

# Gulf Coast Adult Soccer League

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## Constitution and Bylaws



Revised: August 2014

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## Exhibit A: Cautionable and Sending-off Offenses

# GCASL Constitution

## Article I – Name

The name of the League shall be Gulf Coast Adult Soccer League. The League's initials shall be GCASL.

## Article II – Purpose

To provide an organization that will support the growth of soccer in Southwest Florida by establishing rules and regulation that govern the teams, players and coaches of the leagues; to promote the good and welfare of the game.

## Article III – Location

The headquarters of the GCASL shall be centrally located in the Southwest Florida area, which includes Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Hendry counties. Regular meetings of the GCASL will be held in a central location to be designated by the GCASL Executive Board.

## Article V – Colors

Representative colors of this League shall be red, white and blue.

## Article VI – Affiliation

This League shall be affiliated with the Florida State Soccer Association (FSSA), recognizing the authority, rulings and laws of the association.

## Article VII – Qualification of Membership

Every team in good standing with Florida State Soccer Association with headquarters within the territory above defined shall be eligible for membership in this League. Teams not affiliated with the FSSA, but are in good standing within their own leagues are also eligible for membership in this League. All school and college teams and teams of the United States Armed Forces shall be entitled to play against teams that are members of this League upon permission being requested and granted.

A team loses membership by:

- a.) Having been separated from organized soccer by the FSSA
- b.) Having been expelled from this League by the mandatory two-thirds (2/3) vote
- c.) Failing to have competition in the current fiscal year unless it has been granted a waiver by the Executive Board, in which case two (2) such waivers shall not be granted to the same team consecutively.

**Article VIII – Officers and Directors**

The Board of Directors of this League shall be composed of the following officers: President, Executive Vice President, First Vice President, (Second Vice President and Third Vice President are optional). The above mentioned will constitute the Executive Board. They will elect/appoint the following positions: Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Registration, Director of Communications and Director of Games; positions may be combined if necessary.

Only currently registered players or coaches are eligible for Board positions.

Meetings of the board are subject to call by the President at any time for any purpose he may deem expedient or by call of a majority of the Directors so requested in writing. A quorum shall be the majority of the Directors present. All decisions of the directors shall be conferred to the General Committee for ratification.

**Article IX - Committees**

The President will ask for volunteers to form the following Committees:

- Appeals Committee - will be made up of at least one representative from each division.
  - will be responsible for reviewing and hearing any appeals made by players or teams for any matters brought before them.
  - they will make a report with their recommendations to the Executive Board.
- Disciplinary Committee - will be made up of at least one representative from each division.
  - will be responsible for reviewing all violent conduct red cards to determine that the punishment under the League Guidelines are warranted.
  - they will make a report with their recommendations to the Executive Board if necessary.

**Article X – General Meetings**

The business of this League shall be transacted by the General Committee composed of the Board of Directors and one representative from each affiliated team. Meetings will be conducted under the Roberts Rule of Order. Each team in the League shall have one vote, the President voting only in the case of a tie. The General Committee shall meet at least twice a year, one of which will be the Annual General Meeting and their decisions shall be final, subject to appeal to the FSSA. The order of business of the General Committee Meetings shall be as follows:

1. Roll call and voting strength
2. Reading of the minutes of last meeting
3. Report of Officers and Directors
4. Unfinished business
5. New Business
6. Good & Welfare
7. Adjournment

**Article XI – Definition of a Team**

A team shall be a body of registered players of the specified number. A team shall have two (2) registered delegates to the GCASL, and shall have one vote at the meetings of the GCASL.

**Article XII – Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws**

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the GCASL can be made at the Annual General Meeting. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the member teams. Each affiliated team shall be given ten (10) days notice in writing of proposed amendments, unless all member teams are present and vote unanimously in favor of such amendments.

**Article XIII – Fines**

All fines collected by the GCASL will be used for the good of the game, i.e. paying for sponsored referee courses, sponsoring of youth players or for promoting local tournaments, etc. The Executive Board will decide on the best use of the funds collected.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

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## INTRODUCTION

1. All teams under the jurisdiction of this League shall play under FIFA rules as set forth by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), United States Amateur Soccer Association (USASA) and the Florida State Soccer Association (FSSA). **The League has separate rules and regulations for 7v7 games.**
2. All affiliated teams shall keep their accounts up to date and current and are required to keep an accurate record of all receipts and expenditures and file a copy with the Secretary of this League upon request.
3. In the event of any organization, team, player, official member, referee or spectator being proven guilty of any violation of the Laws of the Game, Rules, Regulations or Bylaws of this League, or of the FSSA/USSF or any misconduct, the General Committee shall have the power to order the offending party to be removed from this League, suspended for a stated period of dealt with in such manner as the General Committee may deem proper.  
  
Any organization, team or player playing with or against the offending team, or player, shall also be dealt with as the General Committee may deem proper.
4. The player assumes all risks, responsibility and liability for the loss, damage or injury to himself while engaged as a player for the team or in using the property and facilities of the team, whether such loss, damage or injury be occasioned by the team, its agents, employees or otherwise. This League waives any and all claims for damages and costs arising out of such loss, damage or injury.
5. The League will endeavor through the FSSA/USSF to provide limited accidental medical coverage. If such insurance is available, a player is only covered upon signing the official League registration form and payment of the appropriate fee to GCASL.
6. Every team is responsible to the General Committee of this League for the conduct of its players, officials and spectators and as such, is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators from threatening or assaulting officials and players before, during or after the conclusion of games.
7. It shall be compulsory for any referee, player, team or League official to report cases of misconduct in writing. Such cases shall be investigated by the General Committee and punished as may be deemed proper by this League.
8. Players, officials and spectators are only allowed to take part in or attend games on condition that they observe the Rules, Regulation and Bylaws of this League. Every affiliated team is required to observe and enforce such Rules, Regulations and Bylaws.

9. This League shall be entitled to publish in the press or in any other manner it may see fit, reports of its proceedings, acts and resolutions, whether the same shall or shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any team, player or spectator, which shall be deemed to have assented to such publications.
10. In cases of charges pressed against an affiliated team, official or individual, this League shall have the power to call upon parties involved to produce any book, letter or document and/or any other evidence the General Committee may require.

## Games

These rules and regulations pertain to the Leagues 11v11 games. There are separate rules and regulations governing the League's 7v7 games.

1. The home team shall be ready to play at game time. The visiting team shall have fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled game time if they have problems finding the fields. If both teams have at least seven (7) players, the game shall begin on schedule.

The home team shall be allowed a reasonable time period to correct any damage done to their field by outside persons or elements, or damage was beyond their control.

2. No scheduled games shall be postponed or rescheduled without the consent of the games chairperson and both teams. The games chairperson will reschedule the game if the need arises.
3. When jersey colors of the competing team are the same, the home team must change or provide satisfactory identifying marks. A team that changes its colors during the season must notify the League and all their opponents of the change. Failure to give proper notification may result in forfeiture of the game.
4. A team must have a minimum of seven (7) players on the field at all times during GCASL games.
5. An official of each team shall be present at all GCASL games. In the absence of the Manager/Coach the team Captain shall be the "official."
6. The referee shall have the right to call off the game due to adverse weather. In the event the home team shall pay each official ten (\$10.00) dollars to cover travel expenses.
7. Player substitutions shall be permitted in the following circumstances:
  - a. Either or both teams may substitute when the ball goes over the end-line during a game.
  - b. The team in possession of the ball may substitute on their throw-in.
  - c. A team may substitute a yellow-carded player immediately after receiving his yellow card.



8. No changes in the schedule by teams seventy-two (72) hours prior to games. Any team calling off the game within the seventy-two (72) hour time limit will be fined fifty (\$50.00) dollars and any official's fees incurred; a second offense during the same seasonal year shall result in a one-hundred (\$100.00) dollar fine plus any official's fees incurred. A third offense will result in suspension of the team and all registered players for the balance of the season and all Cup games as well as a one-hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollar fine and any official's fees incurred. A team suspended under this provision shall play under one (1) year probation and shall be required to post a three-hundred (\$300.00) dollar bond, to be returned at the end of the probationary period if there are no further infractions under this rule.
9. If the appointed referee fails to appear the game will be postponed to a later date unless a registered, uniformed official is available.
10. If a team does not complete all its scheduled league games the team will be fined one-hundred (\$100.00) dollars.
11. Standings shall be determined by awarding three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. All places in the standings shall be determined first by head to head games and then by goal difference in case of equal number of points.

All protests which arise from infringements of the rules are subject to a protest fee. Protests shall be presented in writing to the League Office within three (3) days after the game, accompanied by a fee of fifty (\$50.00) dollars. Any grounds for protest, which should arise before the start of the game, shall be immediately submitted to the referee and the opposing team in writing.

12. If a game is not completed due to weather, field conditions or other reasons beyond the control of the competing teams, the game shall be replayed if the first half is not completed. If the first half was completed, the score at the time the game was suspended shall be final. This rule does not apply if the game was abandoned due to player, team or spectator misconduct. League and division Cup final games must be replayed in their entirety. For reasons other than abandonment due to misconduct a final game not completed must be replayed.
13. If the non-completion of a game results from misconduct clearly traceable to one or the other of the contending teams, its management, or its followers, as determined by the GCASL board, the board shall decide on the disposition of the game. Non-completion due to misconduct may result in dismissal of the offending team or teams from further participation in the League.

## Cups and Exhibitions

1. In the event that the League conducts a Cup competition or any other competition, it shall be open to all teams within the League. The League will adopt rules, regulations and bylaws governing cup or other competitions.

In single-elimination cup competitions, in the event of a tie at the end of the second half, there will be two complete overtime periods of fifteen (15) minutes each. If neither team scores during the two (2) overtime periods, the winner will then be determined by the FIFA kicks from the penalty mark.

2. Teams affiliated with the League intending to arrange exhibition games against teams of another League or State Association must notify the League in writing of their intention and receive proper permission. FSSA has adopted these financial responsibility rules:
  - a. The visiting team must produce written permission from its competent authority to play the team in FSSA.
  - b. The team under the jurisdiction of the FSSA must have written permission from its League and the FSSA.
  - c. Financial responsibility must be approved by the Games Committee.
  - d. Local sponsors must provide a copy of all contractual arrangements to the Games Committee.
    - i. Enforcement of the financial responsibility will be as follows:
      1. A cash deposit in escrow in an independent bank.
      2. Satisfactory written guarantee from a responsible person or entity.
      3. Visiting team's written statement of their own financial responsibility; plus a guarantee or escrow to cover home team's expenses
3. Teams, players and officials subject to the jurisdiction of this League shall not be associated with or play against any team that is not a member of this League, the FSSA or the USSF. This rule does not apply to teams under exemption as specified by the USSF.
4. This League may participate in Interstate games and with the consent of the USSF against foreign teams. It shall be entitled to use any regularly registered player from an affiliated team.
5. Teams affiliated with this League, intending to arrange exhibition games against teams of a foreign association shall comply with the rules of the USSF. A copy of this rule shall be given to any member team upon request.
6. Yellow cards accumulated during regular season games will not count during GCASL Cup play or at any FSSA tournament; however, red cards will and do carry over.
7. Red cards received in GCASL Cup play or at any FSSA tournaments will carry over into regular season league games.

## Player Registration

1. Teams under the jurisdiction of the GCASL may have professional players on their rosters. No more than two (2) professionals may register on one team.
  - a. An application for reinstatement of professional players to amateur status must be made to the USSF. A professional player signing an amateur form without being reinstated shall be reported to USSF. A team using such a player in a league game will forfeit this game.
2. A player may play for any team of his choice. A player may sign with and play for other teams, but they must be in different divisions (refer to Club rules).
3. The maximum number of players registered on a team at any one time shall be twenty-two (22). Maximum number of players allowed to be dressed for a game is eighteen (18).
4. Every player must register on-line through the FSSA's approved registration system. Each player must sign the FSSA's waiver forms (which means reading the waiver and checking the box on-line); players will also be required to sign a hard copy of the waiver form as well.
5. Rosters for each team will be maintained on-line through the FSSA's registration system and will be provided to each team before their games. Only players listed on the official roster are allowed to play or if they have been provided a special pass to play.
6. Players under the age of eighteen (18) are not eligible to play in the GCASL.
7. A registered player may play in more than one League game per day, but not in the same division.
8. The date of registration will be the date the FSSA waiver form is signed/box checked on-line. Players must also sign a hard copy waiver form before they can play.
9. Players can register on-line and play the same day, provided they sign the hard copy waiver form for each team they play on.

## Manager's Responsibilities

1. The manager/team captain is responsible for their team and the way the team conducts itself before, during and after their games.
2. NO PASS, NO PLAY means that every player must be on the official team roster to be eligible to play or have a valid pass (given in certain circumstances).
3. Each team manager/captain must verify that the results recorded on their game roster are correct by signing the roster after each game.
4. All players participating in games under the jurisdiction of this League shall wear numbers on the back of their uniforms. Numbers must be at least eight (8) inches in height. These numbers must be listed on the referee report form (line-up form) together with the number of the player pass. Players listed on the line-up forms will be the only players to play for that game. Any other player playing in that game will cause a forfeit for that team.

## Player Release

1. A release for an amateur player is required when a player changes teams during the current season. This may be as simple as a verbal request.

Players for a team which disbands will automatically be released unless the team or player is under suspension.

2. Players are automatically released at the end of their team's season if they are in good standing, in which case release forms are necessary. Players whose teams are not participating in any post season games are eligible to join other teams participating in post-season games.
3. A player in good standing may be released or request to be released.

## Transfers

1. In cases where a deliberate attempt is made to induce a player to change teams during the playing season, a fifty (\$50.00) dollar fine will result.
2. Players may only transfer teams prior to the final two (2) scheduled league games. Players may not transfer between teams in the same division during GCASL Cup Competitions.
3. Players in good standing may be transferred from the previous team.
4. Players that transfer from one team to another must pay a ten (\$10.00) dollar transfer fee to the League.

## Promotion and Relegation

1. The first place team(s) in each division shall be promoted, the last place team(s) shall be relegated. This rule does not apply to a Premier Division or the first place teams(s) in the first divisions. Additional promotion and relegation are at the discretion of the GCASL Board of Directors.
2. If a team, eligible to move to a higher division refuses, then it shall be disbanded and no more than four (4) players from the team's final roster will be allowed to resign on the team should it reform. This provision will be handled on a case by case basis.

## Fines and Suspensions

1. If a team is negligent in furnishing the referee with proper protection in case of assault, the home team can be fined and/or suspended.
2. Teams which are not represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined fifty (\$50.00) dollars.
3. Teams leaving during a meeting will be fined twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars.
4. Fines are payable within ten (10) days after the date of issue. Appeals of fines must be submitted in writing to the League Office with a check for fifty (\$50.00) dollars made out to GCASL (appeals fee).
5. All fees/fines due to a no-show or not enough players to start a game must be paid within five (5) days of the game (no later than the Friday following the Sunday game) or the team's next game will be canceled and the team suspended until paid. Games missed will go in as a forfeit. All other fines are to be paid within a ten (10) day period of the team is suspended until paid. Games missed will go in as a forfeit.
6. A team not appearing for a scheduled game will be penalized with a loss of points and fined a forfeiture fee of fifty (\$50.00) dollars plus the cost of the official's fees.
7. The home team will be fined for the following if in neglect at game time:
  - a. No nets – fine of ten (\$10.00) dollars
  - b. No corner flags – fine of ten (\$10.00) dollars
  - c. No field markings – fine of ten (\$10.00) dollars
8. Games shall under no circumstance be broken off by one of the participation teams. If a team breaks off the game without permission of the referee, the team shall be penalized with a loss of points and fined one hundred (\$100.00) dollars plus the cost of official's fees. Any player of official responsible for breaking off a game may be suspended.
9. If a GCASL game is forfeited to an opponent the opponent shall be credited with a 3-0 score and three (3) points.
10. Any player accumulating five (5) yellow cards during the regularly scheduled league competitions will be suspended for at least one (1) game immediately after accumulation of the third yellow card. Yellow cards accumulated during the regular season will not carry into GCASL Cup play. Accumulating three (3) additional yellow cards during the remainder of the season will result in the player being suspended for at least two (2) additional games.
11. A player who has been (red-carded) ordered off the field for infringement of the rules shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) games; a team may be fined a minimum of fifty (\$50.00) dollars for the player(s) conduct if the Executive Board decides that it is warranted. A red card suspension will carry into GCASL Cup play and all other FSSA games and tournaments.



12. A player or team official attacking or assaulting a referee, assistant referee or a player in any game played under the jurisdiction of this League shall be suspended by the GCASL/FSSA for a minimum of one (1) year from participation in all games. Such suspension shall be from the date of the offense. A player judged guilty shall have the right to appeal to the FSSA Board within thirty (30) days from the rendering of the decision.
13. This League shall recognize suspensions or ruling of other state affiliated league of which they have been notified.
14. The GCASL Executive Board shall have the power to penalize teams or players.
15. Penalties may consist of warnings, suspensions, probation, fines, loss of points, expulsion from the GCASL, closing of the playing field or any combination thereof or any penalty deemed fit by the Executive Board of the GCASL (see Exhibit A: Cautionable and Sending-off Offenses ).
16. Appeals of any of these decisions shall be taken to the GCASL Appeals Committee.

## Appeals

1. An appeal to this League must be in writing and accompanied by the sum of fifty (\$50.00) dollars which shall be forfeited if the appeal is not upheld. The appeal must be brought within three (3) days of the action and the action shall be binding pending the result of the appeal. In the event that a special meeting shall be called to hear an appeal, the League may require the appealing team, should the appeal not be upheld, to pay part or all of the expenses thereof. In the event the appeal is upheld, the expense shall be borne by the League or the team appealed against.
2. A lawyer shall not represent any team, player or official at the hearing of a dispute or claim unless he is a bona fide member of the organization concerned.
3. Appeals from decisions of this League: any team or individual wishing to appeal the decision of this League may appeal to the FSSA. At the same time an exact copy of the appeal must be sent to the Secretary of this League. The appeal will be heard in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the FSSA and USASA.
4. Protests not filed in writing (with fee) within the required time limit shall be rejected.
5. A copy of all protests and claims will be sent to the team against which they are directed. The Games Chairperson shall submit all evidence such as line-up forms, referee reports and any other material pertaining to the case to the GCASL Appeals Committee.
6. Claims which are made on the basis of an incorrect registration of a player need not be accompanied by a fee. Such claims must be filed with the League Administrator within one (1) week after the game.
7. All claims for damages arising from non-appearance of a team for a scheduled league game or similar infraction are to be presented in writing to the League Administrator. These do not require a fee.

## Referees

1. The GCASL will use a certified Referee Assignor to assign only currently certified referees to do League games.
2. Referee fees shall be set at the Annual General Meeting. Referee fees for the current season are eighty (\$90.00) dollars for the center referee and fifty (\$45.00) dollars for each assistant referee.
3. Referees must examine the game line-up forms prior to the game. The referee is required to report to the GCASL Games Chairperson not later than forty-eight (48) hours after the game on the official form. Game score as well as other related incidents including injuries and accidents shall be reported.
4. Each new team must provide two (2) people to be certified as officials over the first two years in the league. One of these officials must be provided in the first year. The League will pay for the certification class and first year's registration. The official must commit to do at least five (5) GCASL games and will be responsible for supplying their own uniform. This provision is currently not in force, but the League encourages any player that wants to become a referee to do so and may help to subsidize the cost of becoming a certified referee.

## Club Organization

1. A club is defined as two (2) or more teams who play at the same complex and are registered at the start of the season as a Club Organization (Club).
2. A player is permitted to move to a higher division team within his organization at any time. There will be no ineligibility period. This player may not play for his original team for five (5) days after playing for the higher division team. This player may play three (3) games in the higher division, after which time he must register to play for that team. Release and registration will follow GCASL Rules and Regulations.
3. A player is permitted to move to one division lower within his organization at any time. There will be no ineligibility period. This player may play three (3) games in the lower division, after which time he must register to play for that team. Release and registration will follow GCASL Rules and Regulations. A maximum two (2) players from another division within the club may be used by a single team at any game.

Premier division players may not move down to a lower division at any time.

4. Any organization with two (2) or more teams within the same division cannot move players within that division.

## Miscellaneous

1. In case of disputes, legal proceedings cannot be taken on behalf of the League or as a representative of the League without consent of the League.
2. In notifying teams or members of the General Committee of meetings, the Administrator shall state if the business is regular or special. If the latter, the nature of the business shall be stated. Seven (7) days notice shall be given of General Committee Meetings.
3. Changes in these Rules and Regulation can be made at any League meeting. All proposals concerning changes of rules shall be sent in writing to all registered teams at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. A copy of the approved changes must be sent to the FSSA.
4. A player may receive no more compensation than his traveling expenses from his home to the field and return.