



# **Oregon Youth Soccer Valley Academy League Rules**

**Rules For  
U8 – U10**

**Operated by  
Oregon Youth Soccer Association  
[oregonyouthsoccer.org](http://oregonyouthsoccer.org)**



## OYSA Valley Academy League Rules U9-U10

### League Management Information

The OYSA Valley Academy League is sanctioned by Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA). The league is open to teams that have all their players and coaches registered with US Youth Soccer through either OYSA or Washington Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) in accordance with the registration rules of US Youth Soccer and their home state association.

The Valley Academy League is managed by OYSA in accordance with the bylaws and policies of OYSA, US Youth Soccer (USYS), and the US Soccer Federation (USSF). The League Director has operational and disciplinary authority in accordance with these rules over all participants in these leagues for the duration of the league season. All OYSA registered participants are subject to the disciplinary authority of OYSA and USSF for matters that warrant disciplinary actions that extend beyond the end of a league season.

WYSA registered participants are subject to the disciplinary authority of WYSA and the USSF for matters that warrant disciplinary actions that extend beyond the end of a league season.

Game play in these leagues is governed by the IFAB Laws of the Game as modified in these rules. These rules incorporate changes to the Laws to comply with the recommendations of the US Soccer Federation's Player Development and Player Safety Initiatives that have been adopted by OYSA. All league games are officiated by USSF certified referees assigned by a USSF certified referee assignor, except for emergency situations as allowed in these rules.

Consumption or possession of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, and marijuana products are strictly prohibited at all Oregon Youth Soccer games.

The Valley Academy League is classified as developmental. This league is intended to foster the development of individual players within a team structure.

### League Contacts

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League Manager:

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Day of Game and Emergency Contact Numbers:

Referee Emergency: (503) 332-5432 (Coaches: only use for missing referees)

Game Day Hotline: (971) 732-9897 (For all other issues with games/rules. Answered on game days)

## OYSA BANNED TERM &amp; ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Oregon Youth Soccer has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination or harassment against anyone based on their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, preferred language, age, physical or mental disabilities!

1. If a referee hears one of the below terms or any term deemed to be discriminatory, the player/staff will be sent off and removed from the match immediately and the OYSA disciplinary committee will issue a suspension of no less than 5 games in addition to any other sanctions deemed necessary.
2. If there is an alleged Banned Term during the match:
  - a. Ask your player to notify a Coach and/or Referee
  - b. The referee will stop the match to address the situation with both coaching staff and then allow time for the coaches to address their respective players/staff.
  - c. The match should not restart until both teams are comfortable
  - d. If there are additional questions during this time, the referee and/or coaches are instructed to communicate with the Gameday Hotline directly.
  - e. The referee will report all information regarding the use of a banned term and the match stoppage in their Reftown game report.

Banned Terms (non-exhaustive)			
F*g	F*ggot	H*mo	N*gger
N*gro	N*gga	Cr*cker	Ch*nk
Bean*r	P*to	Sp*c	Ret*rd
P*ssy	G*y	Wh*te Boy	Mon*ey

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OYSA Valley Academy League Objective  
Where getting better is the goal!

The objective of small-sided games is to make sure that players are getting more touches and decisions with the ball. This also simplifies the decision-making process by having less players on the field. We encourage our coaches to create fun, but learning environment where players can be creative and make mistakes that they can learn from.

### **(A) Safety**

#### **(1) Bleeding from Nose, Cuts, or Other Abrasions**

- (a) A player who is bleeding or has blood on their uniform must leave the field and may be substituted at the coach's discretion. A uniform with blood on it must be changed. After the bleeding is stopped and the wound is covered, the player may return to the game when beckoned onto the field by the referee.

#### **(2) Possible Head injuries**

- (a) A player who demonstrates signs of concussion as a result of an observed or suspected blow to the head or body must leave the field and may not return to play in that Game unless an athletic trainer registered by the Oregon Board of Athletic Trainers or licensed medical professional determines that the player has not suffered a concussion.
- (b) A referee will accept the determination of a certified athletic trainer only if the trainer has identified themselves to the referee prior to the Game and has shown the referee a current Athletic Trainer registration identification card.
- (c) If a coach returns a player without the approved clearance, the referee will end the game.
- (d) Referees will include in their game report information about any player required to leave the field because of a suspected concussion. A player who has been removed from a game by a referee because of a suspected

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concussion is ineligible to play until the League Director has received a copy of a medical release signed by a health care professional that authorizes an unrestricted return to competition.

- (e) Coaches should be aware that ORS 417.875, effective January 1, 2014, and amended April 13, 2018 applies to all competitions sanctioned by OYSA. Unless an athletic trainer registered by the Oregon Board of Athletic Trainers or a licensed physician pursuant to ORS 677.100 to 677.228 determines that a player has not suffered a possible head injury, a coach is prohibited from allowing a player who exhibits signs of concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body to participate in any competition, including practice, until the player has been cleared to return to play by a qualified health care professional.

### **(3) Camera Drones**

- (a) Drones may be used only if permitted by a facility owner. If allowed, they may not be above the field, teams, or spectators and must be at least 50 feet away from teams and spectators.

### **(4) Lightning**

- (a) The host club is to develop a safety plan for the specific outdoor venue and inform the referee of the game and the head coach of the away team.
  - (i) Designate a person to monitor threatening weather and to notify the chain of command (Referee and Home Team coach) who can make a decision to remove a team, game personnel and spectators from the outdoor venue.
  - (ii) A lightning safety plan should include prearranged instructions and announcements for participants and spectators, the designation of warning and all clear signals and the designation of safer places from the lightning hazard.
- (b) If lightning is seen or thunder is heard, play must be immediately suspended.
- (c) Participants and spectators should immediately move to the closest safer structure or location in a substantial building or a hard-topped metal vehicle.
- (d) Wait 30 minutes after last seeing lightning or hearing thunder to continue the game. See the National Weather Service website for more information about lightning safety.
- (e) The team coaches and referee should call the gameday hotline (971-732-9897) to inform the league and given further information on procedures to continue or cancellation of the game.

### **(5) Heat**

- (a) The coaches of both teams should consult with the referee to determine whether the temperature at game time will require hydration breaks.
- (b) The referee will pause the game when the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature equals or exceeds 89.6F.
  - (i) WBGT may be measured directly using an instrument designed for that purpose.
  - (ii) WBGT may be approximated for the area of the field using a cell phone application (e.g. WeatherFX) or estimated from the US Soccer Heat Guidelines.

### **(6) Air Quality**

- (a) The OYSA Valley Academy League will take its Air Quality Index readings from the [AirNow](#) readings for the closest monitor to the venue.
- (b) Games shall be canceled for the field if the AQI reading is 125 or higher.
  - (i) Games may be canceled if the AQI reading is 115 and trending up.
  - (ii) Games may resume if the AQI is 135 and trending down.
- (c) League Director makes final decisions regarding game cancellation(s) due to AQI and will notify Directors of Coaching/Teams. Referees must call the Game Day hotline to confirm with the League Manager before canceling a game.

## **(B) Laws of the Game and Rules of Competition**

### **(1) Uniforms & Equipment**

- (a) All players on the field must wear matching uniforms (except the goalkeeper) to the satisfaction of the referee. Numbers are not required. The goalkeeper's uniform must be a different color from that of the opposing keeper, all other players on the field, and the referee.
- (b) Each team must have two uniform sets (one white or light color and one dark color) at each game.
  - (i) The home team will wear white or light-colored jerseys.

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- (ii) The visiting team will wear dark-colored jerseys.
  - (iii) In cases of uniform color similarity, the designated home team (listed first) will change jerseys.
  - (c) A player may not wear or use any equipment that is dangerous to themselves or another player.
    - (i) The referee's decision regarding dangerous equipment is conclusive, although lightweight, padded protective equipment should generally be allowed per IFAB Law 4.
    - (ii) Casts, splints, or braces must be padded, with no exposed metal or any other hard material.
    - (iii) The referee may withdraw approval for a player to participate while wearing a cast or other protective equipment if the referee finds that the protective equipment is being used in a way that endangers the safety of any player.
  - (d) No jewelry is permitted, even if taped. Medical alert bracelets/necklaces are not considered jewelry and are allowed, if taped.
  - (e) Shin guards, covered by socks, are mandatory. Players not wearing shin guards will not be allowed to play.
- (2) Substitutions**
- (a) Unlimited substitutions are permitted, with the consent of the referee, on any dead ball.
- (3) Borrowing Players from within the Same Club**
- (a) Teams are allowed to borrow a player from another team provided the player is registered with the same club as the team they are being borrowed to and they meet the eligibility criteria below.
  - (b) All borrowed players must play in the same age group or a younger age group than the borrowing team's age group, with the following limitations:
    - (i) U9 Division allows U8 and U9 players.
    - (ii) U10 Divisions allows U8, U9, and U10 players.
- (4) Length of Games**
- (a) All games will consist of two 25-minute halves. Halftime should be no longer than 5 minutes.
- (5) Game Balls**
- (a) Size 4 balls will be used for all games. The home team is expected to provide game balls acceptable to the referee, although the referee may accept game balls from either team.
- (6) No Heading**
- (a) A player may not intentionally use their head to play the ball.
  - (b) If the referee determines that the ball struck a player in the head when the player is not trying to play the ball, the referee will allow play to continue.
  - (c) The penalty for deliberately playing the ball using the head is an indirect free kick at the spot of the infringement.
  - (d) If the infringement is committed within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken from the goal area line parallel to the end line at the nearest point to where the infraction occurred.
- (7) Slide-Tackling and Sliding**
- (a) Slide Tackling is allowed.
    - (i) For this rule, slide-tackling is defined as going to ground to make a play on the ball that engages a player currently in possession of the ball, or that results in contact with another player.
  - (b) Sliding is allowed
    - (i) For this rule, sliding is defined as going to ground to make a play on the ball that does not engage a player currently in possession of the ball, and that does not contact another player.
- (8) Build Out Line**
- (a) The build out line is parallel to the end line, halfway between the penalty area line and the center line.
  - (b) When the goalkeeper takes possession of the ball in their hands, the opposing team must retreat behind the build out line and stay there until the goalkeeper releases the ball from their hands.
  - (c) On a goal kick, the opposing team must retreat behind the build out line and stay there until the ball has been kicked and clearly moves.

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## (9) Restarts

- (a) Throw-ins
  - (i) All restarts on the sidelines will be done with a throw-in at the spot the ball went out of bounds.
    - A. After an illegal throw-in, a second throw-in will be granted to the same player. Two consecutive illegal throw-ins will result in a throw-in for the opposing team.
- (b) Goal Kicks
  - (i) All players on the defending team (team not taking the goal kick) must be behind the build out line when the opposing team takes the goal kick.
    - A. If a defending player is nearer to the opponent's goal than the build out line when the goal kick is taken, the goal kick will be retaken.
    - B. If the player who takes the goal kick touches the ball a second time before the ball is touched by another player, the goal kick will be retaken.
- (c) Free Kicks/Walls
  - (i) Until the ball is in play, all opponents must remain at least 8-yards from the ball, unless they are on their own goal line between the goal posts where a distance of at least 8-yards cannot be maintained.
- (d) Penalty Kicks
  - (i) Penalty kicks will be awarded. A foul in the penalty area, with the outcome of a direct free kick, will result in a penalty kick from the penalty mark (10 yards from the goal).

## (10) Offside

- (a) A player may only be offside if the player is beyond the second to last defender or the ball and is nearer the opponents' goal line than the build out line.

## (11) No Goalkeeper Punts

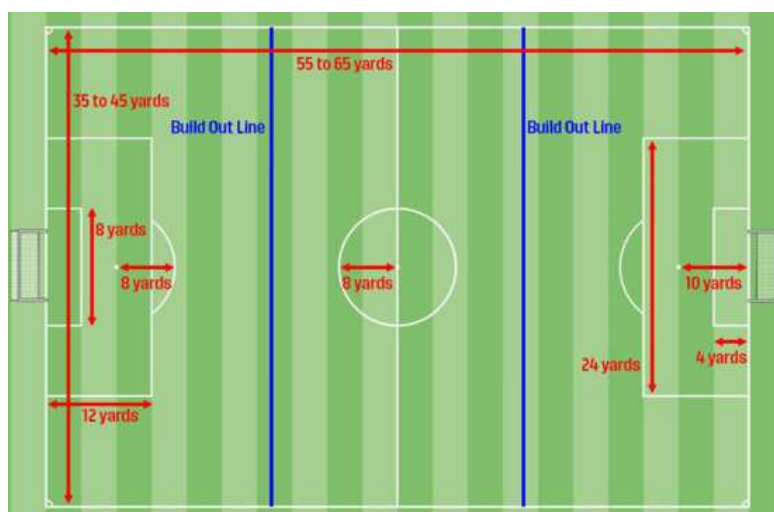
- (a) A goalkeeper who has taken possession of the ball in their hands may not put the ball in play by punting or drop kicking the ball.
- (b) If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick from the spot of the infringement.
- (c) If the punt occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

## (C) Field Preparation

### (1) Field Size

Age-Format	Minimum	Maximum	Maximum
U9/U10 – 7v7	35 x 55 yds	45 x 65 yds	6.5 (H) x 18.5 (W) ft.

### (a) Field Diagram





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### **(2) Venue with Lines, Goals, and Nets**

- (a) All games will be at a designated venue. Fields will be lined, and appropriately sized goals will be installed.

### **(3) Playability of the Field**

- (a) Any complaints regarding field playability must be made to the referee and the opposing coach **before the game begins**. The referee will make the final decision whether the field is playable.

## **(D) Game Start Time & Interruptions**

### **(1) Scheduled Time and Location**

- (a) Teams are expected to play games at the scheduled time and location.

### **(2) 10-Minute Waiting Period**

- (a) The referee will wait for 10 minutes after the scheduled start time for one or more of the teams to provide the minimum number of players and eligible adults to begin the game.
  - (i) If a game cannot be started after the 10-minute waiting period, the referee and/or the coaches must call the Game Day Hotline (971-732-9897) before abandoning the game.

### **(3) Suspended Play**

- (a) If play must be suspended for safety issues (such as lightning or other severe weather conditions) or cannot be completed due to safety concerns or other issues arising during the game, the referee and coaches/team officials must call the Game Day Hotline.
  - (i) If the first half of the game has been completed, the game will be considered complete, and the result considered final.

### **(4) Missing Referees**

- (a) If no assigned referee is present at the scheduled field ten minutes before the scheduled game start time, call the league's Referee Emergency number (503-332-5432) to inform and request guidance.
  - (i) There are very limited opportunities to reschedule games, so if an assigned referee cannot be present for the game, the teams are encouraged to agree on a substitute referee to allow the game to be played.

## **(E) Minimum and Maximum Number of Participants in a Game**

### **(1) 7v7 Games**

- (a) All teams must have a minimum of 5 eligible players and 1 eligible adult who are listed on the game roster to start a game.
- (b) A team's game roster may list a maximum of 14 players as eligible to play, and 4 eligible adults.

### **(2) Eligible Adult**

- (a) An eligible adult is an adult who is either listed on the game roster or has with them a valid member pass from the same club as the team.

### **(3) Maintaining Participant Minimums**

- (a) If a team fails to maintain the minimum number of players on the field after a game has started, the game will be abandoned.
- (b) If a team fails to maintain an eligible adult in the Team/Technical area, the game will be abandoned.

## **(F) Team Sidelines**

### **(1) Team/Spectator Placement**

- (a) Except where field conditions prevent, both teams must be on one side of the field.
  - (i) A "team" consists of those players, coaches and team officials listed on the team's game roster.
- (b) ALL spectators must be on the opposite side of the field from the teams.

### **(2) Technical Area**

- (a) Each coach, substitute, and all other team personnel not involved in active play must remain within their respective Technical Area two (2) yards behind the touch line, and five (5) yards from the halfway line of the field.

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### **(3) Ineligible Players in the Technical Area**

- (a) A player listed on the game roster who is indicated as ineligible to play in a game may be permitted in the Technical Area ONLY if the player is NOT wearing the team uniform (including team warmups).

### **(4) Circumstances Involving Player/Team Officials Illness or Injury**

- (a) Additional adults may be in the technical area, at the discretion of the referee, to aid an ill or injured player or team official.

## **(G) Responsibilities of Coaches and Team Officials**

### **(1) Knowing the Laws of the Game and League Rules**

- (a) Coaches are responsible for knowing the IFAB Laws of the Game and the League Rules.

### **(2) Ensuring Proper Conduct of Team's Players, Coaches, Team Officials, and Spectators**

- (a) The head coach is the senior team official and is responsible for the behavior of everyone in the technical area, including substitutes, substituted players and the other team officials, including spectators.
  - (i) The referee may require the coach to take action to control the behavior of or remove spectators whose words or actions are offensive, insulting, abusive, profane, disruptive, or interfere with a referee or the orderly conduct of the game.
  - (ii) All spectators are encouraged to act in accordance with (KNOW YOUR ROLE), be respectful, supportive and to not disrupt the game in any way.
  - (iii) Coaches may be warned, cautioned, or sent off for failing to control the conduct of the team's spectators, officials, or players.
  - (iv) Spectators that are identified by the referee as not following these expectations can be asked to be removed from the game, with the assistance of the team coach/manager. Referees will submit information regarding this incident in the game report. The disciplinary committee will review the report and address the spectator(s) circumstances with the responsible team/club.
  - (v) If a game is abandoned because of the behavior of a team's spectators, team officials, or players, the team's coach may be suspended in addition to any other discipline assessed.
- (b) Any reported instances of referee abuse or referee assault by a player, coach, team official, or spectator will be forwarded to OYSA, and if applicable, the alleged perpetrator's home State Association, for disciplinary proceedings as specified by US Soccer Federation Policy 531-9.
- (c) Coaches, staff and players reported of egregiously protesting an official's decision, expressing dissent towards an official and engaging in acts of unsporting and/or irresponsible behavior will be subject to the following.
  - (i) 1<sup>st</sup> offense responsible club will receive a fine and official warning.
  - (ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> offense responsible club will receive a fine, and/or removal of the corresponding team from the league.
  - (iii) The OYSA disciplinary committee will have the authority to waive the aforementioned warning and impose suspensions and/or fines on any incident it deems to be egregious.

### **(3) Ensuring Proper Coaching**

- (a) Giving direction to one's own team is permitted from the Technical Area by ONE coach at a time.
  - (i) No device may be used to receive coaching direction from anyone outside of the Technical Area.
  - (ii) Coaching must be informative, not abusive or derogatory.
  - (iii) Coaching must not include protesting an official's decision and/or coaching an official at any time during or after the game.
  - (iv) In all instances, coaches and all technical staff will be held to a higher professional standard than players.
  - (v) As per IFAB Laws of the Game, if the offender cannot be identified, the most senior coach in the technical area at the time of the incident will receive the yellow or red card.
  - (vi) ENTERING THE FIELD OF PLAY: Bench personnel, including players, are prohibited from entering the field of play at any time (excluding staff needed to tend to an injury).

**(H) Disciplinary Actions for Players, Coaches, and Team Officials**

**(1) Players**

- (a) Referees will note all cautions (yellow cards) in their game report.
- (b) Referees will note all send-offs (red cards) as soon as possible in their game report.
  - (i) Referees will provide a detailed description of all player send-offs in their game report.
  - (ii) Referees will report all red cards to the gameday hotline after the game has completed.

**(2) Coaches and Team Officials**

- (a) A coach or team official guilty of misconduct may be issued a yellow card or red card by the referee.
- (b) Referees will provide a detailed description of all warnings, cautions, and send-offs of coaches or team officials in the “cards issued” section of the referee’s game report.
  - (i) Referees will call the Referee Emergency and Gameday Hotline after the game to immediately inform it of any send-offs of coaches or team officials.
- (c) If a coach is sent-off, the assistant coach or an eligible adult with a valid member pass from the team’s club will assume the coach’s responsibilities.
  - (i) If no eligible adult with a valid member pass from the team’s club is available to assume the coach’s responsibilities, the referee will abandon the game and inform the Game Day Hotline.

**(3) Players, Coaches, and Team Officials who are Sent-Off**

- (a) A player who has been sent-off by the referee may remain on the team sidelines under the supervision of the team coach. Any irresponsible behavior by a sent-off player may result in additional penalties.
- (b) A coach or team official who has been sent-off by the referee must promptly leave the playing area and remain out of sight until the game has ended.
  - (i) If the coach or team official who has been sent-off refuses to leave the playing area, or returns after leaving, the referee may abandon the game.
  - (ii) Details regarding the coach’s or team official’s failure to leave the area and subsequent abandonment of the Game must be included in the referee game report, and the Game Day Hotline must be called.
- (c) Players, coaches, and team officials who are sent-off by the referee are automatically suspended for at least the next game.
  - (i) A suspension longer than one game may be imposed. See Rule (J)(1) for minimum suspensions.
  - (ii) See Rule (M)(3) for appeal procedures.

**(I) Referee’s Game Report**

**(1) Submitted Online**

- (a) All referees must submit online game reports through Reftown.

**(J) Game Suspensions for Individuals**

**(1) List of Minimum Suspensions**

- (a) Minimum suspensions that apply without a disciplinary hearing are listed in the table below.
  - (i) Where there is a range, the length will be set by the league’s Disciplinary Committee.

Offence	Suspension
Player sent-off for a second caution received in the same game	1 game
Player sent off for denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a handball offence	1 game
Player sent-off for denying a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a foul	1 game
Player sent-off for serious foul play	1 – 3 games
Player sent-off for offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures (OIALG), direct at no one	1 game
OIALG directed towards a specific person	1 – 5 games

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OIALG directed towards a referee by player or coach	2 games- rest of season
Player sent-off for Violent Conduct	1 – 3 games
Coach or team official sent off	1 – 5 games
Coach or team official refused to leave game site after being sent-off (added to suspension for send-off)	2 games – rest of season
Refusing to give name to referee by player or coach when a card is recorded (added to any suspension for the card, if applicable)	1 game

**\* The disciplinary committee has the authority to modify any suspension based on any unique circumstances.**

### **(2) Disciplinary Result of a Suspended/Ineligible Player or Coach Participating**

- (a) A team will forfeit every game in which a suspended/ineligible player or coach participates.
  - (i) The suspended/ineligible individual who participated in the game(s) will be subject to additional disciplinary action.

### **(3) Suspensions Resulting from a Forced Abandonment of the Game**

- (a) A coach who forces abandonment of a game by removing a team from play after the game has begun will be suspended from participation with any team for the remainder of the league season.
- (b) A coach who forces abandonment of a game by refusing to leave the premises of the game after being sent-off by the referee will be suspended from participation with any team for the remainder of the league season. The coach will also be referred to OYSA for consideration of additional penalties.
- (c) Any suspension for conduct causing game abandonment may be imposed only after a disciplinary hearing.

### **(4) Other Suspensions Details**

- (a) A suspension of up to 3 games may be assessed for each game in which a player or coach participated while suspended may be imposed.
- (b) A player who has been sent-off for fighting, or who has received a second red card for violent conduct during the league season may be suspended for up to an additional 5 games.
- (c) A coach or team official who has been previously sent-off from competitions operated by OYSA in the same seasonal year:
  - (i) May be suspended for an additional 2 games for a 2<sup>nd</sup> send-off in the same year for all competitions.
  - (ii) May be suspended from participating in any competitions operated by OYSA for up to one seasonal year for receiving a 3<sup>rd</sup> send-off during the current seasonal year from any competitions operated by OYSA. A disciplinary hearing will be held to determine this, and the coach or team official will automatically be suspended until the hearing occurs.
- (d) The League Director will refer any issues regarding participation by an unregistered or improperly registered player to OYSA for disciplinary proceedings.
- (e) Any allegations of referee abuse or referee assault will be forwarded to the home State Association of the alleged perpetrator for disciplinary proceedings in accordance with USSF Policy 531-9.

### **(5) Disciplinary Hearing Suspensions (may include, but are not limited to these)**

- (a) After a disciplinary hearing, a coach or team official who knowingly permits a suspended/ineligible player to participate may be suspended for the remainder of the current league season.
- (b) After a disciplinary hearing, a coach or other team official who brought the game into disrepute may be fined and/or suspended up to the remainder of the season if the person:
  - (i) Stated publicly in the vicinity of a game that match officials or assignors have engaged in improper conduct, such as taking a bribe, displaying bias towards race, color, religion, origin, citizenship, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status.
  - (ii) Publicly question the integrity of the league or match officials.
  - (iii) Removed a team from ongoing play due to disagreements with officiating or the other team.
  - (iv) Caused a team to not make a good faith effort to compete in a game.

**(6) Conditions of Suspensions**

- (a) Coaches or team officials serving suspensions cannot participate in any game activities related to the team from which they were suspended. Coaches are prohibited from participating in any pre-game or post-game activities and must remain out of sight of the game during games from which they are suspended.
  - (i) The use of an electronic device by the suspended coach or team official to contact another individual on the team during pre-game, game, or post-game activities is prohibited.
- (b) Players who are serving suspensions may sit on the team bench during the game(s) from which they have been suspended ONLY if the player is NOT wearing the team uniform (including team warmups).
  - (i) Misbehavior may result in removal from the team area at the request of the game and/or league officials and additional sanctions are possible.
- (c) A player's suspension is served by sitting out the required number of games from the team to which the player is officially rostered.
  - (i) A player may not participate as a club-pass (borrowed) player while suspended.
  - (ii) A player who is suspended as a result of disciplinary sanctions incurred while playing as a club-pass (borrowed) player will serve the suspension by sitting out games for the team to which the player is officially rostered.

**(K) Penalties for Failure to Play and Abandoned Games**

**(1) Failure to Play**

- (a) A team fails to play a game when a team does not have the required number of players and coaches/team officials at the location of a scheduled game to begin within 10 minutes after the official game start time.
  - (i) The penalty for failing to play a game as scheduled is \$300.
  - (ii) An additional \$200 fine will be imposed if a team's coach is aware that not enough players will be available to play a game and the coach fails to notify the opposing team and the League Director more than 48 hours prior to the scheduled game time.
  - (iii) A team that makes a good faith attempt to play a game but is unable to have enough players at the game location in time to being play may have the penalty reduced by up to 50%.
  - (iv) The League Director will review the circumstances of any failure to play. The League Director may impose additional penalties, up to and including, removing a team from the league.
- (b) A team that incurs a second failure to play forfeiture in the league may be considered to have withdrawn from league play.
- (c) A team that withdraws from league play after the first league games have been played will be subject to the following:
  - (i) The league entry fee is forfeited.
  - (ii) Any fines imposed prior to withdrawal are all payable.
  - (iii) A withdrawal penalty of \$1,500 will be imposed.

**(2) Abandonment – Forced (refusal to continue play)**

- (a) A team that forces a referee to abandon a game by refusing to continue to play after the game has begun will forfeit the game.
- (b) The minimum fine for forcing abandonment of a game is \$300.
- (c) The League Director may consider that refusing to complete a game constitutes withdrawal from the league.
- (d) If a team refuses to continue a game after a coach is sent-off, and there is another eligible adult for the team present at the game, the team will be removed from the league.

**(3) Abandonment – Behavior**

- (a) When a game is abandoned due to the conduct of coaches, team officials, players, or spectators, the team or teams at fault will forfeit the game and be subject to fines.
- (b) If one team is found to be at fault,
  - (i) The team at fault will forfeit the game and will be fined not less than \$500.
  - (ii) The League Director may impose additional penalties, up to and including, removing both teams from the league.
- (c) If both teams are found to be at fault,
  - (i) Both teams will forfeit the game and will be fined \$500.

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- (ii) The League Director may impose additional penalties, up to and including, removing both teams from the league.

### **(L) Payment of Fines and Penalties**

#### **(1) Fine Notice**

- (a) Fines are due and payable by the club upon notice sent to the individual, team, or club against which the fine has been imposed.
- (b) All forfeits will result in a fine. Fines will range from \$100 - \$1500 for each infraction. The amount of each fine will depend on the circumstances and severity of the infraction(s) and in all cases, will be determined by the League Director. Additional club and/or team sanctions may be imposed.

#### **(2) If not Paid within 10 Days**

- (a) If a fine has not been paid within 10 business days after notice has been delivered, the team will be suspended from participation until the fine is paid. Any games that a team misses while suspended will be considered a forfeit and may subject the team to additional fines and/or removal from the league.

#### **(3) Failure to Pay**

- (a) A club that fails to pay fines levied against it, or has teams, or individuals representing the club who fail to pay fines, will have their Affinity account shut off until payment is received. If no payment is made, a club may have its teams denied entry into other leagues or tournaments operated by OYSA.

### **(M) Protests, Appeals, & Hearings**

#### **(1) Protests**

- (a) A protest is a formal written objection of any misapplication of the IFAB Laws of the Game or established league rules, policies or procedures related to a specific game. Only those teams directly involved in a game (i.e. the two competing teams) are permitted to submit a protest. Third parties cannot file protests on a specific game.
- (b) The League Director will deal with issues related to the Laws of the Game that may arise from the competition. The League Director may (but is not required to) appoint an appeals or protest committee to assist in hearing such issues. Referee judgement decisions during a game are final (not appealable). The minimum game suspensions provided in these rules that do not require a hearing are final (not subject to Protest or Appeal).

#### **(2) Protests Procedures**

- (a) A protest may only be submitted by the head coach of a team, or the acting head coach of a team, who is present at the game being protested.
- (b) The person submitting the protest must verbally notify both the referee and the opposing coach within 15 minutes following the end of the game that the game will be protested.
- (c) The person submitting the protest must email the league manager when failure to notify the referee within 30 minutes following the end of the game due to the following: Referee refuses to communicate after the match, referee is no longer available at the field. The email will count as notification of protest.
- (d) The person submitting the protest must also call the gameday hotline to notify the league of the game being protested. This can be completed after the referee and the opposing coach have been verbally notified.
- (e) A written protest that clearly states the league rule or IFAB Law that was violated, must be submitted to the League Director by the end of the first business day following the protested game.
- (f) The protest must be submitted using the protest form available on any of the league or tournament pages of the OYSA website.
- (g) Video evidence provided with the protest will be accepted for review when a misapplication of the IFAB laws of the game occurs. The video provided must be clear and visible to be utilized for review. OYSA will not review the video without all protest steps being completed.
- (h) A protest fee of \$250 must be delivered to the League Director not later than the close of business on the 2<sup>nd</sup> business day following the game being protested.
  - (i) If the protest fee is not received, the protest will be summarily dismissed.
  - (ii) If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned.

**(3) Appeals**

- (a) An individual may appeal a sending-off (player or coach) from a game by submitting the appeal form available on any of the league pages of the OYSA website. Only appeals submitted using the official form will be considered.
- (b) Video evidence provided with the appeal will be accepted for review when a misapplication of the IFAB laws of the game occurs. The video provided must be clear and visible to be utilized for review. OYSA will not review the video without all appeal steps being completed.
- (c) A decision of the League Director regarding the imposition of disciplinary suspension is not subject to appeal unless a suspension would extend to an individual's right to participate in competitions beyond the end of the specific competition for which the disciplinary measure is imposed.
- (d) Referee judgement decisions during the game are final (not subject to Protest or Appeal).

**(4) Review**

- (a) League Director will review and decide all protests and appeals.
- (b) The League Director may hold such hearings as the League Director deems appropriate or may determine issues based on written documentation.
- (c) League Director provides a notice of decision to the person who submitted the protest or appeal/
- (d) A decision of the League Director regarding protests or appeals is final.

**(N) Powers of League Director**

- (1) Decide all matters pertaining to the operation of the league.
- (2) Hear all protests.
- (3) Determine all questions of eligibility for players and teams to participate in the league.
- (4) Make final decisions whether to accept teams into the league.
- (5) Decide all disciplinary matters and may impose fines and suspensions up to and including suspension from participation in the league through the end of the league season.
- (6) Provide written notice of the disciplinary sanctions imposed for infractions other than the automatically imposed minimum sanctions for cards issued in a game.
- (7) Provide written notice of the disciplinary sanctions and fines imposed for violation of these rules and may reduce or defer payment of fines in appropriate circumstances.
- (8) Arrange for a hearing on all matters that require a hearing under these rules, the applicable bylaws and policies of OYSA, or the applicable policies of USSF.
- (9) Refer matters to the home State Association of an individual, team, or club for additional disciplinary proceedings when the League Director believes that the behavior warrants penalties that exceed the League Director's authority.
- (10) Decisions of the League Director regarding the conduct of the league, application of league rules, and interpretation of league rules are not subject to appeal.
- (11) The League Director may delegate performance of any of the powers and/or duties of the League Director described in these rules to one or more persons that the League Director designates.
- (12) The person(s) exercising any of the powers or authority delegated by the League Director shall have all of the power and authority of the League Director in regard to such matters.