



# SMALL-SIDED

## THE OFFICIAL OUTDOOR SOCCER RULES, LEAGUE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

(Revised May 2017)

### IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION

BREAK AWAY SPORTS CENTER would like to welcome you & your team to our SMALL SIDED Outdoor League. We are confident that everyone will have fun. For this to be accomplished, it is essential that fair play and good sportsmanship be maintained at all times during this competition by players, coaches and spectators. **THIS IS A SOCIAL RECREATIONAL LEAGUE!!** **AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

**All Games will be played according to our indoor rules and FIFA rules with the following modifications**

#### GENERAL SPECTATOR/PLAYER CONSIDERATION

1. As with all recreational activities, outdoor soccer has inherent risks associated with participation. Players accept such risks as the result of their participation in our outdoor league(s).
2. Do to the nature of soccer, balls may exit the field of play. Break Away is not responsible for injuries incurred to spectators, coaches and players while viewing the game. Spectators are required to keep back from the sidelines.
3. Locker room will **NOT** be available. For safe keeping, do not bring any valuables to the park. Break Away is not responsible for lost or stolen property and cannot supervise any of your personal property.
4. PLEASE SHOW COURTESY and respect to other spectators, players and coaches by ACTING WITH GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. This includes refraining from abusive language, dissent (verbal or through actions) to spectators, players, coaches, officials or employees. Anyone taking such inappropriate action may be required to leave the soccer park immediately. **PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING THEIR CHILDREN WHILE AT THE PARK!**
5. Anyone found guilty of willfully damaging Break Away property or Reddan Park property will be banned from the park and Break Away Sports leagues and legal action may be taken.
6. Reddan Soccer Park considerations: Bathrooms may be available. **No alcohol or tobacco use is permitted in the park. Absolutely NO DOGS ALLOWED (on OR off leash). No loitering after the last scheduled game of the evening.**

#### IMPORTANT TEAM/LEAGUE INFORMATION & MODIFICATIONS

1. **All teams and individual players as well as associated parents or guardians are required to behave under the rules and policies of Break Away Sports Center, Inc. It is the responsibility of the team manager to inform their players of these policies.**
2. **ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE THE COMPLETED PLAYER CONSENT FORM ON FILE IN ORDER TO PLAY!**
3. **All rosters are kept with Break Away Sports and must be filled out completely** prior to first game! Each and every player and coach/manager must sign the Team Roster and Player Consent Form in order to play or coach for that team. Players are only permitted to play on one team in any given league. Players are bound to play with that team for the duration of the session.
4. **All adult leagues** require players to be at least 18 years of age and out of high school unless otherwise indicated.
5. **IMPORTANT! ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE THE PROPER COLOR SHADE UNIFORM/SHIRT TO PARTICIPATE.** If the shade of a player's shirt causes conflict or cannot easily be distinguished from the opponent's shirt color, the official shall have the discretion to remove that player from participation until the color (shade) has been corrected to the official's satisfaction. While the Home team is designated to change shirts in the event of similar team colors, **BOTH Teams MUST bring alternate colored shirts to every game. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Goalkeepers must be in a distinguishing color shirt from either team. Pullover will NOT be available.
6. **Both teams are responsible for bringing their own warm up balls and a game ball!**
7. **POST GAME TEAM GATHERINGS MUST BE DONE IN THE SPECTATOR AREAS (IE. OFF FIELD AND OUT OF BENCH AREAS)**
8. Jewelry, hard casts etc. are not permitted. Fitness monitors ("fitbit") cannot have hard casing (or edges) exposed. They must be covered with padding to the satisfaction of the game official. (examples: wrapped in pre-wrap, covered with sweat band, tucked into sock).
9. **OVER 40 LEAGUE: All players MUST meet the AGE criteria for the league to be eligible for play. All players Must be 40 years of age or older in order to participate.** Proof of age must be available for all adult teams. Proof shall be in the form of a birth certificate, driver's license or other suitable record approved by Break Away management. **The team manager/coach is responsible for playing with eligible players only.** Teams/ manager/players not complying with this procedure will assume guilt and forfeit game. **ANY TEAM PLAYING WITH ILLEGAL AGE PLAYERS MAY FACE REMOVAL FROM THE SUMMER LEAGUE WITHOUT REFUND!** Women are allowed to play in our Summer Over 40 Outdoor League provided they meet age requirement.

# LEAGUE RULES

## TEAM/LEAGUE INFORMATION & MODIFICATIONS (Cont')

### 10. COED SOCIAL LEAGUE MODIFICATION

- a) This league will be officiated with limited contact and recreation in mind. Player Control Fouls and Dangerous Play infringement shall be enforced when overly physical/aggressive/dangerous play occurs.
- b) **“DRIVEN” OR “DANGEROUS BALL” ABOVE THE WAIST** The hard driven and dangerous ball above the waist rules will be called very tight near or inside the penalty areas and at the discretion of the official.
  - A **driven ball** kicked (or thrown by the goalie) shall be considered “Hard Driven” above the waist, if **players from either team** are in the “general vicinity” of the ball, unless the ball is clearly above the heads of all players (If/when the game moves indoor, this rule also will include balls coming off the wall in a dangerous manner with players in the general vicinity of the flighted ball). A driven ball above the waist is permissible when the goalie is the **ONLY** player in the general direction of the ball flight.
  - A **Dangerous Ball** above the waist: is the result of any ball played that makes contact above the waist with ANY player during the ascent (unless the contact is the result of a light or unintentional deflection). Any arching or chipped ball that does not make contact shall be allowed.
- c) Either infraction shall be an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot where the driven/dangerous ball took place.
- d) A rest, penalty, caution or ejection may be assessed to any player/team that persists in these infractions.

## SCHEDULING

1. Teams/players registering for league play must be prepared to play during any of the days and times indicated in the league brochures. Alternate game days may be required and assigned as necessary.
2. **GAMES WILL NOT BE RE-SCHEDULED UNLESS deemed necessary by BREAK AWAY SPORTS.**
3. **MOVING SCHEDULED GAME INDOORS:** In the event of poor playing conditions during ANY part of the evening, Break Away reserves the right to locate ANY and/or ALL games indoors. Any other cancellation will be made at field as necessary. Some games may require alternate time and/or day as the result of rainouts. Make up games from field cancellation will be made up indoor or outdoor at Break Away discretion at a later time and/or date. All games played in accordance with our indoor rules and philosophies, with the exception of the 3 lines pass which will be allowed in accordance with the outdoor no offsides rule.
4. **Teams that consistently forfeit games are subject to removal from the league. Break Away Sports is not responsible for any game forfeit.**
5. Every effort will be made to equalize competition skill levels in our leagues. However, Break Away does not guarantee quality of play!

## LENGTH OF GAME

1. Time clock will start at designated game time. THERE WILL BE NO GRACE PERIOD! After such time, the game will be considered a forfeit. A friendly game may be played.
2. Game time shall be 2 X 25 minutes **running** time (with a brief halftime). The Official or Supervisor shall have the authority to split the game into 4 x 12.5 min quarters due to heat/weather conditions. The game official/management may reduce time of play for each half and/or require mandatory stoppages of play when necessary such as low player numbers, excessive heat and/or time constraints due to delays (example Lightning – see below).
3. The Break Away Supervisor and/or game official shall terminate or suspend any game that they feel is dangerous or unsafe to continue (eg. Lightning, darkness, excessive heat, unruly team play etc.) The game shall be considered an officially complete game once the game has started. In the event of lightning: Game will be delayed 30 min. from the last lightning (required by Reddan Park). All managers, players and spectators MUST clear the field and spectator areas and seek the SAFEST shelter available (such as in a car – roll up the windows, do NOT touch the metal frame. Standing under building overhang or shelter roof is not the safer alternative). A Break Away Supervisor shall notify everyone within the adjacent parking lot when it is all clear and how play will resume. Continuation or reducing the length of the time remaining in the game will be determined based on the length of the delay and whether enough light or time is available to resume the game. This decision is at the total discretion of the Field Supervisor.

## NUMBER OF PLAYERS/ROSTER

1. **Men’s Adult 7 Aside** team’s shall consist of 7 players (6 plus a goalie). Goalie must be designated with a different shirt color.
2. **Over 40 Small sided** team’s shall consist of 8 players (7 plus a goalie). Goalie must be designated with a different shirt color.
3. **Adult Coed Social** team’s shall consist of **8** players (7 plus a goalie). Goalie must be designated with a different shirt color. There must be a minimum of 3 female field players on (they may not be filled by male participants in the event that less females are present).
4. Only players that have completed a Consent Form and have signed the Team Roster are qualified to play (eg. age and/or gender).
5. If a team has less than the minimum number of players it shall be a forfeit at game time and players shall be mixed from the other team and a friendly game shall proceed. Minimum number of players: Men’s League - not less than 4 (plus goalie), Over 40 league: 5(plus goalie), Coed league: 5(plus goalie) with a minimum of 2 females.
6. A team may not decrease below the minimum number of players during the game or it shall be determined a forfeit. If a team has only the minimum number of players and a player is Rested, Penalize or injured, it will result in a game forfeit. Players shall be mixed from the other team and a friendly game shall proceed.
7. Break Away has a **"5-8"** rule. If a team is behind by 5 or more goals they may add an additional player onto the field. An additional player can remain on the field until the goal differential has been reduced to less than 5. This occurs again at an 8 goal deficit.

# LEAGUE RULES

## THE REFEREES

1. Referee on the field is responsible for control of the game and has the full authority while on premises (at Reddan Soccer Park or other designated venue), before, during and after the game.
2. The referee's decisions regarding play are final.
3. One official is assigned to each game. Break Away Sports Center has the authority at its discretion to add an additional referee on or off the field in order to assist and/or control the game being played. This additional referee may initiate their authority at any time during the course of the game & has full authority of the original referee.
4. Management is very interested in the evaluation of a referee from team manager(s), as long as such discussions are done in a composed & proper manner. Contact Matt Lombardino with pertinent feedback at 288-9600.

## INJURY

Any player injured and bleeding must leave the field of play. **BODY AND CLOTHING MUST BE CLEAN OF BLOOD** in order for player to resume play. The official shall have the discretion to rest any player for a designated time that causes a stoppage of play as a result of a possible injury.

## SUBSTITUTIONS

1. Team benches shall be on the same sideline, on the opposite half of field.
2. Substitutions may be on the fly during play or when the ball has left the field of play.
3. **THIS IS IMPORTANT** All players entering or exiting the field of play must do so within the designated Substitution Area at midfield (between the cones).
4. **THIS IS ALSO IMPORTANT:** The exiting player MUST be within 1 stride of the Substitution Area before the substitute is allowed to enter the field of play.
5. Illegal substitutions shall be an indirect free kick, approx. 6 yds. into the field, at the attacking cone of the Substitution Area. A team continuing to violate this law may warrant a more severe/progressive punishment/penalty.

**OFFSIDES** There is no off-sides. However, players shall not be allowed to screen and/or obstruct the goalie within the goalbox. In the event that a game has been moved/rescheduled indoors, 3 line passed will be allowed.

## GOALKEEPERS

1. A goalkeeper has possession any time he/she has a part of their body touching the ball unless they are using their feet as a field player.
2. A goalie shall not flagrantly/recklessly attack the ball near an opposing player.
3. A player shall not flagrantly/recklessly attack the ball near the opposing goalie.
4. Once in full possession of the ball, the goalie has 6 seconds to release the ball into play (spirit of the game).
5. At the discretion of the official, a goalkeeper shall be allowed to make a legal sliding challenge at an opponent provided that the slide is within or initiated within the penalty box (with their momentum carrying them outside of their penalty box).
6. Goalies shall NOT punt the ball. Indirect free kick.

## OUT OF PLAY RESTARTS (See FIFA Rules)

### FREE-KICK & FREE-KICK RESTARTS

1. The opposing team must IMMEDIATELY be at least 8 yds. from ANY restart. Any delays or infringements from the defensive team may result in an **ADDITIONAL 4 YDS. (TOTTALLING 12 YDS.)**, player Rest, 2 minute Penalty or additional action by the official.
2. *The game official may award a RE-KICK when the opposing team encroaches on the free-kick if he/she feels that the encroachment was either deliberate OR reduces the kicking team's opportunity to put the ball back into play, REGARDLESS of whether the kicking team chose to play the ball quickly into play.*
3. Free kicks **MUST** be put back into play with-in 6 seconds once the ball has been properly placed. *The Official shall have the discretion to start such a count when he/she feels a team has had adequate time to retrieve the ball and Put it back into play. Violation – Indirect free kick for opposing team.*

### FOULS & MISCONDUCTS – SAFETY FIRST

1. Contact from behind, hand checking, sliding at or into an opponent and/or overly aggressive play, shall be called very closely and result in an indirect or direct free-kick depending on the nature of the foul. Any flagrant or continual infringements of the rules by player or team may result in a Rest, 2 MINUTE penalty, Yellow Card caution, or Red Card (Ejection) against the offending player/team.
2. The official shall call a Dangerous Play, Player Control, Flagrant foul if they feel a player was playing out of control, reckless/flagrant, **OR** used unnecessary physical contact on an opponent in order to dispossess the opponent from the ball (**NOT playing in the Spirit of Recreational soccer**). Violations: Dangerous Play OR Violent Play (Indirect or Direct).

# LEAGUE RULES

## FOULS & MISCONDUCTS – (Cont’)

3. **AGGRESSIVE UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR:** The following behavior MAY RESULT IN A PLAYER EJECTION:
- General Unsporting Behavior:** *Verbal or action; including but not limited to outbursts of profanity.*
  - DISSENT** *Verbal or action; Any player or team participating in dissent, verbal or non verbal (ie. through gestures) to an official, opponent or staff (such as, but not limited to; questioning calls, objecting to call and/or using profanity) most likely will lead to Player Rest, Penalty and/or ejection.*
  - FIGHTING, INSTIGATING, ATTEMPTING TO INSTIGATE A FIGHT and/or TRASH TALKING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** *Players or teams participating in such violence, **WHETHER STARTING THE ALTERCATION OR NOT, MAY BE REMOVED FROM ANY FURTHER PARTICIPATION.***
    - Trash talking shall include, but not limited to, intimidating, unwanted aggressive speech or gestures toward an opponent, coach or spectator and/or using profanity.*
    - Failure to immediately move away from an opponent after a play or stoppage of play, may be construed by the official as attempting to instigate a fight.*

## PROGRESSION OF PUNISHMENT & PENALTIES

*The following progression is a guideline for an official to use. IT IS NOT A REQUIRED ORDER! The official can at any time decide, due to the nature of the foul or conduct of the player/team, to bypass a lesser punishment for one that is more severe.*

- REST:** A Player that is “Rested” by the official must leave the field of play for a minimum of 2 – 5 minutes. This is used to indicate to a player or team that conduct is inappropriate. It allows a player the chance to evaluate their play and calm down. Player may be replaced immediately.
- Penalty:** Any player performing persistent, flagrant or unsporting behavior may be assessed a 2 to 5 minute penalty at the discretion of the official. A team shall **NOT** be allowed to substitute and shall play short a player for the designated time unless a goal is scored by the opposing team. The penalized player can not resume play until the full time has expired. More than one penalty may occur at any time. If an additional penalty is assessed to the team while a previous penalty is being served, the second penalty will not start until the first penalty is completed. The individual with the second penalty will not participate until his/her penalty has been entirely served including sitting out the duration of the first penalty.
- CAUTION (Yellow Card):** A Yellow Card violation, if issued, shall result in a mandatory 2 MINUTE time off the field of play to be served by the offending player(s).
- EJECTION (Red Card):** If issued, to a player or coach, will result in a game ejection and the player **MUST** leave premises immediately (see player/coach suspension). **Player(s) will be ejected from the game and the game will NOT start until player(s) leave the immediate field area (The official time will continue to run if player takes more than two minutes to leave). The ejection may result in a 5 MINUTE Penalty at the official’s discretion.** A team shall **NOT** be allowed to substitute for the player ejected and the team shall play short a player for the **FULL** 5 minutes regardless of how many goals are scored.

## IMPORTANT! PLAYER/TEAM SUSPENSIONS

- BREAK AWAY SPORTS CENTER, INC. HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FIGHTING, VIOLENT OR OTHER INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR!**
- PLAYERS/COACHES & SPECTATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTION(s)**
- COACHES/MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF PLAYERS/PARENTS/ SPECTATORS OF THEIR TEAM.**
- Players or coaches using profanity towards officials, employees or management will be suspended from league play.
- Sportsmanlike behavior is required at all times, ON and OFF the soccer field. Break Away Sports Center, Inc. reserves the right to dismiss any disruptive people from the field and/or park area. Furthermore, Break Away reserves the right to refuse such person(s) from returning to future league play.
- Any **PLAYER** or **COACH** receiving a Red Carded **MUST LEAVE THE PLAYERS BENCH/SPECTATOR AREA** and/or Park **IMMEDIATELY** before the game will restart. Any delays in leaving the field area will increase the length of the suspension! Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game and consideration for removal in future participation! Suspended players or coaches are **NOT** permitted in bench/Spectator area for the duration of their suspension. Players or coaches receiving a Red Card or ejected before, during or after a game are automatically suspended for a minimum of one game/week. These individuals may be suspended for additional games pending a referee report such as refusal to leave the field area and/or past history of unsportsmanlike behavior.
- A player/coach who is serving a suspension is not permitted to participate or coach **ANY TEAM** for the duration of the suspension (1 game and/or 1 week minimum!) A player who has been suspended may play after he/she has served the entirety of his/her suspension. A suspension includes being suspended from indoor play as well. Any team playing suspended players will forfeit game, and such players shall be suspended for the **REMAINDER** of the session.
- Break Away Sports Center, Inc. is NOT RESPONSIBLE for ANY REFUNDS for individual/teams having to miss play as the result of suspension(s), and/or removal from league(s).**