


**ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER STATE PREMIERSHIP DIVISION PLAYING RULES**

The Illinois Youth Soccer State Premiership Division (SPD) is a state run competitive division for premier teams registered with Illinois Youth Soccer Member Competitive Leagues. The Team must have all of its players and coaches registered with Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) through an IYSA Member League during the current soccer year and provide proof thereof before submitting its application to the SPD. Each team must abide by all IYSA Policies and Procedures. The Club/Organization is responsible for the conduct, penalties and fines of its teams, players, coaches and supporters. Except as provided herein all matches played within the jurisdiction of this Illinois shall be played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the IYSA. In all matters provided or not provided in IYSA rules and regulations, the decision of the IYSA SPD Committee shall be binding. A plea of ignorance to any of the rules and regulations governing this competition and IYSA is insufficient grounds for appeal or protest.

1. **Competition Information**
    1.1. Match rules follow the IFAB Laws of the Game unless specifically modified by IYSA policies.
    1.2. Match durations are as follows:
        - 12U: Two 35-minute halves
        - 13U: Two 35-minute halves
        - 14U: Two 35-minute halves
        - 15U: Two 40-minute halves
        - 16U: Two 40-minute halves
        - 17U: Two 45-minute halves
        - 19U: Two 45-minute halves

1.3. Standard Size 5 Match balls will be used and must meet IFAB standards.

2. **Overtime**: If a game is tied at the end of regulation the result will be a tie.

3. **Substitutions**: Unlimited substitutions are allowed for all matches. Substitutions can occur at any stoppage with the referee's approval.

4. **Roster & Match Card**: Every Team shall have an official Roster entered into GotSport and must provide a match card for every match or competition.
    4.1. Roster Size: Teams can Roster any age eligible player that is registered to their club in an IYSA member competitive league to their State Premiership team roster.
    4.2. 22 players is the maximum number of players allowed to participate in a match.
    4.3. All players on the Premiership roster must be registered to the club in one of the following IYSA member leagues in order to be eligible to compete in a Premiership match:
        - Central Illinois Youth Soccer League
        - Illinois Women's Soccer League
        - Illowa
        - St Louis Youth Soccer Association – Illinois
        - Young Sportsmen's Soccer League

5. **Uniforms:** All teams must wear uniforms that conform to acceptable standards.
    5.1. Each player on a team must wear shin guards, an official uniform with a six inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt.
    5.2. The goalkeeper is not required to number his/her jersey
    5.3. Each number must be different.
    5.4. The players must wear the same color shirts, shorts and socks
    5.5. Jerseys must be of an accepted soccer style jersey. The jerseys must have finished sleeve openings and enclosed sides. The jerseys must be tucked into the shorts
    5.6. If in the opinion of the referee or SPD official the uniforms are not acceptable for this competition, the team shall be given an opportunity to change uniforms.
    5.7. Home Teams should were light colored uniforms and socks. Visiting Team should were dark colored uniforms and socks. When teams' colors

are similar as determined by the Referee, the Home Team must change. The top team listed is the Home Team.

5.8. A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player including any kind of jewelry with the exception of medical alert bracelets or necklaces, hard billed hat or street glasses. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces must be taped

6. **Passes:** Each player and coach must be registered on an IYSA Member League approved team roster, have a valid IYSA/USYSA Member League Pass and present the Pass to the match officials prior to each game. NO GUEST PLAYERS FROM OTHER CLUBS ALLOWED.
    6.1. Mobile passes may be used.

7. **Scheduling:** Teams that fail to schedule all their matches by the designated schedule by date or fail to play all their State Premiership games may be subject to fines up to $250 per game upon or if there was the unresponsive party. Teams that fail to schedule their match prior to the IYSA given deadline will forfeit game upon review of who was the unresponsive party. Teams that schedule or reschedule a game without notifying opponent or IYSA will forfeit game and may be subject to fines.

8. **Scores and Standings** will be as follows:
    8.1. Scoring Method: The standings of teams within divisions are based upon the number of points earned in games. Teams earn points as follows:
        - Three (3) points for a win (including forfeits)
        - One (1) point for a tie
        - Zero (0) points for a loss

    8.2. If two (2) teams are tied based on points earned, the team's advancement will be determined in accordance with the following sequential criteria:
        1. Winner of head to head competition
        2. Winner of most games
        3. Goal differential (goals scored minus goals against) with a maximum differential of five (5) per game
        4. Fewest goals allowed
        5. Least Red Card received
        6. Most shutouts

7. Most goals scored.

9. **Player Check-In & Match Card:** Each team must enter all players into GotSport, print and hand complete and submit the Match Card to the match referee before each game. The Match Card is the official record of the players who participated in each match and must contain player names and jersey numbers. An incomplete or improper Game Roster may result in a forfeit.

10. **Late Player:** The late player shall present a valid pass to the match referee at the time he/she first enters the game.

11. **Grace Period**: A fifteen (15) minute grace period will be allowed. The Referee or SPD official may extend the Grace Period for a reasonable amount of time, at his/her discretion, if circumstances dictate. The IYSA expects decisions in this regard to be made in the spirit of providing an opportunity for the match to be decided on the field. A team not ready to play after expiration of the allowed Grace Period will forfeit the match.

12. **Starting the Game:** A game shall not be started with fewer than seven (7) eligible and properly uniformed players on each team. If the team has fewer than seven (7) players, the match shall be forfeited to the opponent. If during the match a team is unable to field at least seven (7) players, the opponent shall be declared the winner by forfeit.

13. **Field Of Play:** IFAB designates the preferred dimensions for the field of play and the goals.
    - 13.1. Goals must be properly anchored and have nets.
    - 13.2. The fields must be safe and properly marked with lines, corner flags or cones sufficient for the match officials to perform their essential duties.
    - 13.3. The game referee shall determine the safety and acceptability of the field.
    - 13.4. Teams found to have inadequate fields may have future home games revoked until fields improved to IYSA standards.
    - 13.5. If a team believes a field is not suitable for Premiership play team should: a.) take picture showing what is not acceptable about field b.) email pictures to iysascoring@gmail.com

14. **The Technical Area** shall be designated for each team and include one (1) yard on either side of the team's designated seating (bench) and up to a distance of one (1) yard from the touchline.
    - 14.1. The Technical Area is the seating area only for the team's eligible players and Technical Staff.
    - 14.2. Team may have up to three (3) Technical Staff in the Technical area
    - 14.3. All coaches/staff in the Technical Area must have a valid IYSA Member League pass
    - 14.4. Only the active players listed on the team's match card are to be dressed in uniform.
    - 14.5. A player that is listed on the team's match card but is not active for a match, may be in the team's Technical Area/Team Bench but must be dressed in street clothes that are easily distinguishable in color from the team's uniform.
    - 14.6. Red carded and/or suspended coaches (ineligible persons) are not allowed in the viewing area of the field. Any violation of these rules will cause the team to forfeit the game in which the violation occurred.
    - 14.7. A red carded player may remain in the technical area dressed in clothes that easily distinguish them from active players. The red carded player may be removed from the Technical Area by the referee.
    - 14.8. The team's Technical Staff must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances as permitted by the referee such as entering the field of play to treat an injured player.

15. **Coaching During The Match:**
    - 15.1. No coaching other than conveying of tactical instruction is permitted during the game.
    - 15.2. Only the designated head coach is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the Technical Area and has the responsibility of making sure that no person associated with the team violates this coaching restriction.
    - 15.3. The designated head coach is responsible for the actions of all persons associated with the team. Violations by any person including spectators and supporters associated with the team will be deemed the actions of the designated head coach.

16. **After The Match / Reporting Results:** Following the match, the Winning team's coach/team manager must collect both match cards from the referee and or email, fax or bring to the IYSA office no later than 24-hours after the completion of the match or follow the prompts on the match card QR code to submit the score. In the event of a draw, the home team shall collect both match cards. Failure to do so may result in a $50 fine

17. **Game Officials**

17.1. All teams must use a local assignor to assign all three referees for each of their home matches. IYSA must approve all assignors used. IYSA will pay the IYSA set assignor fee to all assignors. IYSA pays the assignor for each match scheduled by the team. Any fees associated with reschedules charged by the assignor are to be paid by the team.

17.2. **Both teams** pay the following fee to the center prior to the kick-off of each SPD match:

- 12U/13/14U: $80 per games (Each teams brings 2 $20 bills and 4 $10 bills)
  - Center refeee paid $60 & both AR's paid $50
- 15/16U: $85 per game (Each teams brings 2 $20 bills, 4 $10 bills & 1 $5 bill)
  - Center referee paid $70 & both AR's paid $50
- 17-19U" $90 per game (Each teams brings 4 $20 bills, 1 $10 bill)
  - Center referee paid $80 and both AR's paid $50

17.3. Match officials are responsible for properly executing their duties as set forth in the IFAB Laws of the Game, including any applicable and allowable modifications as outlined by IYSA/USYS.

17.4. Where no assigned match officials appear, the coaches shall agree on a Referee and play the match as scheduled.

17.5. In the event the assigned Center Referee fails to appear, one of the assigned linesmen shall function as Center Referee.

17.6. Should the Center Referee become incapacitated during the match, an assigned linesman shall assume the duties of the Center Referee. If an assigned linesman is not present, the coaches shall agree on a Center Referee for the match and the match shall be played to its conclusion.

17.7. The match officials shall have the authority to determine the acceptability of the field of play; deal with players or coaches exhibiting violent conduct or threatening, abusive language; and stop the match due

to interference from spectators. The Referee shall forward the names of offenders to IYSA within twenty-four (24) hours.

17.8. Any game cancelled less than 36-hours prior to start time for any reason other than weather, the canceling team will be responsible for paying the referees the full game fee. Any fees charged by a club's assignor for game changes are the responsibility of the club to pay.

18. **Unfinished Matches:** For matches played short-time due to any cause, it shall be replayed, restarted where the match was stopped or a winner declared based on the following

18.1. Any match that is canceled in the first half where the score is 0-0 shall be replayed from the beginning of the match

18.2. Any match that is canceled in the first half where there is a minimum of 1 goal scored, game will restart from where the match was stopped.

18.3. A match is considered played in full if the match cannot continue in the referee's decision and the first half has been completed in full.

19. **Red Card / Send-Offs & Ejections:** Any player, coach or spectator who is removed from a match by the referee is subject to fines and suspensions.

19.1. **Player Send-Off :** A player who is sent-off from any game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following game played by the player's team. A player may receive more than a one-game suspension.

- If player is not automatically crossed off game card, the players should manually be crossed off the game card prior to giving it to the referee for check-in.
- If a player that owes a red card suspension plays or shows as active for a match, the result of the match will be a 5-0 forfeit loss for the offending teams.
- A player who is sent-off from any game must pay a $50 fine prior to returning to Premiership play. Any outstanding player fines at the conclusion of the Premiership will be billed to and become the responsibility of the player's club.
- Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for inappropriate behavior once they have been sent to the bench.

Coaches are responsible for ejected player's behavior on the bench, further inappropriate behavior by player may result in coach being sent-off from match.

- Players serving a suspension for additional game(s) are permitted to sit on the team bench in street clothes (no uniform) and will be held responsible for their actions the same as any other participant. If an ejected player becomes disruptive from the bench, he/she may receive an additional game(s) suspension.

19.2. **Coach / Team Official Send-Off** : A coach / team official in the Technical Area who is sent-off from any game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following game played by team they were coaching at the time of the ejection. A coach may receive more than a one-game suspension.

- If a coach that owes a red card suspension is on the sidelines for a match, the result of the match will be a forfeit for the offending teams.
- A coach / team official who is sent-off from any game must pay a $300 fine prior to being eligible to returning to coach a Premiership match. Any outstanding coach fines at the conclusion of the Premiership will remain the responsibility of the coach and club and if left unpaid may disqualify them from coaching at future events at the state, regional or National level.
- Coaches and other team officials dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the game will be restarted.
- Coaches serving a disciplinary suspension may attend team activities during the suspension as a spectator only. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the suspended game(s). Any violations will result in additional disciplinary action being taken by Illinois Youth Soccer.
- If a team has only one coach on the sideline, and that coach is sent-off, that coach's team will forfeit the match 5-0

19.3. **Spectator / Supporter / Parent Send-Off** : Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of Illinois Youth Soccer and shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including ejections. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

- Any team that has a supporter removed / ejected from a match or involved in an incident at the conclusion of a match must pay a $300 fine per occurrence.
- Additional sanctions against a team / club may also be levied for spectator behavior.
- Spectator send-offs or post-game incidents will count as red cards tabulated in tie-breakers.

19.4. A Red Card fine shall be assessed against players, coaches/officials or team supporters and neither the offender nor the team shall be allowed to participate further in the Premiership until such fine is paid to the IYSA.

19.5. Red Card fines are strictly enforced. The club is responsible for unpaid fines incurred by its team coaches, players, officials and supporters.

19.6. Mutually agreed upon non-played games or cancelled matches WILL NOT count towards an owed suspension. The red carded player or coach has to sit out the next Premiership game that is played by player/coach's team.

19.7. If a player or team official is dismissed from their team's last match in the event, suspensions will be served at the next season of the Premiership.

20. **Safety & Weather Related/ Lightning Procedures**: The team's coaches/officials are responsible for the safety of their players and shall ensure that all persons associated with the team abide by the safety and weather related instructions

21. **Casts**: For the protection of the players on the field, no person will be allowed to play on the field with any type of a hard cast. This includes casts padded with any material (padded foam, bandages, etc…).

22. **Head, Back or Neck Injuries** : Any athlete who receives a concussion, neck or back injury will not be allowed to return to play or practice until he/she submits a signed Concussion Return to Play form from a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy who is trained in concussion treatment and management to the IYSA.

22.1. Any player who is placed in the Concussion Protocol and does not submit the appropriate paper for clearance prior to returning to play will result in a forfeit.

22.2. It is the responsibility of the team coach to submit the clearance to the IYSA prior to the injured player's next SPD match.

23. **Match Manipulation**: Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification

24. **Protests & Appeals:** All questions pertaining to any dispute or protest shall be referred to the IYSA
    24.1. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must include at least the following items at the time of its filing with the SPD Committee:
        - $500 Protest Fee paid in cash ($250 of which is a non-refundable administrative fee).
        - Two written copies of the protest that includes the reason for the protest and the facts. Emailed communication is acceptable.
        - Protests must be received within twenty-four (24) hours after the start of the protested match. Once filed, protests may be withdrawn only with IYSA consent.
        - Protests relating to the field of play, improper uniforms, equipment, field size, markings, dangerous field conditions, etc. shall be considered only if the objection was lodged with the game officials prior to the match.
        - A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the competition is not sufficient grounds for a protest or appeal.
        - Referee decisions are final as they pertain to the IFAB Laws of the Game
        - **Red Cards, Yellow Cards and Send-Offs may not be protested.**

25. **Weapons/Firearms:** Weapons/firearms are not permitted at Illinois Youth Soccer events

26. **Cameras & Tripods:** All cameras and tripods must be properly secured according to the manufacturer's specifications for the field and weather conditions.
    26.1. Clubs should purchase property and liability insurance coverage for their personal property and be able to supply a COI upon request from IYSA

26.2. Illinois Youth Soccer does not provide insurance coverage for claims resulting from the use of personal property including but not limited to cameras, tripods, tents, banners, grills, seating, containers, etc.

26.3. All camera must be place on the spectator sidelines as least 5 feet behind the sideline to avoid and obstruction with the AR.

26.4. Any cameras not set-up in accordance with this rule will be required to be taken down or the match will be discontinued.

27. **Alcohol & Smoking:** The drinking and/or dispensing of alcoholic beverages are not permitted at locations hosting games. Smoking is only allowed in designated smoking areas at locations. Smoking is not permitted on spectator sidelines or the technical area. Individuals found violating the alcohol or smoking policy will be removed from the sideline and may result in fines (up to $500) and sanctions for the club.

28. **Pets:** The allowance of pets is determined by the host facility. If a host facility allows pets on the premises ALL PETS must be leashed and kept off the playing fields. Pets are not allowed in the coaches and players sideline and Technical Area. Person with the pet(s) must pick-up after the pet(s).

29. **Clean-Up Fine:** Any team that has not cleaned up its bench, Technical Area, spectator side or other area used by the team for pre or post game, must pay an up to $500 Clean-up Fee to the IYSA.

30. **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (DRONES):** In compliance with US Youth Soccer's Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones), the use of drones is strictly prohibited at all matches. It is the responsibility of the host to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced

31. **Rule Violations:** Any person or team that is found guilty of violating IYSA policies, procedures and SPD rules could be prohibited from competing further in the National Championship or Presidents Cup series in the current and subsequent soccer year and be subject to additional sanctions including but not limited to forfeiture of all games, fines, and suspensions.

32. **Matters Not Provided:** In all matters provided or not provided in the IYSA rules and regulations, the decision of the SPD Committee & IYSA shall be final and

binding. The Cup Director & the Cup Committee shall have the power to deal with all violations, special circumstances and have the authority to modify any of the rules as deemed necessary to ensure the orderly progression of the event.