

Minimum Standards

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Minimum Standards

The minimum standards for competition in the SYL are applied to all teams. Minimum standards define the “minimum” level that teams must attain in the various management aspects of running a team. Teams that do not meet minimum standards run the risk of jeopardizing their status as members of their respective leagues.

Compliance with Minimum Standards

Teams are required to comply with the defined minimum standards. The League Director shall have the power to penalize clubs, individual club members or officers for non-compliance of minimum standards, with penalties consisting of warnings, loss of points and temporary or permanent suspension from soccer activities.

The league office regularly monitors compliance. In addition, teams are encouraged to report situations / teams to the SYL league office which, on the surface, appear to be in non-compliance with minimum standards. Reporting non-compliance on the part of other teams should not be viewed as a negative but rather as a positive attempt to maintain consistent league-wide standards that ensure professionalism and fairness, both on and off the field.

While all teams are required to adhere to minimum standards, some teams, because of extenuating circumstances, may have been given exemptions, approved in advance, to some minimum standards.

Director of League Operations / Operations Manager

The SYL will have a Director of League Operations and an Operations Manager. The Director of SYL Operations and Development will oversee all league operations for the SYL and develop the league for future seasons. The Operations Manager will assist the director and be responsible for coordinating the league schedules, control of regional management and administration of the league.

Authority of the Director

The Director of the SYL and his designates shall have the power to penalize clubs, individual club members or officers. Penalties may consist of warnings, loss of points in league standings and temporary or permanent suspension from soccer activities associated with SYL. Penalties may be assessed on a one-time basis upon discovery of the infraction, or they may be assessed each and every time a team is in non-compliance with minimum standards.

The SYL office is the highest level of authority in rendering decisions on league rules and possible resulting penalties and fines associated with violation of rules and non-compliance with minimum standards.

Teams may challenge a decision made by the League Director by following procedures set down by SYL’s Review, Appeals & Discipline (RAD) Committee, which is set up for this purpose. As a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation, USISL, Inc. is subject to oversight with regard to specific U.S. Soccer rules and must comply with U.S. Soccer requirements in order to remain a member in good standing.

Compliance Review for SYL Teams

At the end of each season a sub-committee made up of members of the Executive Committee, shall review the compliance record of all SYL teams. If the committee finds that compliance with standards is insufficient, it may recommend to the League Director that a team’s status be revoked for the following season. The Director will render a decision based upon the facts of each case.

Penalties

Penalties may be assessed to teams, or individuals for non-compliance with minimum standards or for violation of league rules. A table of such penalties is located within this document.

Club Management Requirements

Each club must have a Club Manager that handles the following responsibilities: scheduling, referee payments, game operations, travel coordination, web site information, head coach, assistant coach. Each individual team is also required to have a Team Manager.

Telephone / Email Communications Requirements

So teams may exhibit a level of professionalism, the following telephone / communications requirements are in place for all teams associated with SYL:

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All teams must have a telephone number which is connected to some sort of 24-hour answering system, during the season

All team managers must have an email address that is checked on a regular daily basis. All league information such as schedules, standings, general correspondence, PR and announcements will be done through email. Teams should have an operating base of Microsoft Office on an IBM compatible computer.

Playing Venues

The stadium or playing field used by each club in SYL is the centerpiece of each club's operation. The goal of each club should be to provide an enjoyable experience for the fans, players, officials and everyone involved with the staging of a soccer game. To accomplish this, teams must meet the following standards, approved by the individual leagues, which relate to stadiums and playing surfaces.

Venue Requirements

- Natural grass / Field Turf surface in good playing condition at least 66 x 106 yards.
- Team benches - long enough to accommodate at least 11 persons per team.
- Field marked according to FIFA specifications.
- Clear, distinct field markings, with markings five inches wide.
- Goal nets and corner flags, both free of advertising; corner flags may be no less than five feet high.
- Home team to provide ice, water and cups for visiting team

Practice Facility

It is the responsibility of the home team to provide, upon request, a practice site/field for the visiting team to train on the afternoon or evening before a match.

Hotel Support for Visiting Teams

To help all teams save on the cost of team travel, it is required that home (host) teams provide a designated hotel to opponents.

Game Week Administrative Responsibilities for Home Teams

- The following tasks must be completed by home teams prior to all home games:
- Email visiting team directions to the venue.
- Contact the visiting team within 14 days prior to the game to review and verify plans regarding hotel, transportation, directions, phone numbers, kickoff time, etc.
- Email your designated Referee Assignor 72 Hours prior to the game to verify officials are assigned.

Game Week Administrative Responsibilities for Visiting Teams

- Review Directions and hotel information provided by Home Team Manager
- If there are any problems with directions or hotel information contact the Team Manger

Pre-Game Responsibilities of Home Team

- Home team coach must fill out the game roster on the Score Sheet and sign 25 minutes prior to the match.
- Home team must give the Score Sheet the visiting team's head coach to complete with their line up and substitutions.
- Home Team should collect the Score Sheet from the visiting team's head coach 15 minutes prior to kick off and give to their designated statistician.
- Ice and water must be provided at both benches, in both changing rooms and in the referee changing room. Water should be replenished on request or at half time.
- Home team must report to the stadium at least 60 minutes before the start of the game.

Pre-Game Responsibilities of the Visiting Team

- Visiting team must report to the stadium at least 60 minutes before kickoff.

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- Visiting team coach must fill in and sign its game roster and substitutions located on the Score Sheet 25 minutes prior to the match. This needs to be returned to the home team head coach 15 minutes prior to the start of the match.
- Visiting team must bring all necessary medical supplies (pre-wrap, tape, cold packs, etc.)

Home Team Post-Game Responsibilities

The home team is responsible for faxing the Game Score Sheet to their Regional Administrator within twelve (12) hours of a game's conclusion. Detailed instructions will be provided prior to the season.

The home team must telephone the game score to the SYL Score Line no later than 20 minutes after the conclusion of the game. The instructions for the score line and numbers for other associated required media calls will be provided prior to the season.

Game Score sheet -- This is the official statistical sheet for the game, which lists the team lineups, scoring summary and official statistics, including a list of the game's cautions and send-offs. At the game's conclusion, the coach must initial the score sheet while the referee must verify the cautions, send-offs and goals/assists by also signing the score sheet. This form must be faxed, e-mailed, or mailed to the Regional Administrator within 12 hours after the completion of the match.

Uniforms

- Each team must have one complete set of home uniforms and one complete set of away uniforms, with uniforms of a given set being identical.
- Each uniform must have numbers of at least eight (8) inches on the back of jerseys.
- Numbers of players should run from 00 through 24. Other numbers may be used as long as the team produces substitution cards for every player number.
- Each player must keep the same jersey number as long as the player is on the Master Roster. A player may not change his/her number unless the player leaves the club for the rest of the season and then returns with another number.
- All team warm-ups should be identical and should tie in with the color scheme of the uniforms.
- Starting players introduced prior to the game must wear the same equipment.
- All Teams must bring both home and way uniforms to all matches.

Bench Dress Code (Coaches/Trainers)

Coaches and trainers must present a professional appearance. Professional appearance is defined as a collared shirt and dress pants / dress (Bermuda-type) shorts or team warm-up (jacket and pants). Soccer shorts, T-shirts, jeans and sandals are not permitted. The league reserves the right to introduce a more formal dress code for the Championship Game.

Personnel Allowed on Bench

A maximum of three (3) non-playing personnel is allowed on each team bench. These persons can either be coaches, medical staff, or a maximum of one (1) person from team management (for example, a general manager).

Media Requirements

Press Releases – Each team will be designated a time to produce a press release to the league during the season. Team stories, game stories, team profiles, player game diary, player profiles and club profiles are some ideas of what should be submitted. This information will be reviewed for the website and distribution to the national/local media.

Team Program -- Teams must produce a Team Program for the season.

The program should include the following information:

- Home roster, including players' name, number and position
- Player Bios
- League information

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Home Team Requirements for Referees

All teams are required to provide a comfortable, safe, welcoming environment for officials, with the basic necessities for an athletic event.

Staff Referee Liaison -- All teams are required to appoint a Referee Liaison solely dedicated to meeting the requirements of the officials on game day. The liaison should provide hospitality and help to ensure that all routine and administrative duties of the referees are completed with as little difficulty as possible. Ideally, the staff referee liaison will have some knowledge of refereeing and the challenges facing soccer referees. The staff referee liaison can help in the following areas: referee transportation, making sure that the dressing room is properly equipped (water, towels, soap, etc.), running down staff personnel to answer referees' pre-game questions and facilitating the filing of game report forms after the game.

Regarding referees, teams should take note of the following:

At no time should anyone imply -- in any way at all -- criticism of the game officials or refereeing in general or make comments that criticize the visiting team. Teams who fail to heed the above guideline will be subject to severe disciplinary action by the league office.

Team Names, Logos

Name Changes -- All team name changes must be given to the League Office prior to the beginning of the season

Logos- Each club must have a logo that can be emailed to the league office prior to the season.