

11 A-SIDE

THE OFFICIAL SOCCER RULES, LEAGUE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

(Revised May 2010)



IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION

BREAK AWAY SPORTS CENTER would like to welcome you & your team to our Outdoor Summer League. We are confident that everyone will have fun. For this to be accomplished, it is essential that the rules of fair play and good sportsmanship be maintained at all times during this competition by players, coaches and spectators. **THIS IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE!! GOOD LUCK, and most of all HAVE FUN.**

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 summer 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. Each TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECTATORS STAYING AWAY FROM SIDELINES!!
3. Locker room will **NOT** be available. Keep valuables with a member associated with your team to supervise your belongings or do not bring them along. Break Away is not responsible for lost or stolen property and can not 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.
5. **PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING THEIR CHILDREN WHILE AT THE PARK!**
6. Anyone found guilty of willfully damaging Break Away property or park property will be banned from the park and Break Away Sports leagues and legal action will follow.
7. Reddan Soccer Park considerations: Bathrooms will be available however concessions will be closed. **No alcohol or tobacco use is permitted in the park. Park closes at 8:30 pm.**

IMPORTANT TEAM INFORMATION

1. All teams and individual players as well as associated parents or guardians are required to play under the rules and policies of Break Away Sports Center, Inc. It is the responsibility of the team manager to inform their players of this policy.
2. **ALL ADULT PLAYERS MUST SIGN & HAVE ON FILE THE REQUIRED PLAYER CONSENT FORM 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 must sign the 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. **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. Since Break Away Sports does not offer a women's or coed league outdoor this summer, we will allow women to play in this Summer Over 40 League. **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!**
5. **IMPORTANT! ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE THE PROPER COLOR UNIFORM/SHIRT TO PARTICIPATE.** Teams must bring an **alternate color uniform to every** game in case of conflicting colors. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Goalkeepers must be in a distinguishing color shirt from either team. **Pullovers 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).**

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 due to necessary scheduling adjustments.
2. **ALL SCHEDULED GAMES ARE FINAL UNLESS deemed necessary by BREAK AWAY SPORTS.** Schedules are subject to change.
3. **Assigned game location may be changed by Reddan Park management. Come early and check kiosk located along side of concession building.**
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!

LEAGUE RULES

THIS IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE!!

LENGTH OF GAME

1. Time clock will start at designated game time. 2 X 40 minutes **running** time (with 5 minutes of halftime). The Official or Supervisor shall have the authority to split the game into 4 x 20min quarters if heat conditions necessitate it.
2. **THERE WILL BE NO GRACE PERIOD!** After such time the game will be considered a forfeit. A friendly game may be played.
3. The referee shall terminate any game that he/she feels 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).
4. 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, etc.).

SCORING

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.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS/ROSTER

1. Each team must start the game with a **minimum of eight players at game time**. The game shall not be played with less than Eight players and shall be determined a forfeit at designated game time and players shall be mixed from the other team and a friendly game shall proceed.
2. A team may not fall below the minimum number of players during the game or it shall be determined a forfeit. If a team has only the minimum amount of players, any player Rested or Penalized will result in a game forfeit.
3. Players shall only be allowed to be on the roster of one team in the league.

4. **NEW Guest Players: IN CONSIDERATION OF FAIR COMPETITION. Players are assigned to ONE Roster/Team. A player may not play on a different team unless : A) the team has no more than 3 Substitutes on the sidelines AND B) the Guest Players MUST play within the spirit of the league. Break Away staff has the right to adjust the number of , or the participation of specific guest players during the progress of the game, in consideration with the spirit of the competition.**

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions may be made as often as available with **referees approval** at appropriate stoppage of play and when the ball has left the field of play. The official shall decide whether substitutions can be made on other stoppage of play based on conditions of play (eg. Heat).

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 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), 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 a 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 such pertinent feedback.

GOALKEEPERS

1. A goalkeeper has possession any time he/she has a part of his/her body covering the ball unless he/she is using his/her feet as a field player.
2. Once in possession of the ball the goalie has 5 seconds to release the ball into play (spirit of the game).
3. A goalkeeper shall not slide tackle or slide into an opponent from outside their penalty box. Indirect free-kick.

FREE-KICK & FREE-KICK RESTARTS

1. **The opposing team must IMMEDIATELY be at least 10 yds. from ANY restart. Any delays or infringements from the defensive team may result in an ADDITIONAL 5 YDS. (TOTTALLING 15 YDS.) and, player(s) Rest or 10 minute Team Penalty (see ...Punishment & Penalties"). 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 teams opportunity to put the ball back into play, REGARDLESS of whether the kicking team chooses to put the ball in play.**
2. The ball must be touched by the team with the free kick to be considered in play.
3. **Free kicks MUST be put back into play with-in 5 seconds. The Official shall have the discretion to start such a count when he/she feels a team has had adequate time to put the ball back into play. Violation – Indirect free kick for opposing team.**

LEAGUE RULES

FOULS & MISCONDUCTS

1. Contact from behind, hand checking, sliding into an opponent, will 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 laws by a player or team may result in a Rest, 10 MINUTE penalty (Yellow Card caution), or Red Card ejection against the offending player/team.
2. **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, and/or objection to call) most likely will lead to Player Rest, Penalty and/or ejection.*
3. **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.** Including, if a player fails to move immediately away from an opponent, after a play, or stoppage of play, may be construed as acting in a hostile manner and/or attempting to instigate a fight. Trash talking shall include, but not limited to, intimidating, unwanted and/or aggressive speech or gestures toward an official, opponent, coach or spectator.*

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.

1. **Player REST:** A Player that is Rested by the official must leave the field of play. This is used to indicate to a player or team that this kind of play is inappropriate. It allows a player the chance to evaluate their play and calm down. Player must be replaced immediately.
2. **10 Minute PLAYER/TEAM PENALTY (Yellow Card):** A Yellow Card violation or excessive team violations including but not limited to excessive delays, fouls and/or dissent, may result in a 10 MINUTE penalty. The team shall play short handed during the entire 10 minute regardless of goals scored. Player Penalty: Player must serve their own penalty. Team Penalty: the team shall remove a player to properly reduce the number of player. A team shall be allowed to substitute anyone. More than one penalty can be served at any one 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. **A Player accumulating two yellow cards will automatically be suspended for the following game.**
3. **EJECTION (Red Card):** If issued, to a player or coach, will result in a game ejection and leave premises immediately (see player/coach suspension). The offending team may replace the player unless the team has no replacements in which case they shall play short handed for the duration of the game A 10 minute Team Penalty may also be assessed (see "10 minute Penalty"). **Player(s) will be ejected from game and game will NOT start until player(s) leave the immediate field area (The official time will continue to run). Reddan Soccer Park has authorized Break Away the authority to require an ejected player to leave the park. Any delays may result in an increased length of suspension.**

IMPORTANT! PLAYER/TEAM SUSPENSIONS

1. **BREAK AWAY SPORTS CENTER, INC. HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FIGHTING, VIOLENT OR OTHER INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR!**
2. **PLAYERS/COACHES & SPECTATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTION(s)**
3. **COACHES/MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF PLAYERS/PARENTS/ SPECTATORS OF THEIR TEAM.**
4. Players or coaches using profanity towards officials, employees or management will be suspended from the league play.
5. 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 area and refuse to allow such person(s) from returning to league play.
6. Any PLAYER or COACH receiving a Red Carded MUST LEAVE THE PLAYERS BENCH AREA **IMMEDIATELY** before the game will restart. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game! Any delays in leaving the field area will increase the length of the suspension! Suspended players or coaches are not permitted in bench area for the duration of their suspension.
7. Players or coaches receiving a Red Card or ejected before, during or after a game are automatically suspended for a minimum of one game. 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.
8. A players/coach who is serving a suspension is not permitted to participate or coach ANY TEAM for the duration of the suspension! A player who has been suspended may play after his/her team suspension has expired. A suspension includes being suspended from indoor play as well.
9. Any team playing suspended players will forfeit game, and such players shall be suspended for the REMAINDER of the session.
10. *Break Away Sports Center, Inc. is NOT RESPONSIBLE for ANY REFUNDS for individuals having to miss play as the result of suspension(s), and/or removal from league(s).*

NOTE

Soccer is a game of skill, technique, physical endurance, competition, sportsmanship, fun and fair play, but nevertheless, there is player contact and variety in skill levels. If for any reason you feel you may get injured while participating, then it is advisable that you do not participate.