

BPAA Soccer Philosophy and Rules For 2011

BPAA Soccer Committee

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1. Philosophy of BPAA Soccer

1.1 *Good Sportsmanship is our number one goal*

This document states the philosophy of the BPAA Soccer Committee, and the BPAA in general. The BPAA Soccer Committee believes Good Sportsmanship is the number one goal of our activities. Winning and losing are secondary to the development of good character and love for the game of soccer. Parents and coaches should always be conscious of setting good examples for our players. All participants should be learning soccer skills, teamwork, and respect for all coaches, other players, and referees.

1.2 *Coaches set the example*

The coaches are responsible for the behavior of their teams, and the parents that are watching the game. It is the responsibility of the coach to enforce compliance with the BPAA rules of conduct (See Rules of Conduct Section 5.13).

1.3 *Referees are in charge of calling the game*

The referee is in charge of the game, and the referee's decision is final. The referee can suspend the game due to misconduct (See Rules of Conduct Section 5.13).

2. Rules for player roster assignment for this year's BPAA Soccer Season

2.1 Team Rosters

All participating soccer players must be registered with BPAA Soccer to play on a BPAA soccer team. If a team uses any unregistered players, the games played using those players will be forfeited and the coach may be subject to disciplinary action.

It is recognized when forming team that players may have specific desires for whom to play with or for but not all player requests can be honored due to the following reasons: (1) Team sizes need to be equal so some players may be switched to another team to equal out team rosters. (2) Players may be moved in order to even out teams when one team is made up of mostly older or more experienced players, and another is made up of mostly younger or inexperienced players.

2.2 Switching Teams

Coaches receive their team rosters from the division coordinator, which is considered the final placement of currently registered players. Re-arrangement of team rosters is not permitted after team rosters have been distributed without permission of the division coordinator.

A player cannot switch teams without approval from the BPAA Soccer committee. If a player does switch teams without the BPAA Soccer Committee's approval, that player will be suspended from playing until he/she agrees to go back to their assigned team.

If a player will not play on the assigned team, a registration refund can be obtained before the start of the season and less any withdrawal fees required by BPAA. The BPAA Soccer Committee will decide all the cases where a parent or player wants to switch teams, and requests a hearing on the matter. The committee's decision will be final.

3. BPAA Divisions and Teams

3.1 General Rule

The overall rule for the BPAA Soccer Program is to teach good sportsmanship, promote teamwork, develop soccer skills, and have fun playing the great game of soccer.

3.2 BPAA Soccer Divisions

Age groups are based on the age of a player prior to August 1st. Divisions are based on the number of registrations. Consecutive age groups may be combined to form a division. The age groups are as follows:

Born on or between the following Dates	Age Groups	Divisions
Aug 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005	U6	U6-U7
Aug 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004	U7	U6-U7
Aug 1, 2002 to July 31, 2003	U8	U8-U9
Aug 1, 2002 to July 31, 2002	U9	U8-U9
Aug 1, 2000 to July 31, 2001	U10	U10-U11
Aug 1, 1999 to July 31, 2000	U11	U10-U11
Aug 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999	U12	U12-U13
Aug 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998	U13	U12-U13
Aug 1, 1996 to July 31, 1997	U14	U14-U15
Aug 1, 1995 to July 31, 1996	U15	U14-U15
Aug 1, 1994 to July 31, 1995	U16	Coed
Aug 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994	U17	Coed
Aug 1, 1992 to July 31, 1993	U18	Coed

Note: U-number means that age and younger

3.3 Team Sizes

U6-U7: Teams are limited to 12 players with 6 players on the field (5 players and a goalkeeper).

U8-U11: Teams are limited to 14 players with 8 players on the field (7 players and a goalkeeper).

U12-U15: Teams are limited to 16 players with 11 players on the field (10 players and a goalkeeper).

U16-U18 Coed: Teams are limited to 18 players with 11 players on the field (10 players and a goalkeeper). Each team can play, at most, 6 players of a gender in the field during the game.

4. BPAA Soccer Fields, Field Dimensions, Time Periods, Game Reports

4.1 BPAA Soccer Fields

BPAA Soccer uses the following fields, but can be taken off-line by the city Parks & Recreation Department for maintenance purposes:

- Zane Sports Park Soccer fields ZSP1, ZSP2, ZSP3, ZSP4, ZSP5, ZSP6, ZSP7, ZSP8, and ZSP9.
- Noble Sports Park Soccer fields NSP1, NSP2, NSP3, NSP4, NSP5, and NSP6.
- Evergreen Park Soccer Field in Brooklyn Center.
- Northwoods Soccer Field in Brooklyn Park

4.2 Field Dimensions

U6-U7: Use fields with the following dimensions: 65 X 40 yards.

U8-U11: Use mid-size fields with the approximate dimensions: 80 X 50 yards.

U12 to U18: Use regular soccer field dimensions that fall within the FIFA guidelines, which is approximately 110 X 70 yards.

4.3 Time Periods for Games

The length of all games will be two 30-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.

4.4 Team Game Reports

Each team is responsible for preparing a written game report which lists:

- Regular team players and which half they started this game
- Names of guest players and their regular teams.

This report must be presented to the opposing coach before the start of each half and retained by the coach for possible review by the committee.

5. BPAA Soccer Playing Rules

5.1 BPAA Soccer rules, and FIFA rules

All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA rules, except as modified herein by the BPAA

5.2 Soccer equipment

Only soccer shoes with molded rubber, plastic cleats, or general athletic shoes are to be worn (softball shoes with center cleats cannot be worn). Soccer shin guards made of hard plastic are mandatory. Shin guards must be covered with socks. No jewelry, wristwatches, hats, or visors, or other articles that the referee deems unsafe during play are to be worn. Earrings that cannot be removed must be taped and approved by referee. Exceptions include medical bracelets and necklaces. Medical bracelets and necklaces must be taped so as to decrease them as a source of injury.

All players must wear the soccer jerseys furnished by the BPAA. The goalies must wear jerseys that are contrasting colors.

The U6 to U11 teams will use a number 4 sized soccer ball. The U12 to U18 teams will use a number 5 sized soccer ball.

Mouth guards are highly recommended especially for players with braces. Sports glasses are highly recommended especially for players who wear wire-rim glasses.

5.3 Slide Tackles

Slide tackles are illegal in all levels of BPAA soccer. A slide tackle is defined as a maneuver in which one or both feet slide on the ground in an attempt to tackle the ball that is in possession of an opponent. Slide tackles results in a direct free kick. Persistent slide tackles by a player or team can and should result in yellow cards to the offending players. For malicious slide tackles the referee is required to immediately give the player a red card.

5.4 Using players that are not on a team's roster (Guest Players)

Players shall play only for their assigned team within their division, except where noted below:

1. Teams may use players from the next younger division as guest players.
2. Teams that play 11 per side (large fields) may add guest players if less than 13 players from their roster are available. For example; a team has 8 players from their roster available for a game, they may use up to 5 guest players for the game.
3. Teams that play 8 or 6 per side (medium and small fields) may add guest players if less than 10 players from their roster is available. For example; a team has 6 players from their roster available for a game, they may use up to 4 guest players for the game.
4. U8-U9 BPAA registered players may be guest players for teams from other parks within their division since only U6-U7 players with little soccer experience are below them.
5. U6-U7 BPAA registered players may be guest for teams from other parks within their division.
6. In the COED division guest players can be added to allow for up to 7 players per gender. For Example: if 5 female players from the roster are available a team may add 2 female guest players.
7. Single gender divisions exclude players of the opposite gender.

When using guest players the opposing coach must be informed before the start of game so the guest players can be acknowledged. The names of the guest players must be included in the game report as described in section 4.4.

If during the course of the game registered players of a team using guests arrive, the number of guest players must be reduced to the above guidelines.

5.5. U6-U7 Exceptions to general rules

Referees are to use indirect free kicks instead of penalty kicks and direct free kicks.

5.6 Calling a Game off, or shortening a game's playing time

Teams and referees must show up for scheduled games unless announced as cancelled. Games will be played rain or shine unless dangerous or extremely severe weather exists, as determined by the referees, the BPAA Soccer committee member, or the city.

In case the game is called off or declared abandoned (could not play more than half of the second half) then the BPAA Committee reschedules the game or can offer to the coaches to agree on a make up date and time. If the coaches are to agree on a makeup date and time they must notify the BPAA Referee Coordinator and their division coordinator so that referees may be scheduled. Make up games are started over from the beginning.

Call the Brooklyn Park Hotline telephone number (763-488-6304) for program cancellation information. Hotline information will be updated by 3PM on game days.

The referee has the option of shortening the game time to accommodate a late start or darkness with notification to coaches before the game starts.

If a referee does not show up for a game, the game will be called off. The referee coordinator has to be notified to reschedule the game.

5.7 Weather Rules

BPAA Soccer uses the following heat index rules concerning play during hot weather:

Heat Index	Recommended Guidelines
Up to 89 Degrees Fahrenheit	Normal Play
90 - 99 Degrees Fahrenheit	Mandatory 2 minute water breaks per half with running time.
100 - 105 Degrees Fahrenheit	Mandatory 2 minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half shortened by 5 minutes.
105 Degrees Fahrenheit	Suspend Play

If there is a National Weather Service Heat Advisory for a particular day, all soccer games will be canceled for that day. The BPAA Soccer Committee will post the status of games on the BPAA website, and on the Brooklyn Park Hotline (Tel. 763-488-6304), by 3PM on game days. Also, refer to Section 5.4 regarding "Calling a Game Off."

Severe Weather guidelines are:

Storms	Recommended Guidelines
Lightning Seen by Referee	Suspend Play
Tornado Watch	Referee to monitor weather situation
Tornado Warning	Suspend Play
Heavy Rain	Suspend play if fields are so rain soaked that the field is being damaged by play.

5.8 Forfeiting Games

A forfeit shall be declared if a team is not ready to begin play within ten minutes of the scheduled game time. A team in the U12-U18 divisions may play a game with no less than seven players; less than seven (7) players will constitute a forfeit. Teams of U11 and below may play with a minimum of five (5) players.

The committee may declare a forfeit after it has been played if it has been discovered that ineligible players participated in the game.

A referee may, at their discretion during a game, declare a forfeit for disciplinary reasons.

A forfeit is scored a 3-0 game.

5.9 Regular Season – Points awarded per game

BPAA Soccer uses a points system for determining standings which is designed to reduce ties in the standings and promote continued competitive play even in the event one team has a decided lead. The losing team can earn up to 3 points for goals and prevent the winning team from all 10 points by avoiding a shutout.

- 6 points are awarded for a win
- 3 points are awarded for a tie
- 1 point is awarded for each goal, up to 3 goals per game
- 1 point is awarded for a shutout (except for 0-0 ties)

During the regular season, tie games at the end of regulation play will remain a tie.

In case of ties in the standings at the end of the season, final standings are determined by which tied teams have:

- 1) The most wins
- 2) The most wins against each other
- 3) The most wins against common opponents played 2 or more games during the season.
- 4) The most wins against common opponents played once during the season.
- 5) By a coin flip.

5.10 Minimum playing times

Each player must play a minimum of one-half of each half except for disciplinary action, injury, or health reasons. Each player on the team must start at least one-half of the games played.

It is also important to point out that the main purpose of this league is for all players to participate and that coaches strive to insure that all players get the maximum number of minutes possible to play.

5.11 Substitutions during the game

Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may be made, **with the consent of the referee**, when a team is ready for a substitution. Being ready for substitution means that players are standing by the midfield line at the following times:

1. Prior to a throw in by the team with possession of the ball - If the team in possession is substituting, both teams may substitute as long as the opposing team's players are ready.
2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
3. After a goal, by either team.
4. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play - substitution is unlimited.
5. At half time.
6. **U6 –U11** - Substitution is allowed at any stoppage of play by either team.

5.12 Referees per game

The BPAA will furnish at least one referee per game. Each team, at the official's request, may be required to furnish at least one line judge for the game. The referee will supervise the line judge. Line judges are not allowed to coach.

5.13 Rules of conduct

1. Referees shall not be subject to abuse, criticism, or baiting by coaches, players or parents. It is the coach's responsibility to control the sideline comments and attitude of his or her team and its followers. The referee may stop the game and eject the offending player, coach or parent. In the most severe cases, the referee may terminate the game if the referee decides the situation is out of control. This decision is not subject to review; the referee's decision is final.
2. Referees can discipline a player for abusing players and coaches of an opposing team.
3. Any problems with referees should be reported to the BPAA Referee Coordinator. We also welcome positive comments.
4. Protests relative to a referee's decision will not alter the results of the game.
5. No one can go out onto the field to argue with the referee or anyone else on the field during the game.
6. A red card constitutes a dismissal from the game in which the violation occurred, plus suspension from the next scheduled league or tournament game. A player cannot be replaced during the game in which the dismissal occurred. The team will play short for the rest of that game.

5.14 Team and Spectators Positions on Field

1. Team and spectator positions on the field are now dependent on which field the game is played at:
 - Evergreen – Teams are on the east side of the field in the fenced area. Spectators must watch from stands or any where outside of the fenced area.
 - Noble Sports Park – Teams must take the side of the field away from the closest fence; in other words, between the fields. Spectators must take the side closest to the fence.
 - Zane Sports Park – Teams are positioned on the east side of the soccer fields. Spectators are positioned on the west side of the soccer fields.
2. Teams choose a field half for their base on a first come basis. During the game team members and coaches are restricted to an area from the center line to 10 yards down their half of the field.
3. Coaches are not permitted on the field of play or out of the team position on the side lines at any time during the game without the referee's approval. If the coach violates this rule, the referee may caution the coach, or remove the coach from the game.
4. Chairs and equipment must be at least 5 feet away from the side lines. All players, coaches and spectators must be at least 5 feet from the sidelines. This gives players room for throw-ins and over running the sidelines safely without having to deal with obstacles on the sidelines. It also allows assistant referees to see an 'out of bounds' ball more clearly.
5. Because the two opposing teams will be on either side of the midfield line during the game, coaches and players should remain in their own areas during the game, and one team should not cross over the midfield line to interact with the opposing team.
6. Because soccer spectators may be hit by softballs from a home run when softball games are played at the same time as a soccer game on ZSP7, spectators should not sit by the softball fence on West Side of ZSP7. We would recommend that parents and spectators sit toward the north end of the ZSP7, or some other part of the west side of the field away from the softball home run fence.

6. Injuries

6.1 *What to do in case of a serious injury*

If a player is knocked unconscious or seriously injured do the following:

1. Remember to keep calm and use your best judgment on what to do in this situation.
2. Notify POLICE at 911. If necessary, a phone is at South-West end of ZSP#7.
3. Do not move an injured player.
4. Do not try to straighten a possible fracture.
5. Cover the player to maintain body heat in the event of shock.
6. Keep crowd back from injured player.
7. Keep the player comfortable and soothe his/her feelings about the injury as much as possible.

6.2 *What to do with a player who is bleeding*

Any injured player who is bleeding must be removed from the game. The player cannot return to the game until the bleeding is controlled. Any bloodstains on a uniform must be removed or the uniform must be replaced. The player must check with the referee prior to returning to the game.

First Aid kits are furnished to each team. Check with the Equipment Coordinator to replace used First Aid material.

6.3 *Report all injuries*

Coaches should report all injuries by filling out an injury report with the BPAA Soccer committee. The Injury Report will contain the name of the injured player, the player's address, telephone number, date, and nature and treatment of the injury.

7. Racial and Sexual Harassment policy.

7.1 Racial Policy

Because the BPAA Soccer Committee is concerned that everyone in our community feels welcome to participate in our community sport program, the BPAA Soccer Committee has instituted a policy concerning racial intolerance. BPAA Soccer will not tolerate inappropriate racially motivated behavior in either speech or in action. First, we expect the referee to maintain order on the playing field, and the referee has the discretion to give a 'red card' to anyone who exhibits unwanted speech or behavior with regard to someone's race. Second, the BPAA Soccer committee has instituted a policy whereby the BPAA Soccer Committee will remove anyone from our program who continues to engage in behavior that is considered racist toward any particular person, team, or group of people.

7.2 Sexual Harassment Policy

Because the BPAA Soccer Committee is concerned that everyone in our community feels welcome to participate in our community sport program, the BPAA Soccer Committee has instituted a policy concerning sexual harassment. First, we expect the referee to maintain order on the playing field, and the referee has the discretion to hand out a "red card" to anyone who exhibits unwanted sexual speech or behavior to anyone else during a game. Second, the BPAA Soccer committee has instituted a policy whereby the BPAA Soccer Committee will remove anyone from our program who continues to engage in unwanted behavior that is considered to be sexual harassment by the BPAA Soccer Committee.

7.3 Implementing this policy

Because this is such a serious offense, and has serious consequences for both sides, the BPAA Soccer Committee needs to substantiate the behavior. The committee will also hold a hearing with the accused, and the accuser before a final judgment is made. However, if a BPAA Soccer Committee member witnesses this behavior while it is taking place, that committee member can take immediate action to prevent any further harassment from taking place. This action could be a reprimand, or removal of the offending person(s) from the game, and the area.

8. Reporting Game Results

All coaches, or their representative if they have no internet access, are responsible to report game results, whether a team wins or loses. Detailed instruction for reporting can be found at <http://www.bpaasports.org/Soccer/coach/submit-scores.htm>.