**Blossomland Soccer League (BSL)**

**2022 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 $80.00 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. Registrations must be complete and paid in full by that day.

1. Pass cards shall not be issued until all required paperwork is received, approved, player fees received, and reported to MSA.
2. 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.)
3. Pass cards are provided to the team management and is their responsibility.
4. Each team size is limited to a total of 30 registrations per team.
5. 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.

**Exception** is any participant serving a suspension may NOT be with their team during a game.

1. This is an adult soccer league. All registrations under the age of eighteen (18) as of April 1 of the current season must have a completed youth participation form on file. They must also be approved by MYSA before the individual may participate in a game or practice with the team.
2. 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.
3. All registrations must complete the on-line application including payment of all required fees. This includes providing all requested 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 but these must be verified by the registrar before acceptance. If unsure contact the registrar for assistance.
4. Other registration forms required include an Insurance Release Form. In some cases there may be other forms required, contact the registrar for current information.
5. No players shall participate in game play or practice until they have reached their 15th birthday.
6. No personnel shall be allowed in the technical (bench) area during games without a valid pass card.
7. Player registration Fees may be paid at time of registration via the web site.
8. **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 may **not** be used until approval is received from MSA.
6. Only approved participants may be on the field during games and practices. Other personnel on the field will nullify any insurance coverage.

**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 $100.00 fine.
2. A prearranged forfeiture with notification of 24 to 72 hour notification will result in a $150.00 fine.
3. A forfeit due to a team having less than the minimum number of players to start the game will result in a $200.00 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 $50.00 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 $200.00 fine.
6. A forfeit with less than 24 hour notification will result in a $200.00 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.

**RESCHEDULES**

1. A team may ***request*** a reschedule for a contest using the following procedure.
2. Contact the other team and mutually agree on a day and time to reschedule the contest in question.
3. 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.
4. The request must be valid to be considered for approval. Examples of a valid request: field is unplayable, unavailable, majority of the team is unavailable, 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. These are considered frivolous and will not be considered or granted.
5. When granted there will be a $25.00 reschedule fee for the 1st or 2nd request.
6. All subsequent requests by a team will result in a $50.00 fee each.
7. All fees must be received at least 24 hours prior to their next contest.
8. Fees must be paid to the Treasurer, President, or Registrar.
9. Fees are the responsibility of the team asking for the reschedule request.
10. 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.
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 / FIFA 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)
   1. First offense = one-game suspension
   2. Second offense = two-game suspension
   3. Third offense = four-game suspension
2. Threats / Coercion: (B)
   1. First offense = one-game suspension
   2. Second offense = two-game suspension
   3. Third-offense = four-game suspension
3. Fighting: (C)
   1. First offense = two-game suspension
   2. Second offense = four-game suspension
   3. Third offense = eight-game suspension
4. Brawl: (D)
   1. First offense = minimum six-game suspension
   2. 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)
   1. Players = minimum five-game suspension
   2. Spectators = banned from appearing at league matches for a minimum of two years
6. Provocation of the General Public: (F)
   1. Anyone involved = two games suspension
7. Inciting Hatred or Violence: (G)
   1. Players and / or Team Officials = minimum one-year suspension
8. Assault on Non-Player / Player: (H)
   1. Assault on an adult participant = minimum one-year suspension
   2. Assault on minor participant = minimum two-year suspension
   3. Assault resulting in serious injury regardless of age = minimum five-year suspension
   4. 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)
   1. 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 follows 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.

1. Cautions / Official Warnings: (L)
   1. Receive three cautions (Yellow cards) during a season = one-game suspension
2. 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).

1. 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.
2. Send-Off / Expulsions: (N)
   1. First offense = minimum one-game suspension
   2. Second offense = minimum two-game suspension
   3. Third offense = remainder of the season PLUS mandatory appearance before the BSL disciplinary committee. Recommend minimum four-game suspension.
   4. 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

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

1. 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.

1. Playing during a suspension: (O)
   1. Minimum two-game suspension PLUS team forfeits any game(s) in which a suspended player / non-player participates.
   2. The player / non-player serving a suspension shall receive an additional one-game suspension per each game in which they participated.
2. Falsification of Records: (S)
   1. Any / all person(s) involved = minimum six-game suspension.

**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

$ 80.00 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) prior to the team’s first match AND the player did not participate in any practices.

Forfeit Fees (Treasurer, President, Registrar)

$100.00 Prearranged notification of 72 hours or more prior to match

150.00 Notification of 24 to 72 hours prior to match

200.00 Failure to have minimum number of players to start match

50.00 Failure to have minimum number of players to continue match

200.00 Refusal to play when instructed by referee OR less than 24 hour notice.

Reschedule Fees (Treasurer, President, Registrar)

$ 25.00 The 1st and / or 2nd 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 and requirements

$ 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.

**GAME POINTS AND TIEBREAK PROCESS**

1. Game points will be awarded in the following manner
2. 3 points for a win
3. 1 point for a tie
4. 0 points for a loss
5. -1 point for a forfeit
6. Tiebreak standings are determined in the following manner
7. Season game points as outlined above
8. Goal Differential (Note: maximum of 4 goals per game allowed)
9. Head to Head games
10. Head to Head goal differential
11. Misconduct Points per team
12. Fewest goals allowed
13. 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. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Both teams shall be on the same side of the field on opposite sides of the half line.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Spectators are **not** allowed on the field during a game, including halftime, unless called on by the referee.
11. Home team is responsible to provide game ball(s).
12. Home team shall wear light colored uniform (jersey and socks)
13. Visiting team shall wear dark colored uniform (jersey and socks)
14. In the event of color conflict the home team shall change their jersey.
15. All jerseys shall have unique numbers, no duplications)
16. Goalies shall wear colors that distinguish themselves from all other players and referees.
17. 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.
18. Team management is responsible for their respective fans. Should fans become unmanageable the referee shall reserve judgment in how to proceed with the game.
19. 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 will be provided to the player or team management. Completed forms will be returned to the registrar for submission to MSA.)
20. Properly registered players and non-players have supplemental insurance coverage through MSA.
21. Injuries not related to a BSL game or practice OR at a non-insured field have no coverage.

**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). We cooperate and work with the Michigan Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) in regards to players under 18 years of age.
2. As we are associated with the USSF, MSA, MYSA, 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.
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 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.
6. We do have minor age participants in the league. We will follow the U.S. Center for Safe Sport guidelines and the Minor Athletic Advise Prevention Policies (MAAPP). Minors are defined as participants who have not reached their 18th birthday by April 18 of the current year. This requires us to the following:

a. Teams with minor participants: All adult participants must take and pass the current Safe Sport certification. Upon completion team management must report this to the League Registrar for record keeping.

b. Teams without minor participants: Have at least one team member (preferably more) who is Safe Sport Certified present at any game or practice involving minors.

c. 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.

NOTE 1: USSF Referee should have Safe Sport certification as part of their referee registration requirements.

NOTE 2: Safe Sport certified records are kept by the League Registrar and shall be available to MSA or other needed entities upon request.

NOTE 3: These requirements are a part of U.S. Law and subject to federal rules and guidelines.

Updated 01/14/2023