

Southern WV Adult Soccer League (SWVASL)

League Guidelines

Effective 2/23/2019

1. League Organization

a. Administration

- The SWVASL is a non-profit organization managed and run by league players, operating under the oversight of the WV Soccer Association.
- President
 - Responsible for managing the overall league, representing the league at external meetings, and other duties, as necessary.
- Vice President
 - Responsible for managing online registration system, scheduling games, entering game results, and coordinating with referee assignor.
- Secretary
 - Responsible for performing year-end reporting and meeting minutes.
- Treasurer
 - Responsible for managing league finances, including paying referees, and performing year-end reporting.
- Discipline Coordinator and Legal Counsel
 - Responsible for chairing the disciplinary committee, rendering final decisions on disciplinary actions based on committee input, and reviewing other legal business of the league.
- Referee Assignor
 - Responsible for identifying eligible referees and assigning them to games.
 - Mike McCarthy, State Referee Administrator
- Disciplinary Committee
 - Committee membership will consist of the league officers and other appointed members, based on need.
 - Other ad-hoc committees will be created at the discretion of the league officers.
 - At least one captain's meeting will be held prior to the start of each season and additional meetings will be scheduled, as needed.
 - The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected before the start of each Spring season, with no limit on the number of terms served.

b. Game Location

- All games will be played at the Shawnee Sports Complex (2000 WV-25, Dunbar, WV).
- Makeup games may be played at Trace Fork Soccer Complex or other nearby fields, as needed.
- All games will be played on turf fields (cleats are permitted). It is possible that makeup games may need to be played on grass fields if turf fields are not available.

c. Game Days and Times

- All games will be scheduled on Sundays between 1:00pm and 7:00pm. Exceptions may occur in the event of makeup games or based on Shawnee Sports Complex field availability.
- The Spring Season will begin in February or March and end in May or June. No games will be played on Easter or Memorial Day weekends.

- The Fall Season will begin in August and end in November. No games will be played on Labor Day weekend.
- d. Open Division
 - Male and female players age 18 or above¹.
 - All games will be primarily scheduled on Sundays at 2pm or 4pm.
 - There are 8 regular season games with the top 4 teams making the playoffs.
- e. Over 35 Division
 - Slide tackling is not permitted. See Law 12 in the attached Laws of the Game for the definition and enforcement of this rule.
 - Division is divided into an Upper Tier and Lower Tier.
 - All games will be primarily scheduled on Sundays at 4pm or 6pm.
 - Male players age 35 or above¹, female players age 18 or above¹.
 - A maximum of 9 male players are permitted on the field for each team and the other 2 must be female. If a team does not have 2 female players, they are not permitted to fill the vacancies with male players.
 - Upper Tier teams are permitted to roster up to 2 male players between the ages of 30 and 34¹.
 - Lower Tier teams are permitted to roster up to 4 male players between the ages of 21 and 34¹. However, male players aged 21-29 are not eligible if they played soccer for a collegiate team or are crossover players from the Open Division.
 - The Upper Tier has 9 regular season games with the top 3 teams making the playoffs.
 - The Lower Tier has 8 regular season games with the top team making the playoffs.

2. Team Captains and Duties

- a. Each team must appoint a captain and vice-captain. Subsequent references to “captains” refer to both the captain and vice-captain.
- b. Captains are responsible for overseeing the general workings of their team, including:
 - Attend SWVASL captain’s meetings.
 - Inform team members of league business, rule changes, and any other pertinent information.
 - Assume responsibility for ensuring members of your team are registered.
 - Ensure that team members are aware of the game time and verify sufficient numbers to field a team by 12:00pm on the Thursday before the game. If insufficient numbers are anticipated and the team is likely to forfeit the game, communicate this information to the SWVASL Vice President.
 - Make each player aware of the uniform requirements (wearing shin guards and removing jewelry). Jerseys must be uniquely numbered and match the team color.
 - Notify SWVASL Vice President to obtain permission to change jersey colors to ensure that the color is not already used by another team in the division.
 - Make each player aware of the (IFAB and SWVASL) rules and regulations that govern the game.

¹ Player ages are evaluated on the date of the first game of the league season. Example: if the first game of the fall season is on August 15, then the player must meet the minimum age requirement on or before August 15.

- Set an example of sportsmanship, and teamwork – with your team, opponent, match officials, and with the league.
- c. Captains are responsible for game preparation and in-game duties, including:
- Check to be sure that a minimum number (7) of players can attend your match.
 - Ensure that all players are wearing jerseys with unique numbers with matching colors. The goalkeeper should contrast with both teams. Ideally, socks should also contrast between the teams.
 - Encourage players to arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled game start time. Ensure that they bring a photo ID for game check-in. Provide a game ball for each match.
 - Participate in the coin toss.
 - Represent the team to the referee during the match.
 - Take responsibility for team behavior and attitude on the field to other players and the referees.
 - Verify that the referee's roster accurately reflects the players present for a game.
 - Fill out a Captain's Report after each game and submit it to the SWVASL Registrar within 48 hours of the game completion.
 - Ensure that all trash is picked up from the team's area at the completion of the game.
 - Ensure that the league soccer balls are returned to the referees after the conclusion of the game.
- d. Captain incentives
- Team captains will be refunded their season registration fee once their team roster reaches 15 paid player registrations.

3. Other League Guidelines

a. Registration and Playoff Eligibility

- Players are permitted to register at any point in the season prior to the playoffs, but must be officially registered by 11:59pm on the Wednesday before the first game in which they play.
- Players on a university club team that want to play as a crossover player must pay the full registration fee for the non-club team, rather than the discounted crossover rate.
- A maximum of 25 players are permitted on club team rosters. Additional players can be added by paying the registration fee in effect at the time the player is registered.
- Players must be registered for at least 4 of their team's regular season games and participate in at least 2 of their team's regular season games in order to participate in playoff games.

b. Player Transfers

- Player are permitted 1 team transfer per season between divisions (e.g., Open to Over 35 or vice versa). The transfer must occur before either team's 4th game is played and the player must participate in at least 2 of the regular season games for the team they are joining in order to participate in the playoffs.
- Player transfers between teams within a division are strongly discouraged during the season and should only be completed under extenuating circumstances and after discussion with both team captains. In the event that a transfer within a division

occurs, the same guidelines in the previous bullet apply regarding timing and playoff eligibility.

c. Game Start and Duration

- Referees should promptly start the game at the scheduled time. If teams are not ready to play, the referee still starts their game watch at the regularly scheduled game time, and this delay time will count towards the game time in the first half.
- Each game will consist of (2) 45-minute halves with a 10-minute halftime. At their discretion, referees may allow a 5-minute break at the mid-point of each half for player safety (e.g., high temperature).

d. Regular Season Game Scoring

- The winning team will be awarded 3 points. The losing team will be awarded 0 points. In the event of a tie, each team will be awarded 1 point.
- In the event of a forfeiture, a score of 3-0 will be recorded for the non-forfeiting team.
- Goals scored and goals allowed will be recorded for each game and factor into the tie-break system for playoff seeding. The maximum goal differential that will be awarded for a game is 5 goals.

e. Game Forfeitures

- If a player is found to have not checked in before entering the field of play, their team forfeits the game.
- If an unregistered player is found to have participated in a game, their team forfeits the game.
- If a team is not able to field 7 players within 15 minutes of the scheduled match time, that team forfeits the game. Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances when mutually agreed between the captains of both teams and the referee, but cannot exceed 25 minutes beyond the scheduled match time.

f. Game Cancellations

- Cancellations prior to match time (due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances) will be communicated by SWVASL directly to the captains by text message and announced to the affected teams by email and social media outlets.
- The decision to cancel games will be made by Shawnee Sports Complex officials and the SWVASL officers. Games at the Shawnee Sports Complex will only be cancelled in the event of lightning or other unsafe conditions. Referees will suspend matches at the fields in case of lightning or other unsafe conditions.

g. Rescheduled Games

- Games that are cancelled due to inclement weather will be replayed on a mutually agreed day and time within 14 days of the originally scheduled date. The only exception is the final game of the regular season with playoff implications, or a playoff game, which must be played within 6 days of the originally scheduled date, so it does not affect the subsequent game. Exceptions to both of these rules may be applied at the discretion of the SWVASL officers for extenuating circumstances.

h. Yellow and Red Cards

- Yellow cards and red cards awarded in each game will be communicated by the head referee of the match via the Referee Match Report within 48 hours of the game completion, which is submitted to the SWVASL Vice President.
- Players that accumulate 3 yellow cards in a season must sit out the next match played by their team during the current season. Players that accumulate 5 yellow cards must

- again sit out the next match played by their team during the current season. For every additional yellow card that player receives (6 or more total), they must sit out the next match played by their team during the current season. The first yellow card received in any match will count towards the player's total yellow cards for the season. A second yellow card in the same match will not count towards the season total, but will be counted as a red card.
- Players that receive a red card must sit out the next match played by their team during the current season or following season. Players that receive 2 red cards in the same season must sit the next 2 matches played by their team during the current season or following season. Players that receive 3 red cards in the same season will be suspended for the season and possibly banned from the league pending Disciplinary Committee review. These guidelines apply to both straight red cards and "soft" red cards. The Disciplinary Committee will review all red cards and has the discretion to issue further sanctions, depending on the severity of the offense.
 - For crossover players in both the Open Division and Over 35 Division, cards received in each division only pertain to that division.
- i. Dissent and Foul Language
- Referees will be instructed to manage the game in a way that will discourage dissent, as it has no place in this league. Dissent will be interpreted by the referees, as guided by the U.S. Soccer Grade 7 Referee guidelines, which can be accessed using the link below:
www.brainshark.com/ussoccer/vu?pi=zJ3zQpmjyz31xyz0&nodesktopflash=1
 In summary, referees will deal with dissent when it becomes Public, Personal, and Provocative.
 - Public -- are the player's actions public in nature? How widely can the player's language be heard or gestures be seen?
 - Personal -- is the protest aimed specifically at the referee, or is it instead general in nature?
 - Provocative -- are the comments and actions likely to incite further misconduct or conflict on the field?
 Language or gestures which are "offensive, insulting or abusive" merit a send-off, with a ZERO tolerance policy toward language which is racist or discriminatory in nature.
 - Shawnee Sports Complex has a strict "No foul language" policy. The Complex is a family-oriented facility with youth sports occurring simultaneous to SWVASL games and players should act accordingly to set a good example. Referees will issue a warning to a player for the first offense of foul language and a yellow card for each subsequent offense. Referees may be more strict with the enforcement of this policy if the situation warrants.
- j. Playoffs and Seeding
- The top 4 teams in the Open Division will participate in a two-round playoff with #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3 in the first round and the winners of those two games playing a single championship game.
 - The top 3 teams in the Over 35 Division Upper Tier and the top team in the Over 35 Division Lower Tier will participate in a two-round playoff with #1 Upper vs. #1 Lower and #2 Upper vs. #3 Upper in the first round and the winners of those two games playing a single championship game.

- Seeding is based on the following: (1) Overall record, (2) Head-to-head record, (3) Tier record (Over 35 Division), (4) Goal differential (maximum 5 goals/game), (5) Goals allowed, and (6) Goals scored.
- k. Over 35 Division Promotion
- At the end of each season, the top-seeded Lower Tier team will be eligible for promotion to the Upper Tier if both of the following conditions are met. (1) In the head-to-head match between the top-seeded Lower Tier team and the lowest-seeded Upper Tier team, the Lower Tier team won by final score or forfeit. (2) The Lower Tier team wants to move to the Upper Tier, as indicated by the team captain based on input from the team members.
 - If the top-seeded Lower Tier team is promoted, the lowest-seeded Upper Tier team is relegated to the Lower Tier.

SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE (SWVASL)
ADULT DIVISION LAWS OF THE GAME
Effective 2/23/2019

Law 1 – The Field of Play:

Shall conform to the International Football Association Board (IFAB)

Law 2 – The Ball:

Shall conform to IFAB.

SWVASL will provide two official game balls that are to remain in the possession of the referees until kickoff (they are not to be used by teams for warm-ups). The referees are requested to regain possession of the balls after the completion of the match and transfer them to the referees of the following match on that field. The referees for the first SWVASL match of the day may need to retrieve the balls from the Shawnee Sports Complex staff. The referees for the last SWVASL match of the day on a specific field are requested to return the balls to the Shawnee Sports Complex staff.

Law 3 – The Players:

Shall conform to IFAB with the following exceptions:

- Over 35 Division – two females must be on the field of play at all times during play. If a female is not on the field of play the team will play down by the number of missing females.
- Substitutions are unlimited and can be made at any stoppage in play with permission of the referee.

Law 4 – The Player’s Equipment:

Shall conform to IFAB with the following exceptions:

- Casts will be allowed with doctor’s release to be presented to the referee at each game.
- Casts must be padded to make it safe for all participants
- The referee will make the final decision

Law 5 – The Referee:

Shall conform to IFAB

Law 6 – The Other Match Officials:

Shall conform to IFAB

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:

Shall conform to IFAB with the following exceptions:

- If a suspension in play occurs, the referees will shorten the game duration to ensure it is completed within 110 minutes of the scheduled game start time. If the suspension in play does not allow at least 45 minutes of playing time, the game will be rescheduled. If at least 45 minutes are played, it will stand as a complete match. The score at the time of termination will be the final score.
- In situations where a winner needs to be determined and the need for overtime exists, the overtime shall consist of (2) 5-minute periods starting 5 minutes after the end of

regulation time and allowing 5 minutes between the two overtime periods. The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

- If after this overtime there is still no winner, follow IFAB's Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 9 – The Ball in and Out of Play:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 11 – Offside:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct:
Shall conform to IFAB with the following exceptions:

- Shawnee Sports Complex has a strict “No foul language” policy. The Complex is a family-oriented facility with youth sports occurring simultaneous to SWVASL games and players should act accordingly to set a good example. Referees will issue a warning to a player for the first offense of foul language and a yellow card for each subsequent offense. Referees may be more strict with the enforcement of this policy if the situation warrants.
- Over 35 Division – No slide tackling is allowed. This will be deemed as playing in a dangerous manner and an Indirect Free Kick will be awarded, assuming a more serious offense was not committed in the process of the tackle. A slide tackle is defined as a challenge to an opponent for the ball in which at least one knee or hip of the player making the challenge makes contact with the ground. Aggressive contact that could result in injury is also strongly discouraged in this division and should be called similar to slide tackles at the referee's discretion.
 - Clarification 1. A slide to gain possession of a ball or to block a shot or pass with no opponent nearby is NOT a slide tackle.
 - Clarification 2. A player may reach for the ball with his or her leg, provided that neither the knee or hip touches the ground and that the action is not otherwise a foul (e.g., a trip).

Law 13 – Free Kicks:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 15 – The Throw-In:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 16 – The Goal Kick:
Shall conform to IFAB

Law 17 – The Corner Kick:
Shall conform to IFAB