



## ILLINOIS YOUTH SOCCER STATE PREMIERSHIP DIVISION PLAYING RULES

1. The Illinois Youth Soccer State Premiership Division (SPD) is a quality state run competitive division for premier teams registered with Illinois Youth Soccer Member Competitive Leagues. The Team must have all of its players and coaches registered with Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA) through an IYSA Member League during the current soccer year and provide proof thereof before submitting its application to the SPD. Each team must abide by all IYSA Policies and Procedures. The Club/Organization is responsible for the conduct, penalties and fines of its teams, players, coaches and supporters. Except as provided herein all matches played within the jurisdiction of this Illinois shall be played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by the IYSA. In all matters provided or not provided in IYSA rules and regulations, the decision of the IYSA SPD Committee shall be binding. A plea of ignorance to any of the rules and regulations governing this competition and IYSA is insufficient grounds for appeal or protest.

### 2. Competition Information

AGE GROUP	GAME Format	Maximum GAME ROSTER	GAME LENGTH	BALL SIZE
13U – 14U	11 v 11	22	2 x 35 minutes	5
15U – 16U	11 V 11	22	2 x 40 minutes	5
17U – 19U	11 V 11	22	2 x 45 minutes	5

### 3. Overtime

If a game is tied at the end of regulation the result will be a tie.

### 4. Substitution

Unlimited Substitution. There shall be no limit on the number of substitutions. Substitutions can be made at the following times with the consent of the referee:

- Prior to a throw-in in your teams favor
- Prior to a goal kick by either team
- After any goal
- At half-time
- At half-time of any overtime period

### 5. Uniforms

All teams must wear uniforms that conform to acceptable U.S. Youth Soccer standards. Each player on a team must wear shin guards, an official uniform with a six inch minimum size number on the back of the shirt. The goalkeeper is not required to number his/her jersey. Each number must be different. The players must wear the same color shirts, shorts and socks. Jerseys must be of an accepted soccer style jersey. The jerseys must have finished sleeve openings and enclosed sides. The jerseys must be tucked into the shorts. If in the opinion of the referee or SPD official the uniforms are not acceptable for this competition, the team shall be given an opportunity to change uniforms. When teams' colors are similar as determined by the Referee, the Home Team must change. **The top team listed is the Home Team.** A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player including any kind of jewelry with the exception of medical alert bracelets or necklaces, hard billed hat or street glasses. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces must be taped.

- Home Teams should wear light colored uniforms and socks
- Visiting Team should wear dark colored uniforms and socks

#### **6. Passes**

Each player and coach must be registered on an IYSA Member League approved team roster, have a valid IYSA/USYSA Member League Pass and present the Pass to the match officials prior to each game. NO GUEST PLAYERS FROM OTHER CLUBS ALLOWED.

#### **7. Schedule / Standings**

Teams that fail to schedule or play matches by the designated schedule by date may be subject to fines of \$50 per game.

In the event that the teams in a Division do not play the same number of games due to unforeseen circumstances, not including games that teams refuse to play (i.e. forfeits), the Final Standings may be determined by using the percentage of points earned versus the maximum points the team could have earned. Illinois Youth Soccer will also determine any tie-breaking procedures that may need to be applied.

#### **8. Player Check-In & Game Roster**

Each team must complete and submit the Game Roster to the match referee before each game. The Game Roster is the official record of the players who participated in a given match and must contain player names and jersey numbers. An incomplete or improper Game Roster may result in a forfeit.

#### **9. Late Player**

The late player shall present a valid pass to the match referee at the time he/she first enters the game.

#### **10. Grace Period**

A fifteen (15) minute grace period will be allowed. The Referee or SPD official may extend the Grace Period for a reasonable amount of time, at his/her discretion, if circumstances dictate. The IYSA expects decisions in this regard to be made in the spirit of providing an opportunity for the match to be decided on the field. A team not ready to play after expiration of the allowed Grace Period will forfeit the match.

#### **11. Starting the Game**

A game shall not be started with fewer than seven (7) eligible and properly uniformed players on each team. If the team has fewer than seven (7) players, the match shall be forfeited to the opponent. If during the match a team is unable to field at least seven (7) players, the opponent shall be declared the winner by forfeit.

#### **12. Field of Play**

FIFA designates the preferred dimensions for the field of play and the goals. Goals must be properly anchored and have nets. The fields must be safe and properly marked with lines, corner flags or cones sufficient for the match officials to perform their essential duties. The game referee shall determine the safety and acceptability of the field.

If a team believes a field is not suitable for Premiership play team should:

- take picture showing what is not acceptable about field
- email pictures to [chrisj@illinoisyouthsoccer.org](mailto:chrisj@illinoisyouthsoccer.org) and [bill@illinoisyouthsoccer.org](mailto:bill@illinoisyouthsoccer.org)

If a team is found by IYSA to have a field unsuitable for Premiership games, that team will not be permitted to host any Premiership games until field approved by IYSA.

#### **13. Technical Area & Technical Staff**

The Technical Area shall be designated for each team and include one (1) yard on either side of the team's designated seating (bench) and up to a distance of one (1) yard from the touchline. The Technical Area is the seating area only for the team's eligible players and Technical Staff listed on the team's Game Roster and SPD Roster. The Technical Staff is the team's head coach and two (2) assistant coaches (one coach may be replaced by a certified medical person) of the team. All persons in the Technical Area must be listed on the team's SPD Roster and League Roster, have a valid IYSA pass and roster and be eligible to participate. **Only the coaches and players listed on the team's SPD Roster are permitted on the players' side of the field. Only the team's Technical Staff listed on the Game Roster are to be in the team's Technical Area/Team Bench. Only the players listed on the team's Game Roster (maximum 22) are to be dressed in uniform. A player that is not listed on the team's Game Roster but is on the team's SPD Roster may be in the team's Technical Area/Team Bench but must be dressed in street clothes that are easily distinguishable in color from the team's uniform. Red carded and/or suspended players/coaches (ineligible persons) are not allowed in the viewing area of the field.** Any violation of these rules will cause the team to forfeit the SPD game in which the violation occurred. The team's Technical Staff must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances as permitted by the referee such as entering the field of play to treat an injured player.

#### **14. Coaching During Game**

No coaching other than conveying of tactical instruction is permitted during the game. Only the designated head coach is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the Technical Area and has the responsibility of making sure that no person associated with the team violates this coaching restriction. The designated head coach is responsible for the actions of all persons associated with the team. Violations by any person including supporters associated with the team will be deemed the actions of the designated head coach.

#### **15. Game Officials & Fees -**

Illinois Youth Soccer shall assign three (3) USSF registered referees to serve as the CENTER Official and ASSISTANT REFEREES for all SPD matches.

BOTH teams pay the following prior to kick-off of an SPD match

- 13U and older: \$80

In the event the IYSA assigned Center Referee fails to appear, one of the assigned linesmen shall function as Center Referee. Where no IYSA assigned match officials appear, the coaches shall agree on a Referee and play the match as scheduled. Should the Center Referee become incapacitated during the match, an linesman may assume the duties of the Center Referee. If an assigned linesman is not present, the coaches shall agree on a Center Referee for the match and the match shall be played to its conclusion.

The duties of the match officials are defined by FIFA. Referees must be able to properly apply the Laws of the Game and the SPD rules. The match officials shall have the authority to determine the acceptability of the field of play; deal with players or coaches exhibiting violent conduct or threatening, abusive language; and stop the match due to interference from spectators. The Referee shall forward the names of offenders to the SPD Director within twenty-four (24) hours. The Referee shall remain on the field and in charge during the traditional handshake.

#### **16. Unfinished Matches**

For matches played short-time due to any cause, it shall be replayed, restarted where the match was stopped or a winner declared based on the following:

- A. Any match that is cancelled in the first half shall be replayed from the beginning of the match
- B. A match is considered played in full if the match cannot continue in the referee's decision and:
  - a. The first half has been completed in full (U12 – U14)
  - b. The 60-minute mark has been reached (U15-U18/19)

#### **17. Red Cards**

**Coach's Red Card/Send-off Fine is \$300 and at least one (1) game suspension**

**Player Red Card/Send Off Fine is \$50 and at least one (1) game suspension**

**The Team's designated Head Coach is responsible for the actions of the team and its supporters. Teams who have spectators sent-off during a match will be fined \$300 per occurrence. Teams may also be subject to additional sanctions including loss of future home game**

##### **1. Player Send-Off**

A player who is sent-off from any game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following game played by the player's team. A player may receive more than a one-game suspension.

Players ejected from a match may continue to sit in the technical/bench area unless removed by the referee for inappropriate behavior once they have been sent to the bench. Coaches are responsible for ejected players behavior on the bench, further inappropriate behavior by player may result in coach being sent-off from match.

Players serving a suspension for additional game(s) are permitted to sit on the team bench in street clothes (no uniform) and will be held responsible for their actions the same as any other participant. If an ejected player becomes disruptive from the bench, he/she may receive an additional game(s) suspension.

##### **2. Coach, Manager, Team Official or Supporter Send-Off**

Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained in this policy, including cautions, ejections, and standard suspension. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team, such as relatives and spectators, are also subject to the jurisdiction and authority of Illinois Youth Soccer. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the actions of any individual at any game that, in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team.

**Teams who have spectators sent-off during a SPD match will be fined \$300 per occurrence. Teams may also be subject to additional sanctions including loss of future home game**

Coaches and other team officials dismissed must leave the vicinity of the field before the game will be restarted.

A coach who is sent-off from any game is prohibited from participating in the next immediately following game played by the coach's team. A coach may receive more than a one-game suspension. Coaches serving a disciplinary suspension may attend team activities during the suspension as a spectator only. No communication with players or team management is permitted during the suspended game(s). Any violations will result in additional disciplinary action being taken by Illinois Youth Soccer.

If a team has only one coach on the sideline, and that coach is sent-off, that coach's team will forfeit the match 4-0

A Red Card fine shall be assessed against players, coaches/officials or team supporters and neither the offender nor the team shall be allowed to participate further in the Premiership or other Illinois Youth Soccer / US Youth Soccer competitions including the Cup series until such fine is paid to the IYSA. Cup Red Card fines are strictly enforced. The club is responsible for unpaid fines incurred by its team coaches, players, officials and supporters.

All players and coaches that receive a red card are required to sit their next Premiership match. If player is not automatically crossed off game card, the players should manually be crossed off the game card prior to giving it to the referee for check-in. If a player that owes a red card suspension plays or a coach that owes a red card suspension is on the sidelines, the result of the match will be a forfeit for the offending teams.

Mutually agreed upon, non-played games WILL NOT count towards an owed Premiership suspension. The red carded player or coach has to sit out the next Cup game that is played by player/coach's team.

### **18. Rule Violations**

Any person or team that is found guilty of violating IYSA policies, procedures and SPD rules shall be prohibited from competing further in the current SPD and subsequent soccer year, and be subject to additional sanctions including but not limited to forfeiture of all SPD games, fines, and suspensions.

### **19. Safety & Weather Related/ Lightning Procedures**

The team's coaches/officials are responsible for the safety of their players and shall ensure that all persons associated with the team abide by the safety and weather related instructions

### **20. Casts**

**For the protection of the players on the field, no person will be allowed to play on the field with any type of a hard cast.** This includes casts padded with any material (padded foam, bandages, etc...).

### **21. Concussions, Neck & Back Injuries**

In compliance with the new Illinois Concussion law, any athlete who receives a concussion, neck or back injury will not be allowed to return to play or practice until he/she is evaluated and receives and submits to the player's team coach written clearance from a licensed medical doctor specializing in concussions. It is the responsibility of the team coach to submit the clearance to the IYSA prior to the injured player's next SPD game.

### **22. Match Manipulation**

Teams failing to compete in the spirit of the competition or are involved in the manipulation of a game result are subject to forfeiture and disqualification from all levels of the competition.

1. if failing to compete is observed and confirmed, the competition authority representative will give notice to the offending team or teams.
2. if corrective action is not taken, the team or teams will be subject to disqualification.

### **23. Protest Procedures**

Referee decisions are final as they pertain to the FIFA Laws of the Game including but not limited to Red Cards, Yellow Cards and Coach Send Offs and may not be protested.

A. All questions pertaining to any dispute or protest shall be referred to the SPD Director, who in turn, shall forward the issue to the IYSA Tournament Committee for a final and binding decision. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each protest must include at least the following items at the time of its filing with the SPD Director:

- a. \$500 Protest Fee (\$250 of which is a non-refundable administrative fee).
- b. Two written copies of the protest that includes the reason for the protest and the facts.

B. Protests must be received in writing by the SPD Director within twenty-four(24) hours after the start of the protested match. Once filed, protests may be withdrawn only with the IYSA Tournament Committee's consent.

C. Protests relating to the field of play, ie: improper uniforms, equipment, field size, markings, dangerous field conditions, etc. shall be considered only if the objection was lodged with the game officials prior to the match.

### **24. Clean-Up Fee**

Any team that has not cleaned up its bench and Technical Area may be assessed a \$100 at minimum Clean-up Fee to the IYSA.

### **25. Weapon/Firearms Restrictions**

Weapons/firearms are not permitted at Illinois Youth Soccer events including State Premiership Division games

### **26. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (DRONES)**

Based on US Youth Soccer's Policy on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones), the use of drones is strictly prohibited at all Cup matches. It is the responsibility of the Event/Home Site Host to ensure that this policy is strictly enforced

### **27. Matters Not Provided**

In all matters provided or not provided in the IYSA rules and regulations, the decision of the IYSA Premiership Director shall be final and binding. A plea of ignorance to any of the Rules and Regulations governing this competition and Illinois Youth Soccer Association is insufficient grounds for appeal or protest. The IYSA Premiership Director shall have the power to deal with all breaches of the rules.

## **COVID-GUIDELINES**

All State Premiership participants including coaches, players and team spectators are required to follow all IDPH, local and Illinois Youth Soccer COVID-19 Guidelines. Failure to do so may result in removal from the Cup competition and additional sanctions against the club.

In addition to any IYSA Guidelines all teams – players, coaches and spectators are required to abide by the

- [Illinois All Sports Policy](#)
- Any local public health requirements
- [Illinois Youth Soccer Spring Season COVID Protocols](#)

Guidelines for sports are fluid and subject to change at any point based on governmental requirements. Should the state loosen or tighten any restrictions during the season, IYSA will follow those changes and update these protocols. Info in the Illinois Youth Soccer guidelines are secondary to all state-issued guidelines and members should reference the state guideline documents below to ensure they are up to date on all current state requirement.

## **FACE COVERINGS**

Per the current Illinois All Sports Policy “All participants must wear a face covering that fully covers their nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps, whether indoors or outdoors”

- **Players:** Face coverings are always required. Those that fail to wear a mask properly (covering their nose and mouth) so will be removed from play. Players should have multiple masks with them to change masks throughout the game should they become sweat soaked.
- **Coaches:** Face coverings are always required. Coaches that fail to wear a face covering will be removed from a match and if the only coach on the sideline will result in a forfeit for the team
- **Spectators:** Face coverings are always required. Spectators that fail to wear a face mask will be removed from the sideline and/or will result in a forfeit for the team they are rooting for. It is the coach’s responsibility to make sure all team spectators are aware of their requirement to properly wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth.

## **SPECTATORS**

Illinois Youth Soccer will communicate with teams the spectator protocols for matches held at IYSA locations.

### ***For Home Team Host Matches***

When located in a region not facing specific mitigation efforts outlined in the [Illinois All Sport Policy](#) guidelines, team must abide by local attendance restrictions. The home team must communicate all spectator requirements to the visiting team, IF they are allowing spectators. Organization that allow spectators MUST follow all Illinois All Sport Policy requirements is regards to allowing spectators. Hosts that are found to have violated IDPH spectator requirements may face sanctions including no longer being able to host or not have their fans in

attendance at matches.

## **GAME PLAY**

### **Pre-Game**

- Teams should have 6 feet of space between players on the sidelines. When possible players should bring their own chairs to sit in while not playing or sit on the grass instead of using benches. If benches are used, multiple benches should be placed to allow for 6-feet of space or greater between players.
- During player check-in 6 feet of distance should be kept at all time between players, coaches and referees
- The Pre-game meeting and coin toss must be limited to one (1) captain per team or one (1) coach per team. Each team representative shall stand on each side of the mid field line with a distance of 6 feet or greater maintained at all time.
- No Pre-Game handshakes
- Any ball to be used during gameplay should be sanitized prior to the match and not used for any warm-ups

### **During Game**

- Players not playing should be sat at least 6-feet apart from one another and must properly wear a mask
- Each player should have their own designated area for them to sit when they come off the field
- No sharing of water bottles, pinnies or other equipment.
- Group goal celebration including hugs, high fives, etc. should be suspended at this time

### **Post-Game**

- Post game handshakes are suspended. Teams can show good sportsmanship by sharing a round of applause at the conclusion of the match.
- Team should promptly leave the field following the conclusion of the match. NO post game team meetings.