



# **SNOHOMISH COUNTY ADULT SOCCER ASSOCIATION PLAYING RULES AND LEAGUE PROCEDURES**

**Effective February 2023**

SCASA's goal is to promote, teach, oversee, and represent the game of soccer, recognizing that people of all abilities should compete in a fun and safe environment.

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The **Laws of the Game** are authorized on an annual basis by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and provided by the Fédération Internationale de Football Associations (FIFA).

**Laws of the Game can be viewed / downloaded at:**

**<https://www.ussoccer.com/referee-program/laws-of-the-game>**

SCASA league games will be played according to current IFAB (FIFA) rules, with the following exceptions or additions:

## **I. PLAYERS**

- a. Minimum age and gender requirements are as follows:
  - i. Open teams
    - 1. Players must be 18 or over to play.
  - ii. Women's teams
    - 1. All players must be female.
    - 2. Players must turn the required age in the calendar year.
    - 3. A pregnant player may play with written permission from a physician unless the opposing team objects in a timely manner.
  - iii. Men's teams
    - 1. All players must be male.
    - 2. Players must turn the required age in the calendar year.
  - iv. Coed teams
    - 1. Players must turn the required age in the calendar year.
- b. Players may play on one single-gender team per age group. If a player wishes to play on one or more teams per season; they must make a request in writing and receive board approval in advance.
- c. Coed - No more than 5 men per team on the field, excluding goalkeeper. Teams may play with fewer men and more women.
- d. All players must hold a current WSASA player card and must surrender his/her player card to the referee prior to the start of play.
  - i. If a player has a WSASA card and it has expired within 14 days of the match, the player may surrender the expired card AND can display to the referee confirmation of a successful renewal via electronic device, his/her expired card shall be treated as a current card for that match.
- e. Failure to comply with ALL the above requirements may cause the player to be deemed an ineligible player. (*See VII.i*)
- f. Players may wear soft caps, gloves, undershirts and undershorts/tights as long as they are not readily confused with the uniform of the opposing team and provided they are not used for unfair advantage.
- g. Players may not play while wearing a cast, splint, or brace unless adequately padded and determined by the referee not to be dangerous.

- h. Players may wear fitness trackers if the item is covered with a protective cover (wrist band) to make it non-dangerous to other players.

## **II. TEAMS**

- a. All teams must meet the following requirements:
  - i. Submit team registration, roster, and fees prior to the deadline per season.
  - ii. Any changes to your Team Registration and Roster must be posted at least 72 hours prior to participation.
    - 1. Completed Team Roster includes player name, e-mail address, date of birth, and phone number recorded in online player profile.
    - 2. Any player changing teams must be deleted from his/her former team before he/she may be added to a new team.
  - iii. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements may cause player to be deemed ineligible. (*See VII.i*)
- b. Team names shall not be sexually suggestive or profane.
- c. Teams shall wear jerseys of a matching color.
- d. The first team listed on the schedule is designated as the home team and shall change jersey if team colors conflict.
- e. The home team (listed first on the schedule) must provide a suitable game ball.
- f. Once schedules have been distributed and a team withdraws, SCASA shall retain a \$100.00 forfeiture of the registration fee from their refund.
- g. Player cards will be collected by the referee prior to the game. Late arriving players for which the above procedure has not been completed may not play in the game until the referee, at his/her convenience, has collected their player card. The referee shall keep any player card/s held after an ejection. At the conclusion of the game, the referee will note the score, comments about nets and lines, injuries, cautions, ejections and will submit to the SCASA office within 48 hours. Player card/s will be returned once disciplinary sanctions have been satisfied.
- h. Managers will report game scores weekly to maintain up to date division standings.
- i. All SCASA players, managers, spectators have a duty to make sure any misconduct between individual players does not escalate into further violence and not allow any aggressive acts toward referees. Individual actions can and will be dealt with by the referee and the SCASA Justice. Violent conduct and aggressive actions toward referees by individuals and/or teams will be punished severely by the SCASA Justice.
- j. There shall be no alcoholic beverages on any field.

### **III. FIELDS**

- a. Fields used for league play will be determined by SCASA as available.
- b. The 7-a-side field shall be shortened.

### **IV. LEAGUE PLAY**

- a. All games must be played at the scheduled time and place. Any requests for a change must be in writing at least seven days in advance of the scheduled game and accompanied by a \$50.00 fee, together with the opponent's verifiable consent. This request should be addressed to the SCASA office. Any such requests received less than seven days prior to the game may still be considered for rescheduling but the requestor must include a fee equal to the actual costs of the reschedule (actual costs range from \$50 to \$150 depending on venue and schedule compression).
- b. A team must attempt to field enough players for each scheduled game or notify SCASA and the opposing team's manager more than 48 hours in advance of the game. If two (2) or fewer players show-up for a game, and the team has not provided timely notification, the team will be designated a no-show and will forfeit the game. In addition, the team that is a no-show shall reimburse SCASA for the cost of the game (referee and field fees) plus a \$25 fine. SCASA may or may not elect to reschedule the game.
- c. If a team no-shows two (2) or more times in a season or does not pay the no-show fees and fines imposed, registration for upcoming season(s) may be refused at the discretion of the SCASA Board.
- d. When a game starts late, (at discretion of the referee) the game may be shortened. Referee shall notify managers prior to start of game.
- e. Any team leaving the field of play prior to the completion of the match shall forfeit the match.
- f. Failure of a team to field a minimum of seven players (11 a-side) / five players (7 a-side) within fifteen minutes of the scheduled match time, shall result in a forfeit for that team, and the team may be subject to a \$25.00 fine. However, should the teams wish to play they may divide the registered players among both teams. If the game is played as such, the teaming loaning players shall record a 1-0 forfeit win, UNLESS BOTH managers agree before starting to have it otherwise. Referees are still obligated to work the match.
- g. Seven (7) a-side plays 30-minute halves.
- h. The match shall commence when each team has a minimum of seven players for 11 a-side and five players for 7 a-side, and the appointed match time has arrived. However, the referee shall adjust the time as needed so that the game finishes at the scheduled time.
- i. In the event a game has a referee no-show after 15 minutes:
  - i. Teams may mutually agree on a substitute, preferably a registered referee, who has full authority. This substitute referee will be paid for the game if his/her

name and address are supplied to SCASA in a timely manner. The match will be official.

- ii. Teams may choose to play without a referee. The match will be official. If the match is played without a referee each team must notify SCASA within two weeks of the season end to receive its proportionate refund.
- iii. Games will not be re-scheduled due to referee no-show.
- j. Unlimited substitutions may be made by either team when the ball is not in play, subject to the referee's discretion. A player who has been replaced may reenter the game.
- k. To protest a match for any reason, a team should first notify the referee, who will note the protest. The protest then must be filed in writing within 48 hours of the game being protested to: SCASA Justice, P.O. Box 2844, Everett, WA 98213
  - i. A protest fee of \$25.00, payable to SCASA, must accompany the written protest. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned.
- l. Slide tackling:
  - i. Is allowed in Men's Open, Women's Open, Men's Over 30, and Women's Over 30 divisions only.
  - ii. Shall not be allowed in any other divisions and will be considered dangerous play.
- m. In all divisions, no player shall initiate physical contact with the goalkeeper within the penalty area.
- n. Games will be played rain or shine. If games are canceled by SCASA, the referee, or the City/Organization owning the fields due to weather or field conditions they will be rescheduled if time is available in the season, and teams will receive a refund only if SCASA is not able to re-schedule the game.
  - i. If game is canceled by referee for disciplinary reason game will not be re-scheduled. The score will be recorded as a 0-1 loss for the team causing game abandonment.
- o. If a game is forfeited by a team; game will be recorded as a 0-1 loss for that team. The game will not be re-scheduled, and there will be no refunds for a forfeited game.
- p. At the discretion of the SCASA Board, prizes may be awarded at the end of a season for first place teams.

## **V. REFEREES**

- a. The referee's judgment and discretionary rulings on the field of play in all cases will be final and no protest shall be allowed.
- b. Only the referee shall determine if a game shall be abandoned for any reason whatsoever.
- c. Should an official not show, game shall be played with a substitute referee or no referee. Substitute referee will be paid, game is official.

- d. If a match official feels that he/she has suffered referee assault and/or abuse:
  - i. WSASA will review incident, determine appropriate action and notify SCASA.
  - ii. SCASA will suspend the right to play within the SCASA league until the WSASA Judicial Chairman has reviewed the incident.
  - iii. SCASA will honor WSASA decision and may add additional penalties as necessary.
- e. Any complaint or comment regarding a referee's ability, demeanor, or appearance shall be addressed to: SCASA, Attn: Referees, P.O. Box 2844, Everett, WA 98213

## **VI. MISCONDUCT**

- a. The referee's authority begins upon his/her arrival in the proximity of the game to be played and continues uninterrupted until he/she leaves.
- b. In the event of the issuance of an ejection (red card), the offending player / team official shall immediately surrender his/her card and immediately leave the area of the game (including the parking lot), and not further participate until notified by the league Justice (see Judicial). Failure to leave the area of the game or refusal to surrender player cards will result in additional game suspension.
- c. Teams will be held responsible for the conduct of their sideline participants.
  - i. Sideline participants include players, coaches, managers, spectators, or other person in the opinion of the game official is associated with the teams.
  - ii. Sideline misconduct is defined as any act or action by a sideline participant disruptive to the game and includes assault or abuse directed toward the game official/s, field players, or other sideline participants.

## **VII. JUDICIAL**

- a. Should a referee find it necessary to eject a player for actions or words occurring after the player card has been returned to a team and should the card(s) not be surrendered to the referee upon request, then a notification of the facts to the Justice shall be sufficient to cause imposition of penalties in addition to those ordinarily warranted by the actions or words.
- b. Should a player receive a red card the referees are instructed to keep the player card and return to the SCASA office. Suspensions/fines are determined by the SCASA Justice, do not ask the referee. The player or manager should contact the office for this information.
- c. Any player who accumulates two cautions during play or league matches per season may, at the discretion of the Justice, be suspended for one week.
- d. Red card infractions will be dealt with per SCASA Infraction Guidelines (*See m*).
- e. Players ejected for violent conduct:
  - i. Shall be fined \$50.00 if after review by the SCASA Justice the incident is determined to be fighting.

- ii. Violent conduct, fights will warrant stronger punishment handed out.
- f. ANY continued misconduct (swearing at a referee, etc.) will ADD more games to suspension.
- g. Failure to leave after receiving a red card in a timely manner ADDS games to your suspension.
- h. The manager may receive official notification of sanctions from the Judicial Chairman. If notification is not received the player or manager should contact the office for this information.
- i. Ineligible Players:
  - i. A team found to have played an unregistered, fraudulently registered, suspended or otherwise ineligible player shall forfeit the game or games and said player shall sit out one week. The team may be fined a minimum \$50.00 fine per occurrence.
  - ii. The instance of a player having "borrowed" an absent player's identity will be treated as two occurrences per game. Additional game suspension/s may be added at the discretion of the SCASA board.
  - iii. The penalty for additional violations shall be \$150.00 and a mandatory appearance before a Board of Review for both the player and the team manager.
- j. Sideline Misconduct:
  - i. Sanctions for sideline misconduct may include temporary suspension of the game, abandoning the game (recorded as a forfeit by the offending team/s), player cautions (yellow card) or player ejections (red card), or cautions or ejections of the manager, coach, other individuals, or the team.
  - ii. The need for imposing sanctions for sideline misconduct during the game will be at the sole discretion of the referee. Further player and team sanctions will be at the discretion of the Justice and the Board of Directors of the League.
  - iii. Minimum suspensions for assault will be based on the guidelines for violent conduct for players, see below.
  - iv. Incidents of referee abuse or assault are considered severe misconducts and will not be tolerated and will be referred to WSASA (see V. REFEREES d).
  - v. The Board of Directors of the League may impose additional sanctions depending on the severity of the misconduct: individual players or teams may be suspended for the remainder of the season, additional seasons, a period of years, or permanently from the League.
- k. The SCASA Board has the right to review and evaluate player actions, both physical and verbal, and to assess suspensions and/or penalties to ensure safety and fair play.



- i. The League Justice has the right to delay suspension and/or ruling due to time constraints. Any suspensions may be carried over to the next season/s or league sanctioned tournament.
- l. In the event a game is abandoned by the referee due to violent conduct by both teams (includes sidelines) each team shall be assessed a five (5) game suspension and fined the cost of those games (pending any appeals). Where individual players could be identified additional sanctions will occur. Note that other teams in the division involved will not lose any games due to this suspension, remaining games will be re-scheduled.
- m. Infraction Guidelines:
  - i. The following guidelines will be used in determining disciplinary sanctions:
    - 1. Class of Infraction
      - a. Technical – Class I
        - i. Serious Foul Play - Intentionally handling a ball to prevent a goal or a goal scoring opportunity
        - ii. Serious Foul Play – Impeding a player, through unlawful means, thus denying the attacking player’s team a goal scoring opportunity
        - iii. Foul or abusive language – not directed at another.
        - iv. Persisting in misconduct– after having received a caution
      - b. Physical – Intentional – Class II
        - i. Serious Foul Play – other than those listed under Class I
        - ii. Foul or abusive language – directed at another player or spectator
      - c. Physical – Intentional – Class III
        - i. Violent Conduct
        - ii. Foul or abusive language – directed at a game official
        - iii. Racial harassment, Sexual harassment
    - 2. Penalties for Infraction
      - a. Class I
        - i. Minimum: Caution or removal of player during reported game and one additional game suspension.
        - ii. Nominal: Caution or removal of player during reported game and one additional game suspension.

- iii. Maximum: Caution or removal of player during the reported game and two additional game suspensions.
- iv. Exception: Unusual circumstance may result in more severe penalties.

b. Class II

- i. Minimum: Caution or removal of player during reported game and one additional game suspension.
- ii. Nominal: Caution or removal of player during reported game and two additional game suspensions.
- iii. Maximum: Caution or removal of player during the reported game and three additional game suspensions.
- iv. Exception: Unusual circumstance may result in more severe penalties.

c. Class III

- i. Minimum: Caution or removal of player during reported game and two additional game suspensions.
- ii. Nominal: Caution or removal of player during reported game and three additional game suspensions.
- iii. Maximum: Caution or removal of player during the reported game and five additional game suspensions.
- iv. Exception: Unusual circumstance may result in more severe penalties.

n. Appeals:

- i. Normally, cautions and ejections are not protestable; however, if a player feels there are extenuating circumstances and a lighter punishment is warranted, player may appeal to the Judicial Committee.
- ii. All appeals submitted to SCASA must be in writing, accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and be postmarked within forty-eight (48) hours of notification of said decision.

## **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES**

a. Bonnie Cole Scholarship

- i. The Bonnie Cole Scholarship is given to a boy or girl between 10-12 years of age to attend a soccer day camp of their choice; maximum expenditure is \$350. Check will be written to camp.

- ii. Preference is given to a child of a SCASA player who could not otherwise afford this great experience. For additional information please call the SCASA office at (425) 252-2099.
  - iii. To apply, candidates should send a letter of interest to the SCASA office by May 1 of current year. Mail to: SCASA, P.O. Box 2844, Everett, WA 98213
  - iv. Bonnie S. Cole was the daughter of long-term SCASA Board member Susan Cole and husband, Bob Cole. Bonnie died during the Kla-Ha-Ya tournament in 1989 after having major open-heart surgery to repair congenital defects-a little before her 6th birthday.
  - v. Kla-Ha-Ya players and referees started a fund to send kids to Northwest Soccer Camp in Bonnie's name added to by the family, and Susan started running a winter jamboree to aid in the finances.
- b. Referee Assignor
  - i. SCASA shall appoint a referee assignor prior to the start of each session. Assignor shall be paid at the conclusion of the session 10% of overall referee fees paid out.
  - ii. One referee shall be assigned per game with these exceptions, whereas a three-person crew will be assigned; Men's Open and Men's O30 A. Additional divisions may be added at Board discretion at any time.
- c. Referee of the Year
  - i. The SCASA Board with the Referee Assignor will chose a "referee of the year". Criteria will be referee's dedication, attitude to SCASA games and players.
  - ii. A gift certificate and plaque will be awarded to said referee. A "Referee of the Year" continuous plaque will be displayed at the SCASA office.
- d. Referee Recruitment
  - i. To promote referee recruitment SCASA shall sponsor referee clinics as needed. It shall be the policy of SCASA to pay for the clinic as well as referee entry level registration fee with the agreement of new referee that they work a minimum of 3 SCASA games within the next year following clinic.
- e. SCASA Team Sponsorship
  - i. SCASA will provide sponsorship to any team entering a USASA National or Regional tournament up to \$1,500.00 if the following criteria is met:
    - 1. Tournament team is comprised of 80% SCASA players. In the event less than 80% Board may authorize lesser amount; proportionate of SCASA players.
    - 2. Request must be in writing and must include a roster with names and addresses.
- f. Request for Donation or Financial Assistance

- i. From time-to-time SCASA receives request for financial donations/assistance, it shall be the policy of SCASA to support programs that promote, teach, oversee, and represent the game of soccer with emphasis on programs in Snohomish County, Washington State, nationally and/or worldwide.
  - ii. Request must be in writing and include the amount of donation/assistance, what the money will be used for and the organization's name and purpose. Financial Aid form is available upon request.
  - iii. Financial assistance may be awarded which will require a contract whereas loan or in trade services will be given.
- g. Tournament Sanction
  - i. Tournaments held within SCASA jurisdiction must apply to the SCASA Board for approval. Form is available from SCASA office or secretary. Once approved form must accompany sanctioning paperwork submitted to WSASA.
- h. Refunds
  - i. At discretion of SCASA Board from time-to-time teams will be given refunds for loss of game. This refund will be determined by the cost of the season for that division, less 10% then divided by number of games in season.
- i. Air Quality Index (AQI) Policy
  - i. Wildfires can cause a tremendous amount of smoke in a very short time. It is SCASA policy to cancel any game where wildfire smoke threatens the health of our players. Due to rapidly changing conditions limited notice may be given to the team managers that games have been canceled. The Referee has the discretion to cancel or suspend a game anytime they feel the conditions become unsafe.
    - 1. Guidelines
      - a. Poor air quality is a health risk to everyone.
      - b. Typically, a SCASA evaluation/decision will be made each day by 3pm for that day's scheduled matches.
    - 2. Policy
      - a. SCASA games shall be cancelled when the Air Quality Index (AQI) for ground-level ozone and/or PM 2.5 pollution is in the Unhealthy range of 151 or above. Current conditions can be found at: <https://enviwa.ecology.wa.gov/home/map>