

SOSA League Rescheduling Policy (implemented in 2027)

The League schedule is the official schedule and is the responsibility of both teams. **Rescheduling is an exception to the published schedule, not an entitlement to change a game whenever a team or its players would prefer a different date.** The purpose of this policy is to provide teams with reasonable flexibility while ensuring that League games are completed in an organized, timely, and predictable manner.

- A. The schedule will be posted by May 1st. Teams have until the first day of the season, as posted on the LMS, to request the rescheduling of **one or two games, if needed**. Preseason rescheduling is intended for significant, foreseeable conflicts such as graduation, exams, or numerous players being away during the same week. Within 14 days of the request, or by May 31st, *whichever comes first*, teams must submit all final details of the rescheduled game (*Date, Time, Field, and Game Number*) to the SOSA League Manager via Google Form. The May 31st deadline applies to all preseason reschedules, regardless of when the request was made.
- B. After the season begins, each team will have one reschedule to use in the event of unforeseen circumstances that leave the team without the minimum required number of players. (*See Rule 14.03 for minimum player numbers.*) This request must be made more than seven calendar days before the scheduled game. This request must be made to the SOSA League Manager for approval before contacting the other team. No reschedule requests will be accepted after July 31st.
- C. After the season begins, all games will be played as scheduled unless:
 - Postponement is necessary due to severe weather or unsafe field conditions. **This decision is made at the field, at game time, by the Referee. Only the District can cancel a game for impending severe weather ahead of game time.**
 - A game is postponed at the discretion of the League.
 - A game is postponed at the discretion of the community or school district responsible for the field.
 - The referee does not show up within 20 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, and no other referee is available to replace him/her.
 - **Teams may not cancel a game themselves** because of weather, field conditions, player availability, or any other circumstance without SOSA approval.

Request to Reschedule – Exceptional Reasons - Pre-season Approval Required

- D. A team may *request* to reschedule additional game(s) **only** for the following reasons:
 - 1) A team has two or more of its players selected to participate with a CSA, OS, or District team or participate in University Tryouts within 24 hours of a scheduled League game, and the Team provides at least 48 hours' notice to the SOSA League Manager to have the game postponed.
 - 2) A team is scheduled to participate in an Ontario Cup game 60 hours before a scheduled SOSA League game, and the Team provides at least seven days' notice to the SOSA League Manager that it requests to have the game postponed.
 - 3) A team may submit an exemption request by email due to complete teams traveling (*not longer than three weeks*). Requests received after May 1st will not be accepted.
 - 4) A team that has Monday night as its regular game night may submit one additional exception request due to a team's entry into a tournament on the preceding weekend. The SOSA League may request a copy of the tournament entry form to verify the request. All other rescheduling rules and dates apply.**All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for approval. Teams using one of the reasons in Section D must get approval before beginning the reschedule process with the other team.**
- E. **Reschedules of games postponed due to weather or field conditions must be arranged and submitted within 14 calendar days of the original game.**
- F. If a game in a U18 division is cancelled after August 20th and has no bearing on standings, SOSA *may* give the teams the option not to record the match, resulting in no points awarded to either team. Consequently, the standings will reflect that both teams have played one fewer game than the rest.

Please follow these steps and timelines. Track all communication.

- 1) The home team sends three reasonable dates for the rescheduled game to the away team within five business days (*please count business days to allow for communication with the Club*).
- 2) The away team responds within three business days of these dates being sent.
- 3) All details of the rescheduled game (Date, Time, Field, and Game Number) are sent to the League Manager once they are finalized. The entire reschedule process must **not** take more than 14 calendar days.
- 4) Please work cooperatively with the other team to finalize details.
- 5) Teams are expected to consider using their scheduled practice time to play a rescheduled game when that option is reasonably available.

If there are difficulties finding a date, please communicate with the SOSA League Manager. There is a fine of \$100 charged to both teams for not completing a reschedule within 14 days unless these circumstances have been communicated before the deadline. (i.e., if one of the above time frames is not met, inform the League Manager)

Failure to Reschedule a Game

If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date within 14 days of the request's approval, the team that initiated the reschedule must notify SOSA via email and include documentation of their attempts to find a new date. SOSA intervention is a **last resort** and does not create an additional reschedule opportunity for either team. SOSA will then evaluate whether the teams made reasonable efforts to reschedule and will take the following action:

SOSA Opinion on Reasonable Attempts	Action Taken
Both teams made reasonable attempts.	SOSA will ask the Home Team for three potential dates and require the Away Team to select one.
Only the Home Team made reasonable attempts.	SOSA will ask the Home Team for one date and schedule the game accordingly.
Only the Away Team made reasonable attempts.	SOSA will ask the Away Team for one date at their home field and schedule the game accordingly.
Neither team made reasonable attempts.	The game will be cancelled, no points will be awarded to either team, and both Clubs will be charged with forfeiting the game.

Note: SOSA retains sole discretion in judging what constitutes “reasonable attempts.”

Version 4	Sept. 2026	Implemented pilot project with Blackout dates
Version 5	Sept. 2027	Remove Blackouts, add two preseason and one in-season request to reschedule, define “reasonable attempts” and consequences for inability to reschedule