

**G. A. A. S. A**  
**GREATER AKRON**  
**AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**COACH MANUAL/SPRING 2010**

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(Changes highlighted in **yellow**-field changes in **red**)

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# INTRODUCTION

## Modification of FIFA Rules

The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association COACHING MANUAL is intended to provide information and guidance for club coaches and administrators. The information contained herein recaps the rules under which we play soccer matches in this league. Each item of information is a rule, or group of rules, but this the COACHING MANUAL is not the GAASA Rule Book. The wording used here is not always the precise wording of the applicable rule as it appears in the FIFA Laws of the Game, USSF Administrative Handbook, Ohio Youth Soccer-North Constitution and Rules, and/or the GAASA Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions. It is that wording and intent (of the actual rules) which has legal force in matters of dispute. Furthermore, all information and rules in the COACHING MANUAL are subject to change without notice.

The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) plays matches under the rules of FIFA, the international governing body. The first rule in the FIFA rulebook allows modification of the Laws of the Game for various age groups and to suit local conditions. GAASA has chosen to modify many rules of the game, as outlined in this publication, to suit play for youth players. Only the rules so modified and published may be changed.

The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association is affiliated in good standing with the Ohio Youth Soccer Association–North (OYSA-N). OYSA-N is affiliated with the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and through it, with United States Soccer Federation (the USSF), the governing body in North America. It is the duty and obligation of each member club in this league to follow the rules which will preserve the good standing of GAASA with OYSA-N and with USSF, so that all teams and players in our league will have the right to play in all sanctioned events.

## GREATER AKRON DIVISIONS

Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association has many divisions available for teams at all levels of ability for youth teams; there are competitive divisions in both boys and girls (Classic 1-2-3, etc.) Girls may play on boy's teams. However, the girl to boy ratio may not exceed **50%** of the total players on the team at the time of seasonal (fall/spring) registration as listed on the league calendar. In the event of an uneven number of players, the ratio is rounded down for the number of girls on the team. This team is considered a boys team. Girls may play on girls-only team and this is considered a girl's team. For the purpose of equalizing competition the GAASA may permit an all girl team to play in a boys division at the appropriate level as determined by the league. Boys may only play on a boy's team. **Players may not be rostered on more than one team that is registered for play in the GAASA for any given season of play.**

Each classic division is treated separately. All Youth Competitive (Classic) Divisions may have playoffs for at least the top four teams per division.

Each level of play offered increases in difficulty, and/or the level of skill of the players. For example, Classic 1 is the top division, the teams are highly competitive and the players relatively skilled. Classic 2 is still very competitive, but the players are not as experienced or skilled. Classic 3&4 has some skilled players but most are beginners. For teams competing in C1 there currently are no restrictions governing the number of dual carded players (dual card refers to those players competing on a GAASA team and a

team registered in another league-the GAASA does not allow dual carding within the league); C2 teams may not have more than 45% of their roster (i.e. with a roster of 14 players that would be six players-rounded down to nearest whole number) dual carded; C3 & lower teams may not have any dual carded players.

GAASA very carefully examines your request to place a team in a given division (using the team declaration process that is now in place), and then based on your own estimate of the team's ability and our past experience with the team and/or coach they will be placed in the appropriate division. GAASA has the **final** say on which division a team is placed in, and reserves the right to move any team up or down in order to balance the level of play and number of teams in each division. In general, such factors as recent history with the team or coach, the number of players from which a club draws its teams, the number and ages of the players on the team, and other things which influence the competitiveness of a team are considered by the GAASA Board in placing your team in a division. The decision of the GAASA Board in placing your team is **final** and may not be appealed or challenged.

Only teams that play in Classic Divisions are eligible for the Ohio Youth Soccer Association-North State Cup Tournament, and/or for travel permits to tournaments held outside OYSA-N jurisdiction. If interested, please contact GAASA for an opinion and help in entering. GAASA conducts Playoffs for Classic Divisions at the end of each season.

**Please note that GAASA is permitted to make rules governing its age groups, divisions and team eligibility, which may differ substantially from those of OYSA-North, the youth State Association.** Most of these differences govern levels of play and player movement between teams. Before sending money or entering any tournament, you should consult GAASA to make sure your team would be considered eligible.

## **LIST OF DIVISIONS OFFERED BY GAASA**

### **YOUTH DIVISIONS (Under 19 years of age)**

U15-U18 BOYS & GIRLS (Spring Season Only)

U14 CLASSIC BOYS & GIRLS

U13 CLASSIC BOYS & GIRLS

U12 CLASSIC BOYS & GIRLS

U11 CLASSIC BOYS & GIRLS

U10 CLASSIC BOYS & GIRLS

U9 CLASSIC BOYS & GIRLS

- Age groups may be combined in the event of an insufficient number of teams per age group.
- Based on the number of teams registered, as many as 5 divisions per age group, per gender may be created.

## **TEAM PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

GAASA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MOVE ANY TEAM WITHIN ITS AGE GROUP AS REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BALANCING DIVISIONS COMPETITIVELY OR FOR SCHEDULING PURPOSES, AND TO SUB-DIVIDE DIVISIONS AND/OR LEVELS TO BALANCE THE NUMBER OF TEAMS IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID BYES AND/OR MID-WEEK GAMES, OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

The team movement policy allows coaches and/or clubs to request placement in a specific division to meet their own team development goals and which is done thru the team declaration process now used by the league. The policy also allows the Executive Board to preserve the balance of each division and

resolve scheduling issues since the final decision on placing a team in a division always rests with the GAASA Executive Board and **may not be challenged or appealed.**

Every team which finishes first or second in its division during the regular season or Playoffs may be promoted by the Executive Board the following season. Every team that finishes last, and/or fails to show competitiveness, may be relegated to the next lower division the following season.

Teams that finish first in the regular season or Playoffs and are playing in the highest division, in an age group, may request to play up in the next higher age group in one of the lower divisions (but no more than one division down from their current division). However the Executive Board will not force the champion of the highest division in an age group to move up to the next older group.

GAASA assumes every team is the same from one season to the next, especially within a seasonal year. GAASA rules permit no more than five transfers within the seasonal year from fall season to spring season, and therefore teams should be roughly the same in the spring as they were in the fall. Coaches should note that it is illegal, under national rules, to force a player off a team roster unless he 1) moves too far away to participate with that team, 2) is injured to such an extent that he can no longer participate, or 3) is suspended by league, state or national authorities for a length of time exceeding the seasonal year.

Occasionally some teams do disband or change due to player participation in other sports. GAASA will take this into consideration if notified **prior to** or at team registration. However, if a team is roughly 65% the same from one season to the next, GAASA will treat this as an unchanged team regardless of the ability of the players who have come or gone.

## COACHING INFORMATION

### CONDUCT

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of the players, spectators, and themselves. Each coach is responsible for the conduct of every person, including guest players on their side of the field. A coach is recognized by GAASA as a participant in the match and may receive yellow and red cards from the referee, however the referee is **not** required to warn coaches before issuing either yellow or red cards, the privilege of yellow/red cards is reserved for players only. Please refer to the GAASA fair play section for further guidance in these matters.

No person, **coach or spectator**, may move up and down the length of the touchline for the purpose of coaching and instructing players. **Coaches may move only from the centerline to a spot directly opposite the top of the marked penalty box on the field they are playing.** Spectators are to occupy the half of the field directly opposite their team and cannot take up positions at any point along the end line of the field, **including the corners (which they must maintain a distance of at least ten yards from the corner).** Spectators, coaches and substitute players are required to remain at least 5 feet back from the touchline on their side of the field to allow the linesman a clear view down the field.

Except for the referee(s) and players in a game, no other person is allowed on the field unless, and until, authorized by the referee.

Fighting by any persons, either in the game or on the sidelines, and/or loud verbal abuse or physical/verbal assault of the referee, shall be grounds to immediately suspend the match if the referee chooses. Such a decision is that of the referee alone. The coach will be held responsible by the league. The league also has the right to begin disciplinary proceedings in the event league officers witness such

actions, even when the referee does not choose to take action. If a referee suspends play, or if a match is interrupted for any reason, the outcome of suspended matches will be decided solely by GAASA disciplinary committee based on the referee's report and game reports.

Poor conduct by a team, leading to suspension of a match, will be grounds for forfeiting a match by a score of 0-6 (or the score at the time of suspension, whichever is greater) at a minimum, and GAASA has the right to impose harsher penalties.

## **FORFEITS**

A team which has forfeited three (3) games in any given season, will, upon the fourth forfeit, lose their club bond and the coach of said team can be suspended for a minimum of one year (12 months) per team occurrence effective with the date of the letter of suspension. Forfeits are by a score of 0-6.

Any club, which has a team suspended after registration, forfeits its bond money, and must bring its bond account back to current requirements at the next registration.

In the opinion of the Executive Board, any team that forfeits any of its last three games, or commits any other action prior to the Playoffs, in order to gain a competitive advantage, automatically forfeits its right to compete in the Playoffs for that season.

## **GAME REPORTS**

It is the responsibility of the coach to complete the GAASA Game Report, and submit it in a timely fashion, for all exceptional situations, good or bad. Game Reports are to be filed on an EXCEPTION-ONLY basis, i.e., in the event of a situation (notably good or bad) requiring the attention of the league or in the event of a referee no-show. Referee judgment shall not be challenged in any way. Forms are available on the GAASA Web Site ([www.gaasa.org](http://www.gaasa.org)).

## **REPORTING SCORES**

All scores are to be called or emailed into the Division Commissioner assigned to your level of play. A club official may report scores, but someone, physically at the game, must report any other matters. Scores must be reported for all games played within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match, so the commissioner can record the score for publication to the website by the deadline. The winning team is responsible for reporting the score to the Commissioner. In case of a tie, the Home team is responsible. Reporting scores is an obligation of the team coach. Failure to report a score in a timely manner will result in a score of 0-0 being recorded.

## **REPORTING SCORES TO THE MEDIA**

Any reporting of game scores or details to the media which results in a game score being reported by more than the 6-goal margin limit will result in the same disciplinary actions outlined above, and additional disciplinary action against the team which may include forfeiting the match in question by a 0-6 score.

## **FAILURE TO REPORT TO A GAME**

Failure of a team to show up at a scheduled or rescheduled game by the expiration of the 15-minute grace period (the grace period begins with the published game time on the league schedule and not from the **conclusion** of the preceding game) will result in the no-show team forfeiting by a score of 0-6 and paying the total referee fee. These games will not be **rescheduled**. The commissioner **must be** notified and a Game Report submitted to GAASA by the team that does appear. Refer to page 11 for the minimum number of players to begin a match.

## CLUB LINESMEN

GAASA furnishes a 3-man referee system only for selected divisions and playoffs. Each team for all other games must supply volunteer club linesmen, unless the referee indicates he prefers to work without any linesmen. This choice is at the discretion of the referee alone.

Each team should be prepared to furnish a mature individual who is able to keep up with play.

Club linesmen will assist the referee by indicating when the entire ball is over the entire touch line (sideline), and will have no other duties including indicating the direction of the throw, unless previously instructed by the referee. The judgment of the club linesman on any matter, including whether the ball is over the touchline, may be overruled at any time by the referee and cannot be challenged by any spectator, player or coach.

Coaching, or shouting instructions or encouragement, at any time, by the club linesmen is **strictly** prohibited. Coaches are not allowed to roam all the way down to the end line. The recognized coaching area for each field size (as measured from the centerline to the end line) is: 11v11-20yds; 8v8-18yds; 6v6-15 yds (as mentioned previously-page 5/Conduct- the league will allow some flexibility in this area, with the referee having final authority). Clubs are encouraged to mark their fields accordingly. If at any time you are instructed by the referee to remain within that guideline you shall not challenge his/her interpretation of what is the appropriate distance. To challenge the referee on this point constitutes dissent for which you may earn the **equivalent of a yellow card and should you continue the referee may remove you from the match** and you will not find a sympathetic ear from the League.

## RUNNING UP SCORES

Soccer is a game. It is intended to be fun for all participants, not just the winning team. Without a worthy opponent, no purpose is served in playing any competitive game; running up a score either by accident or to embarrass an opponent, is pointless.

Greater Akron enforces a 6-goal maximum margin of victory policy for all age groups U11 and up Classic Two and lower divisions. No matter what the actual score, no more than a 6-goal margin will be recorded or published. **Both** the actual score and the 6-goal scores are to be reported to the Divisional Commissioner in order to enforce GAASA's disciplinary policy. Since forfeits are by a minimum score (0-6), no competitive advantage is gained by winning by more than a 6-0 count.

The following rule will apply for all youth divisions of U11 to U14, Classic 2 and lower. (This does not apply to the U9/10 divisions, high school and all Classic 1 divisions):

- A win by a margin of 6 goals is acceptable to GAASA, with the 6-goal differential being recorded, or published.
- A win by a margin of 7 or 8 goals will count as only 1 point, rather than 3 points for the win, with only a 6-goal differential being recorded and published.
- A win by a margin of 9 goals or greater will result in a forfeit of the match by a 0 – 6 score, as well as the loss of the club's bond.
- The club bond must be replenished within 5 days from the time the club is notified. Failure to replenish the club bond within the 5 days will result in all scheduled games, of all teams, within said club, being recorded as a forfeit from the time of notification until such time as the club bond is replenished.
- Any own-goals scored by either team to circumvent these rules, will result in a forfeit.
- Coaches abusing the intent of these rules will be subject to suspension.

Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association tries to ensure that teams are put in the correct division at the time of registration. However, it may appear that a team is in the wrong division due to players being dropped from a team or new players being added to a team after the original registration date. This is no excuse for teams to consistently run up the score on their opponent and GAASA will no longer tolerate this action.

## **POSSIBLE METHODS TO CONTROL THE SCORE**

When the margin reaches +6 in any match, the referee may remind the winning coach of the GAASA policy, but the referee has no authority to force coaches to adopt one of the following:

- 1 – Switch players around to different positions
- 2 – Establish a minimum number of touches by the team, and/or by each player.
- 3 – Pull one or more players off the field until some parity between the teams is achieved.
- 4 – Limit players from the winning team to the defensive half of the field.

## **PLAYER PASSES**

ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE A VALID LAMINATED PLAYER PASS to play in any match during the regular season or a post-season game. To get a valid player pass, all players and coaches must be properly registered with their club, GAASA, the state association and the national association by following our standard registration procedures and paying their fees. **Players may not be rostered on more than one team that is registered for play in the GAASA for any given season of play.** Players or coaches found to be in violation of these guidelines and participating in GAASA matches will be subject to disciplinary actions that may also extend to the team's club. All coaches must have a valid coach pass in addition to completing a Coach Registration Form and a Risk Management (RM) Form. Both the Coach Registration Form and the RM Form must be filed with OYSA-N prior to coaching a game. The RM form must be filed electronically thru the OYSAN web site. **The GAASA will only accept the OYSAN RM approval, sent by OYSAN to the coach, as proof of RM compliance. The confirmation page of a RM submittal will not be accepted by the league when a club registers a coach.**

Player and coach registration is the act of signing up to participate and paying fees to a member club of GAASA. Team registration is the act of turning in Team Registration Forms and Waivers, Team Rosters, and paying fees to GAASA each fall or spring at GAASA registration. Player and coach rostering is the act of placing a player or coach on a specific team.

Team registration can only occur at GAASA registration—no late registration of teams is permitted. After GAASA registration, late registration of any player must be performed by the GAASA Registrar ONLY, and must be accomplished by mail or the use of the league drop box. Mail (or drop off) the new player pass, proof of age (birth certificate or other, if required), proper registration form for new players, and the officially stamped copy of the team roster to the GAASA Registrar. **Fees must** be enclosed; **failure to pay the associated fees can result in additional fines as outlined in the late registration process for each season.** The player's pass cannot be validated if any of the required material is missing.

PLAYERS REGISTER once a year, with initial registration in the fall season. New player passes are required of ALL youth players every two years as determined by the league and for new players as needed. New players are defined as those who did not play on a carded GAASA (USSF/USYSA-affiliated) team during the previous season. Players belong to one team for the full seasonal year, which is defined as both the fall and spring seasons, and may be transferred only by following league, state and/or national rules. A player's date of rostering with a team is defined by (GAASA) rule as the date on which he plays his/her first match with that team.

TEAMS ARE REQUIRED by GAASA to register each time for both fall and spring seasons. Coaches register with teams and must be updated immediately if changed at any time.

## GAME ROSTERS AND PASSES

Each coach must be ready to present the referee with the official GAASA GAME ROSTER and validated player passes for each player planning to participate in the match. **The only accepted game roster is the one with the official league stamp, unstamped and rosters with players handwritten (or typed in) are forbidden.** All teams are provided the official roster by their club after they have presented the document for approval at player registration. Each time a player is added or dropped from the original game roster the club is required to present a new game roster, which reflects the changes, to the league registrar for approval.

**Guest players** (up to three are allowed per match according to the league rules governing playing up, which are available on the league web site) **are to be listed at the bottom of the game roster with the letter “G” indicated in the left margin.** Guest players are only allowed from within the same club as long as they are properly registered with the GAASA for the current season of play. Players are only allowed to play three times as a guest with a team before they become an involuntary transfer to that team on the fourth game. See playing up below for further information regarding guest players. In the event that should happen the player in question is not eligible to participate with the team in the league playoffs should the team qualify. Violation of the guest player rule can result in disciplinary action being taken against the coach, team and club either separately or collectively. Each coach must co-operate with the referee at player check-in, and have the team ready to check-in whenever the referee desires. The referee will keep each team’s passes and game roster during the game and will return the passes at the conclusion of the game with the winning team (or home team in the event of a tie) getting the game rosters for both teams. At least one validated coach pass is REQUIRED for each team. In the event the listed coach for a team is unavailable for a game, it is acceptable for any properly registered coach from that team’s club to cover the game in question.

**After the game is over, please remember to secure the passes back from the referee and check them carefully to make sure all passes are returned. It is also the responsibility of the winning coach or in the event of a tie the home coach to mail both game rosters to the league (PO Box 13736/Akron/44334). Failure to do so will result in the game being declared a 0-0 game with no points awarded for the tie.**

Passes of players/coaches who receive a Red Card or are sent off will be retained by the referee as well as the game rosters for review and disciplinary action by GAASA. Coaches will be notified as to the disposition of the pass as well as when and how it will be returned by GAASA. Generally, yellow and red cards will be shown when given, but it is **not** necessary for the referee to show a yellow or red card, or to verbally warn any person before taking stronger action, or to directly notify any person that he has been sent off from a match. It is **not** necessary for the referee to obtain or retain the passes of sent off players in order for disciplinary action to proceed. Upon written notification through a game report that a person has been sent off by the referee, disciplinary action will proceed. If you have questions about red cards or disciplinary action, contact the Executive Vice President immediately. The Executive Vice President of GAASA heads the disciplinary committee.

## GAME ROSTER FORMS

Each coach **MUST** give the referee a game roster for each match, using the **official stamped league** roster, before the start of the game and this roster will be checked against player passes. **The game roster must show club, team name, and team number for both home and visiting teams; game date**

and game number from your official schedule; league division; your coach's name, full mailing address including zip code, and home phone number; and the appropriate information for each player:

Jersey Number

USSF/USYSA Pass Number (league specified number)

First Name & Last Name (if a guest player the letter "G" in the left hand column).

Official forms are available from the GAASA Soccer Works software. A pre-printed form with written information is also acceptable. **Use of a handwritten or otherwise printed document is a violation of league policy.**

## **ROSTER SIZES**

Players may be registered and added to a team's roster up through the deadline set and announced each season by the Executive Board. A team may never exceed the maximum number of players on its roster.

The roster limit to register teams for Youth Division U9 and U10 is as follows:

Minimum: 6

Maximum: 12

The roster limit to register teams for Youth Division U11/12 is as follows:

Minimum: 8 players

Maximum: 14 players

The roster limit to register teams for Youth Division U13 to U15 is as follows:

Minimum: 11 players

Maximum: 18 players

The roster limit to register teams for Youth Division U16 and above is as follows:

Minimum: 11 players

Maximum: 22 players (note: **only** 18 players may be dressed and rostered for any one game)

## **PLAYERS CAN BE ROSTERED ON ONLY ONE GREATER AKRON TEAM AT A TIME PER SEASON.**

An **accurate** listing of names and addresses of all coaches (head coach and up to 2 alternates) must be registered and updated **throughout** the season as needed.

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

The referee must authorize all substitutions by making a direct and unmistakable sign to the coach that he has permission to substitute. Play will not begin until all players leaving the game are off the field.

Substitution, in all levels of play, is allowed with permission:

\*Prior to a throw-in by either team **provided the team with possession is substituting**

\*Prior to a goal kick by either team

\*At any injury time-out, limited to one-for-one, with both teams permitted to make a one-for-one substitution

\*After a goal is scored by either team

\*When a player has been cautioned (only the yellow-carded player may be replaced)

\*At half time

## **PLAYING UP/INTER-DIVISION PLAY**

It is permissible in any Youth Division for a maximum of three “guest” players from a younger team to move up to a higher age division for any one game. This is called “playing up”, and any younger player can “play up” a maximum of three games per season, but older players may never play down and same-age players may not cross divisions (for example, a U10 Classic 3 player may play U11 Classic 1, 2, 3; a U10 Classic 2 player may play U11 Classic 2 or 1 only; a U10 Classic 1 player may play U11 Classic 1 only.). **Only U-9’s may cross divisions.**

The GAASA will allow for the following exception in playing up at an equal to or higher division: a Classic 1 player may play at Classic 2 provided he/she is playing up at least two years (ex.-U11 to U13, U12 to U14). This applies as well to a Classics 2 player playing Classic 3. All players must come from within the same club. Playing up is not permitted in the Playoffs; teams must play with their registered league rosters in Playoffs. Once a guest player has played the fourth game (up) on the same team, the participation automatically makes that player a member of the older team (by an involuntary transfer), but they are not eligible for play in the Playoffs. This counts against the total transfer count for the team during the seasonal year. For further clarification refer to the chart in the appendix of this manual.

**Players are also limited to not playing up more than two years beyond their actual age. In other words a true U10 player can guest at U12 but a U8 player on a U10 team is already at the two year limit.**

## **MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

**Seven** players constitute the minimum number needed by each team to start a match for U13 age teams and up; **six** players constitutes the minimum number needed by each team for U11 or U12 age teams; **four** players constitutes the minimum number needed by each team for U9 or U10 to start a game; in all cases, one player must play as a goalkeeper. The referee shall start the match as soon after the scheduled time as possible whenever both teams can field at least the required number of players. The grace period shall **not** be used to allow a team to wait for a full complement of players.

## **TRANSFERS**

No more than 5 players can be replaced on a team roster from fall to spring, from one club to another, but new players can always be added to the spring team roster up to the roster limit. Replacing registered players with new players is known as making a transfer. Moving a registered player from one team to another within the same club will count as a transfer with respect to OYSA-N, fees will be assessed as currently listed by GAASA.

A player may not transfer during the season unless the team for which he/she plays suspends operation for the remainder of the season.

Players from a team that suspends operation who wish to be transferred to another team must submit a request for said transfer to the association’s Executive Board in writing via a Player/Team Status Form.

## **COACH LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

All league coaches are required to possess minimum standard license as established by the league. Coaches must complete the youth modules series provided by the state or the “D” license course. Clubs must maintain a file on their coaches with appropriate license information so that when asked for by the league they can show proof of such license. The league can and will accept comparable license’ such as those offered by the NSCAA or European equivalent.

All new coaches are given one year (two consecutive seasons) to obtain the required coaches license as stated above.

## **REFEREE AUTHORITY**

Every referee, including volunteers in no-show cases, has complete and total authority for the conduct of the match and to enforce discipline from the moment he arrives at the field until he leaves. This includes all pre-game and post-game activities.

The authority and judgment of a referee shall not be challenged, nor may his judgment be appealed.

## **REFEREE NO-SHOWS**

The referee has until game time to show up to the field of play.

Every effort will be made for all teams to play with a registered referee assigned by the duly appointed league assignor. If a referee is not assigned or fails to show, the following steps should be taken to address whether the game is **not played** or **played** using a volunteer:

- All C2 or lower division games must be played using a volunteer referee. The league urges all C1 games to be played using a volunteer referee.
- A reschedule will only be generated for C1 games when the coaches from both teams agree on a new date/time/location and contact the appropriate Vice President (Boys/Girls) via the on-line reschedule process. Should the re-schedule date/time be 72 or fewer hours from the original date/time there can be no guarantee of the assignor being able to assign a referee.
- When playing a match at which the assigned referee does not show up, all effort must be made to use a registered referee, a trained referee or a mature former player. The final score of said match must be reported and will be considered valid and recorded by the league to determine standings for playoffs. In the event that a volunteer is used to referee a game, the volunteer is to be paid the same fees as listed for that age group/division. The volunteer's name/address/phone numbers are to be included with the game reports that are mailed in by the coach.
- In no case may a scrimmage match be played.

When reporting scores to the division commissioner, the coach is to inform the commissioner if there was a referee no-show so that information can be recorded.

## **INSURANCE & INSURANCE CLAIMS**

By virtue of affiliation and registration with the Ohio Youth Soccer Association–North, and through them, US Youth Soccer and the United States Soccer Federation, the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association has both liability and secondary coverage medical insurance for every player, coach, club officer and league official.

There are certain rules, used to monitor and control coverage and/or claims, which pertain to insurance:

- If you do not have your own coverage, then OYSA-N coverage becomes primary and will cover your costs except for a deductible.
- To file a youth player claim, contact Pam Menick at Ohio Youth Soccer-North; phone 330-659-0989.
- OYSA-N now requires that you file your secondary insurance claims with them at the same time you file your primary coverage claims through your primary insurance coverage.
- Injuries in practice and games, as well as while traveling to and from practice and games, are covered by this insurance, but there are conditions and exclusions, which may apply.

## **LINES OF COMMUNICATION**

During the season, it is important that coaches, parents and club officials honor the lines of communication established by the GAASA Executive Board for efficient handling of concerns. **Parents and spectators are to address their issue with their club who will then present them to the league on their behalf. Coaches may follow the same path or as outlined below "IN ALL OTHER MATTERS".**

Disciplinary problems will always be handled between the person being disciplined and the Executive Vice President of GAASA. The Executive Vice President may notify the Club Representative and/or Club President at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

### **IN ALL OTHER MATTERS:**

1 – All communications should be presented ONLY to the Division Commissioner for your division.

2 – The Commissioner will then contact the Youth VP.

3 – The VP will then contact the appropriate person to resolve the problem or question at hand.

4 – The communication/response will then be passed back down to you through the Commissioner so that everyone knows and is informed about the outcome/answer.

5 – In the event this procedure is followed without receiving a response within two weeks, you should write the GAASA Board a complete report and mail it to: P.O. Box 13736, Akron, OH 44334. Please do not call board members.

## **POLICY ON FAIR PLAY, SPORTSMANSHIP AND REFEREE ABUSE**

This policy adopted to assure all persons involved in GAASA soccer matches understand the manner in which the league will address such incidents, and understand that their participation in the league subjects them to the rules contained in the policy. By taking these steps, we are not trying to find ways to punish the great people involved in our soccer programs; we are simply trying to maintain the sense of fair play that has always been present in our games.

### **League Code of Conduct**

All members of the GAASA-league officers, club officers, coaches, players and their parents-in addition to the conditions listed below are bound by the accepted Code of Conduct and the conditions set therein. Participation in the league is based on this acceptance and an acknowledgement of this is required at registration. The Code of Conduct can be viewed in the appendix of this manual.

### **Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse is defined by GAASA as unwelcome touching, striking or the verbal threat to do so. The league will not tolerate this conduct. Any physical abuse of a referee by any coach, player or spectator, or by a referee against any coach, player or spectator, whether occurring preceding, during or following a game, will result in an immediate ban of the offending person from future GAASA games and the incident will be referred to Ohio Youth Soccer Association-North for consideration of further disciplinary action.

### **Verbal Abuse**

Verbal abuse is defined by GAASA as a verbal attack of a sustained, excessive, obscene or offensive nature. It is not intended to include mere dialogue or questions by or among coaches and/or referees.

## **Spectators:**

Upon any **initial incident** of verbal abuse directed toward a referee, any player, any coach or any other spectator, the referee will stop the match (if it is ongoing) to warn the coach and allow the coach to advise his spectator(s) of the warning and counsel the spectator(s) to cease immediately. If such incident occurs before a match, the referee will similarly warn the coach and instruct the coach to warn his spectator(s). If such incident occurs following a match, the referee will notify the league and the incident will be considered an initial incident for purposes of the offending team's next game.

A **repeat offense occurring during the same match** will be cause for stoppage of the match, at the sole discretion of the referee, and thereupon the team associated with the offending spectator(s) will forfeit the match. Such team must immediately provide the name(s) of the abusive spectator(s) to the referee. If the team refuses to do so, it will be suspended immediately from all GAASA matches until the offending person(s) is identified in writing to the President of GAASA.

A **second incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by the **same offender** during the **same season** will result in suspension of the player associated with such person for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season. An automatic fine of \$100 will be imposed on that team's parent club.

A **third incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by **any spectator(s)** from the **same team** during the **same season** will result in suspension of that team for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season. An automatic fine of \$200 will also be imposed on that team's parent club.

The league will maintain records of spectator offenses from season to season.

Please take the opportunity to print the Ten Commandments for Soccer Parents at the end of the manual and distribute this to your parents.

## **Coaches and Players**

Current rules concerning yellow/red card procedures apply.

Current state/national policy states that yellow/red cards are a privilege extended only to players.

Coaches can be subjected to disciplinary action by a referee without being shown a card.

## **Referees**

Upon any **initial incident** of verbal abuse by a referee directed towards any player, coach or other spectator, the coach observing the behavior shall report it to the league using the game report system. The league will notify the referee of the report, and caution the referee against any future similar conduct.

A **second incident** of abuse occurring at a **future match** by the **same referee** during the **same season** will result in suspension of the referee from officiating league games for the remainder of the season, or for the entire next season if the incident occurs during the last match of the season.

The league will maintain records of referee offenses from season to season.

## **REVIEW**

Matters, including the conduct of officials, brought to the attention of GAASA, will be subject to review or submission to the Referee Association for review, but remedies will never include changing the result of a match.

# GAME AND FIELD REGULATIONS

GAASA games are played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by these local rules. THE REFEREE IS THE ULTIMATE AND FINAL AUTHORITY AS TO WHO MAY OR MAY NOT PARTICIPATE, SUITABILITY OF A FIELD FOR PLAY, AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME. NEITHER THE REFEREE'S JUDGMENT NOR HIS RULINGS MAY BE CHALLENGED OR APPEALED AT THE FIELD OF PLAY.

## LENGTH OF GAMES

DIVISIONS	HALF-TIME	LENGTH OF GAMES (Length of Each Half)
U9-U10 Divisions	5 minutes	50 Minutes (2 x 25-minute halves)
U11-U12 Divisions	5 Minutes	60 Minutes (2 x 30-minute halves)
U13-U14/15 Division	5 Minutes	70 Minutes (2 x 35-minute halves)
U16-U18 Divisions	5 Minutes	90 Minutes (2 x 45-minute halves)

NOTE – Only the referee is the official timekeeper during any match

TIMES ARE THE SAME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS GAMES IN ALL DIVISIONS AND AT ALL LEVELS AS STATED IN THE MANUAL UNDER GAME LENGTH

## GAME TIME

It is the responsibility of the both teams to arrive on time at the field and early enough to allow the referee to check in the players before the scheduled start of the game. GAASA allows a 15-minute grace period only to allow teams to correct field preparation problems and for late arrival of teams and officials. This grace period begins at the designated game time and not from the end of the preceding game. The referee is responsible for starting each match as close to the scheduled time as possible.

The Home team coach/players will choose their side of the field; the Opposing team coach/players will take the same side of the field as the home team coach/players (tournament format). All parents and spectators are to take the opposite side of the field from the players.

The referee shall decide the playability of a field due to weather conditions or line marking only.

## GRACE PERIOD

A grace period of 15 minutes beyond the scheduled game time will be allowed in order for:

- Either team to field a minimum of number of players as required for the age group.
- To allow the home team to complete or correct field preparation

The penalty for failure to properly prepare a field is forfeiture by the home team by a 0-6 score. The failure of one or the other teams to field the required minimum number of players by the expiration of the grace period shall be penalized by forfeiture of the match by the late/no-show team by a 0-6 score.

## OFFICIAL GAME

Any game abandoned PRIOR to the start of the second half, no matter what the reason, other than behavior problems, will not be considered official. GAASA will make a determination whether or not the game will be replayed. Any game abandoned after the start (kickoff) of the second half will be

considered official if abandoned due to weather or safety, and the score at that time will be reported as the official score. Any game abandoned by the referee after the second half kickoff for other reasons (such as lack of discipline) will be reported to GAASA, which will make the final determination as to the outcome, and final score of the game based on the referee's report.

## **GAME BALL**

The HOME TEAM is responsible to supply a suitable game ball, which must be acceptable to the referee. All U9, U10, U11, U12 will use a Size 4 ball. All other divisions will use a Size 5 ball.

## **OVERTIME**

Overtimes of any form are not permitted to break ties in any divisions during the regular season. This rule is intended to keep field schedules on time; nevertheless, there shall be no overtime even if only one game is scheduled on the field. Games tied at the end of regulation time shall be recorded as tie games in the standings, and each team will receive one point towards the Playoffs. Overtime may be used in the Playoffs. See the Playoffs Handout for the overtime procedure used this season.

## **GAME SCHEDULING & RESCHEDULING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

As has been league policy for previous seasons, teams will be allowed two exceptions for dates that they will not be available for league play (tournaments, school functions, etc). These exceptions **must be listed on your team declaration**. Teams will be granted two weekends and three weeknights (**for school functions**) to be listed. Competition in the State Cup Tournament takes precedence over league games, and teams must be excused to participate. Teams **should** indicate their intention to participate in State Cup (The Sam Bothwell Memorial Tournament) at registration. Teams qualifying for State Cup finals (should they be held on a different weekend) will be rescheduled on an as-needed basis.

Additionally, there will be space provided on the declaration for individuals who are listed as the **head coach** of two teams to list said teams. **Some effort** will then be made by the league to provide a schedule that will allow the coach to perform his/her duties with a **minimum** of conflicts. With respect to actual game rescheduling, the following policies and procedures are now in effect:

Once the preliminary schedule has been made available to the membership, any game reschedules that are asked for (omitted from the team waiver) that **are not** the result of an error on the part of the league will be assessed a **\$10.00** processing fee. Sufficient time is provided for these changes to be made. Once the final schedule has been posted the league policy is for **no reschedules**, should a reschedule be granted for any reason other than the proverbial "act of God" clause, which does not cover school trips, other athletic functions and the like, there will be a fee of **\$50** charged to the team/club requesting the change. So it is important for all coaches to review their schedules to see if they need to make a change in their schedule between the prescribed dates of the preliminary schedule posting and the schedule change deadline. Any changes during this time frame must be done using the online reschedule process that is available on the GAASA website. Coaches from **both** teams involved with the game **must** complete the form.

Please keep in mind that these policies do not relate to reschedules due to weather or referee no-shows. Very infrequently, the U.S. National Team or U.S. Olympic Team may play a match in the area. Teams wishing to attend such matches will be given a reschedule on an as-needed basis.

All efforts will be made to reschedule all games that are terminated prior to the start of the second half as a result of bad weather conditions and/or darkness. Both coaches must agree upon all rescheduled games and the rescheduled game must take place prior to the last seven days of the regular season. In the event

that a date and time cannot be agreed upon within the 48 hour period, scheduling of said game will be made by the appropriate youth VP. Any requests for reschedules of this nature must be submitted thru the online reschedule page for approval by the appropriate vice-president **no more than 48 hours** after the originally scheduled game. Any team which fails to show for said reschedule will automatically forfeit by a 0-6 score.

Any unexcused team which fails to show up for play or fields less than the required players for their age group by the expiration of the grace period forfeits by a 0-6 score. **There is no reschedule for team no-shows.**

Any team(s) that reschedules a game without the permission of the league will result in both teams double-forfeiting by a score of 0-0 (NO POINTS) as well as a forfeit of both club bonds. There will also be an automatic 4-game suspension for both coaches involved. If a club bond is revoked, the bond must be replenished within five (5) days from the time the club is notified. Failure to replenish the club bond within the five (5) days will result in all scheduled games, or all teams, or said club being recorded as a forfeit from the time of notification until such time as the club bond is replenished. Coaches who reschedule games on their own must be made aware that if the game is not sanctioned by the league, the insurance provided by OYSA-N will not be in effect. This opens up possible litigation to the coach, the club, and the league. DON'T DO IT.

## **EMERGENCY GAME CANCELLATION DUE TO FIELD SHUTDOWN**

GAASA recognizes the fact that the majority of clubs do not have the final say over the use of their fields. The Board of Education or the Parks & Recreation Division within their community controls most fields. In the event that a field is shut down by one of the above due to inclement weather the following steps must be taken:

1. NOTIFY:  
The GAASA Executive Director ([grtrakron.soccerassoc@verizon.net](mailto:grtrakron.soccerassoc@verizon.net)) as well as by phone at (330.256.2900)  
THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE TO CALL THE APPOINTED GAASA OFFICIAL IS THE: The Club's President or in their absence the individual responsible for fields.  
Call NO LATER than 6:00 p.m. on the night prior to any scheduled game
2. The Executive Director will notify the appropriate Division Commissioner.
3. The Executive Director will notify the referee assignor so that the referee can be informed of the game cancellation.
4. All reschedules must be handled according to the schedule/reschedule policy as defined.
5. Any club that fails to report by 6:00 p.m. may result in the following:
  - a) Said club being responsible for any and all referee fees and
  - b) Said club's rescheduled game will automatically be rescheduled to the opponent's field.

## **FIELD PREPARATION**

It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to have the field in proper condition for regular season and post-season games. The field must be properly marked (**according to the dimensions as prescribed in the section dealing with Field/Age group rules**) to the satisfaction of the referee (in the event that a club must use a site for multiple age groups [6v6 & 8v8, 8v8 & 11v11 or 6v6 & 8v8] it is only acceptable for a maximum of two fields to be laid out in the same area). This includes nets as well as securely anchoring of the goals to the satisfaction of the referee. In the absence of nets, unsecured goals or a properly prepared field, the referee has the right to suspend the game and then referring the matter for review to the GAASA which may result in the home team forfeiting by a score of 0-6.

Plastic traffic cones (minimum of 2 feet tall), regulation corner flags (on posts with a minimum height of 5 feet, with rounded tops), or spring loaded corner flags must be positioned at the corners of the field for games. Corner arcs must be marked.

Only the referee can decide the playability of a field due to weather conditions or line marking only.

## **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

Many entities that own or control your fields (park boards, school boards, etc.) may require a certificate of insurance before they will allow you to play or practice. The purpose of this document is to prove that you belong to an organization that carries sufficient liability insurance, and to add the name of the entity that owns your field to the coverage.

Any GAASA club or team may obtain a certificate of insurance by directly contacting Ohio Youth Soccer–North, P.O. Box 367, Richfield, OH 44286, phone 330-659-0989, and FAX number 330-659-0993. Tom Faro is Executive Director of OYSA-N.

## **PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

All players except the goalkeeper must wear like-colored jerseys with a permanently attached number for identification. Each goalkeeper must wear a shirt different in color from either team. Goalkeepers do not need permanently affixed numbers. All teams playing under the banner of a given club must wear the club designated uniform during league play with the appropriate club markings. Clubs must have a consistent style of uniform from team to team although a club may decide to use two different styles to differentiate between their boys and girls teams. This policy is to ensure that all teams that play under a club bond have made a commitment to support and participate in the activities of the club and to ensure a clear club identity within the league. In case of a conflict in the color of team jerseys, it is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM to change to an alternate color. If the home team must change colors, the alternate shirts do not need numbers so long as the original numbered jerseys are worn underneath.

Warm-ups, compression shorts (sliders, bicycle pants), or long pants may be worn during a game ONLY if they are the same color as the uniform shorts, and then only with the approval of the referee. This option is not at the discretion of either team coach.

Casts and other support equipment such as braces must be padded and covered in such a way as to not be dangerous to another player. It is at the complete discretion of the referee as to whether or not a player may participate while wearing casts, braces or anything else other than the approved uniform. There is no appeal on each individual decision of each referee; the fact that one referee permitted the item in one game shall not be grounds for approval of the item in a different game.

All players are required to wear SHIN GUARDS in GAASA games at all times. The cleats on soccer shoes and their condition are at the discretion of the referee. Shoes designed for other sports including baseball, football and rugby shoes are not allowed. Referees should not allow cleats that could potentially injure another player. Cleats that are sharp or otherwise dangerous should not be allowed.

## **PLAYER PASSES**

All players must have a laminated validated player pass at the field in order to play. Coaches are required to have laminated passes. Referees will not permit players to play without a pass, and will not permit teams to start a match unless a coach with a pass (in the event the rostered coach is unavailable then the only other valid coaches pass must come from within the parent club) is present. A team using, or

attempting to use, a player or coach who does not have a valid pass will forfeit the game by a score of 0-6. Any attempt to use another person's pass will be dealt with harshly with a minimum suspension of 1 game or more for the coach, the entire team and/or the club.

### **REFEREE FEES**

Referee fees will be paid by both coaches in accordance with the fee structure established by the league and listed in the registration fee sheet posted on the league web site. Each coach is to have their half of the referee fee in cash and is to present payment to the referee when submitting his/her game roster & passes. Failure to have the appropriate funds at game time can result in the game being called by the referee and referred to the league for further action which can result in (but not limited to) a forfeit win for the other team.

## **FIELD & AGE GROUP RULES LOCAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME**

GAASA games are played under FIFA Laws of the Game as modified by these local rules.

### **BREAKAWAYS AND “PROFESSIONAL” FOULS**

Referees are required by the FIFA Laws to deal harshly with fouls against the game...fouls, which are intended to replace soccer skill with brute force. In particular, referees are required to issue red cards to any players who intentionally commit so-called “professional” defensive fouls, no matter how forcefully, in order to stop play of the game, and/or breakaways, when there is a clear scoring opportunity.

### **MODIFIED U-9/10 RULES**

#### **Number of Players**

the maximum number of field players for U-9 will be 6v6. One player shall be designated as the goalkeeper.

#### **Roster Size**

U-9/10 roster size will be a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 12 players.

#### **Goals**

the goal size will be **6' by 18'-maximum.**

#### **The Referee**

Each game will have a registered referee. We will also have mentoring referees helping out the new referees at this age level (U-9 level usually serves as the entry point for new referees).

#### **Offside**

Offside **does not** apply to the U-9/10 divisions.

#### **Restarts**

Conform to FIFA and opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball.

#### **Start of Play**

Conform to FIFA

#### **Goal Kicks**

Goal kicks conform to FIFA.

#### **Goalie Punts**

The goalkeeper may not punt, drop kick, or throw the ball in the air from one penalty area to another. An infraction is punished by giving the ball to the opponent for an indirect free kick from the center spot on the half way line.

## **Throw-ins**

Conform to FIFA and as outlined on page 10/Substitutions in the Coaches Manual.

## **Misconduct**

all fouls are indirect with the following exception:

U9: obvious goal scoring opportunities will result in a direct kick.

U10: obvious goal scoring opportunities will result in a PK

## **Penalty Kicks**

U9: There are no PK's. A direct kick is to be awarded to the team whose player was fouled in a manner that would result in a PK

U10: PK's are to be taken from the penalty spot.

## **Pass Back Rule**

FIFA

## **PLAYING FIELDS**

A soccer field is considered dimensionally acceptable if it is accepted by GAASA for scheduling. At any multi-field facility, the home team has the right to designate which field shall be used for the game no matter what field number is assigned. However, only the referee has the right to determine the acceptability of a field for any given match, and he may abandon the match or require modifications to the field for reasons of markings and/or safety. Each referee has the right to make this determination for each individual match without regard to any previous rulings. The HOME TEAM is responsible for having the field marked, corners marked and nets hung by game time. **All fields must comply with the dimensions and markings listed below. Should a field be found to not be in compliance and the match abandoned by the referee as a result the matter will be referred to the GAASA board for review and disposition which may result in, but not be limited to, the forfeiture of the game by the home team.**

Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement. **Please refer to the GAASA/OYSAN Goal Post Safety Policy in the appendix section of this manual for further information.**

### **U9/10 Field Dimensions**

- The field of play shall be rectangular. Field dimension is to be 40 yds. x 55 yds/min. to 45 yds x 60 yds/max..
- Goal: **6 feet high and 18 feet wide maximum.**

### **Field Markings**

all field markings should be clearly visible using chalk or paint. Corner flags should be used, but cones may be substituted for flags. The penalty area is marked 10 yards from the inside of each goal post and 10 yards into the field of play. The goal box is marked 5 yards out in the same manner. A penalty spot should be marked 8 yards from the goal. An arc with the radius of 8 yards is to be drawn from each penalty spot. The center circle is 8 yards and corner arcs are one yard.

### **U11/12 Field Dimensions**

- GAASA Field dimension recommendation: 50 yds x 75 yds/min. to 55 yds x 80 yds/max.
- Goal: 6'x18' or 7'x21'

### **Field Markings**

all field markings should be clearly visible using chalk or paint. Corner flags should be used, but cones may be substituted for flags. The penalty area is marked 14 yards from the inside of each goal post and 14 yards into the field of play. The goal box is marked 6 yards out in the same manner. A penalty spot should be marked 10 yards from the goal. An arc with the radius of 8 yards is to be drawn from each penalty spot. The center circle is 8 yards and corner arcs are one yard.

### **U13-U19 Field Dimensions**

- The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. Length Minimum 100 yards, Maximum 120 yards. Width Minimum 60 yards, Maximum 75 yards.
- Goal: 8 feet high and 24 feet wide

### **Field Markings**

all field markings should be clearly visible using chalk or paint. Corner flags should be used, but cones may be substituted for flags. The penalty area is marked 18 yards from the inside of each goal post and 18 yards into the field of play. The goal box is marked 6 yards out in the same manner. A penalty spot should be marked 12 yards from the goal. An arc with the radius of 10 yards is to be drawn from each penalty spot. The center circle is 10 yards and corner arcs are one yard.

## **PLAY-OFF & TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

### **PLAYOFF INFORMATION**

GAASA conducts Playoffs in all classic and open divisions. Youth playoffs are conducted in a single elimination tournament-style format.

The winner of the Playoffs determines each competitive division champion, not by finishing first in the regular season. The team that finishes first in regular season will also receive recognition and awards for their accomplishments. The purpose of the regular season is to determine a regular season champion and to qualify teams for the Playoffs with the final standings being used to determine the seeding used in the tournament. In the event that multiple teams end the season with identical records they will be declared co-champions and each team will receive awards for being the regular season champion. A tie-breaking system will be used to determine the seeding for the play-offs and the specifics of that will be part of the play-off information posted to the web site.

The method of qualifying for the Playoffs is complex and varies within each division based on the number of teams that enter the league each season. For that reason, a separate handout is prepared each season detailing how, when and where the Playoffs will be conducted. This handout will also detail the qualification criteria for each division that season. This information will be posted on the GAASA Web site about 1 month prior to the playoffs.

### **PLAY-OFF RULES**

- Only players who are officially rostered on a team may participate with that team in the play-offs. There are no guest players allowed even if they are an “involuntary” transfer by virtue of participating in four or more games with a team other than their original team. The use of an illegal player by a team will result in sanctions that may be taken against the coach, team and/or club at the discretion of the GAASA board.
- Each team must make available, if necessary, their league stamped roster that was submitted at registration at anytime during the play-offs.
- Only league game rosters may be used for the play-offs. In lieu of a game number indicate if it is a semi-final or final game. The higher seeded team is the home team and must be aware of any color conflicts.
- All games are full length. In the event of situations that prevent the game from being played to conclusion the following steps are to be followed: 1-if the game is terminated prior to the start of the second half the higher seeded team moves on; 2-if the second half starts and the game is called before it can be finished then the existing score determines who moves on and in the event

of a tie the higher seeded team goes to the final if it is a semi-final. If it is a final in either of the above cases the champion will be declared on those criteria. There are no reschedules of play-off games. The result cannot be appealed.

- If a game should end in a tie at the end of regulation the teams will go straight to a shoot-out governed by the rules of FIFA. If this should occur on a weeknight game and the issue of available light comes into effect the application of the above statement will apply. The result cannot be appealed.
- There is no warm-up period on the field that the game is to be played. All games will start at their designated time or in the event a delay is caused by the preceding game said game will begin as soon as the referee crew is prepared to begin.
- The winning coach is to bring both game rosters to the designated league representative at the conclusion of the game and after all referees have properly signed and noted any circumstances on the report. In the event of a red card the reports are to only be returned by a referee but the winning coach is required to provide the score.
- Any issues concerning sportsmanship or the lack of it by players, coaches or spectators that result in a referee either stopping a game or filing a report at the conclusion may result in actions against the individuals involved or in lieu of that against the clubs of the participants. These games are conducted for the sole benefit of the players and the league does not look kindly on incidents that detract from the enjoyment due the players.
- All other competition rules and regulations normally in effect for the regular season, and not noted above, apply to all play-off games.

Adherence to these rules is required as a participant.

## **PLAYOFF BOND FORFEITURE**

Every competitive team that enters GAASA has an obligation to compete in the Playoffs if qualified. However, GAASA also recognizes the fact that teams may make a commitment to participate in another tournament before they know for certain that they have qualified for the GAASA Playoffs. Therefore, teams may be excused from the Playoffs if they notify the GAASA Board in writing and/or through the division commissioner at least 2 weeks prior to the date of that season's Playoffs. If a team is excused, all teams below them in the regular season standings move up one place for purposes of playoff seeding. If a team qualifies, fails to notify the league regarding an exemption, and still does not take part in the Playoffs, the club forfeits its club bond that must be replenished to current standards at the next registration.

## **AWARDS**

Awards, if any, will only be distributed through GAASA Playoffs. The awards offered for any individual season and their rate of distribution will be detailed in the Playoff Handout for the current season. Playoff rules and schedules are posted on the GAASA Web Site at least one month prior to each playoff.

## **STANDINGS**

In all divisions, standings are used to determine Playoff eligibility. Standings are determined based on points with 3 points awarded for each win, 1 point awarded for each tie, and no (0) points awarded for each loss. For the rules governing ties in the standings and other Playoff matters, see the Playoff Handout for this season.

## **STATE CUP**

Every youth team in good standing with GAASA and OYSA-N, which has maintained a legal roster throughout the seasonal year, is entitled to enter the Premier or Sam Bothwell Memorial State Cup Tournament which determines OYSA-N state champions each spring and fall. Every club is provided a

copy of the State Cup entry form with its registration packet in January. Contact your club president or club representative for an entry form if your team wishes to play in the state tournament. There are multiple levels of play in the Bothwell and GAASA will give your team a bye from league play in order to participate in the state tournament.

## **TOURNAMENTS AND TRAVEL**

Teams and players affiliated with GAASA are eligible to travel and play teams from other affiliated leagues, either in friendly games or in tournaments. The weekly publication Soccer America publishes a monthly list of soccer tournaments held throughout the United States and Canada, plus the major international events. It is important to note that USYSA players and teams are expressly forbidden from playing in other leagues, games or events not affiliated with USSF or USYSA—you may be suspended from GAASA for breaking this rule!

There are many tournaments held throughout Ohio-North, our USYSA State Association. These tournaments and the Premier State Cup Tournament do not require travel permits from the state offices. All other tournaments held outside Ohio-North boundaries, except the National Youth Championship, do require a travel permit. If your team wishes to enter a tournament, please make sure you check with GAASA to make certain you have kept your team legal by state and national standards throughout the seasonal year. Then obtain a blank Permission to Travel form, if needed, from the league registrar or the state office. There are fees associated with a travel permit and you should contact the state office for the current pricing.

Follow the instructions for preparing the Travel Permit; submit it to the State Office: Ohio Youth Soccer—North, P.O. Box 367, Richfield, OH 44286, attn: Pam Mennick phone 330-659-0989, FAX number 330-659-0993. Tom Faro is Executive Director of OYSA-N, and the street address is 4615 W. Streetsboro Road, Richfield, OH 44286. Make sure you get it back approved before leaving for your tournament. No sanctioned tournament will permit you take part without a travel permit and your league player passes.

## **YELLOW AND RED CARD POLICY AND OTHER DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

In GAASA, players and coaches can receive red and yellow cards. Two yellow cards equal a red card and an ejection from the match. Ejected players or coaches must leave the area immediately. The referee has the authority to issue both red and yellow cards from the time he arrives at the field to the time he leaves it. The referee never has to warn a player or a coach before issuing either yellow or red cards. Generally, cards will be shown, but it is not necessary for the referee to show the card in order for disciplinary action to be taken.

The Disciplinary Committee will monitor yellow Card reports. Disciplinary action may be taken, with or without warning, against habitual and repeat offenders. Such action may include phone calls from the Disciplinary Committee to the participant, coach or club officers, letters of warning or reprimand, and/or summons to a disciplinary hearing. However, it is never necessary for any of these actions, or any other form of warning, to occur before stronger disciplinary action can be instigated when deemed necessary by the Disciplinary Committee or the Executive Board.

The GAASA Disciplinary Committee chaired by the Executive VP will handle Red Cards. The coach of the team to which the coach or player was registered will be notified of the committee decision in about 2 weeks or less after the red card report has been received by the committee from the Executive Director.

This policy means the player or coach will serve a minimum suspension of however many games occur within this time frame because the league will have the Player/Coach pass throughout the disciplinary/appeal process, and, “no pass, no play” applies.

Note that every disciplinary action for various Red Card infractions stated in the GAASA Constitution, Bylaws, and elsewhere (see appendix), is **always** stated as minimum. You may be suspended for many more games than the stated minimum, and the Disciplinary Committee has the power and authority to suspend any participant, including spectators, for up to 99 years. Every Red Card will be evaluated on an individual basis and there is no appeal to precedent. Player Passes will be held by the Disciplinary Committee and returned to the team coach upon the completion of the suspension.

In the event a coach is dismissed from a match, the club president and the coach will be notified. If the coach fails to heed the disciplinary action handed out, the team will be barred from further participation for the season, and sterner measures may be taken. This could cause the team forfeit policy and/or club bond forfeit policy to automatically be invoked. The club officers will also be held accountable for further actions within the team.

It is the responsibility of the coach to insure sportsmanlike conduct of players, spectators and guests on and off the field of play. A coach can be dismissed from a match as a result of the actions of spectators, players, or anyone on his sidelines or related to his team in any capacity. There is no room in soccer for fighting, unnecessary rough play, or harassment of any kind by or towards any player, coach, spectator or referee.

The coach’s Game Report is the ONLY vehicle to use to express problems concerning a match, including dissatisfaction with the performance (not the judgment) of the referee. Red cards issued by a referee for harassment or unsportsmanlike conduct directed at the referee will be dealt with harshly.

## **PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

### **PROTESTS**

**1** – ALL protests for any corrective and/or disciplinary action must be submitted in writing in a timely fashion to GAASA

**2** – The GAASA Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all protests.

**3** – Protests shall be written in triplicate: One copy for the opposing team; one copy mailed with a protest fee of \$50.00 to the Executive Vice President within 48 hours after the date of the game and/or incident; retain the final copy yourself.

**4** – The protest fees shall be returned ONLY if the protest is upheld.

**5** – The referee’s judgment(s) with regard to the physical condition of the field, its acceptance for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the match and those prerogatives granted him by the FIFA Laws of the Game SHALL NOT BE CHALLENGED.

### **APPEALS**

**1** – Before there can be an appeal, there must first be a ruling. Only Disciplinary Committee and Executive Board rulings may be appealed. Decisions of a referee can never be appealed.

**2** – Appeals will take place, by invitation only, at GAASA Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board will permit the person appealing, the division commissioner and witnesses to attend during the time set aside for hearing the appeal.

**3** – A statement limited to 5-7 minutes from the person appealing may be heard; witnesses are limited to 5 minutes each; papers may be presented.

**4** – The total time limit for the appeal is 10 minutes as this is not a hearing, but a request to the Board, for a change in a decision that has already been made.

**5** – Board members are permitted to ask questions, limited entirely to the particular matter at hand, not regarding other charges that may be pending against other persons in the case.

**6** – The result of the findings will be sent to the person(s) involved within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of the appeal.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

**The GAASA board reserves the right to suspend the above time constraints and procedures stated above if in applying them prevents due process for all concerned. This would be most evident with regards to the playoffs should a protest/appeal affect team entry or placement in the playoff's. The decision to suspend is solely the responsibility of the board and is not guaranteed.**

## **INDOOR SOCCER**

Indoor soccer is a rapidly growing sport in this area, and your team may wish to continue playing together indoors between the fall and spring outdoor seasons.

OYSA-N and GAASA do not sanction or affiliate indoor soccer or recognize it as an actual soccer activity. We will not take disciplinary action against players who take part in indoor soccer activities, but we may take note of such activities when they may affect team placement, player recruiting, and tryout and transfer issues. OYSA-N insurance does cover your indoor soccer activities provided all players have been registered with the league and OYSA-N. All players on a team must be registered for coverage to apply.

OYSA-N rules require that a player leave his currently rostered team and obtain a release before contacting, trying out for, or playing on another team. While these rules do not prevent a player from playing on an indoor team, since OYSA-N and GAASA have no jurisdiction over indoor soccer, playing for a different indoor team than the team to which the player is rostered outdoors could constitute a tryout with that team. If that player should attempt to roster to that new team the following spring, the transfer could be denied on the basis of the illegal tryout.

The best policy for any players considering a team switch is to obtain a release at the end of the fall season. This allows players to try out for new teams. Coaches should note that it is illegal, under national rules, to 1) force a player off a team roster unless he moves too far away to participate with that team, 2) is injured to such an extent that he can no longer participate, or 3) is suspended by league, state or national authorities for a length of time exceeding the seasonal year. It is also illegal to deny a release to a player who wishes to leave a team, regardless of the reason.

If you have any questions about indoor soccer, please consult a GAASA Executive Board member before you take a chance on breaking any of our rules.

See our website [www.gaasa.org](http://www.gaasa.org) for the names of the current Executive Board as well as up-to-date information.

# APPENDIX

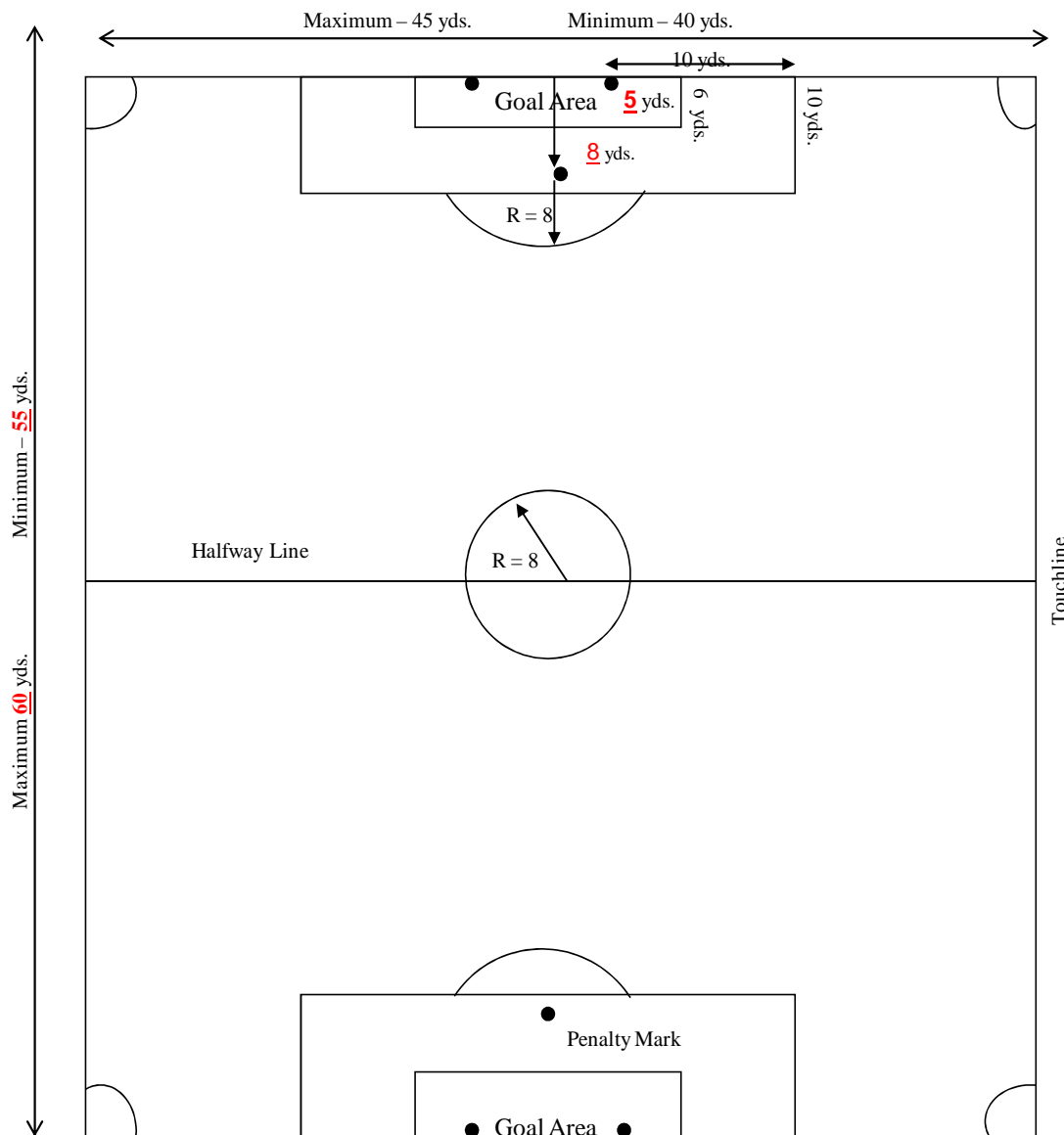
- **Field Markings**
  - **6v6** Pg. 27
  - **8v8** Pg. 28
  - **11v11** Pg. 29
- **Severe Weather Policy** Pg. 30
- **Playing Up Matrix** Pg. 31
- **League Goal Safety Policy** Pg. 32
- **OYSAN Goal Safety Policy** Pg. 33
- **Contact Information** Pg. 34
- **Principles of Conduct** Pg. 35
- **GAASA Code of Conduct** Pg. 36
- **Disciplinary Actions** (excerpted from Constitution) Pg. 37-39
- **Ten Commandments** Pg. 40

# The Field of Play – U9, U10 6v6 – 60 yds. X 45 yds.

Goals 6x18-maximum

Length: Max – **60** yds.; Min - **55** yds.

Width: Max - 45 yds.; Min – 40 yds.



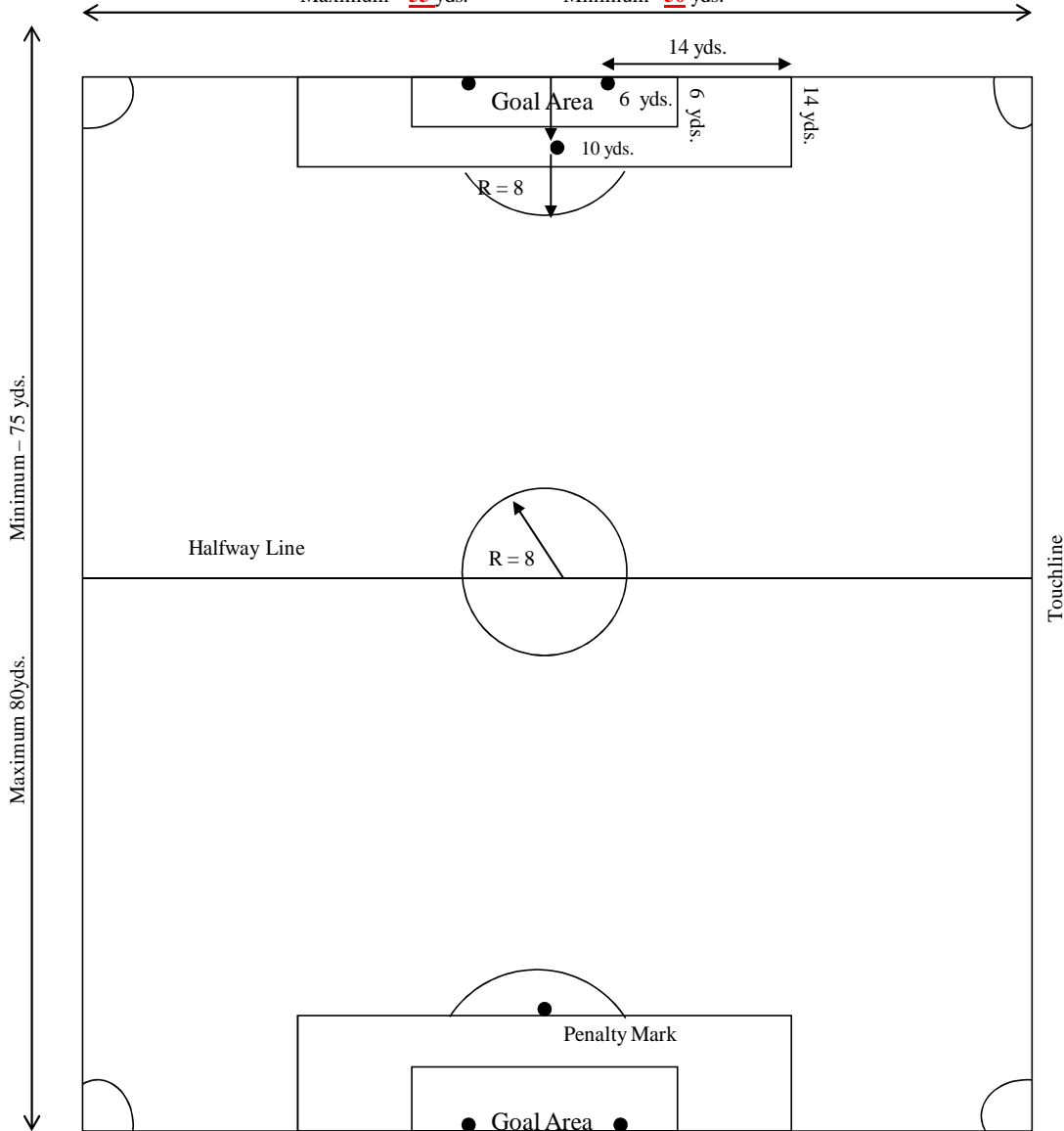
# The Field of Play – U11, U12 8v8 – 80 yds. X 55 yds.

Goals 6x18 – Acceptable Options – 7x 21

Length: Max – 80 yds.; Min - 75 yds.

Width: Max - **55** yds.; Min – **50** yds.

Maximum – **55** yds.      Minimum – **50** yds.

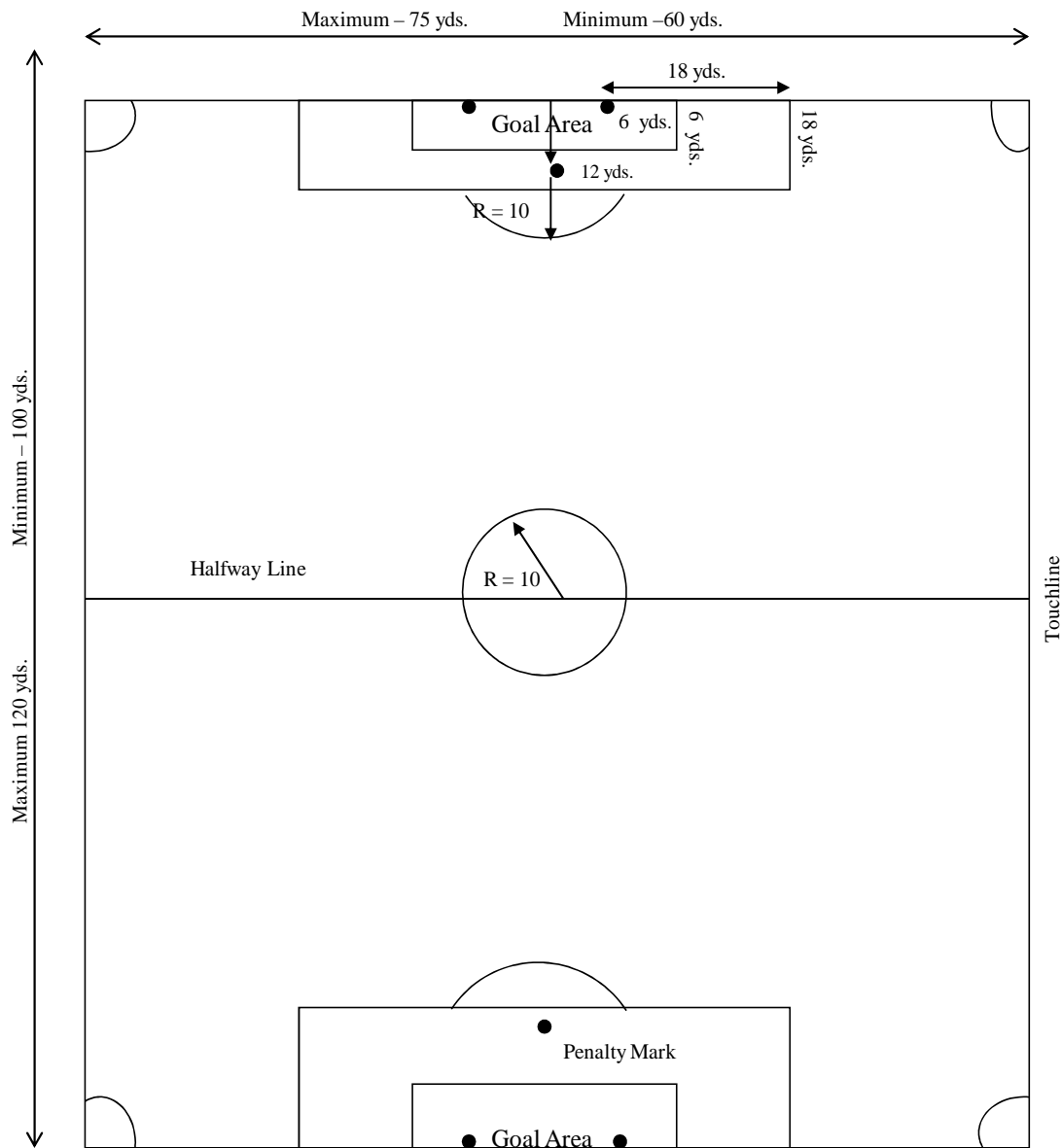


# The Field of Play – U13-U18 11v11 – 120 yds. X 75 yds.

Goals 8x24

Length: Max – 120 yds.; Min - 100 yds.

Width: Max - 75 yds.; Min – 60 yds.



## Dealing with Severe Weather

This position paper provides basic guidelines for dealing with lightning, windstorms, and other severe weather conditions. The peak season for severe weather occurs in the United States between May and August, typically in the late afternoon and early evening.

### 1. Lightning

- a. Recognizing the threat
  - (1) Apply the 30-30 rule  
When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less, seek proper shelter. If you can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule. Wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving shelter.
  - (2) Know and heed warning systems and community rules  
Many communities or park systems have lightning detection and warning systems. Use this information and obey the rules established by the community or park system.
  - (3) Know and apply the rules or procedures established by the competition authority
  - (4) Minimize the risk of being struck  
Referees must protect the safety of all participants by stopping game activities quickly, so that participants and spectators may retire to a safer place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Remember, if you can hear the thunder, you are within reach of lightning.
- b. Seeking proper shelter
  - (1) No place outside is safe near thunderstorms
  - (2) The best shelter is a large, fully enclosed, substantially constructed building. A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a reasonable second choice.
- c. If there is no proper shelter, avoid the most dangerous locations:
  - (1) Higher elevations
  - (2) Wide open areas, including fields
  - (3) Tall isolated objects, such as trees, poles, or light posts.
  - (4) Unprotected open buildings
  - (5) Rain shelters
  - (6) Bus stops
  - (7) Metal fences and metal bleachers
- d. If you cannot avoid these locations, crouch down on the balls of your feet, with your head tucked into your chest and your hands over your ears.
- e. If someone is hit  
All deaths from lightning result from cardiac arrest and stopped breathing. CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, respectively, are the recommended first aid. Referees should become involved in such assistance only if they have proper training.
- f. Remain calm. A calm official will often be able to prevent panic by young players.

**NO LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES WILL GIVE 100% GUARANTEED TOTAL SAFETY, BUT THESE STEPS WILL HELP YOU AVOID THE VAST MAJORITY OF LIGHTNING CASUALTIES.**

### 2. Other types of severe weather

- a. Severe storms or tornadoes  
Obey local rules and heed warnings (meaning that a severe storm or tornado has been sighted). Clear the field and seek proper shelter immediately – see above. Remember, according to standard weather warning terminology a "warning" represents a more immediately likely occurrence than a "watch."
- b. Hurricanes  
There is usually plenty of advance notice, so games will probably have been cancelled. Look for warning signs.
- c. Hail  
Stop the game, clear the field, and seek proper shelter – see above.

**NO SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY GUIDELINES WILL GIVE 100% GUARANTEED TOTAL SAFETY, BUT THESE STEPS WILL HELP YOU AVOID THE VAST MAJORITY OF CASUALTIES.**

If there is a possibility of severe weather, the referee and assistant referees should discuss these guidelines in their pre-game meeting and ensure that all officials have a clear understanding of their respective duties. Referees in particular should clearly identify what assistance they expect in detecting and bringing to their immediate attention any dangerous weather conditions which may not be directly visible to them. If such conditions develop only after a match has begun, the referee should take the first stoppage opportunity to quickly review these matters with the assistant referees. A brief word to the coaches regarding steps the referee will take to ensure player safety in threatening weather conditions would be useful.

# G.A.A.S.A. Playing Up Rules and Guidelines

<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Play Up To Division / Classic Level	Play In Divisions

Youth Division		Classic 1	Classic 2	Classic 3	Classic 4	All		
<b>U9C1</b>	U10	Yes	No	No	No	U9; U11 C1/2	U10C2	
<b>U9C2</b>	U10	Yes	Yes	No	No	U9; U11C1/2/3	U10C3	
<b>U9C3</b>	U10	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	U9; U11C1/2/3/4	U10C4	
<b>U9C4</b>	U10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	U9; U11 All	n/a	

<b>U10C1</b>	U11	Yes	No	No	No	U12 C1/2	U11C2	All U10
<b>U10C2</b>	U11	Yes	Yes	No	No	U12 C1/2/3	U11C3	All U10
<b>U10C3</b>	U11	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	U12 C1/2/3/4	U11C4	All U10
<b>U10C4</b>	U11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	U12 All	n/a	All U10

<b>U11C1</b>	U12	Yes	No	No	No	U13 C1/2	U12C2	All U11
<b>U11C2</b>	U12	Yes	Yes	No	No	U13 C1/2/3	U12C3	All U11
<b>U11C3</b>	U12	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	U13 C1/2/3/4	U12C4	All U11
<b>U11C4</b>	U12	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	U13 All	n/a	All U11

<b>U12C1</b>	U13	Yes	No	No	No	U14 C1/2	U13C2	All U12
<b>U12C2</b>	U13	Yes	Yes	No	No	U14 C1/2/3	U13C3	All U12
<b>U12C3</b>	U13	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	U14 C1/2/3/4	U13C4	All U12
<b>U12C4</b>	U13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	U14 All	n/a	All U12

<b>U13C1</b>	U14	Yes	No	No	No	U15	U14C2	All U13
<b>U13C2</b>	U14	Yes	Yes	No	No	U15	U14C3	All U13
<b>U13C3</b>	U14	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	U15	U14C4	All U13
<b>U13C4</b>	U14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	U15	n/a	All U13

<b>U14C1</b>	U15	Yes	No	No	No	n/a	U15C2	All U14
<b>U14C2</b>	U15	Yes	Yes	No	No	n/a	U15C3	All U14
<b>U14C3</b>	U15	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	n/a	U15C4	All U14
<b>U14C4</b>	U15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a	All U14

## Special

### Concerns:

All players must come from within the same club and they cannot play more than two years beyond the actual age of the player and not the age group (i.e. a U9 Player on a U11 team cannot play on a U13 team)

Playing up is not permitted in the Playoffs

Teams must play with their registered league rosters in Playoffs

If a Guest Player plays a 4th game up, the game in which the Guest Player plays will be treated as:

- 1 - The game in which the Guest Player plays will be treated as a FORFEIT by the team using such Player
- 2 - The Coach of the team on which the Player is rostered will be SUSPENDED for two games

**Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association**  
**Goal Safety Policy**

It is the intention of the Board of Directors of the GAASA that goal safety be a priority. Therefore, the following policy is adopted:

1. The GAASA will require for all programs and every activity:
  - a. The coaches for each game/activity or other responsible person (i.e., Field Director or Community Representative) will make a physical inspection of each goal prior to the game/activity to assure that goals are securely anchored accordance with CPSC guidelines/manufacturer's guidelines. (Attached)\*
  - b. The coaches for the last game of the day will make sure the goals are safely stored in accordance with the CPSC guidelines/manufacturer's guidelines. (Attached)\*
  - c. That all parents and guardians are told of the dangers of unsecured goals and the parents' responsibility to keep kids away from goals, and to secure goals if necessary.
  - d. GAASA Board Members will conduct random site surveys.
2. To reach this end, all coaches will receive a copy of the CPSC guidelines, and clear instructions as to how to make goals safe and secure.
3. Coaches will remind their players, and discuss with the team's parents, the necessity of players and siblings not playing, climbing or moving the goals. It is deemed appropriate that players violating this rule may, at the coaches' discretion, sit out a half a game or entire game. Players consistently violating the rule can be subject to a disciplinary hearing of the Board.
4. For non-club/league owned fields and/or goals, it is important to remind the owners of the fields and/or goals of safety requirements. This is in addition to the checking of goals as listed above.
5. The President will have random site surveys done to certify compliance with this policy.
6. The President of the Board will certify to OYSAN no later than November 1 of each year that a policy is in place and enforced.

From the OYSAN Policy: Risk Management Policy Excerpts:

*The Ohio Youth Soccer Association-North shall require all member leagues to certify to the state association each year in November by the AGM that Goal Safety Policies have been implemented by the member organization. (Adopted 8/3/04)*

**BOARD POLICY RM-8:**

**Board Policy Regarding Goal Safety in Youth Soccer Activities**

1. *The Ohio Youth Soccer Association North will require its own programs and for every activity:*
  - a. *The person coordinating the OYSAN activity or other responsible person will make a physical inspection of each goal prior to the activity to assure that goals are securely anchored and stored in accordance with CPSC guidelines/manufacturer's guidelines. (Attached)*
  - b. *That all parents and guardians are told of the dangers of unsecured goals and the parents' responsibility to keep kids away from goals, and to secure goals if necessary.*
  - c. *That staff of OYSAN will conduct random site surveys.*
2. *The Ohio Youth Soccer Association North will require all member organizations for every activity:*
  - a. *To have a written goal safety policy in accordance with CPSC/Manufacturer guidelines which require:*
    1. *A coach or other responsible person to make a physical inspection of the goal prior to practice and games to assure that the goals are securely anchored and stored in accordance with CPSC guidelines/ manufacturer's guidelines. (Attached)*
    2. *The policy to include communicating each year with parents of each player and players about the dangers of unsecured goals, and their responsibility to assure that goals are secure. It is appropriate to have a penalty for players playing on goals.*
  - b. *The league will conduct random site surveys concerning goal anchoring and storage.*
3. *Even if OYSAN or the member does not own the fields and goals, the league still has a responsibility to remind the owners of the safety requirements, and to have a policy for the above.*

# GREATER AKRON AMATUER SOCCER ASSOCIATION

[www.GAASA.org](http://www.GAASA.org)

Email: [grtrakron.soccerassoc@verizon.net](mailto:grtrakron.soccerassoc@verizon.net)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### **SECRETARY**

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GAASA  
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# Principles of Conduct

## Safety

1. My first responsibility is the health and safety of all participants.
2. It is recommended that coaches become certified in the basic first aid and are aware of their club, league or state requirements in this area.
3. Be prepared to handle first aid situations as well as medical emergencies at all practices and games, both home and away:
  - Have and know how to use a properly supplied first aid kit/ice
  - 911 emergency procedures/telephone location
  - location of nearest emergency medical facilities
  - always carry emergency medical release forms and team safety and information cards
  - follow up all injuries with parents/guardians
4. Know and understand the Laws of the Game
5. Inspect players' equipment and field conditions for safety reason
6. Utilize proper teaching and instructing of players regarding safe techniques and methods of play
7. Implement appropriate training programs to make sure players are fit for practice and competition.
8. Supervise and control your players so as to avoid injury situations.

## Player Development

1. Develop the child's appreciation of the game.
2. Keep winning and losing in proper perspective
3. Be sensitive to each child's development needs.
4. Educate the players to the technical, tactical, physical and psychological demands of the game for their level.
5. Implement rules and equipment modification according to the players age group.
6. Allow players to experience all positions.
7. Players need to have fun and receive positive feedback.
8. Practice should be conducted in the spirit of enjoyment and learning.
9. Provide the appropriate number of training sessions and games according to the player's stage of development.
10. Strive to help each player reach his or her full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.

## Ethics

1. Strive to maintain integrity within our sport.
2. Know and follow all rules and policies set forth by clubs, leagues, state, and national associations.
3. Work in the spirit of cooperation with officials, administrators, coaches and spectators to provide the participants with the maximum opportunity to develop.
4. Be a positive role model
5. Set the standard for sportsmanship with opponents, refereed, administrators and spectators.
6. Keep sort in proper perspective with education.
7. Encourage moral and social responsibility
8. Just say no to drugs and alcohol.
9. Coaches should continue their own education in the sport.

**Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association  
Code of Conduct**

**Acceptance of this Code of Conduct is a condition of membership and participation in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (“GAASA”). Clubs that are members of GAASA (“Club”) are required to sign this Code of Conduct on behalf of the Club, as well as require that all Club coaches, players, and the players’ parents or legal guardians sign this Code of Conduct.**

Participation in GAASA-sponsored activities play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in GAASA-sponsored activities should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

Participation in GAASA-sponsored activities is also a privilege granted by GAASA, and its state and national affiliations. For purposes of this Code of Conduct, “GAASA-sponsored activities” shall include activities sponsored by or affiliated with GAASA, the Ohio Youth Soccer Association-North, U.S. Youth Soccer Association and/or the U.S. Soccer Federation. Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct and/or generally accepted standards of community citizenship can result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to the revocation of the participant’s membership in GAASA and/or the Club.

**I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a GAASA-sponsored activity and shall conform my behavior to the following Code of Conduct:**

1. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored event.
2. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity.
3. I will not, nor will I permit or encourage any other person, to use drugs or alcohol while at a GAASA-sponsored activity and will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in a GAASA-sponsored activity while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, the use of profanity at a GAASA-sponsored activity.
5. I will treat, and will encourage my child to treat, every coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or ability.
6. I will not engage in, nor encourage any other person to engage in, verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity.
7. I will not initiate, nor encourage any other person to initiate, a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee of a GAASA-sponsored activity.

**I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the foregoing Code of Conduct while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a GAASA-sponsored activity, I will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to revocation of membership in GAASA and/or the Club. Further, I understand that similar disciplinary action may be taken by GAASA and/or the Club if my conduct in activities not sponsored by GAASA are considered to bring discredit to GAASA and/or the Club.**

**In addition to the above, any member of GAASA who is convicted for any crimes as defined in the Ohio Revised Code-Section 109.572(a)(1) will be subject to immediate revocation of all GAASA membership privileges.**

**We, the undersigned, have read, understand and agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct. We also agree to accept actions taken by GAASA and/or the Club for failure to conform to the Code of Conduct.**

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant’s Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian’s Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant’s Signature and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian’s Signature and Date

## **ARTICLE XXXIII - DISCIPLINARY RULINGS AND PUNISHMENTS**

**Section 1** Member clubs will be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, managers, club officials, and spectators. Member clubs are responsible to ensure that disciplinary actions and punishments of the association towards players, coaches, managers, club officials and, spectators of said club are enforced.

**Section 2** If any of the above engages in un-sportsmanlike conduct (as defined by F.I.F.A.) before, during, or after any game, the Disciplinary Committee will take such appropriate action as deemed necessary.

**Section 3** Initiation of disciplinary procedures can occur from a referee report or an official protest.

**Section 4** The Disciplinary Committee will notify the offender, by mail, as to any disciplinary taken against him/her.

**Section 5** The Executive Board, has the right to contact any necessary individual, in writing, involved in an incident, advising of the time and place of a hearing for additional clarification of an incident, prior to making a ruling. Failure to appear at a scheduled hearing will result in a forfeiture of all rights to protest or appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

**Section 6** In the event a player is confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offense listed below

- a) Violent Conduct;
- b) Serious Foul Play;
- c) Use of abusive language
- d) Striking, pushing, physical abuse or threatening physical abuse (as defined by F.I.F.A.) in any manner against or at any player.

Then, the player shall be disciplined as follows:

a) First Offense:

Player may receive a minimum of a two-game suspension for that offense effective the next scheduled game, and may be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action, for each succeeding offense within the same season for the following offenses:

b) Second Offense:

Player may be suspended for six months from participating in the League's activities in any form effective as of the date of the letter notifying said player of the disciplinary action.

c) Third Offense:

Player may be suspended for one year from participation in the League's activities in any form effective as of the date of the letter notifying said player of the disciplinary action.

**Section 7** Player may receive a minimum of a one-game suspension effective the next scheduled game for the following offenses:

- a) Receives a second caution in the same match
- b) Spits at or near any player, coach, official, or spectator

- c) Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (not applicable to a goalkeeper in his/her penalty area)
- d) Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent who is moving toward the offending player's goal by an offense that is punishable under F.I.F.A. rules by a free kick or a penalty kick
- e) Uses offensive or insulting language
- f) Making threatening gestures against other players, officials, coaches, and/or spectators

**Section 8** Any player found to be playing illegally after an ejection would automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) additional games succeeding the first offense.

**Section 9** In the event a player, coach, manager, club official or spectator is confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offense listed below in any form directed at or toward the referee (whether scheduled or acting), before during or after the game:

- a) Pushing
- b) Striking
- c) Spitting
- d) Physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse (as defined by F.I.F.A.)

He/she will be immediately referred to OYSAN for adjudication. The penalties handed down by OYSAN will be supported by the GAASA.

**Section 10** In the event a player, coach, manager, club official, or spectator is confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to have committed an offense listed below in any form directed at or toward other coaches, manager, or other club officials before during or after the game:

- a) Pushing
- b) Striking
- c) Spitting
- d) Physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse (as defined by U.S.S.F.)

He/she will be disciplined as follows:

- a) Will receive a minimum of a one-year (12-month) suspension effective immediately

**Section 11** Any coach or club official who orders his team off the field during a game and refuses to complete the game will be disciplined according to the following schedule:

- a) First Offense. He/she will be placed on probation for one (1) year from the date of the letter.
- b) Second Offense. He/she will be prohibited from assuming any position of leadership within the league for a minimum of one (1) year from the date of the letter. Position of leadership shall be defined as being a coach, assistant coach, manager, club representative, committee chairman, or elected official.

**Section 12** No player/coach may play in a game without a player/coach pass. Any player/coach found guilty of playing/coaching with a false player/coach pass or with a suspended player/coach pass will be considered an ineligible player/coach and the team he played/coached on shall forfeit the game(s) in which he played/coached by a score of 0-4. The player/coach will be subject to further disciplinary action.

**Section 13** Falsification of records of players, scores, etc., including a player who plays for more than one team in a division in violation of the League rules, will be grounds for disciplinary action as follows:

a) First Offense.

- 1) Player may be suspended from playing on any League team for up to one year
- 2) The team may forfeit the games that the illegal player played
- 3) The team (and the team players) may be suspended for up to one year
- 4) The Club may have its bond forfeited

b) Second Offense

- 1) All of the penalties above for the first offense, in addition, the player, team, and/or club may be suspended for up to five (5) years. After the five (5) year suspension, the suspended party(s) must officially reapply to the Executive Committee for league membership prior to being reinstated.

**Section 14** Any team found to be in violation of Article XXXV, Section 9, shall forfeit the game(s) in which the violation(s) occurred.

**Section 15** Any member who is determined to have violated either the Constitution or the Bylaws of this association subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

**Section 16** All players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, club officials or spectator may also be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate state, federal, or national governing bodies and any disciplinary actions by such organizations shall be separate and additional to any disciplinary action taken by the association pursuant to these bylaws.

**Section 17** All disciplinary actions taken that would not normally be fulfilled during the current season will carry over into the succeeding seasons.

## The Ten Commandments for Soccer Parents

(Adapted from "The Ten Commandments for Hockey Parents")

Courtesy of [Skate Town](#) - *Put Some Excitement In Your Life*

- Thou shalt not impose your ambitions on thy child** Improvement and progress occur at different rates for each individual. Don't judge your child's progress based on the performance of others, and don't push based on what you think they should be doing.
- Thou shalt be supportive no matter what.** There is only one question to ask your child - Did you have fun? If games and practices are not fun, your child should not be forced to participate.
- Thou shalt not coach your child.** Do not undermine the coach by coaching your child on the side. Your job is to support and love your child and the coach is responsible for the technical part of the job.
- Thou shalt have only positive things to say at a soccer game.** If you are going to show up at a soccer game, cheer and applaud, but never criticize. Always strive to set a good example for your child.
- Thou shalt acknowledge your child's fears.** A soccer game can be stressful. It is appropriate for your child to be anxious. Assure your child that the coach would not have suggested his or her playing position if you child was not ready for it.
- Thou shalt not criticize officials.** Don't criticize those who are doing their best.
- Honor thy child's coach.** The bond between coach and player is a special one which contributes to your child's success as well as fun. Do not criticize the coach in the presence of your child. It will only serve to hurt your child's game.
- Thy child shall have goals besides winning.** An honest effort, regardless of the outcome, is much more important than winning.
- Thou shalt place your child first above everything.** Ask yourself this question - Are your child's goals more important to you than they are to your child? Remember that the focus of youth sports should be fun. A child is constantly changing, and his/her goals, interests and participation in activities will change as well. Parents should remain flexible, patient and always supportive while their child strives to find his/her niche in life.
- Thou shalt not expect thy child to become an MLS or College star.** There are more than 3 million children playing soccer in America (and these numbers are conservative). The odds of your child becoming a star in the MLS/College are very slim. Soccer teaches self-esteem and fitness. It provides lifelong friendships and much, much more. Soccer builds good people and you should be happy that your child wants to participate.