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**GROUND RULES AND DEFINITIONS
REVISED 08/23**

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These rules are to be used in conjunction with the PGCBGC Game Rules for each sport. It is the overall responsibility of each coach to have a copy of the specific Sports rules and a copy of the PGCBGC Ground Rules.

I. PRESENTATION OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS

- A. As of the beginning of the Spring 2021 Sports Season, either a valid Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) ID card, and/or any sanctioned government issued ID card that includes a photo and DOB (i.e., U.S. passport, Military Dependent ID card) will be mandatory for all PGCBGC Sports programs. *For extenuating circumstances only – the sanctioned PGCBGC Yellow ID card will be obtainable.
- B. All ID Cards (Sanctioned Yellow/US passport/Military Dependent ID/Maryland MVA) presentations must be made prior to the start of the game, to the Sports Supervisor, if present, or to the opposing coach. Each player in all countywide PGCBGC Sanctioned games and official events must have a valid ID card to be eligible to participate. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches of ALL COUNTY TEAMS must have completed their certifications and be on the PGCBGC Official Coaches listing prior to participating in regular season competition.
- C. Failure to present ID Cards for each player participating when the request is made prior to the game will result in the forfeiture of the game. In this instance, the Sports Supervisor/Coach should sign the scorebook/lineup sheets that the ID check was requested before the game and state which team did not have their card(s).
- D. LATE PLAYERS - must present their ID cards to the Sports Supervisor, if present, or to the opposing coach - prior to entering the game.
- E. If eligibility is questioned, any or all contested players in a game must sign the scorebook or line-up sheet when requested. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game.

II. ROSTER

- A. An official PGCBGC Roster Form must be submitted for each team entered in any PGCBGC sport.
- B. Players are not eligible to play unless they are listed on the official County roster regardless of having a yellow card/Maryland MVA card.
- C. A Unit Club/Organization has the ability to add and register a new player up to 2 weeks after the regular season opener.

III. AGE GROUPS

- A. SPRING SPORTS: (SPRING SOCCER, FLAG FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, AND TRACK): Based on the age of the player as of JANUARY 1st of the current year.

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- B. KICKBALL ONLY: Age Groups are based on the age of the player as of JULY 31st of the current year.
- C. FALL SPORTS: (TACKLE FOOTBALL, FALL SOCCER, AND CHEERLEADING): Based on the age of the player as of JULY 31st of the current year.
- D. BASKETBALL ONLY: Age Groups are based on the age of the player as of JANUARY 1st of the current year.
- E. All athletes 19 years of age are **ineligible** to participate in any PGCBGC Sports programs regardless of their DOB throughout the entirety of the calendar year.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

Special rules govern each sport. Review game rules for details for each sport. The following rules also apply:

- A. A child is eligible to play when he/she has met all the requirements set forth in the PGCBGC Ground Rules, Rules for Membership, Registration, and individual sport rules.
- B. A child may play with only 1 PGCBGC rostered team in any SPECIFIC sport.
- C. Any player(s) listed on a High School roster on the opening day of the PGCBGC Sport's season may not participate in the same PGCBGC Sport, **except for baseball and softball**. In the event that player is separated (voluntarily or involuntarily) from the high school team prior to the roster cutoff date of the PGCBGC sport and the player meets the age eligibility criteria for said sport, the player may participate in the PGCBGC sport after they provide a waiver from their respective high school stating that the player is no longer participating with the high school team.
- D. It is the responsibility of the opposing team to initiate all age or high school athlete eligibility protests.
- E. Players of either gender may only play up a maximum of 2 ages.
- F. The PGCBGC Executive Director has the authority to determine the status of a female player's eligibility to play down one age level in a majority male player sports league.

V. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS AND PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- A. Use of ineligible players will result in forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player participated. However, if both teams use ineligible players, a double forfeiture will result. The player(s) may be suspended for the current season, at the discretion of the Executive Director. Also, the coach may be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Director after a review of the circumstances.

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VI. PROTESTS

The PGCBGC Executive Director has the authority to review and rule on ALL protests, forfeits, fines, and disciplinary action.

A. Judgement Call Protests

- i. NO PROTEST WILL BE ACCEPTED ON JUDGEMENT CALLS BY GAME OFFICIALS.

B. Game Rule Protests

- i. Game rule protests must be received in writing on PGCBGC Protest Form in the Sports Office, within **2 business days** after the game to which it refers was played.
- ii. A **\$50** deposit must also accompany the protest form. Protest fees must be paid in the form of cash, check, money order, or certified check. No personal checks will be accepted.
- iii. Unit Club and/or Independent Organization President must sign all protest forms.
- iv. For a game rule protest to be valid:
 - 1. The protest must be lodged with the official at the time of the infraction, and at the time that the protest is lodged, an official must sign the scorebook for basketball, baseball and softball or the line-up sheet for football and soccer.
- v. If protest is valid, deposit will be returned.

C. Eligibility Protests

- i. Eligibility protests may be made any time prior to the completion of the last scheduled game of the regular season currently being played. However, protests regarding the last scheduled game must be:
 - 1. Received in writing to the Executive Director office via email or in person within 2 business days after the game was played.
 - 2. All upheld Eligibility Protests will result in the forfeiture of all games in which the protested player has participated.

D. Protests of playoff games

- i. Only participating teams may protest.
- ii. Upheld protests will result in the forfeit of playoff games only.
- iii. All protest must be on the PGCBGC Office Protest Form and must be signed by the Club's Commissioner of the sport being protested and President.

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E. Age Protest:

- i. May be lodged at any time during the season.

VII. FORFEITS

- A. Refer to PGCBGC Rules governing each sport. Forfeits will be defined as a team's inability to perform in/failure to show up for a scheduled game and/or any transgression caused by player/coach/spectator to terminate or produce stoppage of a game in play. Also, a forfeiture can be caused by any transgression before, during or after any sanctioned league game.
- B. The forfeiting team will be billed **\$200** by the PGCBGC for the cost of the officials for that game.
- C. ID card presentation as defined in Rule #I.
- D. If both teams use ineligible players, a double forfeiture will result. Both teams receive a forfeit.
- E. Teams forfeiting two or more games are subject to being dropped from the league.
- F. Once a team forfeits or accepts a forfeit from another team, they may not decide to play or request to be rescheduled.
- G. Officials should sign line up sheets for all forfeits as 2-0.

VIII. FINES

- A. Any club dropping/adding a team from a league after the specified drop/add date (refer to "Dates to Remember" for each sport) will be charged **\$150** for each team dropped/added. If schedules are completed, teams may not be added.
- B. All PGCBGC Clubs and Independent organizations' teams are required to fully participate in the PGCBGC regular season and playoff/championship formats for all sanctioned team sport leagues. All teams will be assessed a **\$300** fine for non-participation in the PGCBGC playoff/championship formats.
- C. Refer to Game Rules (i.e., lack of restraining ropes, first aid kits, specified game balls).
- D. In the event of gross misconduct by any player, volunteer, or spectator at a PGCBGC hosted event, their associated Unit Club or Independent Organization is subject to and will be assessed a **\$300** monetary fine.

IX. GAME OFFICIALS

The cost of game officials is paid by the PGCBGC for all but the following:

- A. The cost of second (or more) officials in any game where extra officials are directly requested by a participating club.

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X. BILLING

- A. **Membership Dues:** Each Club Treasurer (where known), or President will ensure each registrant's dues are paid upon a club's submission of any teams into PGCBGC's Sanctioned Programs. These bills must be paid in advance before the beginning of the season.
- B. **Sports Bills:** Each participating unit club will be mailed a bill, as soon as possible after the completion of a sport, by the PGCBGC Office, which is known as the "Sports Bill." These Sports Bills may contain charges for officials for forfeited games, extra officials (when requested), fines, duplicate ID Cards, and other charges that might be outstanding.
- C. **All clubs/independents must pay their overdue sports bills and any membership bills prior to their participation in any other sport for the current year. Failure to do so will exclude them from participation in that sport.**
- D. Should any club have financial problems and find it impossible to pay their bill, they are requested to immediately contact the Executive Director.

XI. STANDINGS

- A. Line-up sheets and scores must be submitted to the PGCBGC Office within 48 hours after each game. When Sports Supervisors are present, they will fulfill this responsibility. They will collect line-up sheets after the game and provide them to the PGCBGC Office.
- B. League Standings will be updated and posted no later than Friday following the week's games.
- C. For standings to be reported accurately, the Sports Supervisor or the keeper of the gamebook (home team) must report scores within the 48-hour time frame. Also, teams can submit their scores to the PGCBGC scorekeeper via email.
- D. EACH team must submit a line-up sheet following every game indicating the game participants. Failure to submit a line-up sheet may result in forfeiture of games.
- E. The best win-loss record will determine Division winners as reported by league standings.
 - i. A win equals 2 points and ties are 1 point. There is 0 points for a loss.
 - ii. If an unequal number of games have been played, then the winner or berth will be determined by winning percentage.
 - iii. If teams are still tied after applying these criteria, then the following tiebreaker procedures for division championships and playoff berths will be

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used:

1. Head-to-Head competition (best win-loss record between tied teams)
2. Point differential in head-to-head competition between the tied teams (points scored minus points against)
3. Point differential for all league games

XII. POSTPONEMENTS

A. No game shall be postponed unless:

- i. School Function - a written verification from the school (on their stationery) is required for special school functions when 3 or more team members are involved. This WRITTEN verification must be RECEIVED by the PGCBGC office at least 2 business days prior to the scheduled game.
- ii. The Sports Specialist and/or the Executive Director may authorize a postponement due to circumstances they deem extenuating.
 1. The program specialist will reschedule all postponed games due to reasons listed above or weather cancellations. Reschedules are emailed and posted to our website in bulletin format to all coaches and commissioners.
 2. Coaches are only called if the rescheduled game is less than **72 hours away**. It is the commissioners' responsibility to call all coaches to make sure they have received any scheduled changes.
 3. Commissioners should check with the Sports Office on a weekly basis to make sure the information is complete.

XIII. PLAY-OFFS

- A. For AAA leagues with 2 divisions, the first 4 teams in each division will be eligible for the playoffs.
- B. For AA leagues with 2 divisions, the first 2 teams in each division will be eligible for the playoffs.
- C. For single divisions in the AAA and AA Leagues, playoffs will be limited to 4 teams in the AAA league and 2 teams in the AA league. This may vary depending on the number of teams in the Division.
- D. The number of teams in the playoffs will be determined by the Executive Director and dependent on the number of teams in the Division.

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XIV. LEAGUE CLASSIFICATIONS

- A. There will be two league classifications for participation in the PGCBGC programs. The leagues will be:
 - i. **AAA** (Competitive)
 - ii. **AA** (Developmental)
- B. If necessary, a third league will be formed – A (Recreational) if a sufficient number of teams wish to participate at that level.

Unit clubs shall submit their team league designation requests with the Sport Questionnaires for each PGCBGC Sanctioned Sport. For competitive balance and the structural integrity of the league, there will be a fair representation of AAA and AA teams in all age groups. Unit club requests for team designations will be reviewed, determined, and scheduled accordingly by the PGCBGC Sports Office and Sports Specialists.

