

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

2008 LEAGUE GOVERNING BOARD

League Managers (co-chaired)

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U9&U10**  
Match Secretary U9&U10

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U11**  
Match Secretary U11

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U12**  
Match Secretary U12

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U13**  
Match Secretary U13

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U14**  
Match Secretary U14

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U15**  
Match Secretary U15

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U16**  
Match Secretary U16

**Competitions Administrator  
Boys & Girls U17 – U19**  
Match Secretary U17 – U19

\* Where there are multiple divisions in an age group (i.e. gold and silver), multiple match secretaries will be appointed.

Disciplinary Committee

Referee Liaison/Advisor

League/Club representatives – One per league for 22 leagues of registration

Treasurer

Secretary

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

ARTICLE I	AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
ARTICLE II	MATCH SECRETARIES
ARTICLE III	TEAMS
ARTICLE IV	PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, ILLEGAL DRUGS
ARTICLE V	LEAGUE PLAY
ARTICLE VI	RESCHEDULED MATCHES
ARTICLE VII	FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT
ARTICLE VIII	REFEREES
ARTICLE IX	PLAYER PASSES, COACHES PASSES AND MATCH CARDS
ARTICLE X	COACHING
ARTICLE XI	SUBSTITUTIONS
ARTICLE XII	DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY
ARTICLE XIII	DISCIPLINARY ACTION DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES
ARTICLE XIV	GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
ARTICLE XV	OFFENSES AND PUNISHMENTS
ARTICLE XVI	NOTIFICATION OF MATCH RESULTS
ARTICLE XVII	STANDINGS
ARTICLE XVIII	PROTESTS AND APPEALS
ARTICLE XIX	NEUTRAL REFEREE PROGRAM (NRP)
ARTICLE XX	PAYMENT FOR REFEREE SERVICES
ARTICLE XXI	TEAM FEES
APPENDIX I	COMPLAINT FORM
APPENDIX II	SEASON TIMELINE

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

### ARTICLE I - AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The rules of play for all competitions sanctioned by the Golden State Soccer League (hereafter referred to as the League) shall be the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA with modifications made by CYSA-North, and by the League as amended each year. For purposes of clarity in these rules and regulations the leagues to which the participating teams are registered shall be referred to as "Clubs"
- B. The rules contained herein shall govern members of this League in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are consistent with the Constitution of CYSA-North.
- C. Each club shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, managers, coaches, team assistants, parents and spectators. It is the responsibility of each club to insure that the actions of its teams, on or off the field, do not bring disrespect upon this League
- D. Team officials, substitutes or players who fail to comply with Section C, above may be subject to being sent-off whether actively participating in the match or observing from an off-field position. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to modify the provisions of FIFA Law XII with respect to offenses resulting in a yellow card caution and those which may result in a sending-off.
- E. Coaches and other team officials of teams are responsible for:
  - 1. Coaches or managers of teams are responsible for maintaining order on the team bench and among accompanying spectators during matches. Should a substitute player, member of the coaching staff, or a spectator unlawfully enter the field of play the referee may stop all play. Should an incident escalate beyond the coaches' control and result in match abandonment, the entire team or teams, including all registered players and all members of the coaching staff will be subject to discipline by the Disciplinary Committee. Discipline may include suspension of all registered players and all members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the of the CYSA-N season. A more severe penalty may be assessed against specific individuals if their actions so warrant.
  - 2. Failure to abide by the GSSL Behavior Policy may result in disciplinary action by the league.
- F. Within these existing Rules and Regulations (hereafter "Regulations"), the term "appropriate Administrator" shall mean;
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls ("ABG-U9-10") for boys and girls teams U9 & U10
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls ("ABG-11") for boys and girls teams U11
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls ("ABG-12") for boys and girls teams U12
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls ("ABG-13") for boys and girls teams U13
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls ("ABG-14") for boys and girls teams U14
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls ("ABG-15") for boys and girls teams U15
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls ("ABG-16") for boys and girls teams U16
  - The Competitions Administrator for Boys and Girls (ABG-17-19) for boys and girls teams U17-U19
- G. The Governing Board shall include 1 representative from each club participating for that season.
  - 1. There will be 1 vote allowed per club.
  - 2. Each representative shall insure that all coaches understand Golden State Soccer League rules and procedures, including discipline and procedures for protests and appeals. They shall be responsible for keeping their club registrar and board informed of League business.
  - 3. Administrators may not serve as club representatives.

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

- H. The Governing Board shall include a treasurer with credentials acceptable to Districts 3 and 4 and to CYSA-N.
- I. The League Governing Board shall organize an annual meeting for all coaches of teams in the league. It will be held during the month of August for distribution of fall schedules, Rules of Play, maps, sportsmanship guidelines and other pertinent information.

## **ARTICLE II - MATCH SECRETARIES**

### **A. APPOINTMENTS:**

- 1. Each club is required to submit applications of 3 willing and qualified match secretary candidates at the time that team applications are submitted. Match Secretaries shall be appointed by the League Manager
- 2. Match Secretary appointments shall be assigned equally throughout the clubs.
- 3. No Match Secretary can be a coach, assistant coach or parent associated with the age group and/or division for which he or she is responsible.

### **B. RESPONSIBILITIES:** Match Secretaries shall have the following responsibilities:

- 1. Receive application information and schedules of one or more divisions of teams, which they become responsible for, from the appropriate Administrator after ratification by the League Governing Board.
- 2. Answer questions regarding the League Procedures, Rules and Regulations.
- 3. Receive the match cards, record the results and keep track of current standings for the divisions
- 4. Insure that online standings are accurate and complete on a weekly basis.
- 5. Communicate information from the League to coaches as instructed by the appropriate Administrator.
- 6. Receive information and documents from coaches directed to the League unless specified otherwise.
- 7. Refer disputes between coaches of the division to the appropriate Administrator
- 8. Call coaches for verbal reports if match cards are missing.
- 9. Assist Disciplinary Chairperson by providing any necessary information.
- 10. Notify the appropriate administrator of any failure by coaches to comply with Article VI.

## **ARTICLE III - TEAMS**

- A. Teams must be authorized to play in the League by their club for each season. The club must be an affiliated league or member of an affiliated league in good standing in CYSA-N in order to apply for participation in the Golden State Soccer League. Authorized teams may apply for participation in the League by completing application forms and submitting them through their Club Representative as required by the League Governing Board and by paying all fees imposed by the League Governing Board. All fees paid to the League by teams must be paid by a check drawn on an account owned by the team's home league or club Recommendations by the Administrators are subject to approval of the

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

League Governing Board. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the League may accept teams whose home leagues are affiliated with and in good standing with any CYSA-N District and who have an acceptable competitive playing history upon satisfaction of each of the following conditions described in CYSA-N PIM 89-1:

1. Approval of the District Commissioner of the team's home District;
2. Approval of the District 3 and 4 Commissioners;
3. Approval of the League Manager;
4. Approval of the League Governing Board;
5. Provide acceptable justification for the request.

Teams from other districts may be required to play all their matches within Golden State Soccer League. The determination will be handled on a case by case basis.

- B. Teams from District 3 and District 4 will, upon complying with all application procedures, be automatically accepted into the league. Teams will play both "home" and "away" matches in proportions appropriately balanced according to the number of teams in the division.
- C. Teams must individually apply to be entered into the League by the date shown in Appendix II for the season starting the following September. Appropriate fees must be submitted with the application per Article XXII. The Administrator for the age group and division within which a late applying team seeks to play, shall have discretion to accept a late application, with the concurrence of the other Administrators.
- D. Each team applying for admission to the League must submit a roster of at least 11 players as a portion of its online and paper application by the application deadline. In the case of U9 & U10 teams the minimum number of players will be eight (8) at the time of application. After acceptance by the league, and a minimum of 10 days prior to the first league match, each team shall enter their final team roster on the GSSL website. Once entered on the website, this roster must be printed by each team and provided to the referee before the match as the official "match card". Any subsequent roster changes shall be updated on the website. The final roster and subsequent changes should correspond with the passes and documents approved by the District Registrar referred to in Article III.E.
- E. All teams shall bring to each League match current signed, laminated, player and coaches passes and original, signed, medical release forms for each player and the official team roster for the team as approved by its District Registrar, together with all documents effecting changes to the official team roster. Player and coach passes shall be provided to the referee at each League match. Player and coach passes and the official team roster shall be shown to any member of the League Governing Board for inspection upon the request of such member. Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph, respecting presentation of official team roster and player/coach passes for inspection shall subject the coach and the team to disciplinary action as allowed by these Regulations.
- F. As used in these Regulations, Division 1 teams, as defined by CYSA, shall mean teams formed by a selection process for U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U19 age groups, determined by the age level of the oldest player per CYSA PIM 00-3
- G. Each team playing in the GSSL will be required to participate with a team name containing a readily identifiable designation of their league of registration.

### **ARTICLE IV - PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO, ILLEGAL DRUGS**

- A. The use or consumption of any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs before, during or after the playing of a match by any player, coach, other team official or spectator is expressly prohibited.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

- B. Any spectator, player, coach or other team official who violates this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action by the League.
- C. Spectators shall not possess or consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during the match. If a spectator continues to violate this rule, the referee must not let the match continue.
- D. The use of tobacco will not be allowed within 25 yards of any CYSA affiliated activity involving youth players.
- E. Any player, coach or other team official who violates this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action by the League.

### ARTICLE V - LEAGUE PLAY

- A. The season will begin the first Saturday after Labor Day and end the second weekend in November. It is the Board's intention to provide 10-12 scheduled matches per season.

**Possible play dates will be published at the time of application. Teams agree to be available on any of these dates.** Any team that forfeits a match will be assessed an \$85.00 fine. Payments of these fines will be the responsibility of the sponsoring club. Forfeits will be recorded as a 0-2 loss to the forfeiting team.

- B. Golden State Soccer League shall strive to establish playing divisions that provide the appropriate level of competition for all participating teams. To achieve this goal, the league shall use information gathered on league applications and shall follow the criteria described below. Information gathered on league applications and used in determining the appropriate placement of all teams includes the following:
  - Golden State Soccer League results from the prior season, including standing, game results (head to head), etc.
  - State Cup results from the previous season will be used to evaluate new teams.
  - Tournament results, including the level of the tournament and the team's finish will be used to evaluate new teams.
  - Head to head results against highly ranked teams will be used to evaluate new teams.

#### Criteria:

1. The gold division shall consist of no more than 8 teams, except that the U11, U12 and U13 gold divisions (in 2008) shall consist of no more than 6 teams. Each successive year another age group will be added to this 6 team limit; for example, the U11, U12, U13 and U14 gold divisions shall consist of no more than 6 teams for the 2009 season, U11, U12, U13, U14 and U15 for 2010, etc.
2. The remaining teams will be divided into a silver division and, if needed, a bronze division. There will be no more than 11 teams in the silver division, with a goal that all divisions are created, where possible, to play a balanced match schedule.
3. Teams returning from the prior league season may be considered for promotion or relegation. If promotion is requested, the top team from a division will be promoted. It is the intent to relegate the bottom team from each division each season, based on the performance of the prior season. The league administration may, by a two-thirds vote, choose not to relegate teams if, in the opinion of the league administration, it will not provide competition in keeping with the league's objectives. Returning teams are defined as those teams returning after participating in the previous GSSL season with a minimum of 10 returning players in the U9-U16 divisions, or 8 returning players in the U17-U19 divisions, or a number of players equal to 2/3 of the previous season's roster, whichever number is smaller.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

4. The league administration may add divisions when sufficient teams representing a similar level of play submit applications. When these added divisions remain from one year to the next, a promotion and relegation system will be incorporated between divisions as described in item 3 above.
5. New teams accepted into the League will be placed in a Silver or Bronze division, unless it can be demonstrated that the team will be competitive in the Gold division. Final decision on such cases will rest with a two-thirds vote of the League Administration. New teams are defined as:
  - a) teams that have a minimum of 10 players in U9 through U16 divisions or 8 players in U17 through U19 divisions, or 2/3 of the previous season's roster, whichever number is smaller, returning from the prior season but are new to GSSL or
  - b) teams that do not have a continuing group of 10 players in U9 through U16 divisions or 8 players in U17 through U19 divisions, regardless of where they played the previous season.
6. Division Placement Process:
  - a. First division placement meeting
    - Administrators will present proposed divisions to all club representatives with a brief explanation of their recommendations.
    - There's to be no discussion by club representatives that evening.
  - b. First Friday following initial division placement meeting.
    - Club representatives must submit any challenges they have regarding administrators recommendations (email is acceptable).
    - Challenges must include name of team being challenged (only one team allowed), and any information that the club representative has at that time why the administrators recommendation should be changed (if there's no information provided at that time the challenge is void).
  - c. First Sunday following initial division placement meeting.
    - Administrators will inform all club representatives of teams that are involved with a challenge
  - d. Tuesday following initial division placement meeting.
    - Clubs that have teams that have been challenged must inform the appropriate administrators of a team that they may choose to challenge if they're displaced from the originally recommended division. This information must be received by 8:00 PM.
    - Administrators will notify all club representatives that have a team named in the final process
  - e. Second Friday following initial division placement meeting.
    - All information that club representatives wish to be considered by the administrators in making their final recommendations must be submitted.
  - f. Monday prior to final division placement meeting.
    - Administrators will submit, via email, their final recommendations to all club representatives
  - g. Final division placement meeting.
    - Administrators will present their final recommendations with a brief explanation of their recommendation's, this explanation should include any challenges that were received as well as what they based their recommendation on

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

- Motion(s) to change an administrator's recommendation will only be granted if the above process was followed along with a second to the motion.
- Club representatives will be allowed a brief opportunity to speak on behalf of their teams named in the challenge.
- Motions granted to change the recommendation of an administrator will require a minimum of a fifty-one percent in favor vote of the clubs that have a vote to pass, i.e. if 22 clubs have a vote, in order to change an administrators recommendation the motion would require 12 votes in favor to pass
- Division placements will be final and not subject to an appeal at the conclusion of a final vote to approve, unless a club representative can demonstrate that the division placement process wasn't followed.

- h. By a two thirds vote g. may be changed
- Providing that all processes in a. through f, that could have been followed, were followed. If an exception to g needs to be made a two thirds vote will be required to grant an exception.
- i. Beginning with the meeting following the final division placement meeting (July of each year)
- Any club that fails to have a representative present at a minimum of seventy-five percent of the scheduled GSSL meetings up to, but not including, the final division placement meeting the following year will lose their right to vote at the final division placement meeting.
  - This will commence with the July 2008 GSSL meeting.

7 League Administration will adhere to the timeline outlined in Appendix II for final assignment of teams into divisions.

8 Decisions of the League Governing Board regarding division placement of teams are final and not subject to appeal.

C. The League will schedule matches and dates for each season, with home and visiting teams as specified in Appendix II. Schedules must be home and away (where applicable), except that home matches for out-of-district teams may be played within Golden State Soccer boundaries per Article III, Section B. Any other exception to the "home" and "away" rule must be approved by the League Governing Board.

D. Match lengths:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Match length</b>	<b>Minimum Schedule Periods</b>
U9 & U10	2-25 min. halves	1-1/4 hours
U11 & U12	2-30 min. halves	1-1/4 hours
U13 & U14	2-35 min. halves	1-1/2 hours
U15 & U16	2-40 min. halves	1-3/4 hours
U17 thru U19	2-45 min. halves	2 hours

The rest period between halves shall be 5 minutes

E. Divisions that consist of teams in multiple age groups will play match lengths consistent with the oldest age group. For example, an age group with both U12 and U13 teams will play 35-minute halves

F. League matches that are tied at the end of regulation time shall stand as ties and no extra-time periods are to be played

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

- G. Except as provided by these Regulations, any team delaying the start of a match by more than 15 minutes from the scheduled match starting time without a valid reason or prior authority from the appropriate Administrator or League Manager, shall be assessed a forfeit.

### ARTICLE VI - RESCHEDULED MATCHES

- A. The only valid reasons for rescheduled matches are:
1. Inclement weather.
  2. Field unplayable, as determined by local authorities.
  3. Field unexpectedly unavailable
  4. Team is entered in a sanctioned USYSA tournament or CYSA jamboree for U9 & U10 teams and has provided a 30-day notice to the League.
  5. ODP play days
  6. PSAT, SAT, ACT official tests
  7. For any other reason, approval of the Competition Administrator **MUST** be obtained at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled match.
- B. Any request to reschedule a match must be authorized by the appropriate Competition Administrator 7 days prior to the match. **Any agreement between coaches or club officials to reschedule the match without prior authorization or without a valid reason, as listed in Article VI, Section A and without approval by the Division Administrator, will result in each team being assessed a forfeit.** No match is considered officially rescheduled until approved by the Competition Administrator. Any exceptions to Article VI, Sections A and B, are subject to the approval of the Golden State Soccer League Manager.
- C. The home teams shall inform opposing teams and appropriate Competition Administrator of unplayable field conditions at the earliest possible time. Failure to comply with this requirement may subject the home team to sanctions or penalties as specified in Article XIII.
- D. The appropriate Competition Administrator will arrange all matches requiring re-scheduling and inform representatives of both teams and the referee assignor a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the re-scheduled match. The new schedule will become official and will be treated as any other officially scheduled match. Playing 2 matches in 1 day with a minimum of 4 hours between scheduled end time of the first match to the scheduled start time of the second match will not be a valid excuse for not agreeing to a rescheduled match.
- E. Prior to the start of a match, officials of the league of the home team are responsible for determining whether the field is playable or not. After the start of the match the referee shall have sole authority as to whether the field conditions are dangerous or not, and if the match should start or continue.
- F. If any match must be rescheduled, it is the responsibility of the home team's representative to notify the appropriate Competitions Administrator, the opposing team and League local referee assignors as soon as possible. **For the U15 Gold divisions and the U-16 through U-19 divisions the Competition Administrator will advise the Neutral Referee Program Assignor of the change.** Failure to do so may subject the home offending team to sanctions by the League, including forfeiture of match.
- H. Matches that are terminated during the first half will be re-played as complete matches. Matches terminated during the second half will be considered full matches and the score at the time of the termination will be recorded as the final result. Should there be evidence of impropriety or misuse of this regulation, as determined by the League Administration, the match will be subject to review and full re-play may be required.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

### ARTICLE VII - FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Home clubs are responsible for supplying an adequate field for play. The field shall be in good condition, as determined by the referee, and appropriate size. Clubs are strongly urged to provide appropriate restroom facilities within a reasonable distance from the field. The field shall also have proper markings, goal nets and corner flags. Violation of this Section may result in sanctions or forfeiture of the affected scheduled match(es). A form for complaints regarding fields is provided in Appendix I.

As referenced in this Section, "appropriate size" shall mean USSF recommendations:

	Length	Width
Minimum	100 yards (Goal Size 8'x24')	50 yards
U9 & U10	60 yards (Goal Size 7'x21')	40 yards
Maximum	130 yards (Goal Size 8'x24')	100 yards
U9 & U10	90 yards (Goal Size 7'x21')	60 yards

- B. Unless local jurisdictions determine otherwise, the home team shall select its side of the field and the visiting team shall take the other side. All coaches, substitute players, other team officials and spectators for a team shall be on their side of the field only (when physically possible).
- C. Both teams shall have a ball available for play in accordance with FIFA regulations. The referee shall select the ball from the home team as the match ball unless it is not up to standards. For U9 through U12 age groups, the ball shall be size #4. For U13 through U19 age groups, the ball shall be size #5. League age groups that consist of teams in multiple age groups will use the ball size consistent with the oldest age group in the division. For example - a division with both U12 and U13 teams will play with a size #5 ball. Recommended field size for U9 and U10 is 50 yards by 75 yards. Size of goal should be 21 feet wide by 7 feet high.
- D. No player shall participate in the match wearing hard soled street shoes or without shoes. Tennis shoes, rubber soled shoes, or shoes with molded or screw-in studs are permissible.
- E. Shin pads shall be appropriate for the size of the player and worn as designed: in the full and upright position at all times during play. Shin pads shall be completely covered by the socks.
- F. All teams shall be required to have 2 sets of jerseys, each being of contrasting color, for each player on the team. The home team will wear jerseys of the club's home color (dark) with visiting teams wearing jerseys of alternate and contrasting colors. Should there be any color conflict the referee will make a decision. With the exception of the goalkeepers, all players shall wear a standard team uniform only, with a clearly visible number on the back of the jersey. Players may wear long sleeve shirts under their jerseys provided that all such shirts are of the same color as the outer jersey being worn. Players may wear compression shorts, biking shorts or tights under their uniform shorts provided that such shorts or tights are the same color as the team's uniform shorts and do not extend below the knee. Logos, trademarks, emblems or any other insignia expressing, promoting or otherwise symbolizing alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances (drugs) are specifically prohibited.
- G. No player with a bleeding or oozing wound or wearing blood-soaked clothing, as determined by the referee, shall be allowed to take part or to continue playing in any match. A wound has to be adequately covered and blood-soaked clothing may not be worn. Use of blood by a player as a means to assault another person shall be punished as serious foul play/violent conduct.
- H. In the event that the home clubs fail to make the fields required by these Regulations available for the matches a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the first play-date of the season, the visiting team(s) shall have the right to require that the match, or matches, be rescheduled as a home match, or matches, for

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

the visiting team(s). Such rescheduling shall not result in an exchange of home and away matches between the teams; rather it will result in the loss of a home match for the originally scheduled home team and an additional home match for the original visiting team.

### ARTICLE VIII - REFEREES

- A. Referees officiating Golden State Soccer League matches are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the rules that govern League play.
- B. Referees are expected to be on time for matches in order to conduct credentials and safety inspection prior to team warm-up. The pre-match inspection should be specifically limited to credentials and safety "Lecturing" on the rules of the match should be avoided.
- C. Referees shall inspect each player's equipment before the start of play or before any player will be permitted to play in the match. Players wearing orthopaedic casts, air splint or metal splint or any item considered by the referee to be dangerous to the player wearing the equipment or other players shall not be eligible to participate in the match. Players wearing eyeglasses or sport goggles shall be permitted to play in League matches.
- D. League matches should be officiated by 3 current USSF referees holding a license of grade 8 or better. A minimum of 1 currently licensed referee and 2 club linesmen is acceptable for age groups U9 through U15 Silver and Bronze. For the U15 Gold and U16 and older age groups, refer to the Neutral Referee Program Policies in Article XX.

In the absence of assigned officials, the following solution priority is to be adhered to:

1. For the selection of game officials, assignments under the Neutral Referee Program will have priority in all cases for which the program is put in place. Responsibility for all other assignments lies with the Club that is hosting any particular match. In the event the visiting team was to provide 1 or more officials as a result of disciplinary action or agreement prior to a match, the visiting team will be considered to be the hosting team, and vice versa, for sake of this paragraph D.
2. THREE match officials are needed for all league matches; they will exercise the Diagonal System of Control. The officials should be qualified referees, i.e., currently licensed, adequately experienced and physically fit for the match level they are going to officiate.
3. The right of the referee to dispense with the services of an assistant referee under the provisions of Law VI of the FIFA Laws of the Game is not affected by any of the procedures stated in this paragraph D.
4. Officials assigned to the match should not be affiliated with either team through personal relationship or functional role. Any affiliation of officials with a team, whether they are assigned to officiate or stepping in under one of the provisions below, must be disclosed to the other team before the start of the match. The city, or town, of residence of a referee is not considered to be an affiliation with a team from the same city, or town.
5. In case an assigned referee or assistant referee is determined to be affiliated with the hosting team, the visiting team has the right to nominate a qualified referee of their own choice who is present at the site, for the role in question. This referee may be affiliated with the visiting team only if no unaffiliated, qualified referee is available to officiate in the match.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations

6. In case the assigned referee or an assigned assistant referee did not show up in time to start the match as scheduled, the visiting team has the right to assign an unaffiliated, qualified referee for each open position. A qualified referee who is affiliated with the visiting team shall officiate under this rule only if no unaffiliated, qualified referee from the hosting Club is available.
  7. In case the visiting team does not make use of option under Section 5 or 6, an otherwise qualified referee who is affiliated with the hosting team will be permitted to officiate as center referee or assistant referee.
  8. If, after fifteen (15) minutes beyond the scheduled kick-off or, if the prior game is running late, fifteen (15) minutes following the conclusion of the game played immediately prior to the game in question, and after considering all options in procedures 1 through 7 and the center referee position still cannot be filled, the home team will forfeit the game. If, after considering options in procedures 1 through 7 a center referee position is filled the other two positions will be club linespersons and should be filled by assigning one person from each team. Should one team not be able to furnish any linespersons both may be accepted from one team.
  9. In the event that a previously assigned official appears after a match commenced with an alternative official, the previously assigned official may complete the match upon agreement of both coaches.
  10. Failure of the hosting league to provide 3 qualified officials for a match not affiliated with the hosting team shall be noted on the match report prior to the start of the match, and the match secretary shall inform the Disciplinary Committee of this matter. The Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions against the hosting Club in such a case. Failure to obey applicable procedures in Sections 1 through 7 may result in disciplinary action against the perpetrating party, including but not limited to forfeit of the match in question. A complaint form for this purpose is provided in Appendix I. Qualified assistant referees shall be assigned with experience appropriate for the matches to which they are assigned.
- E. The referee's judgment with regard to the physical conditions of the field and its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the match and those responsibilities and powers granted him/her by the "Laws of the Game" shall not be challenged.
- F. Referees and assistant referees must be a minimum of fourteen (14) years old, have a minimum of two (2) years experience as an assistant referee and be at least two (2) years older than the age-group that he/she will be officiating. Age limitation will not apply to referees that are grade 6 (state level) or above, or referees recommended by the District Referee Committee.
- G. Each participating team in GSSL is required to have available one person to act as a club linesperson at all matches in which the team will be participating. The linesperson must be familiar with Laws of the Game and GSSL rules. It is highly recommended that the assigned individual to have completed a referee clinic.

## ARTICLE IX - PLAYER PASSES, COACHES PASSES AND MATCH CARDS

- A. The referees shall verify the identity of each player and coach with his/her player pass. The referee shall collect the passes of all players and coaches who will be participating in the match. Any player who does not have a valid player pass shall not play in the match. Any player whose name is not entered on the match card shall not play until their name has been entered.

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

- B. A valid, laminated player pass shall be an approved USYSA player pass with all information filled in, including the team name. The player's current photo shall be laminated to the card and stamped by the District Registrar or District Commissioner.
- C. If a player participates in a match without a valid player pass and is not on the official team roster, or such player is otherwise ineligible to play, the player's team shall forfeit the match. Other disciplinary action may be imposed by the League on the player and/or the coach. All allegations relating to the use of ineligible players shall be addressed to the Disciplinary Committee.
- D. The coach of the home team shall provide the match card to the visiting team prior to the start of the match, signed by officials of each team and with the proper portions filled out. The visiting team shall complete their portion of the card and give it to the referee prior to the start of play. Both coaches are responsible for ensuring that Match Secretary's name and address appear on the match card.
  - 1. Any player(s) or team official(s) who did not participate in the match because of a suspension should be so noted on the match card and initialed by the referee. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure this has been done.
  - 2. The names of all team players with jersey numbers must be listed on the match card. Players not expected to play for any reason must have a line drawn through their names by the team official prior to presenting the match card.
- E. For each team, an adult with a valid team official's pass for the team playing shall be present and responsible for his/her team during the entire match and he/she shall sign the match card.
- F. Any coach who plays a player that is not properly registered with his or her team will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension.

### **ARTICLE X – COACHING**

A. Coaching from the touchline, i.e., giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted provided:

- 1. No physical or mechanical devices are used
- 2. The tone of voice is informative and not abusive

B. No coaching by anyone may take place anywhere but at his/her own bench area during the match. A team's bench area shall be that area 1 yard away from the touchline and extending 10 yards in each direction from the halfway line. If both teams locate their bench area on the same side of the field due to existing adverse conditions, then each bench area shall be limited to an area one yard from the touchline and extending 20 yards in one direction from the halfway line, each team in a different direction.

### **ARTICLE XI – SUBSTITUTIONS**

- A. Players may be substituted only at the following times:
  - 1. Prior to a throw-in for the substituting team
  - 2. Prior to a goal kick by either team
  - 3. After a goal by either team
  - 4. After an injury when the referee has stopped play, by either team
  - 5. At half time
  - 6. When the referee has stopped play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted
- B. The number of substitutes shall be unlimited. Any player removed from the match may re-enter the match an unlimited number of times, at a stoppage of the match as specified.
- C. Substitutes shall enter the field only at the halfway line on their team's side of the field, and only when the referee has signaled the substitute to come onto the field. Players should leave the field at the

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

halfway line on their team's side of the field unless the referee has signaled or has given concurrence for a player to leave the field elsewhere.

### ARTICLE XII - DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

#### A. COMPOSITION:

1. The League's Disciplinary Committee shall be composed as follows:
  - The Chairperson, appointed by the League Manager
  - The League Manager
  - The League's 8 Administrators (ABG 9 &10, ABG 11, ABG 12, ABG 13, ABG 14, ABG 15, ABG 16, ABG 17 - 19)
2. The League Disciplinary Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the League Manager. In the event that a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee is required under the provisions of these Regulations and 6 members of the Committee are unavailable to meet in a timely manner, and/or disqualified from participation in the matter to come before the Committee, the League Manager and the Committee Chairperson shall have authority to appoint as many ad hoc members to the Committee as may be required to reach a total of 3 members available for such meeting. Three are needed to make a quorum.
3. No one, other than participating committee members, may attend a committee meeting unless invited by the Chairperson.
4. No member of the committee shall vote on issue(s) involving his/her club.

#### B. RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Golden State Soccer League Disciplinary Committee shall be responsible for administering all matters of disciplinary actions resulting from participation in any Golden State Soccer League sanctioned activity as they may relate to players, coaches, teams and League officials affiliated with Golden State Soccer League. These sanctions and penalties may be, but are not limited to:

1. Suspension of any player, coach, team assistant or any team official from participating in this League's activities or matches for a specified period of time.
2. Special assignment of referees to home matches or allowing visiting teams to bring their own currently licensed referees.
3. Allowing scheduled "visiting teams" to provide the field without any effect on the rest of the scheduled home and visiting designations.
4. Forfeiture of any League matches already played.
5. Suspension of the team from participation in League activities and League matches for any portion of the League's currently scheduled season with all matches scheduled during the period of suspension being declared a forfeit.
6. Suspension of a team from participation in the League's activities and/or League matches for all or any portion of a playing season.
7. Declaring a team to be not in good standing for GSSL league play and request from the district or league of registration that the team be ineligible to play in any CYSA-North sanctioned tournaments, State cup, or other play.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

8. Within 48 hours of disciplinary action, the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson shall advise the appropriate Administrator and the Match Secretary responsible for the affected team of all disciplinary action taken by the Disciplinary Committee and/or its Chairperson.

### C. PROTESTS AND APPEALS:

Composition: The League's Protest and Appeals Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson appointed by the League Manager. The Chairperson will appoint 3 non-permanent committee members to hear each individual appeal. Protests and Appeals shall be governed by Article XIX of these Procedures, Rules and Regulations. The Appeals Committee will not include any members of the presiding Disciplinary Committee.

### D. MEETINGS:

The Disciplinary Committee shall meet as necessary. Meetings, however, need not occur if not required. The Chairperson shall try to provide a minimum of 1-week notice before any meeting. The time and place of the meetings shall be determined by the Chairperson. If prompt action is necessary, the League Manager and the Disciplinary Chairperson may conduct a vote by phone. Further, the League Manager and Disciplinary Chairperson may agree to call a special meeting in case of an emergency.

### E. CONFIDENTIALITY:

No names shall be disclosed outside of the Disciplinary Committee and League Board meetings except in case of appeal and as minimally necessary to effect the discipline. This does not apply to notice of the result of disciplinary action. Proceedings and discussions are not to be disclosed outside the committee meeting. Exceptions occur in the case of appeals.

## ARTICLE XIII - DISCIPLINARY ACTION

### A. DEFINITIONS:

1. A "**WARNING**" may be given to a player, coach or other team official by the referee in order to indicate to that person that their conduct is not proper. The "warning" is given on an informal basis and can be given while the match is in progress. The person warned is thereby placed on notice that further improper conduct may result in a more serious and formal action by the referee.
2. A "**CAUTION**" is administered by the display of a yellow card directed to an offending player during a stoppage in play after the incident has occurred. It is a formal statement to a player that he or she is guilty of intentional misconduct and that any further misconduct requiring a "caution" will result in being shown another yellow card, immediately followed by a red card, and sent off from the match. Coaches and other team officials will be dealt with in similar fashion but without the display of cards.
3. A "**SEND OFF**" is administered by the display of a red card directed to the offending player during a stoppage in play after an incident has occurred. It is a formal statement to the player that he or she is being sent off from the match. A player who has been sent off may not be substituted for during the rest of the match. Coaches and team officials will be dealt with in similar fashion but without the display of a card.
4. A "suspension" means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges, such as the right to play, coach, or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in youth soccer, and the suspension is for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority (US Youth Soccer Rule 101 section 2, item 8).

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

The temporary withdrawal of rights and privilege extend to all teams to which the suspended individual is affiliated

## **B. PROCEDURES:**

### **1. REFEREES:**

- a. If a player is given a caution, the referee is required to record the player's name, team name, jersey number and registration number on the match card with a brief description and the time of the incident. A coach or team official guilty of misconduct shall be verbally notified by the referee that they have received a caution with a reason noted on the match card. The player receiving a caution may be substituted at that stoppage.
  
- b. Should a send-off be necessary the referee is required to record the player's name, jersey number and registration number, or the coach or team official's name, on the match card with a brief description of the incident. The referee must retain the player's or team official's pass and the match card. The person being sent off shall be verbally notified of the send-off and the reason. The referee shall, within 24 hours of the match, send the player's pass, and/or the team official's pass, the match card and a CYSA-N Send Off Report detailing the incident to the Disciplinary Chair.

### **2. MATCH SECRETARIES:**

- a. The Match Secretary will forward to the Disciplinary Chairperson any pertinent information concerning the cautioning of a coach or team official within 24 hours of receipt.

### **3. DISCIPLINARY CHAIRPERSON:**

- a. The GSSL Disciplinary Committee Chairperson will notify the appropriate Competitions Administrator and the appropriate district Disciplinary chairperson of the district of registration for the individual being disciplined within 48 hours of the decision on the CYSA Send Off Report or information concerning the cautioning of a coach or team official of a disciplinary decision.
  
- b. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson will prepare a monthly "Disciplinary Report" for distribution at the monthly Golden State Soccer League meeting. League and team summaries will be provided. On a bi-monthly basis, summaries by player will be provided to individual clubs regarding their players, coaches and team officials.
  
- c. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson will attempt to notify the coach of any disciplinary decision and penalty within 48 hours of the decision and will make arrangements with the appropriate Competitive League Representative to return the player pass after the suspension is served.

### **4. TIME PROVISIONS:**

- a. The time periods stated in these Procedures, Rules and Regulations for Match Secretary, Disciplinary Committee Chairperson or Disciplinary Committee notification or decision are mandatory. Failure to comply with these set periods in itself, however, does not constitute alone a valid reason to overturn a decision or imposed disciplinary action.

### **5. APPEALS:**

- a. Any disciplinary decision may be appealed to the League's Protest and Appeals Committee. Appeals are governed by the provisions of Article XIX of these Procedures, Rules and Regulations

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations

## ARTICLE XIV - GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson shall have the authority to impose discipline consisting of a suspension, with or without probation, of no more than 2 League matches.
- B. Suspension of players for more than 2 matches, or any suspension of a team or team officials, shall require a decision by the full Disciplinary Committee.
- C. In all cases involving a suspension of more than 2 League matches, notice of the disciplinary action or other decision shall be sent by mail to the coach within 7 days of the decision. All other concerned parties, including, but not limited to, Club Presidents, Match Secretaries and Club Representatives will be notified through League and District channels.

## ARTICLE XV - OFFENSES AND PUNISHMENTS

The Disciplinary Committee and Disciplinary Committee Chairperson shall act on disciplinary matters and shall have discretionary powers in determining the degree of penalties to be applied to players and team officials after being sent-off. The penalties stated below are guidelines for the punishment for the first offense. The penalties may be increased or decreased according to the circumstances. The penalties may be imposed for conduct occurring before, during or after a match. The guideline penalties do not include the match in which the offending conduct occurred. Penalties for second and subsequent offenses will be greater than those for first offenses. In addition, if circumstances warrant, a team as a whole may be subject to penalties. Coaches serving suspensions may not participate in matches for that team or any other team until full suspension has been served.

### A. VIOLENT CONDUCT OR SERIOUS FOUL PLAY BY PLAYER:

- 1. Violent conduct or serious foul play, including, but not limited to, denying opponent of obvious goal scoring opportunity by the commission of a foul other than by intentionally handling the ball.
  - a. Suspend for 2 to 3 matches
- 2. Denying opponent obvious goal scoring opportunity by intentionally handling the ball.
  - a. Suspend for 1 match.
- 3. Attempting to fight or strike (including spitting at) another person.
  - a. Suspend for 2 to 4 matches
- 4. Fighting.
  - a. Suspend for 3 to 5 matches
- 5. Pushing or striking (including spitting at) a coach or team official.
  - a. Suspend for 4 to 5 matches.
- 6. Pushing, striking (including spitting at) or physically attacking a referee, assistant referee or official.
  - a. Automatic 1-year suspension and referral to the CYSA BOD.

### B. OFFENSIVE, INSULTING OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES BY PLAYER:

- 1. Foul or abusive language or gestures.
  - a. Suspend for 1 to 3 matches.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

2. Taunting or mocking by word or action a player, referee, assistant referee, team official or spectator.
  - a. Suspend for 2 to 3 matches.
3. Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures directed at referee or assistant referee.
  - a. Suspend for 2 to 4 matches.
4. Threatening, by word or action, a referee, assistant referee, team official or spectator.
  - a. Suspend for 3 to 5 matches.
5. Offensive, insulting or abusive language containing racial epithets or ethnic slurs.
  - a. Suspend for 2 to 3 matches in addition to any penalties otherwise imposed.

### C. ENTERING FIELD TO COMMIT MISCONDUCT:

1. A substitute player entering the field to commit violent conduct.
  - a. Double the penalty that would have been imposed on a player who had been allowed on the field.

### D. PERSISTENT MISCONDUCT AFTER A CAUTION BY PLAYER:

1. Persistent misconduct after having been cautioned and shown the yellow card.
  - a. Suspend for 1 to 3 matches.

### E. PLAYER MISCONDUCT IN CONSECUTIVE MATCHES:

1. Same or different members of the same team being sent off the field of play and shown the red card for violent conduct twice within 4 consecutive matches
  - a. Suspend coach for 1 match.
  - b.

### F. MISCONDUCT BY COACH OR TEAM OFFICIALS:

Coaches and team officials are reminded that they are responsible for the conduct of their sidelines. A coach may be cautioned or sent off based on the conduct of the sidelines regardless of whether the coach or team official participated in or encouraged the conduct. When sent off the field of play a coach must immediately and completely leave the vicinity of the field. The suspension of a coach, may at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, apply to all coaching activities.

1. Coaches and team officials sent off the field of play for infringement of the Laws of the Game shall have 2 matches added to the suspension that would normally be levied against a player for a similar infringement.
2. Receipt of a caution
  - a. Probation for up to 5 weeks
3. Being sent off.
  - a. Appropriate suspension, plus probation for 1 year.
4. Playing or attempting to play an ineligible player, including a player on suspension.
  - a. Suspend for 3 to 5 matches, for each incident, plus 1-year probation.
5. Coach or team official, but not player, attending match while on suspension.
  - a. Suspension for an additional 5 matches for each incident.
6. Any team official, as defined in 3:02:07 of the CYSA Constitution, who is sent-off for violation of Article XVI B 2, XVI B 3 or XVI B.4 above, and if the referee, assistant referee or fourth official is

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

a "youth" as defined by section 3.03:01 of the CYSA Constitution, 6.a – That team official shall have one (1) match added to the suspension

### **G. PROBATION:**

1. The Disciplinary Chairperson or Committee shall have the authority to place a player on probation for the same period as the guideline penalty. If an individual on such probation is sent off during the probationary period, the full penalty for the more serious offense will be applied and no appeal will be allowed.
2. Coach or team official receiving a caution while on probation for a caution.
  - a. Suspend for 1 to 2 matches plus probation for the remainder of the season.
3. Coach or team official being sent off while on probation for a caution.
  - a. Suspend for 3 to 5 matches plus probation for 1 year.
4. Coach or team official being sent off while on probation for a send off.
  - a. 1-year suspension.

### **H. TOURNAMENT MATCHES:**

If, in the opinion of the District Commissioner, additional punishment is warranted for a send off in tournament or inter-district play, the District Commissioner refers the matter to the League for further action.

### **I. GENERAL:**

1. Suspensions shall carry forward into the next season and, if necessary, the next playing year.
2. Suspensions from League matches shall affect eligibility for tournament play. Players, coaches and team officials suspended from League matches may not participate in tournament competition prior to completing their suspension. If a player or coach is suspended for 1 or 2 matches of a tournament, arrangements must be made with the Disciplinary Chairperson to take the pass but obtain proof from the tournament referee or administrator that the required suspension has been served.
3. Any player being cautioned and shown the yellow card for the third time in the Golden State Soccer League season will be automatically suspended from the team's next match, for which there is no appeal. Suspensions will result for each accumulation of 3 yellow cards or official cautions during the season. Should a second caution in the same match result in a sending-off, neither caution of that match will be counted as one of the accumulated yellow cards or official cautions.

## **ARTICLE XVI - NOTIFICATION OF MATCH RESULTS**

- A. Upon completion of the match, the referee and assistant referees shall check the match card for accuracy before signing their names and mailing to the match secretary within 48 hours. This card will be the official report of the match including the official score and any incidents that may have occurred.
- B. If a sending off has occurred during a match, the referee shall retain possession of the sent off player's pass after the match and shall send it, along with the CYSA Send Off Report and match card, to the League Disciplinary Chair within 24 hours.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE

## Procedures, Rules and Regulations

- C. Results must be reported electronically to the match secretary within 24 hours of the match by officials of both teams. The first score reported will be posted by the match secretary. Any conflicts in the score should be reported to the match secretary to be resolved. Any matches not reported are subject to forfeiture.
- D. In the event of any match not being played or completed, the referee must submit a match card correctly filled out, noting the reason. Official forfeits are assessed by the League based upon the submitted match card and other information as needed. Referees may suspend a match or refuse to start a match, but they cannot declare a match officially forfeited for any reason.
- E. Forfeits shall be entered into the standings as a 0-2 loss to the forfeiting team.

### ARTICLE XVII – STANDINGS

- A. Standings in a division shall be determined by standing points based on 3 points given for a win, 1 point given for a tie and 0 points given for a loss. Coaches must carefully review standings as posted on the website and within 72 hours bring any questions to the attention of the Match Secretary or Administrator. If still dissatisfied, then a formal protest must be filed in accordance with Article XIX of the Procedures, Rules and Regulations.
- B. In case of a tie for first or second place the following procedure will be used in sequence to break the tie:
  - 1. Results of head-to-head match results
  - 2. Most wins
  - 3. Goal difference (goals scored minus goals allowed to a maximum difference of 4 per match)
  - 4. Most goals scored to a maximum of 4 per match
  - 5. Least goals allowed to a maximum of 4 per match
  - 6. Team with best head-to-head goal difference
  - 7. If teams remain tied after 1-6, they will both be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- C. First and second place awards will be made in each division. Additional awards may be at the discretion of the Board of Administrators.
- D. The tie-breaker rules outlined in Section B 1-6 above will be applied for relegation and promotion of teams as described in Article V, Section B.
- E. Final league standings will be based on the total number of points earned for matches played by the end of the season. Should an unplayable field situation interrupt the schedule and teams have not played an equal number of games as a result, the standings shall be determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the number of matches played. The team with the higher average number of points earned per match shall have the higher standing.

### ARTICLE XVIII - PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- A. **PROTESTS:**

Protest of matches, disciplinary action or any other decisions of the league shall be decided by the Disciplinary Committee.

  - 1. Protests will be automatically denied if:
    - a. They do not follow the outlined procedures and timetables.
    - b. They do not directly affect the final result (win, tie, loss) of the match in question.
    - c. They are based on a judgment call of the referee
    - d. They are based on the lack of a referee.

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

- e. Must be submitted by the coach of the affected team.
2. A coach wishing to protest shall:
  - a. Send a complete and detailed letter to the League Manager, with copies to any other league officials or coaches involved in the decision being protested.
  - b. The letters must be postmarked within 3 days after the match.
  - c. Include a check for \$50, made out to Golden State Soccer League, with the protest letter to the League Manager. The check shall be returned if the Committee decides in favor of the protest.
3. The referee, other league officials or coaches may be asked to send a letter to the League Manager explaining the events and occurrences surrounding and leading up to the original decision. Where necessary, League Manager may elect to elicit more information.
4. Decisions of the Committee must take place within 30 days of receipt of the protest. Decisions do not take place in an adversarial atmosphere. All parties will be informed by e-mail or mail of the decision.

### **B. APPEALS:**

1. Protest decisions of the Disciplinary Committee and League Governing Board as defined by Article XIX, A are subject to appeal to the League Appeals Committee. Such appeals must be submitted in writing to the League Manager Appeals chairperson and must be postmarked no later than 7 days following the postmark date or e-mail stamp of the letter notifying the party to of the protest decision. Any sanction applied by the Disciplinary Committee will remain in effect until the League Appeals Committee considers the appeal. Appeals shall be decided upon within 30 days of receipt of the appeal.
2. A check for \$50, payable to Golden State Soccer League, must accompany the letter to the Appeals Chairperson appealing the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The check will be returned if the appeal is upheld.
3. Adverse decisions of the League Appeals Committee may be appealed to the District Protest and Appeals Committee of the district in which the team is registered. Appeals must be directed to the District Commissioner and be received within 48 hours of notice of the decision. Appeals must be accompanied by a \$50.00 check, payable to CYSA.
4. Adverse decisions of the District Appeals Committee may be appealed to the CYSA-N Board of Directors. Appeals must be directed to the District Commissioner and be received within 48 hours of Notice of Decision. Appeals must be accompanied by a \$50.00 check, payable to CYSA.

### **C. COMPLAINTS:**

There are times when a protest is not in order but when a formal complaint should be filed. Please use a copy of Appendix I of this document to make a formal complaint regarding playing fields or referees; send a copy to the appropriate Golden State Soccer League Representative and a copy to the League Manager. A formal complaint about problems with scheduling, notification or extreme rudeness of spectators may be made by writing a letter with specific information to the League Manager.

### **D. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:**

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

All decisions of Match Secretaries respecting the administration of their age group and division may be reviewed by the appropriate Administrator either on the initiation of the Administrator or at the request of an interested party. Decisions of League Administrators in respect to such review of Match Secretary actions and all other actions by League and Administrators (save and except for actions of the Disciplinary Committee and Protest and Appeals Committee) may be reviewed by the League's Governing Board either on its own initiative or at the request of any interested party.

Updated May 7, 2008

# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations

## ARTICLE XIX - NEUTRAL REFEREE PROGRAM (NRP)

- A. **Referee Assignor:** The referee assignor will be appointed by the District Referee Administrator. The referee assignor's chief responsibility will be to administer the NRP duties determined by the District Referee Administration and may include other assignments within their district.
- B. Neutral referees shall be assigned to all league matches within their district boundaries in the U15 gold division, and U16, U17, U18 and U19 Gold, Silver and Bronze divisions and also such matches as deemed appropriate by the League Board of Administrators. Neutral Referees shall be currently licensed with appropriate experience to officiate matches assigned. They shall not be affiliated with either team or the home club of either team involved in the match. The city, or town, of residence of a referee is not considered to be an affiliation with a team or home club from the same city, or town. The assigned referees will come from a list of officials determined by the Referee Assignor.

It will be the responsibility of the Home Team Club to assign 2 currently licensed and appropriately experienced assistant referees to League matches administered under NRP. At a minimum, assistant referees shall be assigned with experience appropriate for the age group they are officiating; see Article VIII for referee age requirements. If the Home Team Club does not provide assistant referees as described above, a fine of \$50 will be assessed:

The Referee Assignor will receive a \$4 per match assigning fee. Another \$4 assigning fee will be paid for rescheduled matches.

### C. Other Responsibilities of the Referee Assignor:

- 1. Assign referees to specific matches as requested by Match Secretaries and approved by the Competitions Administrators
- 2. Assign referees to specific matches as requested by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 3. On request, assist Home Club Referee Coordinators whenever possible.

## ARTICLE XX - PAYMENT FOR REFEREE SERVICES:

The following fees will be paid by GSSL:

U17 through U19	Center referee \$50 per match
U15 through U16	Center referee \$45 per match

Fees for the following age groups and divisions are to be paid by the assigning club; the amounts are recommended minimums:

U17 through U19	Center referee – N/A see above	AR \$30 per match
U15 and U16	Center referee – N/A see above	AR \$25 per match
U13 and U14	Center referee \$40 per match	AR \$20 per match
U12	Center referee \$25 per match	AR \$15 per match

An additional amount of \$10 per match will be paid to state level (grade 6 and 5) and \$20 to national level and above referees

Should assistant referee positions be assigned by the district, the fees will be paid by GSSL at the rates stated above.

Updated May 7, 2008

# **GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **Procedures, Rules and Regulations**

### **ARTICLE XXI – FEES**

Fees for each season's play shall be submitted to the Golden State Soccer League Treasurer by each club's Competitive Representative with checks drawn on Club accounts and the "Fee Payment Form". Failure to submit appropriate fees will place teams on a waiting list until fees are submitted.

Fees for 2008 are:

Under 15 - Under 19: \$250.00 per team

Under 12 - Under 14: \$ 60.00 per team

Performance Bond per Club: \$200 for every ten (10) teams or portion of ten (10) teams

Any portion of the performance bond not absorbed by fines will be refunded at the end of each season.

Updated May 7, 2008



# GOLDEN STATE SOCCER LEAGUE Procedures, Rules and Regulations

---

## APPENDIX II

### Golden State Soccer League Season Timeline 2008

Item	Date
1. Team applications due to league (with league staff and match secretary nominees)	Friday May 16, 2008
2. MANDATORY MEETING - Preliminary league divisions established by Competition Administrators.	Tuesday, May 27, 2008
3. Deadline for additional info provided by clubs to Competition Administrators	Friday May 30, 2008
4. Administrators to inform all club representatives who have teams that are involved with challenges	Sunday June 1, 2008
5. Club representatives of teams that have been challenged to inform the appropriate administrator of a team that they wish to challenge, should the challenge against them be successful.	Tuesday June 3, 2008
6. All information that club representatives wish to have considered by the administrators in making their final division recommendations.	Friday June 6, 2008
7. Administrators to submit, via e-mail, their final recommendations to all club representatives	Monday June 9, 2008
8. MANDATORY MEETING - Final division placement recommendations. discussion and vote by club representatives (one spokesperson per club)	Tuesday, June 10, 2008
9. Schedules created and distributed to club field schedulers	Tuesday, July 8, 2008
10. Official team rosters entered online by teams	Friday, July 11, 2008
11. Field locations and game times complete and returned to Competition Administrators	Friday, July 25, 2008
12. Final schedules completed and ready for posting to website	Monday, Aug 11, 2008
13. Coaches Meeting	Wednesday August 20 2008

Updated May 7, 2008