

Oak Grove Soccer League - By-Laws

Section A - The League

1. All League competition shall be played under the jurisdiction of the Oak Grove Soccer League (OGSL) and the rules of play as described by the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), United States Soccer Federation (USSF), Federation International de football Association (FIFA), the Missouri Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and the KC Metro League (KCML).
2. The Executive Board will administer all affairs of the League and will be responsible for the financial direction of the League funds. The Executive Board will establish rules, regulations and general policy for the operation of the League.
3. Should a situation arise that is not covered in the Leagues' Constitution or By-Laws then the League may refer to MYSA, USYSA, USSF or FIFA for a ruling. A claim of ignorance of the rules, policies, and/or procedures, shall not be satisfactory grounds for altering or waving of such rules, policies, or procedures.
4. Sponsor/sponsorship will be accepted from an individual/organization that is not a detriment to the welfare of our youth. Sponsorship' fees shall be non-refundable and paid to the association. The "thank you" plaque distribution is the responsibility of the Board. The sponsorship fee is set prior to each season by the Board.

Section B – Responsibilities of Coaches

1. The primary consideration will be the players and the development of their physical, mental and moral character. The coach should keep in mind, at all times, that the activities of this League are designed to promote recreation, participation and sportsmanship of youth while developing knowledge and skills of soccer.
2. Coaches are required to attend clinics and the required coaches licensing clinics. All coaches and assistants must have at least an “F” level coach’s license to participate in this league.
3. The coach is to set a good example to their team by their conduct, both on and off the playing field.
4. The coach must have absolute control of their team at all times but should exercise good judgment and tact in disciplining players.
5. The coach is responsible for the conduct of their assistant coaches, players and spectators.
6. Absolutely no drinking of any alcohol, smoking, swearing or abusive language will be permitted on the playing field by any player or coach.
7. The coach must make sure that he/she and all their players meet all participatory and registration rules.
8. The coach and assistants are required to complete a registration form. Each team can have a maximum of two assistant coaches.
9. All coaches must familiarize themselves with the OGSL By-Laws, KCML By-Laws and the KCML playing rules. These rules must be adhered to.

No tolerance clause: Any action or behavior deemed un-sportsmanlike to the League will cause for immediate suspension. This applies to administrators, coaches, players, parents, referees and spectators at all soccer functions within and outside of this League. Examples of such behavior include but are not limited to: use of abusive language or behavior towards any parent, coach, administrator, player, referee, or spectator; use of profanity; or use of physical violence. All complaints must be in writing and presented to the Protest Committee. Any violations shall be grounds for the Executive Board to take positive action to reprimand, suspend or remove the offending member(s).

Any coach suspected of any illegal activity shall be immediately placed on probation and suspended from any and all soccer activities until all investigation and appeal processes are concluded. All complaints must be in writing and presented to the Protest Committee.

Section C – Players

1. Players under the jurisdiction of this League shall be youth or amateur. The statute, rights, privileges and responsibilities of these players shall be laid down by MYSA, USSF and USYSA
2. All players shall be registered with this League on appropriate forms as adopted by this League.
3. A registered player shall not play for any other team than the team with which he/she is registered without first being properly released. All competitive players playing on two (2) competitive teams must furnish the Registrar with a completed dual roster from that is required by MYSA before the first game is played. All parties involved in playing a player not properly released are subject to suspension at the discretion of the Board.
4. A player's registration with a team can be terminated only by mutual consent or by authority of the Board. Any competitive player desiring their release shall obtain a MYSA supplement team roster form (additions & deletions from rosters) from the Registrar. Upon receiving, signing and dating by the Registrar it will become official. If a team refuses to grant a release, the player shall bring the matter to the attention of the Board in writing.
5. Solicitation of any registered player is prohibited. A previously registered player shall be considered a new player after having not played more than a full season with any team and having no outstanding obligations to his former team.
6. Every member of a recreational team present at the start of a game will play a minimum of approximately one-half of the game.
7. Competitive coaches may choose their own players as long as they follow MYSA guidelines. These teams will be rostered as competitive teams and the division rep. may not pull from these teams for any reason including to fill the recreation teams.
8. No player may play down from their age division but any player may play up to the next.
9. A player must not accept any award for competing in League game except the awards given by this League, their coaches, or their sponsors.
10. Coaches are not to drop registered players, no matter which division they are in. Only parents can request a player to be moved or dropped. The board holds the option to move players. Teams are to be ready by the coaches meeting each season.

Section D – Teams

1. The League will be divided into age divisions. These divisions will be determined by ages as follows: U18, U16, U14, U12, U10, U8 and U6. These divisions will be determined by ages as of August 1st of the year involved.
2. Maximum roster includes: eighteen for U13-U18, sixteen for U11, fourteen for U9-U10, ten for U7-U8 and six for U5-U6.
3. There will be no inter - team or inter league trading of players.
4. All games played by members of this League shall be under the jurisdiction of this League. No member teams or registered players thereof shall participate in any other soccer games unless permission is granted by the Board or unless such game is a “friendly” or “practice game” and does not involve any type of tournament or play-off competition.
5. Players registered on a team having disbanded shall be placed on another team by the Division Rep. In case a team officially disbands during a season, all un-played games and team standings in the League will be forfeited.
6. Each coach and player are required to have the correct player/coach pass before they are allowed on the field of play. Only properly registered players and coaches will receive player/coach cards. These passes are wallet size and must be laminated. All cards will be checked prior to each game.
7. Any player, coach and/or assistant coach ejected from the game will be suspended from play in the team’s next game. In addition to this automatic suspension, the Executive Board may enforce a stringent penalty.

Section E – Registration

1. Player registration shall be the beginning of each season. There shall be 2 regular seasons each year (spring and fall).
 - a. Each player must submit a completed registration form, liability release form, proof of age and pay the registration fee as set by the League. These must be on file before the player will be allowed to participate in any league practice or games. Proof of age is a State certified birth certificate. No hospital certificates will be accepted.
 - b. Registrations for the spring season are due to the registrar by January 31st
 - c. Registrations for the fall season are due to the registrar by July 31st.
 - d. Each head coach and board member is allowed to register their own child at a discounted rate (MYSA fee only). Each volunteer is allowed to take a discount per each position they hold.
 - e. Players wanting to play on 2 teams shall pay a \$20 fee for the 2nd team.
 - f. A family may take a discount of \$10.00 per child starting with the 2nd child.
2. Coaches
 - a. Must submit a completed registration form.
 - b. A Kid Safety Form must be filled out and submitted each season before coaching a team. If a match should come back that individual will not be allowed to participate or be involved in any way with the OGSL. Until or unless that individual goes through the described appeal process, described on the MYSA Kid Safe Program.

Section F – Uniforms and Equipment

1. Each team must have numbered shirts of a like color and style: Players wearing glasses must wear glass straps. No jewelry may be worn during a game. Medical bracelets may be worn if taped and medical problem is showing. Metal cleats are not allowed and must be in a round or oval shape. Goalies will wear a shirt that distinguishes them from the rest of the players and referees. Full length jogging pants may be worn on cold days.
2. All players must wear FIFA approved shin guards. Style, size and quality up to the individual. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the stocking. For the safety of the player, shin guards are to be worn in any game or practice or any other game related activity.
3. Goalie helmets are optional.
4. Goalies are allowed to wear Baseball style hats. All players are allowed to wear gloves and stocking hats when the weather would require it
5. Should a player be sent off the field to correct, get or change any part of uniform, equipment, etc., they shall not return to the field of play without the referee approval. If the referee is not satisfied with the correction the player will sit out the rest of the game. Play will not stop for these corrections, players will only re-enter the game on the next legal substitution.

Section G – Referees

1. Only USSF certified referees shall officiate in any match.
2. In case a referee fails to appear, the center referee will use club linesman.
3. Fees for referees will be set by the Board for the season in which the games are played.
4. If a referee becomes incapacitated during the progress of a game from any cause that would prevent him from continuing, they may, if they chose to, turn the game over to another person, mutually agreed upon by both coaches, who shall conduct the game to its conclusion.
5. Will be responsible for reporting scores and other required information on official game cards. These game cards must be turned into the Referee Assignor the same day of the game played.
6. The referee is the sole judge of play on the field and their decision is final. They must be treated with respect and courtesy.
7. The primary responsibility of the referee is to maintain control of the game and consideration for the welfare of the players.
8. Number of referees on the field: U-9 and up games will be officiated by one center referee and two linesman. In U5-U8 a one man system will be used
9. The referee has control 30 minutes prior and after the game.
10. The referee shall immediately note the time and the score of any game that is being protested on the game card. The game is not to be stopped for this purpose. If the protest is upheld, that remaining time and score will be the starting point for completing the protested game.
11. A \$ 5.00 penalty per game will be assessed for improper dress and not on time for scheduled game (s) and deducted from your pay. An exception is Made when overlapping games are involved. Referees may wear black baseball style caps, black jogging suits for cold weather as long as it doesn't interfere with them properly performing their job.
12. Referees have the right to remove offending spectators and stop the game till the offenders are removed. If offenders fail to cooperate then the game will be declared a forfeit for the opposing team.
13. Anyone wishing to become a referee, must be 13 years old the start of the new session they are refereeing in.

Section H – Practices

1. Teams may practice on any public park area that is not designated for games.
2. The OGSL will not allow any practicing on game fields. Any violations could result in suspension of coaches.
3. Teams may practice on property privately owned or owned by companies or churches. Permission must be granted to practice by the property owner. The OGSL will provide certificates of insurance for any property owners requesting them.

Section I – Games

1. Games will be canceled only by the Vice President or by the referee. The rain out number is available for the coach to call before the game if weather poses a risk. Updates on the message line will be done as far in advance as possible but no later than 1 hour before the game. If no information is posted then the coach should assume the game is being played as scheduled.
2. When playing an away game the coach must call that league's rainout number. All leagues participating in the KCML will have their rainout number posted on the website at www.kcmetroleague.com.
3. The field sizes will be determined before the season starts and will conform to the KC Metro League requirements. (See KCML playing rules.)
4. Players, coaches, assistant coaches, parents and spectators must stay 6 feet back from the touch lines and between the penalty areas.
5. No spectators, players or coaches are allowed behind or beside the goal box or end lines. No goalie coaching, by anyone in these areas will be allowed.
6. Games will be canceled if the wind chill is below 40 degrees for U5-U8 and 35 degrees for U10.
7. Spectators are to sit on the same side of the field as their coach but at the opposite half of the field as their coach. Teams shall be diagonally across the field from one another.
8. Pets are not allowed at the fields during games. Games will be stopped and will not be restarted until the pet is removed.

Section J – Disciplinary Actions

1. Any player or team official alleged to have been guilty of a violation of the laws of the game, the By-Laws, rules and regulations of the League, KCML, MYSAs, USSF and/or USYSA or any misconduct detrimental to the game shall be subject to review by the Protest Committee of this league.
2. The protest committee of this League shall have 5 members. It shall be chaired by the President and shall be comprised of the Vice President, the appropriate Division Representative, Secretary, and a 5th person appointed from the Board by the President. If an OGSL Board member of the Protest Committee is directly involved in the game under protest, the President may appoint a replacement to sit on the committee for that protested game.
3. An appeal may be taken to the Board on matters regarding more than 1 year suspension.
4. Any team protesting a game must go through its team representative or coach to convey such a protest to the referee before leaving the field of play.
5. A formal protest in writing, accompanied by a filing fee (set by the Board before each season), stating all known facts, shall be filed with the Protest Committee within three (3) days after the game. A hearing date will be scheduled by the President within one week of the filing date. The filing fee will be refunded to the team representative if the Protest Committee's decision is their favor. Otherwise, the fee will be forfeited to this League.
6. Protests based on late starts shall be filed with the referee prior to the start of the game.
7. A protest based on ineligible players shall be filed no later than two (2) weeks after the facts of his/her participation became known.
8. A formal protest, once filed, can be withdrawn by submitting the withdrawal in writing to the Protest Committee no later than 24 hours after the filing date. The filing fee will be refunded.
9. The opposing coach shall be notified of all protests against his/her team at the time of the game or as soon as possible after the game by the Division Representative.
10. The decision of the Protest Committee is final.
11. Complaints against another team or referee shall be handled by the Protest Committee and shall be directed in writing to this committee.
12. A written record shall be made of all trials, protests or complaints acted upon by the Protest Committee. These records shall be turned over to the Secretary to be filed with other League documents.

Section K - Refunds

Once registered with the League, but not with MYSA a player requesting a refund will receive the amount paid as long as the request has come in writing to the registrar before the uniforms are ordered. After MYSA is paid the refund given will be less the MYSA fee. No refunds will be issued once the session has started.

Section L – Amendments

The By-Laws of this League may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board only. All amendments, proposals or motions that carry must be presented in writing to all coaches at the coaches meetings.

Section M – Blood Rule

A team must substitute when a player is bleeding, has an open wound or blood on the uniform. The player shall leave the game for treatment. The player may return at the next legal substitution opportunity only after the uniform and/or skin conditions have been appropriately treated and approval has been given by the referee. If blood is present on the jersey, or any article of clothing worn by the participant the blood must be removed.

Section N – Rules of Play

The OGSL will follow the Rules of Play set forth by the KC Metro League. All members must read and familiarize themselves with those rules.