

Metro Area League Rules 2018

I. Philosophy

This League is formed through the cooperation of the Fraser, Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods, Roseville, and St. Clair Shores soccer leagues. The under-16/19 divisions may inter-play with other leagues not listed above. It is dedicated to promoting the development of the game of soccer to the youth players of the local communities.

II. General

No standings are kept. Games may end in a draw. FIFA rules will govern play unless otherwise specified below. Home team has choice of sideline. The players and spectators of a team **MUST** sit together unless the field layout prohibits this arrangement. Coaching shall only be done between the penalty areas.

- Slide tackles are permitted if the tackle is made in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- Casts are permitted if they are padded with a sufficient material such a bubble wrap or similar substance and is subject to the approval of the referee.
- In conflict of uniform colors, the home team shall change uniforms or wear pennies over jerseys.

III. Age requirements

- All players must be registered through their local city league. Age groups will be constructed in agreement with all cities directors before the season begins.
- A division must consist of at least four teams. If four teams cannot be found to participate, the remaining teams may play up one age group with agreement of the majority of the City Directors.

IV. Fields

Referees have the authority to enforce all league rules and regulations upon their arrival to the field and to determine whether the playing conditions are safe to begin the game. Please leave field cleaner than when you arrived. Maintenance and striping is the responsibility of the host city.

V. Equipment

The referee has final judgment on the safety of equipment.

Uniforms:

Shin guards are required and must be covered by socks. Uniform jerseys must be over other clothing.

Cleats cannot have a toe spike.

Balls:

- Under 12: # 4 Under 14-19: #5

VI. Referees

Referees are be assigned by the host city and should be assigned with the competition in mind. All center referees must be USSF licensed. If a club Linesman is used, they may ONLY call out of play. Any caution, expulsion or extraordinary event must be reported to host city Referee Assignor immediately after the game. **ONLY 1 whistle shall be used. (NO 2 whistle system)**

VII. Number of Players and Substitutes

- Players on the field:

Except in the case of injury, equipment problem or misconduct all players are required to play at least half of each game. If a team is ahead by four or more goals, the opposing team may add one player to the field. If the opposing team does not have a player to add, the team in the lead must remove a player unless it would affect the 50% playing rule. The number of players on field:

- Under 12: 9 (8 + keeper)-minimum 6
- Under 14: 11 (10 + keeper)-minimum 7

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- Substitutions:

Substitutions will be unlimited. Both teams may substitute at any stoppage of play. The referee still has final authority on whether to allow the substitution but should allow for it if a team does not want a quick restart.

VIII. Game duration

- U 12: 30 minute halves
- U 14: 35 minute halves

IX. Offside

The offside infraction will be enforced according to FIFA rules. Club Linesman SHALL NOT assist in enforcing offside.

X. Heading

There shall be no 'purposeful heading' of the ball in Under 12. If the referee deems that a player purposefully hit the ball with any part of the head, they shall be penalized by an indirect free kick from the spot of the foul, with exception being within the goal area:

- For any penalty assessed to the attacking team inside the opponents goal area, the restart may be placed anywhere inside the goal area. For any indirect kick penalty assessed to the defending team inside their own goal area, the ball is placed on the goal area line closest to where the foul occurred.

No advantage will apply in association with penalizing a 'purposefully headed' ball. The referee **MUST** penalize 'purposeful heading' and verbally notify penalized player what they did incorrectly.

XI. Cautions / Expulsion

A coach or player may receive a caution/expulsion. All carded players and/or coaches shall be reported by the referee immediately after the game to their Referee Assignor. The Referee Assignor **MUST** report the carded players/coaches to the city Referee Assignor within 24 hours. City directors should relay all cardable offenses to the other city directors in a timely fashion.

- Caution (yellow card):

Any player who receives a caution shall be removed from the field and substituted for the remainder of the half. If a team does not have a substitute, that team shall play short for the remainder of the half.

- Expulsion (red card):

Any player receiving a red card must leave the field and may not be replaced. The carded player shall also be suspended minimum of one (1) game. Any suspension greater than one game shall be determined by the city directors.

Any coach receiving a red card must leave the field area and not communicate with the team for the rest of the game. The coach will also serve a minimum one (1) game suspension. Any suspension greater than one game shall be determined by the city directors.

XII. Medical

- If a player is bleeding or has blood on the uniform they must leave the field until the bleeding has stopped **and** the uniform clean of all blood.
- Any player suspected of having a head injury shall be removed from the field immediately and not return to play for that game. The player may not return to play until cleared by a doctor. All suspected head injuries **MUST** be reported on GameOfficials.net by the referee. (Required by MSYSA)