



Greater Hollywood Soccer League

Constitution

Bylaws

And

Playing Rules

2017/2018

Provisions Not Covered

Where provisions are not covered by this text,
the policies and procedures of
The Florida Youth Soccer Association
shall apply.

REMINDERS FROM YOUR CHILD:

- I'm a **KID**
- It's just a **GAME**
- My Coach is a **VOLUNTEER**
- The Officials are **HUMANS**
- **NO** College Scholarships will be handed out today!



THANK YOU AND HAVE FUN!

Article 1. Executive Board

1. The name of the Organization shall be “GHSL, Inc”. A.K.A. “Greater Hollywood Soccer League.” GHSL, INC. is incorporated as a Florida nonprofit corporation, with IRS 501(c)(3) status.
2. The delegate assembly made up of one delegate and an alternate from each sponsoring organization shall govern the League.
3. Regularly scheduled meetings shall be on the scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month. (Meetings during summer break shall be scheduled at the option of the league)
 - 3.1. Meetings can be rescheduled as per the decisions of the board, to be more frequent or to change the scheduled meeting.
 - 3.2. May shall be the annual meeting and election of the new officers for the coming year.
 - 3.3. Officers of the league shall be President, First Vice President, Vice President of Protest and Referees, Treasurer, Secretary, and Referee Assignor. This group will also be known as the Executive Board.
 - 3.4. The officers shall be elected by ballot at the May meeting and immediately take office.
 - 3.5. An officer of the league need not be the representative of his Sponsoring Organization.
 - 3.6. Each officer shall hold office for 2 years and may be eligible for re-election.
 - 3.7. Elections shall be on a staggered basis, the First Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected in odd years, and the President, Vice President of Protest & Referees, and Referee Assignor shall be elected in even years.
4. The President of the league shall preside at all league meetings. The President shall appoint all committees.
5. The First Vice President shall succeed to the power of the President in his absence. In the event the First Vice President is required to permanently take over, then the Delegate Assembly at their next scheduled meeting shall elect a new First Vice President.
6. Vice President of Referees and protests: This Vice President will handle all problems, which may arise among referees, clubs, teams, coaches and coordinate with the Referee Assignor to resolve any such problems. Also, the VP of Referees shall preside over all disciplines of Red Cards and Send Offs. This VP will also be responsible for coordinating the review of all protests in a timely fashion and will serve as the record of all protest appeals. This VP will not have a vote at the protest hearing.
7. All clubs shall use the elected Referee Assignor unless a special application is made to the Executive Board and approved by the Board.
8. The Treasurer shall collect all dues and have charge of all money of the league.
 - 8.1. Shall keep a detailed account of income and expenditures.
 - 8.2. Shall give an oral report at regular meetings.
 - 8.3. Shall pay all bills properly passed upon and approved by the Delegate Assembly.
 - 8.4. There shall be a maximum of \$50 that can be reimbursed to the President in any one month. No request to the Delegate Assembly for reimbursement will be necessary; however, receipts for reimbursements will have to be given to the League Treasurer.

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- 8.5. An outside professional auditor services shall be utilized if the majority of the delegation body request such an audit. This audit shall consist of an annual review of the books and records. This review shall be presented at the annual May meeting.
9. In the event any elected officer has to vacate an office, a replacement may be elected, by the delegate assembly, at the next scheduled meeting.
10. The executive board shall be made up of the elected officer of the league, and the past president (for one year). The executive board shall act as the disciplinary committee on any action taken against a player, coach, or a manager in this league. Written notice will be sent to the league representative of the club involved, advising time, date, and location of the meeting. The executive committee has the right to take disciplinary actions against coaches who switch clubs within the GHSL, without completing obligations to their previous clubs (i.e. not turning in uniforms, monies, etc due to their old club). The executive board can only take action on such matters after receiving written request from the complaining Club. All decisions reached by the executive board will be presented to the delegate assembly at the next meeting to make the action stand.

Article 2. Delegate Assembly

1. Each sponsoring organization or club shall appoint one representative to be a member of the Delegate Assembly, and shall attend all scheduled meetings from Roll Call to Adjournment as listed in Article 2.3, and shall be entitled to one vote
 - 1.1. Each Delegate Assembly member shall have at least one official alternate to attend and vote at regular meetings in the absence of the primary delegate.
 - 1.2. Any Sponsoring Organization absent from regularly scheduled meeting shall be fined \$50 for the first missed meeting in a season, \$75 for the second missed meeting, and \$100 for the third missed meeting. Such fines imposed will be subject for payment net thirty days from fine posting. If imposed fines are not paid within the allotted time Club is subject to game forfeitures and any additional fines that accompany them.
 - 1.3. At the September meeting Clubs shall submit Names, Addresses, and Phone Numbers of their Delegates and Alternates. Failure to do so will result in a \$25 fine. Such fines imposed will be subject for payment net thirty days from fine posting. If imposed fines are not paid within the allotted time Club is subject to game forfeitures and any additional fines that accompany them.
 - 1.4. The League Representative shall be responsible for all communications to and from the league, and his sponsoring organization. This is including but is not limited to Schedule Changes, Score Reporting, Protest, Field Changes, etc.
2. Members of the League are affiliates of Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA).
 - 2.1. Each organization shall present proof of affiliation and insurance at the November Meeting.
 - 2.2. Where provisions are not covered by this text, the policies and procedures of Florida Youth Soccer Association shall apply.
 - 2.3. Each Affiliate will have declared a Director of Coaching (DOC), holding a US Soccer National E License, or greater
3. The Order of Business for all regular Delegate Assembly Meetings shall be:
 - 3.1. Roll Call
 - 3.2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - 3.3. Communications
 - 3.4. Unfinished Business (Old Business)
 - 3.5. Report of Treasurer
 - 3.6. Committee Reports
 - 3.7. Delegate Reports
 - 3.8. Special Reports
 - 3.9. New Business
 - 3.10. Adjournment
4. The majority of those present at any regular league meeting shall carry the vote.
5. The President may call for an emergency meeting of all Delegates to resolve, by majority vote, only the emergency for which the meeting was called.
 - 5.1. Proper notification of emergency meetings shall be no less than 48-hour notice to each member and shall state the reason for said meeting.

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6. The Delegate Assembly shall have the power to set up rules governing league competition, tournaments, and special competition within its own structure.
 - 6.1. The Delegate Assembly shall select teams and reserve the right to select managers and captains for all representative games.
 - 6.2. The league shall have the first call on any registered player for representative games provided they have the permission from the sponsoring organization.
 - 6.3. Playing rules may be changed at any regular meeting. Each year, the Delegate Assembly will revise and update the Bylaws. These revised Bylaws will be printed and the newly established rules will be made available to representatives at the September meeting. (Article 2.6.4 will apply for Bylaws changes at the September Presentation).
 - 6.4. Playing rules may be changed by the Delegate Assembly during the year as long as two-thirds vote in favor of the change.
7. The initial fee into the league shall be \$200, plus a \$300 performance bond. These monies are payable within thirty days after Organization acceptance into the league.
8. No club shall be allowed to participate in the league unless all dues, fees, fines and/or any other monies owed to the league are paid to the league prior to the start of the new season. As well, no team will be allowed to participate in the playoffs unless all dues, fees, fines and/or any other monies are paid to the League prior to the start of the playoffs. Additionally, any team/club that forfeits a playoff game due to unpaid fines will be charged \$100.00 game forfeit fee.
 - 8.1. Fines imposed by the league are non-negotiable. Relief of fines may not be voted on by the delegates. Clubs may appeal in writing to the executive board any fine that they feel is in error or where extenuating circumstances may exist. The executive board shall report the findings of any appeals to the delegates at the next scheduled meeting.
 - 8.2. Unless otherwise stated, any and all fines imposed will be subject for payment net thirty days from fine posting. If imposed fines are not paid within the allotted time Club is subject to game forfeitures and any additional fines that accompany them.
9. Any Organization or club may retain membership in the Greater Hollywood Soccer League (GHSL) and Delegate Assembly regardless of number of teams entered, if any, provided written notice is submitted to the league secretary. Such status shall be limited to two consecutive years.
10. The Greater Hollywood Soccer League **should** be limited to no more than 20 Sponsoring Organizations, with a limit of 12 teams in each divisional bracket. Distribution based upon the number of officially registered teams during the season.
11. Misc. League Obligations:
 - 11.1. The League shall supply to clubs a memo in reference to the most recent rules of the game.
 - 11.2. The League shall supply to clubs and their coaches a class on the rules of the game and Bylaws changes. There will be a minimum of one coaches meeting. All coaches must attend. If a coach does not attend and does not receive a signed off card, he/she will not be allowed to coach.

Article 3. Starting the Season / Rostering players

1. The following items are due at the **November Meeting. (1st Tues in Nov.)**
 - 1.1. Any and all past due fines or fees.
 - 1.2. Performance Bond (\$ 300 - One time only) or become current on fines or fees levied over the year that have reduced the performance bond.
 - 1.3. Annual Administration Fee (\$100 per Club)
 - 1.4. Team Fees \$100 per team.
 - 1.5. Primary and secondary Uniform Shirt Color
 - 1.6. Maps or Directions to your field
 - 1.7. Copy of the field permit (If required) and field parameters (days & times available for games)
 - 1.8. An accurate count by age brackets of the number of teams the club is going to play in the coming season submitted to the official Scheduling Chairperson. **Starting with 2017/18 seasonal year League will use getsoccer for scheduling and each Club will declare participating teams using getsoccer's (CLUB -> Teams -> "Register Teams in:") functionality.**
 - 1.9. A list of Coaches names with Telephone numbers and the designated contact for each team.
 - 1.10. Name of their Director of Coaching (DOC) and certificate/copy of his/hers US Soccer National E License, or greater.
 - 1.11. *****Failure to submit any of the above items at the November Meeting will result in a \$50 per item fine.**
 - 1.12. After the deadline, any teams dropped will result in a fine of \$500 per team.
 - 1.13. The President shall appoint a special committee to organize and administer any special divisions that may arise. (i.e. U19 for instance)
 - 1.14. When numbers allow, there shall be two divisions established in the league.
 - 1.15. Girl's teams may be formed where numbers allow and they shall abide by the same rules as the boy's teams in each division.
2. Scheduling & Rescheduling games: League scheduled games shall start on a date set by the Delegate Assembly. The President shall be in charge of the league schedule and will work with the VP of Referees and Referee Assignor to make any changes when necessary.
 - 2.1. Clubs wishing to make changes once the season has begun must follow the following procedures (will also be posted on the league's website): To request a game change the club's designated GHSL representative must first contact the opposing club via email to get permission. Once BOTH clubs agree to the change, the email chain must be forwarded to the league's scheduling contact (currently the President). The approved email must be received by the league no later than 8:00 pm on Tuesday preceding the game. Games will not be "pulled" from the schedule; you must provide a new date, time and location. Any emails received from persons other than the designated club representatives (including coaches and managers), or any requests received after the deadline, will be disregarded. Also, the league reserves the right to refuse any game changes that is deemed to be not "referee friendly." **Starting with 2017/18 seasonal**

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year League will use getsoccer for scheduling. This portion of the bylaws is subject to change as we test and learn the scheduling and rescheduling procedures.

- 2.2. The league schedule shall be considered fixed and permanent one (2) weeks prior to the seasons' start date. After that time, game changes must be requested and made as directed in 3.2.1
- 2.3. Clubs shall notify the Scheduling Chairperson within 48 hours of games canceled due to unannounced field closures, inclement weather, civil unrest or acts of god. The Scheduling Chairperson shall work with the affected teams (clubs) to reschedule those games in a fair and timely manner.
- 2.4. The league reserves the right to cancel any and all league games on any given day(s) should the Executive Board, in consultation with the delegates, deem it unsafe and or hazardous to play.
3. Game Scoring: Scores shall be uploaded on the league's website by the member clubs directly. All Scores must be reported by Tuesday at 8 pm for the previous weeks' (Tuesday thru Monday) games. Any scores not reported shall result in a \$25 fine per game report to the club. Clubs are only required to score home games, but must notify the league promptly if the opposing team scored a game incorrectly. Starting with 2017/18 seasonal year League will use getsoccer for scoring. This portion of the bylaws is subject to change as we test and learn the scheduling and scoring procedures.
 - 3.1. Both coaches shall sign the GHSL GAME REPORT verifying the game result. Additionally, the referee shall mark the score on each team's Game Card a/k/a Roster, fill all required information on the Game Cards and exchange Game Cards with the respective coaches
 - 3.2. For games played at a neutral site, the designated home team shall be responsible for following the game reporting procedures.
 - 3.3. The official scorekeeper shall notify the treasurer and executive committee on a weekly basis of fines to be assessed to each club, if any, due to a club's failure to report scores as required by the Bylaws.
4. Player eligibility and Rosters:
 - 4.1. U6 division teams may have up to 8 players, U9 and U10 division teams may have up to 12 players, U12 division teams may have up to 16 players and U14 division teams and older may have up to 22 players on the roster (however only 18 may play in any one game.) If a roster contains more than 18 players, the roster given to the referee prior to the game must indicate which players will not be playing, by having those names "scratched" off.
 - 4.2. No player that is under 11 years of age may head the ball. PERIOD. DO NOT put a player that is under 11 years-old onto a team in a heading division. If a player appears on the roster, they will be deemed to have played and the coach will be suspended the remainder of the year as well as an additional year. The player will receive the same suspension. The FYSA system will allow you to put a U12 player who still might be 10 years old in December onto a U14 team. Therefore, it is essential that all coaches, parents, and club administrators make sure to instruct their coaches NOT to play any players that have not turned 11 onto teams in heading divisions.
 - 4.3. Roster additions: Teams will be allowed to add players to rosters through the sixth weekend of play. This shall be determined by the number of weekends the league has

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scheduled and played games in ANY division, not the number of weekends the team in question has played in. After the 6th weekend, no player additions will be allowed to any roster, unless a request to do so has been presented to the executive board, and receives approval based on a vote.

- 4.4. Team member registered with the GHSL shall only play for that team he/she is registered to. This means no other league or team sanctioned by FYSA or AYSO. (Except during a FYSA sanctioned tournament.) GHSL does not allow dual rostered players from participating in any league games. This includes players being rostered on multiple teams within the same club or playing with a different club.
 - 4.5. GHSL does not allow any “guest players” to participate in league games, and/or to be added to any rosters.
 - 4.6. All players on the roster must be carded as a "recreational player" through the FYSA. Any player that has previously been carded as “competitive” in the same seasonal year may not play in the GHSL without prior permission from the executive board.
 - 4.7. Effective August 2016, the grouping of players changed nationwide. U.S. Soccer and GHSL will go to calendar birth years to align with international standards and Youth National Team programs. When determining the age group for the season, the year of season end should be used for determining the birth year. Also, note that the format “U followed by age” really means that age and younger. For example, U8 should be read as 8 and under.
 - 4.8. Prior to the first game being played by any team, a roster must be faxed or e-mailed to the league. Fax number and email address will be posted on the league’s website. If any games are played with an added player, and the roster has not been faxed or e-mailed in prior, that game will be scored as a forfeit (and fee charged) to the violating team.
 - 4.9. **ONLY gotsoccer Game Cards will be used. Starting with 2017/18 seasonal year League will use gotsoccer for printing Game Cards that no longer require triplicate paper. Every team will print and bring 2 copies of the GAME SPECIFIC Game Card, a/k/a “roster”. This portion of the bylaws is subject to change as we test and learn the new procedures.** They must be signed by both coaches, as well as the home club’s attending field marshal. Referees and Field Marshal full names should also be written in legibly! The referee will also note the score, and any red cards or material facts. After the game, the referee will return one copy to each coach. A \$25 fine may be imposed for each of the preceding items, if not written on the roster.
 - 4.10. If any “open age rosters” are utilized during the season, it is the responsibility of each club to ensure no players are placed on the open roster that is a violation of either FYSA regulations, or GHSL playing rules. If any roster is determined to be in violation, the fine for a first offense shall be \$100, with subsequent fines of \$500 PER violation that occur in the same seasonal year. If any games are played with a roster in violation of this rule, the game(s) will be scored as a forfeit to the offending team, and a forfeit fee charged to the offending club as well as a requirement to reimburse the other teams referee fees paid out.
5. Player passes: All players must have an FYSA issued player pass.
 - 5.1. All Players shall have FYSA player passes with the date of birth verified. Players must be

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verified through the FYSA office, "club only" verified players will not be allowed.

- 5.2. All Player passes shall have the player's **face** picture (**passport style**) permanently attached.
- 5.3. All passes must be heat laminated.
- 5.4. Any player not having the above will not be allowed to participate in GHSL league play.
6. Coaches: All coaches must have a coach's pass issued by FYSA. This pass **MUST** be laminated and must include a **face** photo of the coach.
 - 6.1. A team may have a maximum of three coaches, including the head coach. All coaches must remain within 10 yards of their respective half of the centerline during the game.
 - 6.2. In the event a coach of a team fails to show for a game or is ejected from a game in progress, another coach from the same club may take his place. The purpose is to let the teams play. The replacement coach must present an FYSA coaches pass.
7. Site director (field marshal): In the interest of letting the teams play in a fun - worry free environment, each club will be required to have a site director at all home games. The site director shall introduce him/herself to the referees and visiting teams, direct them to the fields they are assigned, help maintain crowd control, keep coaches calmed down and in general keep things under control.
 - 7.1. Under no circumstance will the site director be coaching at the same time he is supposed to be directing. This infraction of the rules shall result in a \$50 fine.
 - 7.2. The site Director shall report to the Executive Board any serious incident that has occurred at his field. If no Site Director was at the field, the club will be fined \$50 and could face disciplinary action.

PLAYING RULES

Article 4. Equipment

1. Each sponsoring organization must have approved team colors.
2. Each sponsoring organization will have their teams travel in their primary color. (Jersey Color), this will let the home team know what color the visiting team is wearing. It is the home team's responsibility to change if there is a similarity in colors, as deemed by the Center Referee.
 - 2.1. Alternate Jerseys must be numbered, (Pinnies with numbers are allowed as alternate jersey)
 - 2.2. If a visiting team shows up to a field with a uniform color other than the colors declared above and is a conflict with the home, the visiting team must change into an alternate color jersey. If the visiting team has no alternate jerseys, then the visiting team is ineligible to play.
 - 2.3. Players wearing an orthopedic cast or metal braces will not be eligible for play. (Any cast or metal brace).
3. Goalkeepers will wear colors that distinguish them from all other players and Referees.
4. Footwear: Molded soccer shoes and plastic screw-in soccer cleats allowed. No metal cleats all ages.
5. Shin guards are mandatory for all age groups up to and including 19 and under.
6. One (1) leather or synthetic leather ball shall be provided by each team for all league games. Sizes as follows:

All teams 14 and older	#5
U10 and U12 Divisions	#4
U6 and U9 Divisions	#3

Article 5. Playing Rules

1. All league games must be played in accordance with modified FIFA rules unless stated otherwise in these league rules.
2. Duration of the game:

Division:	Game length:
U6	Four 10 minute Quarters
U9	Four 12 minute Quarters
U10	Two 25 Minute Halves
U12	Two 30 Minute Halves
U14	Two 35 Minute Halves
U16	Two 40 Minute Halves
U18	Two 45 Minute Halves

3. In the event there are not enough players present from one team to start a game at game time, (three less than the maximum number allowed in U12 and older, 2 less than a full field in U9 and U10, 3 player minimum for 4v4 games, a forfeit will be awarded after a 15-minute waiting period. The sponsoring organization forfeiting the game shall be responsible for the referee fees as well as be assessed a \$100 Fine by the League. Referee fees shall be paid at the time of the forfeit and shall be reimbursed to the paying party by the league.
4. Referee fees will be a 50/50 split between each team. Under no circumstances are the referees to be paid other than what they are entitled. Referees are to be paid prior to their game. When less than 3 uniformed referees are at a game use club linesmen. Club linesmen are not entitled to receive a fee.

FEES ARE NEGOTIABLE YEAR TO YEAR

Age	Referee	Linesmen (Each)	Total/Team (Ref Only)	Total/Team (Ref + 1 Linesman)	Total/Team (Ref + 2 Linesman)
U6	\$ 20	X	\$ 10	X	X
U9	\$ 30	X	\$ 15	X	X
U10	\$ 30	\$ 20	\$ 15	\$25	\$ 35
U12	\$ 36	\$ 22	\$ 18	\$29	\$ 40
U14	\$ 44	\$ 26	\$ 22	\$ 35	\$ 48
U16 - U18	\$ 50	\$ 30	\$ 25	\$ 40	\$ 55

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- 4.1. Rainouts/field closure:
Coaches are NOT permitted to cancel games due to inclement weather or wet field conditions. ONLY city officials or program (site) directors are able to make such calls. Likewise, games cannot be played if automated lightning detectors are activated, or the referee feels play would not be safe due to threatening or unsafe conditions.
- 4.2. Referee payments
If the referee or site director has ruled that a game is a rainout or not able to be played for threatening weather conditions, EACH referee shall be paid \$5.00 by EACH team. ONLY referees that actually showed up to the field at the game's starting time are entitled to be paid.
5. Each team will turn in **2 copies of the official Game Card a/k/a roster** (computer generated from the FYSA/gotsoccer website, see 3.4.9) to the referee prior to the game. A fine of \$25 per missing roster will be charged. **If this roster is not submitted, the team that does not present the Official GHSL roster will not receive their copy at the end of the game. Game can still be played if only one team has the Game Cards. At the end of the game, the referee will switch rosters so that each coach will have the other team's roster.**
 - 5.1. The referee shall immediately notify the referee assignor if he/she feels that a roster has been altered or changed in any way. If the Board determines that the roster has been altered or changed in any way, that team shall be deemed ineligible to play, resulting in a forfeit and a \$100 fine as well as the referee fees. Additionally, the coach of that team shall be fined an additional \$100 as well as being suspended for a minimum of the remainder of the regular season and playoffs.
6. Player passes and coaches' passes will be presented to the referees prior to game commencement.
7. The opposing coach along with the center referee will check in all players and coaches, using the official league roster and laminated players' cards. **At no time shall referees skip checking in the players and passes.**
8. If the referee abandons a match in play due to inclement weather (lightning, etc.), power outage, etc., the game shall be replayed if abandoned prior to halftime. If the match is abandoned after the end of the first half, the score at the time of abandonment and the subsequent result shall stand. If the referee is forced to abandon a match due to the actions (both verbal and/or physical) of any coach, player, spectator, or bystander, that team shall immediately forfeit the match and the offending club shall be fined \$200. This rule applies before, during, or after any GHSL sanctioned game. The league may impose additional sanctions as per article 7. In any event, the referee shall be paid for any subsequent replay.
9. Substitutions:
 - 9.1. Prior to a throw-in in a team's favor
 - 9.2. Prior to a goal-kick in either team's favor
 - 9.3. After a goal by either team
 - 9.4. After an injury by either team, with the referee's permission and after play has stopped.
 - 9.5. Half time
 - 9.6. Goalie change must be reported to referees
 - 9.7. A substitute shall not enter the field of play unless the player he/she is replacing has left and only after having received a signal from the referee. Players shall enter the field

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from the halfway line.

- 9.8. U6 and U9 substitutions are only allowed at the start of each quarter (4 times per game) and to replace injured players
10. Infraction consequences: (Player or Coach)
 - 10.1. Red cards must be faxed or emailed to the league within 24 hours of occurring. The league's fax number and email address are posted on the website. BOTH teams must report red cards that are noted on a roster. A \$25 fine will be charged to all teams that fail to report red cards to the league. This fine will apply to either the team with the red carded player, AND/OR the opposing team. **Starting with 2017/18 seasonal year League will use gotsoccer for scoring and reporting of red cards/ejections. This portion of the bylaws is subject to change as we test and learn the new scoring and disciplinary procedures.**
 - 10.2. Refer to FYSA Discipline Chart
 - 10.3. Repeat Offenders from this or prior seasons will be subject to much stiffer penalties as ruled by GHSL Delegate Assembly.
 - 10.4. Any ejected coach shall result in a \$50 fine as well as a minimum one game suspension. Such fines imposed will be subject to payment prior to the next available game the coach is eligible to coach after serving his/her suspension.
 - 10.5. Any GHSL Executive Board Member, who witnesses any unsportsmanlike conduct during the course of a League game, may request and is entitled to receive the Player's or Coach's Card after consultation with the Center Referee. Results of the pulled card will be determined upon review in accordance with Rule 8.1.3 of the GHSL Bylaws.
 - 10.6. If for any reason a game is scored as a forfeit by the league, the offending team will be charged a \$100 fine and will be responsible for paying the referee fees for the entire game.
11. Tied Games and Mercy Rule
 - 11.1. The mercy rule for all games shall be an 8 goal differential.
 - 11.2. Regular Season- Tie Stands, each team receives 1 point
12. **Under 6 division special rules**
 - 12.1. Field dimensions: maximum 25 yards wide by 35 yards long. Many parks play across the short side of a 7 v 7 field.
 - 12.2. Markings
 - 12.2.1. Distinctive lines not more than 5-inch wide
 - 12.2.2. Penalty Area: None
 - 12.3. Goal size

Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The distance between the posts must not exceed 6 feet, and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is no greater than 4 feet (goal size 4'x6').
 - 12.4. Number of players
 - 12.4.1. Maximum number of players on the field at one time is 4, no goalkeeper.
 - 12.4.2. Maximum number of players on a roster shall not exceed 8.
 - 12.4.3. All players in uniform must play 50% of the game unless a player has become injured or ill. It is not the referee's responsibility to keep track of the player's

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time on the field, this is the responsibility of the coaches.

12.4.4. Failure to follow this rule will result in the team forfeiting the game.

12.5. Special Playing Rules

12.5.1. There shall be no direct free kicks. Penalty kicks ARE allowed.

12.5.2. The Referee shall explain to the players all infractions.

12.5.3. A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

12.5.4. There shall be no offside.

12.5.5. A goal may not be scored from a goal kick

12.6. All GHSL small sided games including U6 will be played as a NON-HEADING DIVISION for the entirety of the season. Indirect free kick for intentional heading will be awarded to the opposing team.

13. Under 8 Division Special rules

13.1. A small sided U8 division is a sanctioned offering of the GHSL. Since no member clubs entered teams this season, and in the interest of clarity, U8 specific rules have been removed from this 2016-17 publication of these Bylaws. This is meant to prevent confusion with the U8 rising future stars, who play in the GHSL sanctioned U9 division.

13.2. U8 teams participating in the 2016-17 season should refer to section 5.14.

14. Under 9 Division Special Rules (Rising U8 future stars – AKA U9 Future Stars)

14.1. Field dimensions: maximum 45 yards wide by 65 yards long (35 yards wide by 55 yards long recommended).

14.2. Markings

14.2.1. Distinctive lines not more than 5-inch wide

14.2.2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field

14.2.3. A center circle with an eight-yard radius

14.2.4. Four corner arch with a two-foot radius

14.2.5. Goal Area - eight yards wide and four yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

14.2.6. Penalty Area shall be twenty-four yards wide and twelve yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn down parallel with the goal line.

14.2.7. Buildout lines should be equidistant between the penalty area line and halfway line

14.3. Goal size

Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The distance between the posts must not exceed 18.5 feet, and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is no greater than 6.5 feet (goal size 6'x12' is recommended).

14.4. Number of players

14.4.1. Maximum number of players on the field at one time is 7, including the goalkeeper.

14.4.2. Maximum number of players on a roster shall not exceed 12.

14.4.3. All players in uniform must play 50% of the game unless a player has become

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injured or ill. It is not the referee's responsibility to keep track of the player's time on the field, this is the responsibility of the coaches.

14.4.4. Failure to follow this rule will result in the team forfeiting the game.

14.5. Special Playing Rules.

14.5.1. There shall be no direct free kicks. Penalty kicks ARE allowed.

14.5.2. The Referee shall explain to the players all infractions.

14.5.3. A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

14.5.4. There shall be no offsides.

14.5.5. A goal may not be scored from a goal kick

14.6. All GHSL small sided games including Future Stars playing as U9 will be played as a NON-HEADING DIVISION for the entirety of the season. Indirect free kick for intentional heading will be awarded to the opposing team.

14.7. The Rising U8 future stars – AKA U9 Future Stars division, will ONLY be eligible to teams with true U7 and U8 players. A true U9 player playing in this division will be deemed an illegal player, and the league will take actions to void any games played, and levy fines and penalties to the coach and club, and the game(s) will be scored a forfeit.

14.8. Buildout Line

- The buildout line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.
- When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, opposing team must move behind the buildout line until the ball is put into play.
- Once the opposing team is behind the buildout line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting is not allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the buildout line and play resumes as normal.
- If a goalkeeper punts the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

15. Under 10 Division Special Rules

15.1. Field Dimensions

15.1.1. Maximum field dimensions shall be 45 yards wide by 65 yards long.

15.1.2. Minimum field dimensions shall be 35 yards wide by 55 yards long.

15.2. Markings

15.2.1. Distinctive lines not more than 5-inch wide

15.2.2. Halfway line shall be marked out across the field

15.2.3. A center circle with an eight-yard radius

15.2.4. Four corner arch with a two-foot radius

15.2.5. Goal Area - eight yards wide and four yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line

15.2.6. Penalty Area shall be twenty-four yards wide and twelve yards into the field of

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play, joined by a line drawn down parallel with the goal line.

- 15.3. Number of players
 - 15.3.1. Maximum number of players on the field at one time is 7 and one of the players shall be the goalkeeper
 - 15.3.2. Maximum number of players on roster shall be 12.
- 15.4. All GHSL small sided games including combined U9/U10 will be played as a NON-HEADING DIVISION for the entirety of the season. Indirect free kick for intentional heading will be awarded to the opposing team.
- 15.5. Buildout Line
 - The buildout line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.
 - When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the buildout line until the ball is put into play
 - Once the opposing team is behind the buildout line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting is not allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the buildout line and play resumes as normal.
 - If a goalkeeper punts the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
 - The buildout line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the buildout line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the buildout line and goal line.
16. **Under 12 Division Special Rules**
 - 16.1. Field Dimensions
 - 16.1.1. Maximum Field dimensions shall be 55 yards wide by 80 yards long.
 - 16.1.2. Minimum field dimensions shall be 45 yards wide by 70-yard long
 - 16.2. Markings
 - 16.2.1. Distinctive lines not more than 5-inch wide
 - 16.2.2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field
 - 16.2.3. A center circle with an eight-yard radius
 - 16.2.4. Four corner arch with a two-foot radius
 - 16.2.5. Goal Area – twelve yards wide and five yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line
 - 16.2.6. Penalty Area shall be 36 yards wide and fourteen yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn down parallel with the goal line.
 - 16.3. Number of players
 - 16.3.1. Maximum number of players on the field at one time is 9 and one of the players shall be the goalkeeper
 - 16.3.2. Maximum number of players on roster shall be 16.
 - 16.4. All GHSL small sided games including combined U11/U12 will be played as a NON-HEADING DIVISION for the entirety of the season. Indirect free kick for intentional heading will be awarded to the opposing team.

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16.5. “Goal to goal rule”

In small-sided games, an indirect free kick from the center mark will be awarded to the opponent when a goalkeeper punts or a player kicks a free kick from one penalty area to the other penalty area without the ball being played first by another player.

17. **Field Conditions**

17.1. The home team will be responsible for the condition of the grounds including but not limited to proper field markings and equipment. Nets and 5’ corner flags are required. In the event that the referee deems that the field is not in proper playing condition, the home team will forfeit the game. The referee’s judgment in these matters according to the Laws of the Game shall be final and unchallenged.

17.2. The size of the goals shall be as follows:

Division:	Goal size:
U6	4' x 6'
U9	6'x12' or 6' x 18'
U10 & U12	6' x 18' or 7' x 21'
U14 and older	8'x24'

17.3. Alongside the side touchline, a line, not more than 5 inches wide and not less than 1 yard away, shall run parallel to the side touchline from goal-line to goal-line. The purpose is to maintain a clearly defined path for the assistant referee.

17.4. Park Entrance and Parking Fees: Home teams playing their games at parks that charge parking or admission fees MUST make arrangements with the park and/or the opponent to provide for free admission and parking for visiting players, coaches, and spectators.

Article 6. Post Season and Playoffs

1. Playoff Positions

- 1.1. The teams in the League will be placed in playoff divisions in accordance with the total number of points accumulated during the regular season. If the points are equal, then the ranking is decided first by head to head, 2nd by goal differential, 3rd by Goals against, 4th by Goals for.
- 1.2. Points will be awarded in the following manner.
 - A. Win = 3 points
 - B. Tie = 1 point
 - C. Loss = 0 points
- 1.3. Teams will be divided into equal divisions based on a number of teams in that division. Example: 12 team divisions will be divided into three - four-team divisions, with the teams with the most regular-season accumulated points placing first through fourth respectively, in "A" division. The next four teams will be placed in placed in "B" division and the next four teams in "C" division. All in ascending order in respect to the total amount of accumulated points
- 1.4. Playoff games
 - 1.4.1. U6 and U9 will play a jamboree at season's end, as no standings are kept.
 - 1.4.2. U10 & older divisions: If at the end of regulation time teams are tied will go straight to kicks from the penalty mark. NO OVERTIME WILL BE PLAYED.

2. Playoff and Championship Game Locations

- 2.1. All Field locations are presented to the Executive and Scheduling VP on a voluntary basis.
- 2.2. All Fields are to be inspected by a member of the League Executive. **If a field is deemed not play-worthy another site will be selected.**
- 2.3. In the interest of letting the teams play in a fun - worry free environment, each club will be required to have a site director at all games. The site director shall introduce himself to the referees and both teams. Direct them to the fields they are assigned, help maintain crowd control, keep coaches calmed down and in general keep things under control.
- 2.4. Under no circumstance will the site director be coaching at the same time he is supposed to be directing.
- 2.5. The site director shall report to the Executive Board any serious incident that has occurred at his field. If no Site director was at the field, the club will be fined a sum of \$50 and /or face disciplinary action.

3. **Playoff seeding** will be determined by Executive Board depending on number of teams participating and season scoring records.

Article 7. Referees

1. The league is responsible for assigning official referees.
 - 1.1. The referees must be given 24-hour notice of games canceled to avoid being paid. Any game not played and the referees are due fees, the league will pay such fees by check. The league will bill club(s) responsible.
2. Referees will report to the field in plenty of time to do the equipment and card check and get the game started on time.
3. Referees who have given either Red Cards or Send Offs shall within 48-hour fax or email an Official State Referee report to the league.
4. Any field location that becomes a reported “Poor Sportsmanship Area” in terms of crowd control or coach/player behavior can result in a request by the official’s association for specific action by the league.
5. After a hearing upon request, the league may:
 - 5.1. Forfeit all future games
 - 5.2. Order Police protection and bill the offending organization for incurred expenses.
 - 5.3. Transfer remaining scheduled games to another location.
 - 5.4. Take other action deemed appropriate.
6. Each organization shall recruit potential referees from within its ranks to take the referee courses offered each year.
7. The referee organization shall inform the league VP of the official’s school dates so he may inform the delegates of the same
8. The league shall hire an official assignor for the referees; to pay a fee determined by the delegate assembly.
9. Soccer officials have been instructed to maintain strict sportsmanship behavior. It is absolutely essential that all participants be aware of this and assist and stand behind the referees, whether they agree or not.

Article 8. Discipline, Protest, and Appeals

1. The purpose of this document is to establish a body of procedures and regulations to be followed in all matters of the league administered by the VP of Protest. Such matters include:
 - 1.1. Protests directed to the league by members arising from violation of the rules.
 - 1.2. Appeals directed to the Executive Committee by members arising from rulings issued by the VP.
 - 1.3. Requests for disciplinary action arising generally from but not limited to cautions and ejection issued to players/coaches in game situations.
 - 1.4. ON FIELD REFEREE CALLS ARE NOT PROTESTABLE AND WILL STAND ONCE A GAME HAS BEEN PLAYED.
2. For the purpose of filing such matters with the league, protest, appeals and requests for disciplinary action will be accepted only when they are in writing and in complete accordance with the instructions that follow.
3. **Protests**
 - 3.1. Protest must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of the completion of the specific event in which the rule violation occurred.
 - 3.2. The letter must be submitted and signed by one of the following on behalf of the member claiming the rule violation(s).
 - 3.2.1. Member's President or Commissioner
 - 3.2.2. Member's Representative to GHSL
 - 3.2.3. Member's Alternative Representative to the GHSL
 - 3.3. A fee of \$ 25.00, refundable if the protest is upheld, must accompany the filing.
 - 3.4. Only rules violations can be protested and must state specifically the rule(s) violated by citing the following:
 - 3.4.1. Rule source - FIFA modified rules / GHSL
 - 3.4.2. Book or document where the rule can be found
 - 3.4.3. Page number
 - 3.4.4. Rule number (E.G., 3.6:1)
 - 3.5. Protest must be complete, but briefly, state the events and facts supporting the contention that the rules were violated.
 - 3.6. Upon receipt, the VP will review for completeness and conformity to items (8.3:1 - 8.3:5) above.
 - 3.7. If the protest is not submitted in conformity, The VP will reject the protest and return the fee to the filer. Rejections may be appealed to the Executive Committee by following Appeal Procedures.
 - 3.8. If the protest is accepted The VP will convene the Executive Committee for a hearing within 7 days of the receipt of the protest along with a date, time and place of the hearing, at least 48 hours prior to the date of the hearing

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- 3.9. The burden of the substantiation or defense with respect to a protest will rest with the members involved. It is not the responsibility of the VP, GHSL, or any of its Designees to gather facts or solicit statements or testimony.

3.10. Judgment calls are not protestable. (Referee Calls)

4. Appeals

- 4.1. Decisions of the VP or Executive Committee (Hearing Board) may be appealed to the Delegate Assembly
- 4.2. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 48 hours after losing protest. Another \$25.00 refundable fee must accompany the filing along with all documents relative to the original ruling.
- 4.3. Upon receipt, The President will prepare the Agenda for the next regular meeting to resolve the matter. If it is warranted, in the interest of time, The President may call a special meeting of the Delegate Assembly to hear and act only on the appeal. Notice of the special meeting to be at least 48 hours prior to the same.

5. Discipline

- 5.1. Request for disciplinary action by the league against a member can be initiated in one of the following two ways
 - 5.1.1. Written Referee report filed by GHSL VP
 - 5.1.2. Written request from any League representative.
- 5.2. The submission of a written referee report will result in a conference among the VP of Appeals, VP of Referees, and the referee filing the report. Based on this conference the VP of Appeals will issue a decision to the League delegate involved within 24 Hours. Disciplinary action involving suspension requires the VP to hold the Player/ Coach Pass for the duration of the suspension. Decisions in these matters may be appealed as explained under heading Appeals.
- 5.3. Written request by a League representative will be handled according to procedures established for protest. The only difference is that the request is for disciplinary action instead of a rule violation.