

Gulf Coast Adult Soccer League “GCASL” 7v7 Rules

1. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

This league is open to all GCASL registered teams with valid player passes under the requirements of Florida State Soccer Association “FSSA”.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All players must be 18 years or older, or turn 18 years old before the beginning of each series.

3. PRE-PROCEDURES

All games must start at the scheduled time, **5 min grace period**.

Each player must sign the referee game report prior to the game.

League officials will conduct all credential checks at the field 10 minutes prior to the beginning of each game.

Players not certified by the league officials will not be allowed to participate in any event.

A player who arrives late at the playing field after the pre-game procedure may enter the game with permission of the center referee and once the game officials verify that the player is eligible.

A player may be challenged by an opposing manager or coach. Challenged players will be noted by the referee on the game report and will be allowed to participate in the game, provided said player has been certified as eligible by the Referee/league officials. A late arriving player may be challenged at the time he is allowed to participate by the referee.

A team caught using an ineligible player will forfeit the game(s) that they used an ineligible player; must reimburse the opposing teams referee fees (currently \$30 per game); will be fined \$50 and will not be allowed to play their next three (3) scheduled games.

4. LAWS OF THE GAME

All games shall be in accordance with the FIFA “Laws of the Game,” except as modified below. The following items will interpret these rules for the purpose of GCASL League competition sanctioned by this association and shall abide by the “Laws of the Game,” along with any modifications of regulations of the association.

Field of Play

Field shall be a minimum of 45 yards wide by 60 yards long, and a maximum of 55 yards wide by 70 yards long.

Number of Players

All teams will play 7 players per side (6 field players and 1 goal keeper). A team must field a minimum of five players for the entire game. The maximum roster size is 20 players

For Coed league specifically, three of the field players must be women. A team must field a minimum of five players for the entire game, of which three must be men and two must be women.

- **Goalkeeper may not punt or drop kick the ball. May kick from the ground and may throw the ball. Otherwise there are no limits on distance of a ball played.**
- Keeper must release the ball within referee's 6-second count, or result is an indirect kick for the opposing team at top of 10 yard box.
- Players must be 7 yards from the spot of a free kick anywhere on the field, and outside of the 10 yard box on a PK. Penalty kicks will be awarded per FIFA rules with the following exception: penalty kicks will be taken 10 yards back from the center of the goal line.
- **No Offside** calls.
- All restarts from the sidelines will be with throw-ins, per FIFA rules.
- Goal kicks must be taken within 3-yard in bounds area of goal mouth.
- Goal may NOT be scored directly from kickoff. **Kickoff touch may be played forward or backward.**
- Corner kicks are in accordance with FIFA rules.

Substitutions

There will be unlimited substitutions with permission of the referee in any dead ball situation. All substitutes must enter the playing field from the half way line and should not enter the playing field until the player they are replacing has reached the touch line.

Player's Equipment

Player equipment must conform to FIFA rules and must meet the following requirements.

- **Shin guards** will be worn under socks by all players. (Players wearing a permanent orthopedic cast or brace must be cleared to play by the referee and/or tournament director.)
- **NO JEWELRY** will be allowed (Law 4, FIFA , Player's Equipment-no item may be worn that could be dangerous or harmful to the player or another player)
- All socks must be pulled up over the shin guards and jersey is tucked in at the start of the match and the beginning of halftime and overtime periods.

Teams will wear uniforms of matching design and color, and must have numbers. No two players may have identical uniform numbers while both players are simultaneously playing.

- A. In the event of similar team colors, the designated home team will be required to change to a color accepted by the referee.

- B. The uniform of the goalkeeper must be distinctly different in color from the basic colors of both competing teams and the referee.

The Referee

- Referees are required to submit a completed, official game report to the site director with information relating to any game incidents involving players, coaches, spectators, misconduct and injuries.

Referees will be paid before the start of each game (\$30 per team).

The Duration of the Match

Games will be played with two 30 minute halves, with a 2 to 5 minute halftime.

There will be no overtime periods in regular-season matches.

Semifinal and final match rules are as follows: If the regulation period ends in a tie, there will be two 5 minute overtime periods followed by penalty kicks. The 5 penalty kicks must be taken by players who were on the field at the conclusion of the game, and are taken in any order. If after 5 kicks the score is still tied, kicks will be made with remaining players with no player kicking twice until everyone has gone.

For coed specifically, the rules are as follows: If the regulation period ends in a tie, there will be two 5 minute overtime periods followed by penalty kicks. Five penalty kicks at the end of the game must be taken by players on the field, at least 2 of which must be women, in any order. If after 5 kicks the score is still tied, kicks will be made with remaining players with no player kicking twice until everyone has gone.

Fouls and Misconduct

All fouls and free kicks are according to FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception of the following:

No slide-tackling! A slide tackle is considered “playing in a dangerous manner” according to FIFA’s Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct (Laws of the Game, 2007, p.25) and will be awarded with an indirect kick for the opposing team. In addition, the player who committed the offense will be given a yellow card and sent off of the field. The player will be allowed to reenter that game at the next stoppage of play.

Corner kicks are in accordance with FIFA rules.

5. CONTROL OF SIDELINE CONDUCT

Players, reserve player, managers, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of “the laws of the game”. The site director has the authority and the responsibility to remove any person from the tournament for abuses of conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by any other authority. In addition to good manners, the following rules apply:

- **In the case of any illegal altercation on the field, no players from the bench area are allowed to enter the field, and no players on the field are allowed to assist in the altercation. Only the Coaches, Referee, County Ranger, League personnel and Site Director along with Law Enforcement may assist in stopping the altercation. Any players joining in will receive the same disciplinary action as that of the players involved in the altercation.**
- The site director will designate one sideline to be for the sole use of the players listed on the game roster and coach from each team, with one team occupying one side of the field and one team on the other side. While the game is in progress, the manager/coach and the reserve players must remain on their respective benches and may not roam the sidelines.
- The site director will designate the **opposite sideline for the spectators.**
- Managers/coaches will be responsible for the behavior of their players, fans and the referee will have the authority to warn and ultimately send off any coach whose fans behave in an abusive or disruptive manner.

6. POST-GAME PROCEDURES

- A. Referees will return player passes to the teams, except for players which were awarded Yellow or a Red Card, they will be attached to Game Reports. **It is the coach's responsibility to count and check player passes after game.**
- B. Managers/coaches of each team will confirm the score with the site director.
- C. **Managers/coaches of both teams will insure that their respective sideline areas are clean and that all trash is in containers.**
- D. **Managers/coaches must fill out a referee assessment sheet and turn it in to the site director after each game.**

7. DISCIPLINE

The Disciplinary committee will review and rule on all reports of unacceptable conduct by players, managers, coaches, referees, spectators, etc. **(Refer to the attached Exhibit A which covers disciplinary actions)**

- All players and managers/coaches shall be subject to FIFA/USASA/FSSA/GCASL rules.

8. DETERMINATION OF GROUP WINNERS

In group play, there will be no overtime games. Standings in a group will be determined by:

GAME POINTS:

3 points for a win

1 point for a tie

0 points for a loss

TIEBREAKER:

- A. Head-to-head competition
- B. Net goal differential
- C. Total goals allowed
- D. Kicks from the penalty mark per FIFA rules.

PLAYOFF FORMATS:

The League Director will determine playoff format for each division.

9. FORFEITS

A minimum of five players constitutes a team. Games should start at the given game time. In case a team does not have five players present, it should be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes grace period before awarding the game to the opponent. A forfeit will be scored 3-0. The team that forfeits must pay \$60.00: \$30.00 for the referee and \$30.00 for the opposing team. The opposing team must pay the referee \$30.00, that night, to gain the win and points. This amount must be paid prior to the next scheduled league game.

10. TERMINATED GAMES

Games terminated for other than inclement weather, i.e. violent or uncontrollable situations will not be replayed. The score of the game at the time of termination will stand, unless the center referee specifically states that it was the obvious intent of the winning team to have the game terminated. Under this condition the game will be recorded as 0-0 with no points granted for the tie in the preliminary rounds. If the center referee specifically states that it was the obvious intent of the losing team to have the game terminated, the score will be listed as 3-0 for the team winning at the time of termination.

The decision as to the score of such games and on whether teams advance will be made by the League Official's Rules committee after receiving reports from game officials, coaches and Field Coordinators. The decision of the Director will be final and un-appealable and further disciplinary actions may be taken.

11. PROTEST

No protests will be allowed.

12. INCLEMENT WEATHER

Games will not be played in inclement weather if there is a possibility of injury to players or damage to the playing surface. Thus, in the event of inclement weather, the league Director has the authority to:

- A. Relocate or reschedule any game.
- B. Change the duration of any game. Preliminary games terminated for weather after one half of play has been completed, shall be considered official.
- C. Cancel any preliminary game which has no bearing on the selection of group winners.
- D. Cancel consolation games.
- E. Cancel the entire day of play for the safety of the players and the good of the playing fields.

13. CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL CEREMONY

Following the completion of the championship game the winning team will present themselves to the league Director for awards.

14. AWARDS

Teams finishing 1st and 2nd place in each division will receive a team trophy and medals.

15. GENERAL

- A. The league Committee and/or the host affiliate will not be responsible for any expense incurred by any team due to the cancellation in part or whole of this league.
- B. The league Director's interpretation of the foregoing rules and regulations shall be final.
- C. The league Director reserves the right to decide all league matters.
- D. The league Directors are not responsible for the behavior of players, coaches, and spectators off the field, or damages resulting from such behavior. Coaches and players committing breaches of the law may be ejected from the league at the discretion of the league Director.
- E. No alcohol will be allowed in the park at any time.
- F. Any player, coach or spectator found in possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons will be banned from the series and appropriate notifications made to the local law enforcement authorities.
- G. Any player, coach or spectator found to be urinating or defecating in any area of the park outside of the designated restrooms may be fined starting at \$100 by a park official if caught.