas or State issued Driver's License. Should this approval from USSF be denied the participant will be removed from the team and any further participation with the BSL until cleared and approved.
9. All registrations must be completed using the on-line application including payment of all required fees. This includes providing all necessary information, submission of a valid photo ID such as government issued driver's license, passport or visa. If these are not available you may submit a student or business photo ID which will be verified by the registrar before acceptance. Any questions contact the registrar.
10. Other registration forms required include an Insurance Release Form. In some cases there may be other forms required, contact the registrar for current information.
11. No players shall participate in game play or practice until they have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
12. No personnel shall be allowed in the technical (bench) area during games without a valid pass card. This includes when they arrive at the field until the conclusion of the game.
13. Player registration fees may be paid at time of registration via the web site.

14. Players who opt not to participate after registration are entitled to a partial refund. To receive a refund they must withdraw by notifying the Registrar in writing (either by email, text or letter) at least three days prior to their teams first scheduled game AND not have participated in any practice sessions. They will then be entitled to a refund from the BSL fee less any MSA or payment processing fees.
15. Players who opt not to participate after registration and after their team's first scheduled game, or have participated in any team practice will NOT receive a refund from the BSL.
16. **Do not send any forms or payment directly to USSF, MSA or MYSA.**

## **FIELD INSURANCE**

1. Team management is responsible to provide the registrar with complete field information prior to any use by the team. This includes all fields including game or practice. .
2. Information needed includes: Field name with complete address plus field ownership with their address, phone and email. Also the name of field contact person with their address, phone and email, Club contact individuals are **not** acceptable.
3. Once received the registrar will submit the appropriate forms to MSA.
4. Proof of Insurance is supplied to the Registrar and Field Owner. If you desire a copy contact the BSL Registrar.
5. Fields have no insurance by BSL / MSA / USASA until approval is received from MSA. Once approval is received the team management will be notified.
6. Only fully registered participants may be on the field during games and practices. Other personnel on the field or in the team area will nullify any insurance coverage for everyone at that game or practice.

## **FORFEITURES**

1. A prearranged forfeiture with notification to the referee coordinator or registrar must be received at least 72 hours before the scheduled contest. This will result in a \$200.00 fine.
2. A prearranged forfeiture with notification of 24 to 72 hour notification will result in a \$250.00 fine.
3. A forfeit due to a team having less than the minimum number of players to start the game will result in a \$250.00 fine.
4. A forfeit due to a team having less than the required minimum number of players after the start of the game will result in a \$100.00 fine.
5. A forfeit due to a team removing itself from the field and / or refusal to play when instructed to do so by the referee will result in a \$250.00 fine.
6. A forfeit with less than 24 hour notification will result in a \$250.00 fine.
7. All forfeit fines must be received at least 24 hours prior to the team's next contest unless special arrangements are made with the Treasurer / President.
8. All forfeit fines must be paid to Treasurer, President or Registrar prior to their next game unless other arrangements are arranged and approved.
9. Referees shall be paid for forfeit games per the following:
  - a. Forfeit with more than 72 hour notice will receive no referee fee.
  - b. Forfeit with 24 - 72 hour notice paid at 1/3 (one third) referee fee.
  - c. Forfeit with less than 24 hour notice or at the field paid at full referee fee.
10. Teams receiving a win due to forfeit shall be awarded the 4 goal maximum for points awarded.

## **RESCHEDULES**

1. A team may **request** a reschedule for a contest using the following procedure.
  - a. Contact the other team and mutually agree on a day and time to reschedule the contest in question.
  - b. Contact the Registrar AND Referee Coordinator with this request at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled contest. This request must include a reason for the change.

- c. The request must be valid to be considered for approval. Examples of a valid request: field is unplayable, unavailable; unable to field 7 players, etc. Examples of an invalid request: my goalie isn't feeling well, my 'ace' player is out of town, I can't be there, inconvenient time, etc. Also 'I don't have a full team', remember you only need 7 players to start and play a match. These are considered frivolous and will not be considered or granted.
2. When granted there will be a \$25.00 reschedule fee for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2nd request.
3. All subsequent requests by a team will result in a \$50.00 fee each.
4. All fees must be received at least 24 hours prior to their next contest.
5. Fees must be paid to the Treasurer, President, or Registrar prior to their next game unless other arrangements are made and approved.
6. Fees are the responsibility of the team asking for the reschedule request.
7. In the case of an unforeseen situation (death, natural disaster, etc.) there shall be no fines levied and the contest will be rescheduled as deemed necessary.

## **APPEALS**

1. Per by-laws a team may file an appeal in regards to documented law violations. These appeals will be heard by the BSL Appeals Committee for resolution.
2. No appeals shall be accepted in regards to referee judgment.
3. A \$50.00 fee is required to file an appeal. This fee is only refunded if the appeal is sustained.
4. Appeals shall be filed and fee paid to the BSL Secretary or President within 48 hours of the incident in question.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Following are guidelines for various discipline deemed necessary for violations. These may be applied to players, coach, managers, team officials or spectators. These guidelines follow the latest USSF / IFAB FIFAB guidelines. These same guidelines will apply to incidents not covered.

Referee to the Handbook section VIII. DISCIPLINE part referenced in ( ) for definition of offense.

1. Player Profanity / Obscenity: (A)
  - a. First offense = one-game suspension
  - b. Second offense = two-game suspension
  - c. Third offense = four-game suspension
2. Threats / Coercion: (B)
  - a. First offense = one-game suspension
  - b. Second offense = two-game suspension
  - c. Third-offense = four-game suspension
3. Fighting: (C)
  - a. First offense = two-game suspension
  - b. Second offense = four-game suspension
  - c. Third offense = eight-game suspension
4. Brawl: (D)
  - a. First offense = minimum six-game suspension
  - b. Additional discipline procedures may be levied against a club / team up to and including disqualification from the league. This will be determined by the severity of the action and discipline action shall be determined by the BSL Disciplinary Committee
5. Discrimination: (E)
  - a. Players = minimum five-game suspension
  - b. Spectators = banned from appearing at league matches for a minimum of two years
6. Provocation of the General Public: (F)
  - a. Anyone involved = two games suspension
7. Inciting Hatred or Violence: (G)
  - a. Players and / or Team Officials = minimum one-year suspension
8. Assault on Non-Player / Player: (H)

- a. Assault on an adult participant = minimum one-year suspension
- b. Assault on minor participant = minimum two-year suspension
- c. Assault resulting in serious injury regardless of age = minimum five-year suspension
- d. Except in the case of player fighting, an assault on a player by any individual (player, coach, manager, team official) shall also warrant the same disciplinary action(s).

9. Unidentified Aggressors: (I)

- a. In the event the aggressor cannot be identified the discipline shall be applied to the club to which the aggressor belonged. This discipline shall be determined by the BSL Disciplinary Committee according to the actual infringement and its severity.

10. Referee / Assistant Referee Abuse, Assault, Mistreatment: (J)

The suspension guidelines for various players or team official offenses follow per FIFA Guidelines:

- Referee Abuse = minimum three match suspension
- Unsporting conduct towards a match officials, including minor/slight touching = minimum four match suspension
- Assault = minimum six games,  
Assault against minor by adult = three year suspension;  
Assault where serious injuries are inflicted = five year suspension.
- Spitting at on match official = minimum one year suspension.

NOTE: Suspensions shall be handled in the following manner.

- Within the season and sufficient remaining games to fulfill the suspension
- Hold over suspensions into the next season will commence or continue once the person completes the registration process for that season.
- Multiple season suspensions will continue in the same manner. Participant shall complete registration for each season affected before the suspension continues.

11. Cautions / Official Warnings: (L)

- a. Receive three cautions (Yellow cards) during a season = one-game suspension
  1. Yellow cards / cautions points will be suspended (except for those that have 3 cautions) at the end of the regular season going into the BSL Tournament. After the tournament games have been played any cautions issued will be added to the suspended cautions from the end of the regular season. If the total count equals THREE cautions the player will be suspended for the first game of the next season they participate in. If the total count equals FOUR the player will be suspended for the first TWO games of the next season they participate in. This means that players sitting on 2 cautions at the end of the regular season will be able to play in both Semi-Final and Final Tournament games if they progress. However, if they continue to accumulate cautions, they will serve suspension at the start of the next season they participate in. This ruling does NOT cover Red cards / ejections. For these the player will serve the required game suspension(s).
  2. Players found to be manufacturing cautions either by directly asking referees for a yellow card or deemed to be creating a situation that requires a yellow card / caution, to avoid missing games later in the season, will be suspended for TWO games.

12. Send-Off / Expulsions: (N)

- a. First offense = minimum one-game suspension
- b. Second offense = minimum two-game suspension
- c. Third offense = remainder of the season PLUS mandatory appearance before the BSL disciplinary committee. Recommend minimum four-game suspension.
- d. More serious expulsions against an opponent or a person other than a match official include:
  - i. Serious foul play, particularly in the case of excessive or brute force = minimum two-game suspension
  - ii. Unsporting conduct = minimum one-game suspension

iii. Violent Conduct (elbowing, punching, kicking, striking, etc.) = minimum three-game suspension

iiii. Spitting / biting = minimum six-game suspension

e. Misconduct against a match official = minimum three-game suspension.

i. Unsporting conduct = minimum four-game suspension

ii. Minor assault (slight touching of person or their personal property) = minimum three-month suspension.

iii. Any other assault not outlined in clause i. or ii. = minimum six-game suspension

iiii. Any assault resulting in serious injury = minimum 5-year suspension

iii. Spitting at or biting = minimum one-year suspension

NOTE: the MSA adjudicating in any assault involving a match official may not provide a shorter suspension but, if circumstances warrant, may provide longer period of suspension.

13. Playing during a suspension: (O)

a. Minimum two-game suspension PLUS team forfeits any game(s) in which a suspended player / non-player participates.

b. The player / non-player serving a suspension shall receive an additional one-game suspension per each game in which they participated.

14. Falsification of Records: (S)

a. Any / all person(s) involved = minimum six-game suspension.

Additionally, we will follow FIFA / IFAB advice per the following currently recommended suspensions.

Much of this is incorporated above, this is from the FIFA discipline section and used as reference:

- One match for players who are sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
- At least one match or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behavior towards an opponent or a person other than a match official.
- At least one match for officials who are sent off for dissent by word or action.
- At least one match for deliberately receiving a yellow or red card, including in order to be suspended for an upcoming match or to ultimately have a clean record.
- At least two matches for serious foul play.
- At least two matches for provoking spectators at a match by any means.
- At least two matches or a specific period for acting with obvious intent to cause a match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting their error of judgement and thereby causing them to make an incorrect decision.
- At least three matches for violent conduct.
- At least three matches or an appropriate period of time for assault, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting an opponent or a person other than a match official.
- At least four matches or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behavior towards a match official.
- At least ten matches or an appropriate period of time for intimidating or threatening a match official.
- At least fifteen matches or an appropriate period of time for assaulting a match official, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting.

## **SUMMARY OF FEES**

### **(and who may receive them)**

Team Fees	due Feb. 28 and non-refundable	(Registrar, Treasurer, President)
\$200.00	Team returning from previous season AND attendance at AGM	
250.00	New teams and returning teams not in attendance at AGM	
BSL Player Fees	Payable on-line with registration form	
\$ 90.00	Payable upon completion of on-line registration plus any associated fees.	
-0-	No fee for non-playing personnel	
Note:	Player fees are refundable (less MSA portion and credit card fees) prior to the team's first match AND the player did not participate in any practices.	
Forfeit Fees	(Treasurer, President, Registrar)	
\$200.00	Prearranged notification of 72 hours or more prior to match	
250.00	Notification of 24 to 72 hours prior to match	
250.00	Failure to have minimum number of players to start match	
100.00	Failure to have minimum number of players to continue match	
250.00	Refusal to play when instructed by referee	
	OR forfeit with less than 24 hour notice.	
Reschedule Fees	(Treasurer, President, Registrar)	
\$ 25.00	The 1 <sup>st</sup> and / or 2 <sup>nd</sup> request that is granted	
50.00	All subsequent requests that are granted	
Appeals Fee	(Secretary, President, Treasurer)	
\$ 50.00	Must also accompany letter per By-Laws (Returned if appeal is approved)	
Transfer Fee	(Registrar, Treasurer) Contact registrar for current information.	
\$ 10.00	Must accompany transfer form	
Processing Fees	All processing fees added by credit card companies, banks, web sites, etc. will be added to the amount charged by the BSL. These fees are NOT refundable.	

## **GAME POINTS AND TIEBREAK PROCESS**

1. Game points will be awarded in the following manner
  - a. 3 points for a win
  - b. 1 point for a tie
  - c. 0 points for a loss
  - d. -1 point for a forfeit
  - e. -1 point for game reports not submitted on proper form. Assessable after 2<sup>nd</sup> offense.
2. Tiebreak standings are determined in the following manner
  - a. Season game points as outlined above
  - b. Head to Head games
  - c. Goal Differential (Note: maximum of 4 goals per game allowed)
  - d. Head to Head goal differential
  - e. Misconduct Points per team
  - f. Coin toss

## **GAME POLICIES**

1. Games shall be played according to current FIFA Laws of the Game, as modified by USSF and BSL.
2. All referees are USSF sanctioned.
3. The Center (Head) Referee is required to submit completed game report to the BSL Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of the game. Reports may be submitted via email or text and include

copies of all necessary paperwork either by scan or photo. Any deviation may result in fewer assignments made for that referee with future BSL games.

4. If a supplemental report is requested from any referee these should be submitted to the BSL Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of the request being made.
5. Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled game time. Referees will provide a 15 minute delay when necessary. After 15 minutes the game may be considered a forfeit by the team unable to play.
6. Seven players are required to start a game. In the event of unforeseen circumstances (accident, traffic, etc.) referees have the ability to extend the 15 minute delay providing they receive information prior to the scheduled game time.
7. We shall follow established USSF guidelines in regards to weather policy and decision will be made at the field (at game time). In severe weather cases this may be waived. Refer to BSL By-Laws for complete information.
8. 15 minutes before the scheduled game time, team management must provide the referee with a roster of all approved players and bench personnel along with player (pass) cards. The roster should include names and numbers of all players and names of non-playing personnel. Only those approved people are allowed in the team area during the game.
9. Rosters should be provided using the Game Reports provided. It is highly recommended these typed or legibility written. Reports are available on the BSL website or by contacting either the Registrar or BSL Referee Coordinator. Failure to use proper report may result in loss of one point for the team.
10. Both teams shall be on the same side of the field on opposite sides of the half line.
11. All spectators and ineligible players / team management shall be the opposite side of the field. In some fields they may remain on the same side but at least 10 yards (30 ft.) from the bench area for the duration of the game.
12. Some fields may allow spectators to be located behind the goals. In these cases spectators must remain at least 10 yards from the field and refrain from tactical coaching during the match. This is subject to the referees' discretion.
13. Spectators are **not** allowed on the field or in the team area during a game, including halftime, unless called on by the referee.
14. Home team is responsible to provide game ball(s).
15. Home team shall wear light colored uniform (jersey and socks)
16. Visiting team shall wear dark colored uniform (jersey and socks)
17. In the event of color conflict the home team shall change their jersey.
18. All jerseys shall have unique numbers, no duplications)
19. Goalies shall wear colors that distinguish themselves from all other players and referees.
20. It is recommended team management contact each other prior to the game to avoid any potential conflicts. This contact can verify start time, team colors, directions to field, etc.
21. Team management is responsible for their respective fans. Should fans become unmanageable the referee shall reserve judgment in how to proceed with the game.
22. In the event of a BSL game / practice related injury team management should notify the Registrar at their earliest convenience about the injury. This information should include whether medical attention was needed and the type of injury incurred. (When requested, insurance forms or how to file information will be provided to the player or team management. Once a claim is filed the player or team management must let the BSL Registrar or President know.
23. Properly registered players and non-players have supplemental insurance coverage through MSA.
24. Injuries not related to a BSL game or practice OR at a non-insured field have no coverage.
25. Team Management: It is the team managers / coaches' responsibility for the actions of their respective teams. While we are an adult league there are expectations to act in a responsible manner. This includes the following:
  - a. If a team member continually plays or behaves in an irresponsible manner either on or off the field they should attempt to control their behavior, this may lead to any team discipline deemed necessary including expulsion from the team.

- b. Assure that only fully registered members play, practice and otherwise participate with the team.
- c. Any player serving a suspension is not involved with the team area during those games.
- d. Non registered people are **not** with the teams or in the team bench area during games, including half-time. (Exceptions may be made with young children and no other responsible adult if available. In this case they may be seated on the team bench. These exceptions must be approved by team management and officials, including BSL reps when available).
- e. Assure that team members who are not playing must go through the check in procedure if they wish to be with their team in the designate team area for that match. This includes injured players or any players sitting out that day!
- f. Provide a game report to officials prior to check-in. This must be on the proper form or subject to a one point deduction in Game Points. (IE: team does not use proper form and they win the game: they will receive 2 points instead of the usual 3, a tie results in 0 points instead of 1, and a loss results in -1 point instead of 0.)  
NOTE the proper form is located on the BSL web site AND provided to each team manager prior to the season AND can be requested from the Registrar or Referee Coordinator!
- g. Team manager must be identified on the Game Report.
- h. If the team manager is unavailable for a game a designated alternate from the team must be named and noted on the Game Report.
- i. It's the responsibility of team management to sign and verify information on the game report at the end of each match. This includes: score, who scored, cards issued and injuries.

NOTE above items b, c, d, and e are in compliance with insurance requirements. Violation of any of these requirements runs the risk of ALL insurance being nullified for that day!

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF NOTE**

1. The Blossomland Soccer League (BSL) is affiliated with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA), and the Michigan Soccer Association (MSA). When necessary we will work with other leagues or state associations.
2. As we are associated with the USSF, MSA, MYSA, USASA and FIFA there may be times when a mandate is given that requires us to adhere to. In these instances we will incorporate them into our Policy and Procedures and notify board members when that change takes effect. In the case where this change affects teams we will convey the new information to team management.
3. At times a BSL board member will attend a game as 'Representative'. They are there to observe the game independently. They have no official capacity in regards to the Rules of the Game and are not to be considered a fourth official. They may assist the referees with bench personnel or spectators as necessary. They may pay the officials, deliver items / information to teams, or provide insight to various league concerns or issues. They may also provide a report on the game should it become necessary due to any incident that may happen while they are present.
4. When a BSL board member is in attendance they will notify the officials and teams of their presence. They will usually be wearing the green BSL shirt to distinguish themselves as a BSL rep.
5. It is hoped that all BSL board members serve as BSL Reps at games to the best of their availability. It's understood that time and outside commitments provide little time to do so at times but Game Reps would help with the leagues operations. It is also understood that while some BSL board members are also referees and / or team management it is during these times they should not be considered an official BSL rep at a game.
6. It is the home team responsibility to have their field in playable condition prior to the teams / referees arrival on game day. This includes field lines, goals anchored and secured, no dangerous holes in the field, etc. Many of these may be accomplished in conjunction of working with the field ownership / management prior to game day.
7. BSL board members all need to be Safe Sport certified. Upon completion a copy of their certificate must be submitted to the League Registrar for record keeping and forward to MSA when requested. Safe Sport certified records are kept by the League Registrar and shall be available to MSA or other needed entities upon request.



NOTE: These requirements are a part of U.S. Law and subject to federal rules and guidelines.

Updated: 01/14/2023

Updated: 12/08/2024