

**SPORTS LEAGUE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
8 ON 8 OUTDOOR SUBURBAN OPEN SOCCER LEAGUE
-WITH GOALIES – PAID REFEREE-
OFFICIAL RULES**



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OVERVIEW

**8 PLAYERS ON THE FIELD – ANY GENDER BREAKDOWN
TWO 20/22/25/30-MINUTE HALVES (DEPENDS ON FACILITY)**

RUNNING CLOCK

TIES DURING REGULAR SEASON STAY AS A TIE

**PLAYOFF TIES DECIDED BY OVERTIME & SUDDEN DEATH, THEN PENALTY SHOOTOUT
GAMES WILL BE REFEREED BY SPORT AND SOCIAL CLUB STAFF.**

COIN FLIP/BEGINNING OF GAME

- The beginning of the game will start with the CSSC staff using an “odd/even,” or coin toss. The winning team will then have one of two options: kick-off or choose which goal to defend.

REFEREES

- Chicago Sport and Social Club will provide a paid referee for each soccer match. Referees will have final say in any judgment call or issue regarding rules. Referees have the power to remove any player(s) from a game and/or the league if deemed necessary. Any clarification of rules must be brought to the attention of CSSC staff member prior to the continuance of the game.

KICKOFF

- Consists of the ball being placed at midfield. The ball must complete 1 full forward rotation before being touched by another player.

GENDER RULES AND TEAM SIZE

- Each team shall field 8 players on the field at one time (team can consist of any amount of men and women or none of either sex). CSSC rules allow a team to play a legal game shorthanded with as few as 6 players. Teams may have as many players on their roster as they want. All rosters must be finalized by the second week of the regular season. Players added to the roster/waiver after the second week will not be eligible for playoffs.

FORFEITS

- Teams will have until 10 minutes past the designated start time to field a legal team. Shorthanded teams may play a legal game with a minimum of 6 players. Teams fielding less than 6 players or will receive a forfeit. *Exception: Teams may play a “legal game” with less than 6 players with the opposing teams consent. Teams who agree to play under these conditions will lose the option of receiving a forfeit win.* Teams may pick up non-roster players during the regular season in order to field a full team. Non-roster players will not be allowed during playoffs.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- Teams **MAY NOT** substitute “on the fly.” All substitute players must notify the referee before entering the game. Substitutions may occur during any stoppage of play.
- These Stoppages include:
 - Throw-ins
 - Scoring of goals
 - Goalkicks

NOTE: Only the team with possession can substitute on a Throw-in.

There is no limit on the amount of substitutions per team/per game

TIME

- Play will be divided into (2) 20/22/25/30 minute halves (depending on facility) separated by a brief halftime. There will be a running clock maintained by the referee. The clock will stop only during time-outs and injuries. Any delay tactics, (kicking the ball far out of bounds) will allow the referee (at his/her discretion) to stop the clock.

TIE GAMES/SCORING

- Regular season games ending in a tie score will be recorded as tie games. Sudden death will be used in the playoffs.

RULES

- **GOALKEEPERS** - Teams will be allowed to have a designated goalkeeper.
- **THE GOAL BOX** - A goal box will be marked off in front of each goal. The goal box will extend 4 paces/yards out and 4 paces/yards from each side of the goal posts. All goal kicks will be taken from the goal box.
- **THE PENALTY BOX** - A penalty box will be marked off in front of each goal. The penalty box will extend 18 paces/yards out and 18 paces/yards from each side of the goal posts. This is the designated area where the goalkeeper will be allowed to play the ball with his/her hands.
- **DIRECT KICKS** - A direct kick will occur for any penalty unless the penalty has been specified as an indirect kick by the referee. The ball is to be placed at the point of the infraction and to be put in play by any player on the affected team. No opposing player is allowed to be within 10 paces/yards of ball prior to kick. Goals may be scored on direct kicks. A direct kick is to follow these infractions: (1) Charging (2) Roughness (3) Handball (4) Dangerous play/kick (5) Slide-tackles. Penalties incurred inside the goal box by the defense will result in a penalty kick 12 paces/yards out. Penalties incurred outside but within close proximity to the goal box will be kicked from the point of infraction. The defense must stand 10 paces/yards away from the point of infraction (where the ball is being kicked from).
- **INDIRECT KICKS** - Indirect kicks will occur when: 1.) the goalkeeper touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a teammate. 2.) offsides occurs. The indirect kick will be taken by the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.
- **SLIDE TACKLING** – Slide tackling will not be allowed. Intentional slide tackles will result in a direct kick being awarded to the opposing team at the point of the infraction. Multiple violations will result in a yellow card and, at the referee’s discretion, a red card.
- **OFFSIDE** - A player is in an offside position if he/she is closer to the opponents goal line than the ball, unless:
 - He or she is in his/her own half of the field of play
 - He/she is not nearer to his/her opponents goal line than at least two of his/her opponents
 - He/she is even with the ball or the second defender

*A player shall not be declared offside by the referee until he/she receives the ball.

- **OUT OF BOUNDS** -Anytime the ball goes over either sideline, out of bounds, a throw-in will ensue. The person throwing in the ball must throw the ball overhead with both hands and keep both feet remaining on the ground out-of-bounds until the ball is released. Anytime the ball crosses an endline, a corner kick or goal kick will ensue.
 - a. Last touched by a defender- a corner kick. Ball is placed on nearest corner and kicked in by offensive team. Goals **MAY BE** scored on corner kicks. All players must be outside the goal box until the ball enters the goal box and the defense must be at least 4 paces from the corner.
 - b. Last touched by attacker. A goal kick by the defense.
- **FIGHTING** – Fighting is not allowed and will **NOT** be tolerated. All parties involved in fighting will be subject to ejection from the game at the referees discretion and subject to ejection from the league at CSSC staff discretion.

PLAYOFFS

- Playoffs will follow the last week of regular season and will be single elimination.
- **SEEDING** – Teams will be seeded based upon a point system. Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. In most cases all teams will advance to playoffs as long as they are not in violation of the forfeit policy. ***Note:** *In some situations the last ranked team in the league may not be eligible for playoffs. This will be decided on a league by league basis.*
- **PLAYOFF GAMES** – Playoff games will follow the same format during regulation time as the regular season. If teams are tied at the end of regulation in the playoffs, a sudden death overtime will be used. A sudden death overtime will involve 4 men and 2 women from each team for a five-minute period. If neither team scores during the sudden death overtime period, there will be a shootout.

SHOOTOUT SPECIFICS:

1. Each team selects 5 players (3 males, 2 females.) Players don't have to have been playing at the end of regulation time in order to participate in the shootout. A coin toss will decide which team shoots first. The referee will decide which goal to shoot at. Shots will be placed and not dribbled.
2. Teams will alternate taking direct penalty shots from 12 paces off the goal line. (No guy/ girl shooting order is necessary)
3. If tied after the 1st round, the 2nd round will be SUDDEN DEATH i.e. 1st player from Team A scores & 1st player from Team B misses, then Team A wins. Players who shot in the 1st shootout are not eligible to shoot again until all remaining players present have shot. If and when 1 team begins to utilize players for the second time, the other team may "recycle" players as well. Thus, some players on the team with more people present, may or may not shoot.

LEAGUE POLICIES

GAMES:

During the regular season one game will be played within time allotted. Games will be divided into two 20/22/25/30-minute halves (depending on facility) with a brief half-time break. During the regular season, no overtime will be used. The clock runs continuously during the game. Each team is awarded 1 time-out per game.

REFEREES:

Chicago Sport and Social Club will provide paid referee(s) for each soccer match. Referees will have final say in any judgment call or issue regarding rules. Refs have the power to remove any player(s) from a game and/or the league if deemed necessary. Any rules clarification must be brought to the attention of CSSC staff member prior to the continuance of the game.

FORFEITS:

If your team forfeits a match during the season, the following rules apply:

First Offense: Loss of game.

Second Offense: Loss of game and staff reserves the right to remove team from playoffs.

Third Offense: Removal from the league

Any team that forfeits more than once also forfeits any guarantee or right to a certain number of guaranteed games.

If you know in advance that your team is going to forfeit a game, we encourage you to call our office so as to help us schedule a game for your opponent. This does not mean that your team will not receive the loss as a forfeit.

Teams have until ten minutes past the designated start time to field a full squad (or the league minimum of players required according to rules). If at that time a team is unable to field a legal team, it will be up to the staff and the opposing captain to determine whether a team will receive a forfeit win or if a team will allow the opposing team to play a legal game with less than league minimum number of players required according to the rules.

STANDINGS:

The standings will be posted online www.chicagosocial.com. The standings will display each team's rank within its skill level. Rank is based on a point system. Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.

PLAYOFFS:

Playoffs will begin immediately following the end of the regular season and will typically last between 2 and 3 weeks. After teams have been seeded according to their records all captains will receive an email or call with the 1st week of playoff game times roughly 3 days before their league. **Teams will not receive a call for any other weeks of playoffs!** It is the responsibility of **ALL TEAMS** to check the playoff brackets at the league to find out what time they will be playing the following week if they win. In playoffs it is not uncommon, (and in some cases will be necessary,) for teams to have

more than one match in a given night. No non-roster players will be allowed during playoffs. All players must have signed the waiver by the second week of the season in order to be eligible for playoffs. Playoff eligible teams will be determined on a league by league basis. Teams that have violated the forfeit policy during the course of regular season will not be eligible for playoffs. In certain situations teams at or near the bottom of the standings may not advance to the playoffs. Check with CSSC league coordinator to see if this applies to your league. Playoffs are single elimination.

Seeding: Teams are seeded according to total points and strength of schedule. Teams may be dropped from their regular season level based on the above criteria. Teams may play more than one game per day/night, and/or play games on days/nights other than your regularly scheduled league day/night if necessary. CSSC reserves the right to schedule playoff games on days other than teams regularly scheduled league night.

WAIVERS:

In order to participate in the league, each participant must sign the team waiver. Waivers are provided at the facility and must be completed before participation in the event. Players not present the first week of play will still be required to sign a waiver with our staff before participating. Players must sign the waiver in order to be eligible for playoffs.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

Any questions regarding rules, policies, or eligibility of players must be addressed before the start of the game. Any team that would like to challenge the eligibility of an opposing player must do so before the start of the game. Players who have been placed on the roster and signed the waiver are eligible for playoffs. A formal protest may be filed before a game if an opposing player's eligibility is in question. The player in question will be required to provide his/her player information (name, address, phone #, signature) in writing to a CSSC staff member prior to the start of the game. This qualifies as an official protest. Any protest made during a game or after a game will NOT be considered a formal protest. The game will then be played in its entirety as scheduled. Teams will be notified of all rulings on the identified eligibility discrepancy by the following business day – decisions will not be made on site. If the protest is proven to be legitimate, it will result in the forfeiture of the game in question. Games subsequent to the protested game may be rescheduled. The above procedure will also apply for any other “logged” protests. All rulings by CSSC staff are considered final.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

The idea of CSSC is to have fun. We hope that all participants keep that in mind when becoming involved. Although the games may become intense, you still can be competitive while maintaining good sportsmanship. With this being said, any behavior deemed unacceptable by staff may result in suspension and/or ejection from a game or the league. Abuse of officials/referees and other staff will not be tolerated. CSSC reserves the right to remove a player from a game or a league if they are considered to be bringing down the quality of the league. CSSC will not tolerate fighting! Fighting will be an automatic ejection from any game and in most cases ejection from the league for the remainder of the season.

STAFF:

To coordinate and run the league, the officials and/or staff will be available at all times to help the league run as smoothly as possible. If you have questions regarding schedules, policies, rule interpretations, directions to the sponsor bar, etc. please ask.

LEAGUE CANCELLATION/RAINOUT:

Leagues may be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions, dangerous or unplayable field conditions, facility constraints, etc. CSSC staff makes every effort to play all scheduled games, thus we will not cancel games until absolutely necessary. Therefore, if you are calling concerning a decision on a cancellation, remember we will not have an answer until close to the start of the league.

If the league is cancelled, CSSC staff will change the weather hotline immediately. CSSC will then call (if possible) all of the captains to let them know. It is then the captains responsibility to inform all teammates of the cancelation. If a league is cancelled on site, CSSC staff will attempt to contact those teams still scheduled to play the remainder of the league day/night. Depending on the time of cancellation, some teams will have to be notified on site. If we do cancel, follow next week's schedule (ex. If April 13th is cancelled teams should follow the April 20th schedule for their next game). The games that are cancelled will be made up towards the end of the season if time allows. In extreme circumstances, CSSC reserves the right to run a shortened season without a refund. CSSC reserves the right to move games or weeks to an alternative location when deemed necessary without compensation. CSSC also reserves the right to schedule games on days other than your regularly scheduled league day/night if necessary.

PRIZES/ JERSEYS:

Each team will receive one shirt per player that has created an online account and officially added themselves to the online roster. Rosters will be considered final by the second week of the league. The shirts will be handed out at the league sponsor bar during a preseason pick up party approximately a week before the season starts. You will be informed of the details via email ahead of time. Each team will receive a pre-bundled set of colored jerseys with various sizes. Teams are required to wear these shirts during league play. Additional shirts and sizes can be purchased from the CSSC for an additional charge. The top teams in each division will receive a prize of great emotional, spiritual, and most importantly, social value.

These policies are designed to make the league run as smoothly and safely as possible, and provide continuity for its participants. Each player in the league is responsible for this information: please advise your team of these rules and thanks for playing.

