



MIAMI-DADE SOCCER LEAGUE (MDSL)

U5-U8 Recreational League Rules and Procedures

FYSA CODE OF ETHICS

Players

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents always.
- I will remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
- I will do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as I do.
- I will treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and fans with respect always; regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will concentrate on playing soccer. Always giving my best effort.
- I will always play by the rules.
- I will always control my temper, resisting the temptation of retaliation.
- I will always exercise self-control.
- My conduct during competition towards play of the game and all officials shall be in accordance with appropriate behavior and in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game," and in adherence to FYSA rules.
- While traveling, I shall conduct myself to bring credit to myself and my team.
- I shall not possess, consume, or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.

Coaches/Volunteers

- I will never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players.
- I will always show respect for players, other coaches, and game officials.
- I will lead by example, always demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship.
- I will demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game and teach these rules to my players.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
- I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- I will not allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by any of my players.
- I will never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.
- Youth have a greater need for example than criticism. I will be the primary soccer role model.
- I will always conduct myself in a positive manner.

- Coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players to be winners.
- My actions on sidelines during games shall be always in the spirit of “good sportsmanship”. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, shall require disciplinary action from the affiliate.
- I shall not possess, consume, or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon FYSA, its members or its programs.
- I will accurately and completely complete the coach/volunteer application form and by application attest to the accuracy of the information submitted.

Parents/Spectators

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, game officials, and administrators always.
- I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of all players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will support the coaches, officials, and administrators working with my child, to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will remember that the game is for the players, not for the adults.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, game officials, administrators, and fans with respect.
- I will always be positive.
- I will always allow the coach to be the only coach.
- I will not get into arguments with the opposing team’s parents, players, or coaches.
- I will not come onto the field for any reason during the game.
- I will not criticize game officials.
- I shall not possess, consume, or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon FYSA, its members or its programs.

Failure to comply may result in the suspension of your privilege to participate in FYSA sanctioned events, for the following periods:

1st offense -- suspension for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of five (5) years.

2nd offense -- suspension for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of ten (10) years.

3rd offense -- suspension for a minimum of five (5) years to a maximum of fifty (50) years.

NOTE: Any individual charged with a violation of this Code of Ethics shall be afforded due process as defined in FYSA’s Rule Section 600 before the implementation of any suspension.

**THE FOLLOWING RULES AND GUIDELINES ARE REQUIRED TO BE
FOLLOWED BY ALL COACHES, PLAYERS, AND REFEREES.**

INTRODUCTION

The **Miami-Dade Soccer League (MDSL)** is a volunteer nonprofit organization that provides recreational soccer programs for boys and girls ages 6 to 10 years in south Florida and adjacent unincorporated areas. The purpose of the MDSL shall be to develop, promote and administer the game of soccer among youth without regard to race, religion, color, creed, sex, or national origin.

The Miami-Dade Soccer League reserves the right to deny participation to any club and/or team(s) based on previous experience and /or behavior deemed to be or has been deemed inappropriate or in violation of our sanctioning body the Florida Youth Soccer Association's (FYSA) Code of Ethics.

Playing in the Miami-Dade Soccer League is a privilege not a right. The decision to accept or deny vest solely with the administration of MDSL and may not be appealed.

The rules and procedures that follow are either mandated or authorized by the MDSL.

SPIRIT OF THE RULES

All Coaches, Players, Club Representatives, or other individuals representing a registered organization within the MDSL shall always refrain from seeking an advantage through the deliberate manipulation, misapplication, or misinterpretation of any of these Policies and Procedures.

All those identified above shall at all-time adhered to the "Spirit of the Rules" and the intent of the rules stated or implied herein.

Except where modified herein, rules of play shall be according to the FIFA "Laws of the Game". Competition sanctioned by the League shall abide by the "Laws of the Game" and any modifications specifically published, unless further modified by this League.

All contests sanctioned by the League shall abide by the official rules, and the modifications as published by this League, unless otherwise amended by the Board of Directors.

GENERAL RULES OF ORDER

Each participating Club and their members must abide by the bylaws and rules of the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA). Rules added or amended by FYSA must be adopted by this league and its affiliates.

The rules in this manual apply to all aspects of league operation and competition. Rules governing a unique league operation or competition will specifically identify that to which it applies.

ARTIFICIAL NOISE-MAKING DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED

ALL 17 LAWS OF THE GAME CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE: WWW.USSOCCER.COM

Players Equipment

All players are required to wear shin guards under their socks during all games. We highly suggest that the players wear soccer shoes although tennis shoes are acceptable. **Baseball spikes (which have a front toe cleat) are not acceptable.**

Goalies are required to wear a goalie jersey to differentiate them from the field players. Goalie gloves are optional.

Absolutely no jewelry is allowed. This includes earrings, rings, bracelets, wristbands, barrettes, necklaces, or any other items the referee or coaches feel could cause injury to the player or other players. We do not allow taping over training stud earrings. They should be removed before all the games.

We do recommend sport frames for players that require glasses.

Hard billed hats are not allowed. We do allow winter hats and gloves during colder conditions. We recommend non-hooded sweatshirts for wear under the jersey. Hooded sweatshirts must have hood tucked under jersey if worn.

General Guidelines for all levels

- **No official score is kept.**
- U6-U8 All players must play at least half of the game (2 quarters). Also, no player may play all 4 quarters unless every other player has played 3 quarters.
- Substitutions only enter the field of play at the halfway line and only during a stoppage of play. Example: Goal Kick, Throw-in, kick-off.
- Discuss with the Referee before the game about notifying him/her regarding substitutions.
- Visiting team starts the kickoff of the game.
- The referee will keep track of scoring only to institute the 3/5 rule when needed.
- **3/5 Rule: If one team goes up by 3 goals, the opposing team must add 1 additional field player to the game. If the team with the extra player scores, the additional player must be removed. If a team goes up by 5 goals, the opposing team must add a second additional player on the field. This second player is in addition to the player that was added when the team was down by 3 goals.**

Rules for U5 – U8 Players

1. There are **NO HEADERS** – if header occurs, an indirect free kick is awarded to opponent.
2. There are **no offside**
3. There are **no penalty kicks**. Any fouls inside the penalty area to the attacking team will be awarded an Indirect Free Kick and have the ball moved to the 18-yard line.
4. There is **no slide tackling**.
5. All kids are expected to be rotated through the positions.
6. All fouls will result in an Indirect Free Kick.

7. All other FIFA rules apply.

The Referee (FIFA – Law 5)

Each match is controlled by a referee who has FULL authority to enforce the Laws of the game in connection to the match to which he has been assigned.

REFEREE FEES

AGE GROUP	REFEREE\TEAM	SINGLE REFEREE
U5-U8	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00

Offside (FIFA – Law 11)

Offside is when a player is past the halfway line, involved in active play, and closer to an opponent's goal than the ball or the second to last defender, without possession of the ball.

- There is not offside awarded for U5 - U8 divisions.

Penalty Kick (FIFA – Law 14)

- No penalty kicks are awarded for U5 - U8 games.

Throw-In (FIFA – Law 15)

Is awarded when the whole ball passes over the touch line, either on the ground or in the air.

- A second Throw-In will be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. (U5 - U8 only)
- Coach or referee should explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a Throw-In.

Goal Kick (FIFA – Law 16)

- Is awarded when the whole ball, having last touched a player of the attacking team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal was not scored.
- The ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. All opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- The kick is retaken if it does not go beyond the penalty area.
- The ball cannot be touched by any player until it has left the penalty area. A goal can only be scored directly against the opposing team off a Goal Kick.

Corner Kick (FIFA – Law 17)

Is awarded when the whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air.

- The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest corner.
- The ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

- The kicker cannot play the ball a second time until it is touched by another player.

Fouls and Misconduct (FIFA – Law 12)

All fouls will result in an Indirect Free Kick for U5 & U8 games.

- Coach or referee should explain all infractions (fouls) to the players.

Unsporting behavior by players will not be tolerated (i.e., “trash-talking”, name calling, pushing, tripping, elbowing, etc.). Players will receive a warning from the referee. Repeat offense will result in player being removed from the game for a period of five (5) minutes or more at the discretion of the referee.

Direct Free Kick

A Direct Free Kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless, or using excessive force:

1. kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
2. trips or attempts to trip an opponent.
3. strikes or attempts to strike an opponent.
4. jumps at an opponent.
5. charges an opponent.
6. pushes an opponent.
7. tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, contacting the opponent before touching the ball.
8. holds an opponent.
9. spits at an opponent.
10. handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

A goal can be scored directly from a Direct Free Kick.

Indirect Free Kick

Indirect Free Kick – A goal cannot be scored until the ball is touched by a second player of either team.

An Indirect Free Kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee.

- Plays in a dangerous manner.
- Impedes the progress of an opponent.
- Commits any other offense, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes are inevitable because of bad weather, unanticipated field closures, etc. **However, once the MDSL schedule is officially posted for the season, it is considered primary compared to other events such as tournaments and outings.**

After the scheduled has been posted, club representatives must follow procedure when requesting game changes:

1. Field and time only changes – The league reserves the right to move games as needed with the proper email notification to the participants at least 72 hours from the original schedule. The only purpose for these changes is to facilitate referee assignment.

2. All other changes – If there is a need to change the date or time of a game, this needs to be a mutual agreement by both coaches and done through email communication. All modifications of this type must be completed at least ten days in advance of the game.

GAME CHANGES NOT APPEARING ON THE ON-LINE WEBSITE ARE NOT APPROVED.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

This is a recreational league with only one level of competition.

REGISTRATION, ROSTERING AND PLAYER TRANSFER

All players must be registered with FYSA.

GAME PROCEDURES

Each team is responsible for their portion of the Referee fees for their game, regardless of the age level competing. The payment shall be made in cash and in the exact amount.

Failure to make payment of the above Referee fees shall result in a forfeit; the League shall award the game to the opponent. The member organization not making payment shall then be responsible for payment of the entire referee fee payment and shall also be fined an amount as directed by the MDSL Board of Directors not to exceed \$ 100.00 for a first offense.

Paperwork will consist of the following, but shall not be limited to:

FYSA official team roster for each team competing. The link from Got Soccer of how to print an FYSA roster and passes is: <https://gotsport.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/5876570947863-Printing-Official-Rosters-and-Passcards>

PRE-GAME

All teams are required to report to the designated game site in a timely manner and be prepared to begin the game at its scheduled time. A team that is not ready to play 15 minutes past the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. The Site Director may shorten a game by the amount of time a game is delayed by a team up to 15 minutes.

MDSL regular season games may end in a draw (tie). There will be no overtime periods played during regular seasonal games.

GAME AND CROWD CONTROL

Spectators shall remain not less than 3 yards from the field line as a means of separating the spectators from the field of play. Spectators are not permitted to watch the game alongside the field from any other location. This is to include: corner areas, goal areas and especially the team's "Technical Areas" (bench).

Team members (both players and coaches) must remain in their designated "Technical Area" of the field. Both teams are to be on the same side of the field but opposite that of the spectators.

Each team shall be permitted only (3) coaches in their "Technical Area". Each must possess a valid coach's pass for the team playing.

No coaching shall be permitted from any other portion of the field other than the designated "Technical Area".

INCLEMENT/HAZARDOUS WEATHER (Rainout Policy)

Soccer is an all-weather sport. We play in rain, cold and wind. We do not play when there is danger to the children or spectators or when we may cause extensive damage to the fields. If there is lightning in the area, we will cancel matches or suspend matches that have already begun. In the event of inclement conditions, club officials will evaluate field conditions and the weather forecasts to decide at the earliest practical time. Games are always to be played as scheduled unless the fields are closed.

In general, it is safe to play in the rain, unless lightning is present, in which case the game will immediately be cancelled. The primary determining factor in whether we play, or cancel is the current condition of the field and projecting whether damage will result from using that field. We would rather have a day of cancelled games than weeks or months of dealing with a closed field because we chose to play when we shouldn't have.

Coaches are **not** authorized to call off a game due to weather or field conditions. The job of determining field suitability for play falls upon the Field Marshal. However, if a parks department or field director has closed the field, a referee is not allowed to overrule that decision.

POST GAME CEREMONIES

The MDSL encourage good sportsmanship and recommends a formal or otherwise organized post-game ceremony for the purpose of exchanging "handshakes" at the conclusion of the games; the Officials will witness this procedure.

LAWS OF THE GAME

The restatement of any of the law is for convenience; included are additional items for youth games as specified by MDSL.

THE FIELD OF PLAY - LAW 1

The MDSL requires that all fields, regardless of designated age level of competition be uniform in several specific areas.

GENERAL

Listed below are the basic standards for all soccer fields. Following this section are the specific dimensions for the individual age division fields.

The MDSL recognizes the recommendations of US Soccer regarding field and equipment sizes and mandates those as required by this organization. The following subsections detail those specific designations to the individual age levels of competition.

FIELD SIZES

Age Group	Field Size	Goal Min/Max
U5-U8	20 x 30 yards	4' x 6'

THE BALL - LAW 2

The required FIFA approved ball sizes to be used are as follows:

AGE GROUP	BALL SIZE
U5 - U6	#3
U8	#4

Both teams shall be responsible for providing a game ball for the referees to select from.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS - LAW 3

AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF PLAYERS	Max. Roster	MINIMUM TO PLAY MATCH	Notes
U5-U8	4 V 4	8	3	No Goalkeepers

RULES OF PLAY

Except as provided by MDSL or FYSA, the "FIFA Laws of the Game" apply to all competitions sponsored by MDSL.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Players may be substituted only when the Referee has stopped play. The number of substitutions is unlimited unless competition superseding MDSL jurisdiction specifically determines otherwise.

The substitute player must be up and standing at the half-way line prior to requesting the substitution.

NOTES:

Both teams and their coaches are required to be on the same side of the field and opposite that of the spectators. NO SPECTATORS are permitted to be in any other location around the game site other than where designated. If photographs/ movies are to be taken from any fixed location other than the spectator's side, the Field Director should notify and identify the photographer to the referee.

A team that is not ready to play the game 15 minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit. In such an event, the Referee must report the incident to the Site Director who in turn shall notify the proper League representative.

TERMINATION OF A GAME

Referees may terminate the game at any time if the Referee feels that his authority in the game has been undermined and that the game is not under his control due to the behavior of players, coaches, or spectators.

If a Referee terminates a game for any reason prior to the expiration of the scheduled length of the game, the Referee shall report this action to the Site Director immediately. The Referee Assignor shall also be notified.

REMOVAL OF A COACH OR SPECTATOR

- If a coach is ejected from the game, the coach shall leave the field. The coach shall be ordered completely off the premises and be out of sight and out of voice. Sanctions shall be applied as directed by the MDSL Board of Directors.
- If a player is ejected, the player should leave the field at the referee's discretion. The Referee should consider all special circumstances such as a player being dependent on a car-pooling situation.
- If such is the case, the Referee may instruct the player to sit with the spectators. The coach will assign an adult to be responsible for the player's conduct while on the sideline.
- The Referee may eject a spectator. If a spectator is causing a problem of a magnitude that is undermining "the good of the game", the Referee should do the following:
- Instruct the Coach of the team to control the spectator that is supporting the team.
- The Coach responsible for the spectator may himself be ejected for failure to control his or her spectators.
- Advise the Site Director to control the spectator who is causing problems or remove him from the premises.
- If, after all the above have been exhausted, and the spectator has not left or ceased his behavior, the Referee shall terminate the game.

NOTE: Red Card send-off on reports must have sufficient description of the rule violation to enable a discipline or hearing committee to assess the appropriate sanction and/or additional disciplinary action.

REFEREE'S JUDGEMENT

The Referee's judgment with regards to the physical condition of the field and its acceptability for play and to the actual happening and occurrences relating to the conduct of the game, and to those prerogatives or judgments inherently granted to the Referee by the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA shall not be challenged.

LAW 6 THE ASSISTANT REFEREE

No Assistant Referees will be used.

LAW 7 -THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

AGE GROUP	LENGTH OF THE GAME	LENGTH OF HALF TIME
U5-U8	4-8 minutes	5 minutes between each half

- THE REFEREE WILL ENFORCE A 2 MIN. WATER BREAK DURING EACH HALF. PLAYERS ON THE FIELD MUST REMAIN ON THE FIELD AND COACHES ARE NOT TO USE THE TIME FOR TEAM COACHING. THE WATER BREAK SHOULD BE TAKEN AT APPROXIMATELY MIDWAY BETWEEN HALVES AT A STOPPAGE OF PLAY SELECTED BY THE REFEREE.
- COACHES CONVERSING WITH PLAYERS BEYOND THE REFEREE'S REQUEST FOR PLAYERS TO RESUME PLAYING AFTER A WATER BREAK MAY BE REPORTED BY THE REFEREE FOR VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE RULES ON THE GAME.

FEES AND FINES

The league shall have the authority to levy fines and fees as published below: All MDSL fees and fines shall be determined by the League's Board of Directors on an annual basis and approved by a majority vote; if not an action is taken, the fees shall remain in effect until changed.

TEAM FEES PER SEASON (Due with team registration): \$ 175.00

Note: All players must be register with FYSA or they will not have excess accident insurance available. For further information about registration, please send email to info@miamidadessoccerleague.com.

DROPPED TEAM /ADD TEAM \$100.00 (after published schedule)

FORFEIT GAME (NO SHOW) \$200.00

POLICY VIOLATION \$25.00

SPECTATOR /COACH NOT LEAVING FIELD WHEN EJECTED \$100.00

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT BY COACH \$100.00

* The Policy Violation Fee covers all violations not specifically listed above.

REPORTING VIOLATIONS:

In the event a club needs to seek assessment of a fine on another club, the club director will submit a written report of the violation to the Board of Directors within no more than ten days from the date of the violation. The report shall contain the Who, What, When Where and How of the violation. If the violation, is not brought before the Board within the time specified any fines assessed will be placed in the league general fund to cover league expenses.

All fees due to MDSL shall be considered delinquent if not paid, in cleared funds, after 10 days of occurrence. Affiliates may be placed Not in Good Standing when fees are not timely paid. The MDSL Treasurer will recommend to the BOD for approval to place a club in NGS. Governmental run programs which require an invoice will be granted 30 days from the date of receipt of invoice, if necessary.

RULES OF COMPETITION

Registration of players and coaching staff is required for competition on the Club; League, State, National and International level for any MDSL sanctioned or sponsored events.

All registered players/coaches must comply with applicable rules, policies and procedures and remain "in good standing" to be eligible to compete.

TEAM DECLARATION

Each team must be declared with a Coach.

GAME ROSTER

The FYSA Official (GOT SPORT) team roster is the only roster allowed for the MDSL games.

Each team must bring to every game **(No exceptions):**

1. Official FYSA team roster with pictures.
2. FYSA player passes with **D/O/B verified.**
3. Referee fees

Hand written players are not allowed.

GUEST PLAY\CLUB PASS

Guest AKA Club Pass play is intended to promote player development from the bottom up. It also allows a club to field teams that may be short players rather than forfeit a match or even fold a team. The following are the applicable league rules for guest play. **Guest (Club Pass) players must be from the same club.**

1. Three guest players from the same club may be used in any regular league match. Guest player(s) may only play in one team for the game day and must be listed in the FYSA Game roster for that day.
2. Clubs or Teams violating the guest play rules will forfeit each match where an ineligible player participated and will be sanctioned as per MDSL fees and fines.

If a player is not register as a primary player to a team, it is considered a “Guest Player.”

That includes “CP” Club passes.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC RULES

REFEREE

Each game will have one referee on the field.

The decisions of the referee shall be final.

There will be no protests. (Their authority and the exercise of the powers granted to them by the Laws of the Game shall commence as soon as they enter the locality where the field is situated, and shall cease when they leave)

There are no linesman or assistant referees.

All players must participate in 50% of the game playing time.

Teams and matches may be coed.

U5-U8 METHOD OF SCORING

Goals can be scored from anywhere on the **attacking half** of the field.

Goals cannot be scored directly by a team from their half of the field.

Players may enter the goal box to play the ball, but they cannot be waiting for the ball inside the goal box. (Goal area)

FOULS & MISCONDUCT (Conform to F.I.F.A.)

FREE-KICK (Conform to F.I.F.A.)

All free kicks for this age are indirect (goals cannot be scored directly from a free kick).

SLIDE TACKLING

No sliding of any kind is allowed.

HEADING THE BALL (Conform with the US Soccer mandate)

Intentional heading is banned for all the divisions. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player deliberately touches the ball with his/her head.

The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head.

NOTE: THE MDSL USES THE FYSA RULES FOR DISCIPLINE (RULE 502. – 502.6.2)

U5-U8 FIELD DIMENSIONS

FIELD OF PLAY

