

## Recreational Rules for MSA Spring Festival

**1. FIFA Laws of the Game** - These rules will apply to all games except as otherwise provided herein.

### 2. Additional Field Markings / Controls

- a. **Team / Spectator Boxes:** (outside the field of play) Starting 2 yards parallel from the halfway line on either side and running parallel to the touch line going no closer than 2 yards from a line parallel to the front line of the penalty areas on each end.
- b. **Restricted Area:** The area between the Team / Spectator boxes are off limits to all participants and spectators. This area is intended to be a buffer between opposing teams.
- c. **Team / Spectator Restriction Line (Red Line):** A Single line parallel to each touchline three feet (or one meter) offset of the touchline, shall extend the length of the Team / Spectator Boxes. This line shall be painted red, or a color different from field markings, and shall serve as a buffer to keep participants and spectators from entering/ encroaching the field of play. Violations of crossing the "Red Line" shall be treated as "unsportsmanlike" conduct.
- d. **Seating:** Teams shall sit on one side of the field and Spectators shall sit on the opposite side of the field. The home team has choice of which end to sit on. Spectators from opposing teams may not intermix and shall be divided by a no man's land equivalent to the size of the center circle on the parents side of the field. Teams and Spectators are required to sit on the same end of the field.
- e. **Mechanical Devices:** Coaches or parents may not use any mechanical or artificial noise making devices, such as bullhorns, cowbells, amplifiers, or megaphone during the game.

**3. Game Length** - A regulation game for the following age groups will be:

8U – Four (4) ten minute quarters

6U – Four (4) eight minute quarters

### 4. Scoring system

No scores shall be kept

### 5. Restart

- a. All restarts on the field of play will be indirect kicks.
- b. Kick ins will be allowed for restart of play when the ball crosses the touchline. 8U – if a player chooses to throw the ball in, he/she will be given up to two chances before the throw-in will be given to the opposing team.

### 5. Forfeit game policies

A team who forfeits any game will forfeit ALL games.

A team forfeits a game when it:

- 1) Leaves the field of play without the referee's permission;
- 2) Is not ready to play at the scheduled game time;
- 3) Does not wear an alternate jersey upon the referee's request;
- 4) Does not meet the player participation rule for every event rostered player;
- 5) Is disqualified due to unsportsmanlike conduct;
- 6) Does not field the minimum number of field players.

The forfeiting coach, organization and team, who do not play all scheduled games will suffer the following automatic penalties:

- 1) The Coach and/or Team Manager will be suspended for one calendar year, starting on the Monday after the completion of the event. These individuals may appeal this action through the MSA disciplinary and Appeals process.

- 2) The Organization will be fined a minimum of \$500, at the discretion of the event committee, which will be payable within (30) days of the event completion date.

## **6. Event Responsibilities of each Coach and their team**

- a. To comply with all published event rules.
- b. To wear an alternate jersey (pinnies may be used) when it is the home team if color conflict should occur and the Game Referee requests a jersey change. The home team is listed first in the game schedule. T-shirts with taped or written numbers will be acceptable as the alternative jersey.
- c. To remain in an area 2 yards either side of the midfield line regardless of the existence of a marked area during the play of a game.
- d. To choose his team's field end & side when they are the home team.
- e. To furnish a game ball if requested and selected by the referee. The correct ball size is #3 (three).
- f. To be responsible for its players, parents, and spectators behavior including no allowance or toleration of foul and abusive language.
- g. To insure that no team member or parent use any mechanical or artificial noise making devices, such as bullhorns, cowbells, amplifiers, or megaphone during the game.

## **7. Player Participation rules and disciplinary policies**

- a. Every player except absent, ill, injured, disciplined, or suspended players **must play 50%** of each event game.
- b. An injured or cautioned player who is removed from a game will be considered to have played the entire quarter.
- c. The disciplinary action for player participation rule violations is expulsion of the team from the event.
- d. The team coach must report excepted-category players to the MSA Event Director at team registration when known and as soon as possible prior to other affected games.

## **8. Substitution and game restart policies**

- a. Substitutions for any player will be made during halftime and the two-minute break at the end of the first and third quarters. Other allowed substitutions are an injured player at the time of the injury that requires their removal from the game; and a yellow carded player incident when the coach chooses to remove the cautioned player.
- b. If the coach substitutes the injured player, he/she may not re-enter the game until the next quarter substitution period. After the two-minute substitution break at the end of the first and third periods games will be restarted in the second and fourth quarters at the substitution stoppage point (throw-in, goal kick, etc.). The quarter break will be taken at a natural stoppage within a one to two-minute window of the scheduled minutes for a game quarter. Teams may leave the field during this break but the game will be resumed exactly two minutes after the stoppage of play.

## **9. Protest policies**

A team or its representative cannot protest any matter associated with either the event or its game.

## **10. Game conduct and Uniform Policies**

Game Conduct:

- a. No coaches shall be allowed on the field during play.

Uniform Policies:

All participating players must meet the following uniform standards in order to play in a event game.

- a. All players must wear the same color uniform including shirts, shorts, and socks.
- b. Some minor exceptions can apply to alternate jerseys. Any hardship exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Event Director prior to the first event game.

- 1) All players must wear commercially manufactured shin guards under their pulled up socks.
- 2) Shirts must be tucked in
- 3) Warm ups will be allowed under the shorts in adverse weather conditions or on fields of play rendering them necessary
- 4) Sliding or Bicycle shorts may be worn under shorts if they are the same color as the predominant color of the team shorts and not extend farther than the top of the knee.
- 5) The Game Referee will determine if a player's uniform complies with this uniform standard.
- 6) A player, who does not play due to non-compliance with this uniform standard, is not an exception to the player participation requirement.

## 12. Other Event Policies

- a. The Event Director has the sole discretion and authority to deal with any matter that is not covered in these rules
- b. Only coaches/assistant coaches will be allowed to discuss any team issues with the event director(s). The Team managers and/coaches are responsible for all its team managers and parents behavior. Code of Ethics sanctions will be enforced where necessary.
- c. The short-sided game rules as amended for this event will apply.
- d. The game referee will report all game ejections to the event headquarters on the game card.
- e. The consumption of alcoholic beverages will not be allowed on or near the playing fields.
- f. The game referee may suspend a game due to adverse weather conditions or to protect players when game play or crowd becomes uncontrollable. If, after suspending play, the situation does not improve within a reasonable time period, the referee shall report the suspended nature of the game to the Scorer's table and turn in their game report.
- g. Only the rostered coaches on the teams of the suspended game(s) shall meet with the Event Director to ascertain a restart status as determined by the Event Committee. The Coaches shall meet at a location as designated by the Event Director. No additional parents or players are allowed in this area/location.
- h. The Event Committee reserves the right to reach an outcome in a suspended game necessary to determine a proper bracket or round robin finish. The Event Committee will decide if a game is to be terminated, if the referee suspended it due to weather and/or safety considerations. If it cannot be restarted within sixty (60) minutes from the stoppage time, the following termination policies shall apply to the game.
  - 1) If one half (1/2) of the match has been completed prior to the stoppage, the game shall stand and will not be replayed in the event.
  - 2) If less than one half (1/2) of the match has been completed at the time of the stoppage, the match will be replayed in its entirety on either the same day or the next available playing date.
  - 3) A second stoppage of play due to weather conditions shall result in the termination of the game on that day. The two (2) preceding policies then will be applied to this game.
- i. In the case of continuous inclement weather or unsafe field conditions, the remaining Event games may:
  - 1) Be shortened – The Event committee may reduce the length of matches due to weather conditions before the start of a match; all such matches will be considered official.
  - 2) Be rescheduled (time and location to be determined by the Event Committee)

## 13. Reducing the Risk of Blood-borne Infections - See Policy 101, Section 11

**14. Pets:** No pets shall be allowed on or near the event premises. The only exception to this rule is for certified assistance animals. Certification must be presented upon request. Spectators / participants who bring pets to the event will be required to remove the animal from the premises immediately.