

**South West Elgin Minor Soccer League
Rules and Regulations
Amended January 2011**

REGISTRATION

1. Every player, upon registration, shall provide proof of age acceptable to the clubs registrar prior to playing their first game.
2. The players birth year shall determine the division he/she will play in for that season.
3. No player shall be registered unless and until the clubs registrar has received signed consent from a parent or guardian of the player.
4. Upon making application for registration, each player shall pay to the individual club registrar a registration fee, which shall be determined yearly by the club.
5. A registration cut-off date will be June 1st. After this date no more registrations of players will be allowed. Only special circumstances will be considered by the league. A player that moves into a community during the season may register with that club upon approval of Council.
6. Every team shall provide to the SWEMSL Registrar their stamped Western Counties Soccer Assoc. (WCSA) insurance team list by May 1st. No players may be shifted to any team without special permission granted by the SWEMSL Executive. A player may not play in a league game until the SWEMSL Registrar has received their stamped WCSA insurance form for approval.
7. League fee is \$85.00 per team. A maximum of 22 players per full field team and 14 players per mini field team unless otherwise approved by SWEMSL. The team is to be registered by April 15.

TEAMS

1. It shall be the responsibility of the club to control the assigning of players to the various teams, taking into consideration as closely as possible:
 - a. The proximity of the home field (or team)
 - b. Teams have equal number of players
 - c. Teams having equal playing talent
2. A player may play only for his/her assigned team in that division. The registrar of each club shall provide to the coach of each team, a complete list of players, parent/guardian addresses and telephone numbers.
3. As a rule, no players shall be permitted to play in any other division, unless special circumstances such as:
 - a. If a team is short handed due to uncontrollable circumstances, players may be brought up to make a full team for the game from an immediate lower division.
U9 and younger – maximum number is 10 players total
U11 and older – maximum number is 14 players total

- b. House league players may move up to a competitive team for a maximum of three games and then must either move back down or sign with competitive team.
- c. A competitive player may be sent down to house league only with Councils permission.
4. Only players in the final year of a division will be considered for transfer to a higher division, permanently for that year.
5. Council has the option to assign, if requested, certain players to a higher age division. In such a case, written consent from the parent/guardian must be obtained. A written request must be made with the registration card. Only players in their last year of a division will be eligible to move up for substitution. Notification must be made on the players list prior to the game.
6. Special rulings to accommodate a specific circumstance of a community must be brought to the league at the beginning of each season.
7. Declaration of Team Colors:
 - Glencoe – green
 - Rodney – yellow
 - Shedden – red or grey/silver
 - Wallacetown – purple or black or white or combination of
 - West Lorne – blue or orangeThe visiting team is to avoid conflict in team colors.

PLAYERS-GAMES

1. Every team shall provide to the Referee, a Game Sheet in triplicate, 10 minutes prior to the start of the game. Players names and numbers must be listed clearly. Call ups must be identified.
2. If there are no Game Sheets for any team the game can be played under protest. The team under protest is to write their team list of the back of the white copy. The protested game sheet must be submitted to the SWEMSL Registrar within 24 hours. If team lists do not match, the Registrar will notify the President and Rules and Regulations Committee who will then notify the coach of the forfeiture of the game. The fine for such infraction will be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) to the team not in compliance.
3. Final Tournament – all players must register at the registration table prior to playing their first game. Any player arriving later in the day must register before playing.
4. Every player shall, as practically as possible, be given fair playing time during each game. However, it is not in the best interest of a player if he/she is made to play 30 minutes, if he/she is only capable of handling 10 minutes. Any coach not playing a dressed player, unless for disciplinary reason, could be suspended for 3 weeks on a first offense and for the remainder of the season a second offense. Complaints may only be initiated by a parent/guardian of player not receiving sufficient playing time.

5. Players not appropriately dressed in team shirts and shorts will not be permitted to play in any scheduled game.
 - a. Players must wear numbered shirts and must have the same number all year.
 - b. Shirts must be worn tucked inside the shorts.
 - c. In extreme weather conditions, the official referee may allow sweat pants to be worn.
 - d. Shin guards must be worn and must be covered entirely by the stockings.
 - e. Soccer shoes are recommended to be worn to give player good footing.
 - f. Goalkeeper shall wear different colored shirt with sleeves, to distinguish him/her from other players and referee. Keeper is allowed to wear hat, gloves, knee pads and sweat pants.
 - g. A player shall not wear anything dangerous to themselves or another player.
 - h. Exceptions may be made to the above for medical reasons upon league approval and a doctors note.

A player who is asked to leave the field of play because of defective or dangerous equipment may not re-enter the field of play until the referee is satisfied that the equipment is permissible.
6. Captain of each team must be identified to the referee.
7. Games can be canceled for the reason of bad weather, by the home coach or at the discretion of the referee prior to the start of the game. If a game is canceled, the home coach will contact the referee, the club's Referee Co-ordinator and the League Statistician.
8. If the game is canceled for any reason during the first half, the whole game must be rescheduled. Cancellation after halftime whistle means the score at that time will stand.
9. All officially canceled games shall be rescheduled by the coaches. If the game is not played within two weeks, the statistician will set a date. Failure to comply with this will result in forfeiture. All league games must be played before Final Tournament.
10. If either team has to reschedule a game because of a school trip, etc., the game may be played at a time convenient to both teams. To reschedule a game in this manner, the opposing coach should be notified if possible 7 days prior to the game. The home coach must notify the statistician and referee of any change in the game time and date.
 - a. both coaches must agree to a new playing date within 2 weeks of original date.
 - b. if not, rule # 9 applies.
11. Five minute halftime to be observed unless all participants agree otherwise.
12. The duration of games are as follows:

U5 to U7	2 halves	20 minutes each
U8 to U9	2 halves	30 minutes each
U10 to U12	2 halves	35 minutes each
U13 to U14	2 halves	40 minutes each
U15 and up	2 halves	45 minutes each

13. The referee's permission is to be obtained at all times for a substitution.
 - a. U5 to U9 - any stoppage in play.
 - b. U10+ - kick off, goal kick, corner kick, after a goal is scored, your own throw-in.
- at a throw-in, when the team in possession calls for a substitution both teams may substitute.Injury substitution – the injured player only must be substituted off the field.
14. No one shall be allowed behind the end zone (complete width of field) during the game.
15. Mini teams (U5 - U9) maximum number of players on the field at any time is seven (7) including the goalkeeper. Games cannot be played with less than five (5) players minimum to a team at any time during the game, including when a player leaves the field through injury or expulsion. Game will be forfeited by team with less than 5 players. On a double forfeit no points will be awarded.
16. Senior teams (U11 - older) maximum number of players on the field at any time is eleven (11) including the goalkeeper. Games cannot be played with less than seven (7) players minimum to a team at any time during the game, including when a player leaves the field through injury or expulsion. Game will be forfeited by team with less than 7 players. On a double forfeit no points will be awarded.
17. Home team is listed on the schedule first. Away team is listed last.
18. The game ball is to be provided by the home team.. The size of the ball is as follows:

size 3	U5 to U7
size 4	U8 to U12
size 5	U13 and over
19. The points are:

Win	- three points
Tie	- one point
Loss	- zero points
20. In case of no referee showing up, the home coach shall find a suitable referee agreeable to both coaches withing 15 minutes. If no suitable referee is found the game will be canceled and rescheduled at the visiting teams field.
21. Violation of any of the above regulations should be reported by the referee on the game sheet and brought to the attention of the Rules and Regulations Chairperson and then to Council.

SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES

1. Specific Playing Rules apply to the age division in which you are playing in.

2. Hand Ball defined as follows:
 - a. If player deliberately handles the ball with any part of the arm from finger tip to top of shoulder, including shoulder blade, a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team.
 - b. If player handles the ball for the purpose of preventing an opponent from gaining possession, it is a cautionable offense and a yellow card should be given.
 - c. If player handles ball to deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity red card should be given.
 - d. Hand ball should not be called if:
 - i. player is instinctively trying to protect themselves from injury.
 - ii. player did not deliberately touch the ball but the ball hit his/her arm and he/she did not move toward the ball; however, if the players arm is in an unnatural position (above shoulders or out to side) then he/she should be called for a hand ball.
3. Referees should explain their calls to the player charged, especially in younger age divisions.
4. U5 – U7 coaches: one for each team is allowed on the field during the game but they are not to be in the penalty area during play. Coaches are to maintain a reasonable distance from the ball and not interfere with players or the play. An infraction shall result in an indirect free kick against the offending coach's team.
5. Starting at the U7 level, all coaching staff and players, from both teams, are to stay one (1) meter behind the sideline, one (1) meter on their side of center and are to be on the opposite side of the field as the spectators. The Referee will not start the game until satisfied that all participants have complied with this rule.
6. U5 – U7: one re-throw is allowed on a throw-in; no re-throws for U8 and older.
7. U5 – U7: time/steps not to be called on a goalkeeper who may put the ball into play either by place kicking, punting or throwing.
8. U5 – U7: there will be no penalty shots or direct kicks during the game.
9. U5 – U7: no offside rule to apply.
10. U5 – U7: on the taking of a goal kick, the complete opposing team is to line up at the center line. Once the ball has been kicked the ball is then in play.
11. U5 – U7: goal kicks may be taken from anywhere along the top of the box. The ball must be played by a player of the same team. If not, the kick is retaken. If the ball crosses the center line, it is in play.
12. U8 and up: penalty shots will be awarded for infractions within the penalty area.
13. U8 and up: direct kicks will be awarded.
14. U8 and up: offside rule to apply.

15. U8 and up: goal kicks must be taken from the front corner of the goal box. The kick must clear the 18 yd box before it is in play.
16. U11 corner kicks are to be taken from the corner of the 18 yard box and the goal line, regardless of the size of the field.
17. No intentional body contact in the younger age levels; U13 and older teams will operate by the FIFA rules.
 - a. U13 games must be refereed by a carded referee 16 years of age or older.
 - b. U15 games must be refereed by an adult 18 years of age or older.Any club using an uncarded or underage referee will be fined \$20.00; game results will stand.
18. A goal can be scored from within the goal area.
19. The goalkeeper cannot handle the ball outside the goal area.
20. The ball is to be considered “frozen” immediately when the referee considers that it is “in the possession” of the goalkeeper.

RULES & INTERPRETATIONS – DANGEROUS PLAY

1. If any other person is in the vicinity of a dangerous high kick, a direct free kick will be awarded.
2. It is dangerous play if a person goes to his knees to head a ball in the vicinity of another player, a direct free kick will be awarded.
3. Any player kicking at a ball or making unnecessary contact with a goalie while it is being touched by the hands of the goalie should be called for dangerous play.
4. Slide tackling is dangerous play if the tackler does not play the ball and makes body contact.

FREE KICK INSIDE PENALTY AREA

1. Any free kick inside the penalty area by the defending team: the ball must leave the penalty area before being played again or the free kick is taken over (goal kick is a free kick).
2. No attacker is allowed in the penalty area.

DISCIPLINE

1. Protest/Complaint Protocol - Any protests/complaints shall be directed to your own Club Executive. The League Representative will contact the opposing club League Representative. If a solution cannot be reached between the clubs involved the information is to be submitted in writing by the Club Executive to the League Executive. All situations shall be settled by the Rules and Regulations Chairperson and a representative from each of the neutral clubs.

2. Any player, coach, referee or league official under suspension from any other soccer league will not be allowed to play or hold any official position in the league.
3. Any spectator interfering with the game by verbal misbehavior, shall be warned by the referee by coaches present. Persistent verbal abuse and/or physical interference with the game, officials or players, shall be reported to the local police and council as soon as possible by the referee.
4. Misconduct by a player during a game will result in:
 - a. First Offense – explanation and warning by referee
 - b. Second Offense - explanation and official warning by referee (yellow card)
 - any player U11 or higher who receives a yellow card must leave the field of play but can return on the next substitution. The player leaving the field can be replaced by another player. If no substitution possible that team plays short until next substitution.
 - c. Third Offense - expulsion from the game (red card)
 - report by referee on the game sheet
 - no substitution is allowed for the expelled player in the same game
 - d. Flagrant Misconduct - immediate expulsion from game (red card)
 - no substitution allowed
 - e. Spitting on or at a player is an automatic red card and the player must appear before the Rules and Regulations Committee before that player is allowed to play again in SWEMSL. Spitting on hands prior to shaking is an automatic red card.
5. There should be no verbal intimidation toward your opponent or between players and the referee. Players may not call “my ball” or “mine”. Penalty is an indirect free kick.
6. Any player expelled before, during or after a game is automatically suspended for the next league game. Any games in which a suspended player participated will be forfeited. A player must officially be written up by the referee:
 - a. On a red card the referee shall forward the game sheet to the Statistician/Rules and Regulations Chairperson immediately.
 - b. 1 red card = automatic next game suspension. This applies to pre-season and league games.
 - c. 2 red cards = automatic 3 league game suspension plus review by the Rules and Regulations Committee which could result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.
 - d. 3 yellow cards in a season = 1 game suspension.
 - e. 2 yellow cards in a game = automatic red card
 - i. on second red card the player must appear before the Rules and Regulations Committee and could result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.
 - f. The Rules and Regulations Committee may request a player appear before them at any time during the season. Failure to comply with this request will result in an indefinite suspension from the league.

Any disciplinary cards given during a game shall be called in to the clubs statistician by both coaches within 24 hours. This then will be forwarded to the Rules and Regulations Committee and President of SWEMSL. This information will then be forwarded to all SWEMSL Representatives of all centers.

7. For the following offenses by a coach/assistant the minimum disciplinary action is indicated:
 - a. Failing to provide all of his/her players with fair playing time (a written complaint must be filed by a parent/guardian of a player on that team):
 - First Offense – verbal warning
 - Second Offense – written warning
 - b. Failing to report without a valid reason for an assigned game, without making arrangements with the other team coach:
 - First Offense – possible season suspension
 - c. Criticism, disputing calls, threat of physical abuse:
 - First Offense – written warning
 - Second Offense – one game suspension
 - Third Offense – season suspension
 - d. Abusive physical contact including pushing, pulling, holding, offensive language, spitting, intoxicated condition while coaching:
 - First Offense – one game suspension
 - Second Offense – season suspension
 - e. Serious abusive physical contact including kicking, striking, punching or charging:
 - First Offense – season suspension
8. Coaches shall not converse with referees during game breaks. Coaches are responsible for controlling their own fans if they become abusive (conduct of spectators as per 7c, 7d and 7e). The coach will give the spectators a warning. If the problem persists the game could be abandoned by the referee regardless of the score and time played. The Rules and Regulations Committee will rule on the outcome.
9. For the following offenses by a referee, the minimum disciplinary action shall be as indicated:
 - a. Failing to report for an assigned game after accepting the assignment:
 - First Offense – written warning
 - Second Offense – season suspension
 - b. Offenses by a referee as listed under article 7c, 7d, and 7e
- warning and suspension as listed for coaches.
10. All disciplinary problems including the consequent correspondence, hearing, etc. shall be conducted by the Rules and Regulations Committee.
11. Any player, coach or referee having received a suspension from the Rules and Regulations Committee, shall be allowed to appeal his/her suspension to the Disciplinary Review Committee. This committee of three (3) shall be appointed by the President and include themselves, the secretary, the treasurer or any other council member, not serving on the Rules and Regulations Committee.
12. Any coach may register a complaint regarding the standard of refereeing within 48 hours after completion of game. This complaint must be in writing and addressed to the Chairperson of the Rules and Regulations Committee.

13. Penalty for using ineligible players is forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible players were used. The ineligible player is suspended for 3 league games. Call up games do not count as a suspended game. The coach is suspended for 3 league games and fined \$50.
14. The Rules and Regulations Committee shall consist of a chairperson and 1 representative from each club. The chairperson is elected annually by majority vote at the annual general meeting.
15. All disputes brought to the Rules and Regulations Committee shall be settled by the chairperson and representatives from two neutral clubs.
16. Any disciplinary suspension not being completely served during the current season shall be completed at the start of the following season. Any disciplinary actions which cannot be handled by SWEMSL's Rules and Regulations Committee may be turned over to Western Counties Soccer Association for a ruling.
17. The South West Elgin Minor Soccer League shall operate by the FIFA Rule Book as the main rules body. Each coach and referee should have a copy of these rules. (“Laws of the Game” and “Universal Guide for Referees”)
18. The South West Elgin Minor Soccer League By-laws shall override any of the FIFA rules, once they are passed by council.
19. If the field of play is unplayable, in the opinion of the referee, the game will be rescheduled on the visiting team's field. The opposing coach may lodge a protest prior to start of play with the referee. The protest will be ruled upon by the Rules and Regulations Committee. The field of play must be corrected within 7 days. Second offense will be automatic forfeit.

STATISTICS

1. The referee assigned to the game shall provide, within the agreed time after the game, the club with all records, using an official game sheet.
2. League standings shall be determined by the number of points accumulated.
3. If first place tie exists at end of regular season, the following criteria is used to break the tie:
 - a. deciding game without overtime on a neutral field.
 - b. penalty kicks as per “Laws of the Game” (FIFA Rules).
4. The final score of the game shall be noted on the official game sheet and forwarded to the club until season's end.
5. Both teams are responsible to forward game results by Friday of each week to their own club contact. Clubs then have two (2) days to forward scores to the SWEMSL Statistician. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of \$15 per game. All teams not in compliance will be fined no matter whether home or away.

GENERAL

1. The site for the final day tournament will rotate on a yearly basis between Glencoe, West Lorne and Shedden depending on the field availability of that community to host it. Final day tournament to be held at the end of the regular season.

Final Tournament Rules:

Length of Games: mini fields – 2 x 20 minute halves
full fields – 2 x 25 minute halves
5 minute halftime for all

Red Card Rule: If a player receives a red card they must miss the next game. If a player receives a second red card they are expelled from the tournament.

Pool Winners are determined by total points.

- ... if tiebreaker necessary
1. head to head from pool play
 2. goal differential
 3. goals for
 4. goals against
 5. penalty kicks

Medal Game Tie Breaker Procedure:

1. 2 – 5 minute overtime halves Sudden Death/Golden Goal
2. Penalty kicks

2. A coaches meeting shall be held for all SWEMSL coaches prior to season start.
3. A referee meeting/clinic shall be held for all SWEMSL referees prior to season start for communication purposes and consistency of refereeing.
4. Coaches, Managers, Team Officials, Parents and Players must adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times and shall encourage the same attitude amongst all players and supporters. Thank you for dedicating your time to promoting youth soccer. We hope you have an enjoyable season. If there are any questions, please contact your own soccer club.

APPEALS

1. Decisions made by clubs/leagues may be appealed to Western Counties Soccer Assoc. if submitted in writing and delivered within 5 days of the receipt of the decision being appealed.
2. The letter of appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the decision being appealed and the appropriate fee. Individual appeals are \$35.00 and a club or team appeal fee is \$75.00.
3. The appeal will be heard within three weeks of its receipt by Western Counties Soccer Assoc.
4. If the appeal is upheld, the fee will be refunded. If the appeal is denied, the fee is forfeited.
5. Decisions of the Hearing Panel shall be final on all parties and subject to no further appeal.