

**SOSA District Development Rules & Regulations 2019**  
**As approved by the SOSA Operations Committee**

**Article 1. Categories and Divisions**

- 1) Subject to OS Published Rules, SOSA League may operate a district development competition for U9 to U12 teams within the Southern Ontario District of the Ontario Soccer Association, and to operate these competitions based on the TOLO approved by SOSA.

**Article 2. General**

- 1) A copy of the current Rules and Regulations shall be posted on the SOSA League web site.
- 2) The current Laws of the Game applicable in the Province of Ontario as described by OS will be used, except as noted in the SOSA League Rules Summary as published by the SOSA League.
- 3) The SOSA League Management Board shall inform Members of any changes to the Rules and Regulations within seven (7) days of their adoption and a consolidated copy of the amended Rules and Regulations, if any were adopted during the year, shall be provided to Members at the subsequent AGM of the SOSA League or an SGM convened to review League matters.
- 4) All fines resulting from breaches of rules identified in these Rules and Regulations, including those published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule shall be assessed against the Club.
- 5) All matters not included in these Rules and Regulations shall be dealt in accordance with OS Published Rules.

**Article 3. Membership Applications and Fees**

- 1) For the 2019 season, each member Club shall submit its Team entries, including all team fees, no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. An invoice will be sent to each club prior to the start of the season with the expectation the invoice will be paid upon receipt.
- 2) Withdrawals must be made through the SOSA League Management system (Web site).
- 3) For each Team withdrawn after May 1<sup>st</sup>, the SOSA League will fine the club the full team registration fee.
- 4) Any Club whose cheque is returned by the bank will be charged an administrative fee in accordance with the SOSA League Fines Schedule.

**Article 4. Team Eligibility Rules**

- 1) All SOSA League Clubs approved by SOSA to operate Youth teams may enter teams in any division of the SOSA District Development League. Clubs will self-select into which tiers they wish to enter teams.
- 2) Clubs may not enter under-age teams into divisions U9 to U12.

**Article 5. Registration of Players**

- 1) All players shall be registered with SOSA, through their respective Clubs, in accordance with OS Published Rules.

### **Article 6. Coaches and Other Team Officials**

- 1) Each Team must appoint a Head Coach. In accordance with OS Policies, all Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be fully certified in any of the following categories: OS Senior Community Coach and “Respect in Soccer”, or OS “Learning to Train” and “Respect in Soccer” and “Making Ethical Decisions” courses.
- 2) All Coaches and other Team Officials shall be registered with SOSA in accordance with OS Published Rules and shall be registered in the Team section of the SOSA League website.
- 3) The Head Coach is responsible for the activation of their Team on the SOSA League Management System on or before April 30 of each season. Failure to do so shall result in a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.

### **Article 7. Playing Up**

- 1) A player registered in the Under-8 to Under-12 age classifications may play for a team in a higher age classification:

Providing that:

- a) the player is playing for a team within the same Club
  - b) written permission from the Club's Technical Director or Club Head Coach has been submitted to the District Association
  - c) There are no more than two under aged players playing for each older aged team.
  - d) A player registered in the Under-7 or younger age classification may not play up to an older aged team.
- 2) A player who is registered to a team in a higher birth year may NOT play for a team in their own birth year. I.e. U10 player who is registered and playing U11, may not be called down to play U10 even though they meet the age requirements.
  - 3) A maximum of 2 players registered in a lower age classification may appear on any particular game day roster.
  - 4) Playing-up is controlled through the SOSA League Management System accessed through the SOSA League Web site. Once the player is approved by the Club, their name will appear on the game sheet with an indication they are a Play Up.
  - 5) A player may only play up to another team a maximum of 6 times per season.

### **Article 8. Game Sheets**

- 1) The names of all players and Team Officials participating in a game must be printed on the official game sheet as generated from the SOSA League Management System. SOSA will manually verify the registration status of any handwritten players once the game sheet is received. Players approved by their Clubs will be automatically printed on the game sheet.
- 2) Only 14 players may be listed on the game sheet and are eligible to play in the U9 and U10 divisions. Only 18 players may be listed on the game sheet and are eligible to play in the U11 and

U12 divisions. Only four (4) Team Officials may be listed on the game sheet, and one Team Official must sign the Team's Game sheet; the signature shall certify the eligibility of all players and officials whose names appear on the game sheet, to participate in that game. The names of players and Team Officials not present at the game should be crossed out on the game sheet. All players, and team officials, including call up's, whose names appear on the game sheet and are not crossed out, shall be deemed to have played, or participated in the game.

- 3) In the event that a game sheet cannot be printed from the SOSA League Management System due to technical difficulties, the team shall create a hand-written game sheet, or modify a copy of an old game sheet. SOSA will manually verify the registration status of the players once the game sheet is received.
- 4) Any Team that fails to produce a game sheet will be subject to a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.

**Article 9. Player Verification (U9 to U12 divisions)**

- 1) The checking of each player's valid OS Player Book against the game sheet is compulsory for all games, and shall be performed 15 minutes, or more, before the scheduled start-time of the game. Team Head Coaches are responsible to have each player's valid OS Player Book checked against the game sheet. Players not in possession of a valid OS Player Book are considered to be ineligible to play. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- 2) Each team will present its signed game sheet as well as all valid OS Player Book of those players participating in the game to a representative from the opposing team, who will verify the valid OS Player Book against the names on the game sheet.
- 3) After completion of this procedure, a Team Official will initial the game sheet in the appropriate box to certify that the card checking procedures were followed, and return the game sheet to the Referee, who shall retain it.
- 4) The Referee will note all questions regarding a player's eligibility, or the validity of a player's OS Player on the game sheet, and the player concerned must sign and enter his / her date of birth on the game sheet.
- 5) A player arriving after the player verification is completed may play but must first report to the representative from the opposing team. A player arriving after the second half of the game has started is ineligible to play.
- 6) In exceptional circumstances where a team official who is in possession of valid OS Player Book fails to appear for inspection prior to 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, the game shall not be played. The League will review these cases and may determine that the game shall be rescheduled to a later date.
- 7) Any player whose name does not appear on the game sheet or who does not have their valid OS Player Book is ineligible to play. Such players must change out of uniform and leave the players' bench, or the Team's technical area.
- 8) Any Team that fails to produce the required valid OS Player Book will be subject to a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule. The team Officials may also be required to attend a Discipline Hearing.

- 9) Any Team Head Coach who permits an opposing team player, who is not in possession of their valid OS Player Book to play, without noting a protest to the players eligibility on the game sheet prior to kick off, will be subject to a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule. The Team Head Coach may also be required to attend a Discipline Hearing.

#### **Article 10: Player Eligibility**

- 1) No more than 14 players may participate in any U9 or U10 game and no more than 18 players may participate in any U11 or U12 game.
- 2) Players registered to player pools not playing in an Ontario Soccer league are not permitted to play in the District Development League;
- 3) Where it comes to the attention of the SOSA League, through any means, that one or more unregistered or ineligible players have allegedly participated in a game, the SOSA League may investigate and take appropriate disciplinary action.
- 4) Any Team playing an unregistered or ineligible player will be subject to a disciplinary hearing. The Team and its Officials will be assessed penalties that the Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with OS Published Rules as well as any applicable fines as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.
- 5) Any team playing an unregistered or ineligible or suspended player under the name of one of its other registered players and any person aiding or abetting such action shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing. The Team, its Officials or players will be assessed penalties that the Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with OS Published Rules as well as any applicable fines as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.

#### **Article 11. Submission of Game Reports and Scores**

- 1) There will be no standings and no recording of game results. There will only be a schedule, published in the usual way. Referees will file incident reports, and any incident reports will be forwarded for handling under the OS discipline process.
- 2) The Referee must mail, fax or deliver to the SOSA League Office the paper copy of all game sheets and permits as well as any player documentation retained in accordance with Article 9.04 within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game. A Referee, who fails to submit the required documents within 72 hours of the date of the game, shall be reported to SOSA for discipline.

#### **Article 12. Equipment**

- 1) At each game, the home team shall put up two sets of nets and four corner flags whose height above ground must be at least five (5) feet. The home team shall also provide two game balls that are acceptable to the Referee. Failure of the home team to provide the required equipment shall result in fines as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.
- 2) The game balls size shall be size 4.
- 3) All Teams must register their regular team colours with the League prior to the start of the League schedule. Where the Referee decides that the team colours conflict, the home team is required to

change to an alternate jersey, providing that the visiting team's colours are as filed with the SOSA League and if not, the visiting Team shall change its shirts. The goalkeepers' jersey colour must be different from that of either team. It is the responsibility of the Coach of the Team that is required to change, to have alternate shirts available at each game and failure to do so shall result in fines as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.

- 4) All players on the same team, except the goalkeeper, shall wear shirts of the same colour, which must be numbered on the back. Numbers must be at least eight inches in height. No two players may wear the same number. Players' numbers must be recorded on the game sheet and cannot be changed after the start of the game without the referee's permission.
- 5) Safety or protective equipment may be worn after inspection by the Referee and only if the Referee deems that the wearing of such equipment will not constitute a danger to other players.
- 6) All teams will have a First Aid Kit at every game.
- 7) All teams will have a copy of the District Development League Rules and Regulations at every game.

#### **Article 13. Duration of Games**

- 1) Games shall be of the following duration:
  - U9 and U10: Two x 25-minute halves; and
  - U11 and U12: Two x 35-minute halves.

#### **Article 13. Responsibilities of Coaches and Team Officials**

- 1) Only the fourteen (14) players for U9 and U10 games, and eighteen (18) players for U11 and U12 games, and a maximum of four (4) Team Officials are permitted to sit on the Team bench or within the designated technical area. All substitute players and Team Officials shall confine themselves to their designated technical or bench area as defined in Article 13.01.
- 2) No Coach or Team Official may enter the field of play at any time without the prior approval of the Referee.
- 3) No Coach or Team Official has the right to withdraw their Team or any of their players from the field of play without the prior approval of the Referee.
- 4) Each Team shall ensure that its spectators sit on the side of the field opposite from the side where the players and Team Officials are located.
- 5) Clubs and Team Officials are fully responsible, at all times, for the conduct of their players, other Team Officials and spectators, at and in the vicinity of any game in which their Team participates.
- 6) A player, Coach or other Team Official who tries or does impede, harass or otherwise intimidate a game official or opposing Team Officials, shall be subject to severe disciplinary action. The Team and its Officials will be assessed penalties that the SOSA League Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with OS Published Rules, as well as any applicable League fines and bonds as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.

- 7) In the event of an altercation on the field of play, anyone from the bench entering the field of play during the altercation, for whatever reasons, shall be subject to severe disciplinary action. The players and the Team Officials will be assessed penalties that the SOSA League Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with OS Published Rules, and any applicable fines as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.
- 8) Any suspended Team Official may not be present at or in the vicinity of the field for any League game throughout the period of his/her suspension. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in further disciplinary action and a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.

**Article 14. Game Start Times and Abandoned Games**

- 1) Teams are required to present themselves at the game field at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and the home team shall ensure that the nets, corner flags and other necessary equipment are installed and ready before the scheduled kick-off.
- 2) Any Team that causes a game to be delayed beyond the scheduled kick-off time shall be subject to a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.
- 3) Any team that fails to present itself at the game field within 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time or fails to field the minimum five (5) players, within 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time shall be considered to have failed to appear for a scheduled game. The Team must start the game immediately upon arrival of the minimum number of players if the said players arrive within the prescribed 20-minute grace period.
- 4) At the end of the grace period, the Team shall be subject to a fine and costs as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.
- 5) If both Teams fail to appear for a scheduled game, both teams will be fined as per Article 14.04 of the SOSA League District Development Rules and Regulations.
- 6) If in the opinion of the Referee, a game should be abandoned due to adverse or dangerous weather such as in the case of electrical storms, unplayable field conditions or bad visibility, before the completion of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total regular playing time as specified in Article 13.01 of the District Competitive League Rules and Regulations, the game shall be rescheduled. Games abandoned in the last  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the regular playing time shall be deemed as complete.
- 7) If a Referee decides to abandon a game at any time due to the actions of players, officials or spectators/supporters of a Team, the said Team players and Team Officials will be subject to a disciplinary hearing and will be assessed penalties that the SOSA League Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with OS Published Rules as well as any applicable fines as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.
- 8) If a game has to be abandoned by the Referee at any time because a team removes itself from the field, and said team is found by the SOSA League Discipline Committee to have abandoned the game without valid justification, any applicable fines as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule shall also be assessed. The Team Head Coach or the next most senior Team Official whose name and signature appears on the game shall be deemed to have acted in a manner detrimental to the game and the applicable penalties as per OS Published Rules shall apply.

### **Article 15. Schedules**

- 1) The season shall begin in May on a date to be determined by the SOSA League Management Board. Notice of the season start date will be provided to member clubs no later than May 1st.
- 2) The End of Season date for all SOSA League District Development divisions shall be 11:59 P.M. of the first Sunday after the Labour Day long weekend. All games must be completed by this date, except where the SOSA League, League Management Board extends the season for any/all SOSA League divisions. The reasons for any such extension, and the period of the extension, will be communicated to affected clubs and teams at the earliest opportunity.

### **Article 16. Substitutions**

- 1) Player substitutions shall be permitted with the consent of the Referee during any stoppage of play.

### **Article 17. Referees**

- 1) Referees shall be appointed in accordance with the SOSA League Referee Appointment Policy.
- 2) Referees are required to be at the assigned game field a minimum of thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time to complete the standard field check and other pre-game procedures. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action by SOSA.
- 3) Referees assigned for District Development League games, shall be paid for their services in accordance with the fee schedule detailed in the SOSA League Terms of League Operations.
- 4) If one of the Teams raises objections as to field conditions, goalposts, balls or team colours, the Referee may, at his discretion, require the responsible Team to correct the cause of the objection, if this is possible without unduly delaying progress of the game. The Referee shall be the sole judge as to whether the matters that gave rise to the objection by one of the Teams, is sufficient cause to abandon the game.
- 5) In the event that the appointed Referee fails to appear by the appointed kick-off time, the Home Team will make every attempt to contact an OS registered Referee as required for the level of match. If no OS registered Referee can be contacted the team officials from both teams may decide whether or not to proceed with the game under the officiating of a cooperatively chosen individual(s).
- 6) The Referee shall ensure that the well-being of the players is given priority over the progress of the game. Consequently, the Referee must suspend play or abandon the game, if necessary, where weather conditions, and more particularly thunderstorms, or field conditions place the safety of players at risk.

### **Article 18. Discipline**

- 1) Disciplinary action shall be taken in accordance with OS Published Rules and the SOSA League Discipline Procedures. The following guidelines will apply:
  - a) In cases where OS Published Rules provide for Discipline by Review (DBR), the accused player or Team/Club Official does not have to appear for a hearing. If the accused person does not request a hearing or does not file an appeal within seventy-two (72) hours of the game where

the offence occurred, not including weekends or statutory holidays, he/she may be found guilty and the applicable penalties and/or fines, established by OS for the offence for which he/she has been charged shall apply.

- b) Any request for a hearing shall be submitted by email to the SOSA League Administrator within 48 hours of the game where the offence occurred. A Hearing Fee of fifty dollars (\$50) in the form of a certified cheque or money order payable to SOSA, must be delivered by registered mail, recognized courier service or hand delivered to the League Office within 48 hours, not including weekends or statutory holidays, of the completion of the game. The hearing fee shall be reimbursed only if the Discipline Panel finds the accused not guilty. An accused who has requested a hearing and fails to appear for the hearing shall forfeit the Hearing Fee.
- 2) Where OS Published Rules provide for Discipline by Hearing (DBH), and where the SOSA League Management Board has delegated to the SOSA League the authority to handle all discipline pertaining to league activities, except where the offence was directed at a game official, the SOSA League Management Board shall appoint a Discipline Committee or Panel to hold a hearing and deal with the alleged infractions.
- 3) Where disciplinary action results are a suspension, the suspension shall not commence prior to seven (7) calendar days from the issue of the notice of discipline. For example, a player issued with a suspension notice on Friday would serve the suspension for the game(s) scheduled on or after the following Friday.
  - a) Where a player is suspended for a game(s), and the game is cancelled, or not played, the suspension will carry over to the next scheduled game(s); and
  - b) If a game is started, then abandoned, based on a decision of the referee, the players suspension is deemed to have been served.
- 4) All players attending a Disciplinary Hearing must be accompanied by an adult who shall act as an advisor, failing which, the hearing will not proceed, and the player shall be suspended until the hearing is held.
- 5) Clubs shall ensure that accused players and Team/Club Officials appear for their Disciplinary Hearing. If, upon being advised of the failure of the accused to appear for their hearing, the Club fails in meeting its responsibility within 30 days of the date of the original hearing, the fine published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule, shall be assessed against the Club.

#### **Article 19. Appeals**

- 1) Appeals of any decisions by the SOSA League Management Board, a Disciplinary Panel of the League or one of the District Associations shall be dealt with by OS in accordance with its Published Rules. Information concerning Appeals can be found on the SOSA League website.

#### **Article 20. Club Representatives**

- 1) A Club that is accepted into membership shall designate up to three individuals as its Club Representative(s). The Club Representative(s) shall be the official point of contact in dealings with the SOSA League and will be available for duties in the operation of the League that may be assigned from time to time by the SOSA League Management Board.



## **Article 21. Communications**

- 1) SOSA shall mainly use its web-based league management system for all communications with its member Clubs, and their team officials. Communications shall be by e-mail. Clubs shall ensure they have valid email addresses in the league management system at all times for the following positions, as a minimum:
  - a) President;
  - b) Club Administrator;
  - c) Club Representative;
  - d) Treasurer;
  - e) Discipline Representative; and
  - f) Scheduler.
- 2) Unless specified otherwise in these rules and regulations (e.g. rescheduling of games), communication with SOSA by players, parents, or team officials is not permitted. Questions, complaints, concerns, and other matters must be communicated to the appropriate Club representative. If, in the opinion of the Club, the matter should be addressed by the SOSA League, then the Club shall forward the communication to the SOSA League, requesting league action. Failure to follow this process will result in the communication being discarded by the SOSA League without further notice to the originator, and may result in a fine to the Club as specified in the published schedule of SOSA League Fines.
- 3) Teams shall ensure they have valid email addresses in the league management system from April 30 until October 1 of each season for the following positions, as a minimum:
  - i. Head Coach; and
  - ii. Manager.
- 4) At a minimum, the Club President, and Club Representative shall be notified by e-mail, of all new general notices or notices that pertain to their Club teams that are posted from time to time on the SOSA League Web site.
- 5) At a minimum, the Team Head Coach and Manager shall be notified by e-mail, of all new general notices or notices that pertain to their teams that are posted from time to time on the SOSA League Web site.
- 6) Notices of suspensions, penalties or fines levied on a Club, Club Administrator, Team Staff or Player as a result of discipline hearings shall be communicated to the Club.
- 7) The e-mail shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
  - March 2 to September 30 - 72 hours after transmittal of the e-mail: and
  - October 1 to March 1 - 7 days after transmittal of the e-mail.
- 8) The e-mail shall be deemed to have been received by Teams:
  - May 1 to October 1 - 72 hours after transmittal of the e-mail; and
  - October 2 to April - no e-mails will usually be sent to teams other than for informational purposes.

## **Article 22. Pre-Season Meetings**

- 1) Administrators Pre-season Meeting - In March or April of each season there will be a mandatory pre-season meeting for a minimum of one (1) Administrator from each member Club. Clubs failing to send a representative to the Administrator Pre-Season Meeting shall be assessed a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.
  
- 2) Team Pre-season Meeting - In May of each season there will be a mandatory pre-season meeting for a minimum of one (1) team staff from each team. Clubs failing to send one (1) representative per team to the Team Pre-Season Meeting shall be assessed a fine as published in the SOSA League Fines Schedule.