

EBFSL Rules

These rules are a written representation of the "unwritten" rules that we had been using for years in EBFSL. Officers of EBFSL with approval from league team captains can modify these rules!

League Philosophy:

The East Bay Friendly Soccer League (EBFSL) is an adult semi-corporate league that puts the ideals of proper sportsmanship along with good fun and exercise ahead of head-to-head strict competition. The goal is for everyone to have an opportunity to play soccer to the best of their ability in a friendly and supportive environment. Please do not intentionally commit fouls. Please do not use "gamesmanship" to use the gray areas in the rules for your advantage. Please do not criticize other players and referees, even when they seem to play or referee poorly. Instead, please come to the game ready to play good soccer and allow yourself and everybody else to have a good time.

Laws of the Game:

For the most part, our games are governed by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA. However, our league (being friendly) has several exceptions including:

- Sliding tackles from the rear are not allowed and shall result in a direct free kick unless they occur in the penalty area in which case they result in a penalty shot. The referee may whistle for a rear sliding tackle even if the player slips by mistake and makes the tackle or only hits the ball and not the player.
- A player may leave his feet to block a shot or a pass if he is not within playing distance of the opponent who is shooting or passing. (The referee should use the same judgement that is required when determining whether there is a high-kicking foul -- it is only a penalty if someone else is near enough to be involved in the play.)
- The goalie may make a sliding tackle without penalty while inside the penalty area unless he endangers the opponent.
- Unlimited substitutions are permitted per team during the course of a game. Substitutions are permitted at every stoppage of play (such as throw-ins, goal kicks, kickoffs, corner kicks, red or yellow cards and prolonged injuries). Substitutions are only allowed at the discretion of the referee in order that the substitutions do not unduly disrupt the flow of the game.

Game Attire:

- Shirts – Teams must decide before the start of the game (preferably before the weekend) on team colors if a conflict exists. Goalkeepers should not wear shirts that are similar in color to the either teams jersey.
- Shin guards - We require all players to wear shin guards. They are mandatory!
- Safety - Referees may, at their discretion, ensure that cleats, jewelry and other attire, do not pose a danger to anyone.

Foul Weather Games:

In the event of foul weather on a game day, all captains should contact the league president to make sure that the fields can be played upon. No league official will contact a captain! It is the captains duty to inform his team of any changes to the schedule due to foul weather. If a game is called off, do not play on the closed field (even in the event no signs are posted). If a team or player plays on a closed field, that team will be liable for all damages to the field! There will be no rescheduling of games. If soggy playing fields or other conditions cause the games to be canceled before they begin, then the game will be considered to be a tie (0-0) and both teams will receive one league point. If one or more games are played on a given day, and one or more other games are rained out, then the results of the games that were completed will stand, and the games that were rained out will be considered to be tie games and will not be replayed.

Premature End of Game:

If a game has been started but is canceled due to rain or some other uncontrollable occurrence, then whichever team

is ahead wins the game, providing that at least 50% of the game has been played. If the teams are tied then it is a tie. If less than 50% of the game has been played, then the game is considered a tie (0-0). If a game ends because the referee refuses to continue due to unsportsmanlike conduct of players, then the League Officials will decide the outcome (which may be a forfeiture by both teams).

Red cards:

A player who receives a red card must leave for rest of the game. The team is now down a player (as per FIFA rules). In addition, there are special rules which may apply to future play in the league based on the severity of the offence and whether this is a chronic problem for the player. If a player strikes or attempts to strike a referee then he will be kicked out of the league for life. A red card will be given for:

- Violent play
- Fighting or attempting to fight
- Abusive or foul language spoken directly toward the referee
- Continued disruptive behavior after being sent off by the referee

In every case, if behavior is sufficiently deplorable (such as intentionally causing injury to a player or repeatedly breaking the rules), the board of directors may, at its discretion, suspend the player from the league for any period of time that it deems appropriate.

Yellow cards:

Yellow cards are given for dangerous play, inappropriate language, and other actions not in line with league philosophy. All standard FIFA rules also apply for the issuing of yellow cards.

Referee Actions:

The decision of the referee is final and cannot be protested as it may apply to an interpretation of the Rules of the Game. Judgment calls cannot be protested. The actions taken by the referee in awarding or not awarding penalties, red cards and yellow cards may only be reversed by League Officials.

New Players:

New players may be added to the league at any time provided that they read & sign the "Hold Harmless" agreement. Any player who has not signed this agreement and given it a league official or referee prior to the game is not permitted to play in any EBFSL games. The minimum age to join the league is 18 yrs.

Minimum Players Per Team:

A team must have 7 or more players on the field at the start of the game or that team will forfeit. A team may be responsible to set up its own goal and net before game is started if requested to do so. The game must begin no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time. When one team forfeits, then the other team will receive credit for winning the game by a score of 1-0. If a team forfeits then any game that is played will not be considered to be a EBFSL game and, at the discretion of the captains, it is acceptable to allow anybody to play in that non-league scrimmage game.

Loaning players:

If a team has the minimum number of players required to start the game, but has less than 11 players, the captain of the opposing team may loan some of his or her players to the short handed team. When players arrive late for a game, then they will be added to the game and the captains can work out any changes with each other and the referee.

League Standings:

Each team is awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and no points for a loss. If a team loses by forfeit, then that team gets zero points and the opposing team gets 3 points. If a game is not played at all due to rain, then both teams receive one point. The order of the standings is determined by number of points and then goal differential.