

LONDON AND AREA WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS
Revised 2017

RULE 1 - LEAGUE STRUCTURE	1
RULE 2 - TEAM REGISTRATION	2
RULE 3 - TEAM REGULATIONS.....	3
RULE 4 - PLAYER REGULATIONS	3
RULE 5 - COACH REGULATIONS.....	3
RULE 6 - GROUNDS.....	3
RULE 7 - GAMES, GAME SHEETS & SCHEDULING	4
RULE 8 - REFEREE	6
RULE 9 - MISCONDUCT	6
RULE 10 - CUPS AND TOURNAMENTS	7
RULE 11 - OTHER MATTERS.....	7
RULE 12 - FEES, FINES & BONDS.....	8

RULE 1 - LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 1.1.1 The League shall consist of a Premier Division, a First Division, a Second Division and Third Division if necessary of competitively registered players. As well a Recreation Division and an Over 30 Division of recreationally registered players has been added.
- 1.1.2 A maximum of two (2) teams from the same Club will be allowed to play in any division or section of a division in the League.
- 1.1.3 When there are two (2) teams from the same Club in any Division of the League, then the first two League games of the season for those two teams, shall be against each other, i.e. home & away basis. Should there need to be a third League game between the two teams i.e. In case of a shortage of teams in a division, then that game shall be the third game of the season.
- 1.1.4 When there are two (2) teams from the same Club in any Division, then should it ever be proven that there was or strong evidence to suggest that there appeared to be any collusion between the two teams to affect the League standing of one or both teams, then the Club shall be expelled from the League. Such decision on whether to expel the Club shall be made by EMSA Council.
- 1.1.5 In accordance with OSA Policies, when there are two (2) teams from the same Club in any Division of the League, then there shall be no player movement whatsoever between those two teams.
- 1.1.6 In all League games, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie. No points shall be awarded for a loss. The team obtaining the most points shall be declared Division champions.
- 1.1.7 In determining championship and relegation where the point total is equal, the position shall be decided on goal average. Goal average shall mean goals for divided by goals against. The highest average shall decide. If a tie remains, there shall be a play-off game.

1.2.0 Premier Division:

- 1.2.1 The Premier Division shall comprise of competitively registered teams.
- 1.2.2 All teams must play on a field as approved by the executive committee.
- 1.2.3 The team finishing first in the division shall be declared the champion.
- 1.2.4 The bottom team in this division shall be relegated to the next lower division of the League.
- 1.2.5 The Division should be composed of no less than ten (10) teams, In the event of a vacancy the League may fill the position by promoting an additional team from the next lowest division or retaining the team being relegated.
- 1.2.6 All other sections of the constitution will apply.

1.3.0 First Division and subsequent Competitive Divisions:

- 1.3.1 These divisions shall comprise of competitively registered teams.
- 1.3.2 The team finishing first shall be declared the champion and promoted to the next highest division.
- 1.3.3 The two (2) teams finishing last will be relegated to the next lowest competitive division or, to the recreational division if requested.
- 1.3.4 Should any division be split, the Executive committee shall make the decision as to which area the teams shall play.
- 1.3.5 Should the division be divided into two (2) sections, the team finishing first and at the top of each section shall be declared section divisional champion and promoted to the next highest division for the ensuing soccer season.

LONDON AND AREA WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

Revised 2017

- 1.3.6 The Division should be composed of no less than ten (10) teams, In the event of a vacancy the League may fill the position by promoting an additional team from the next lowest division or retaining the team being relegated.
- 1.3.7 New teams may apply to play in the lowest competitive division, however competitive divisional placement may be decided at the council's discretion.
- 1.3.8 All other sections of the constitution will apply.

1.4.0 Recreational Division:

- 1.4.1 The Recreational Division shall be comprised of recreational registered teams.
- 1.4.2 If enough teams register to split the division, the Executive committee shall make the decision as to which area the teams shall play.
- 1.4.3 Should the division be divided into two (2) sections, the team finishing first and at the top of each section shall be declared section divisional champion.
- 1.4.4 Any new team(s) as well as teams from the Recreational Division may apply to the lowest competitive division

1.5.0 Over 30 Division:

- 1.5.1 The Over 30 Division shall be comprised of recreational registered teams.
- 1.5.2 If enough teams register to split the division, Section 1.4.2 and 1.4.3 will apply.

1.6.0 Communications:

- 1.6.1 All communications to the League, unless otherwise stipulated, shall be served to the person or persons designated by the Executive Committee.
- 1.6.2 League correspondence from the League to any team or individual shall be served through the contact person of the team in membership.
- 1.6.3 All correspondence shall be sent to the e-mail address provided to the league of the party for who intended. Correspondence may be by registered mail to the address provided and the date of service shall be binding

1.7.0 League game changes:

- 1.7.1 Any League game postponed by officials or by a commitment to the Ontario Cup must be scheduled within ten (10) days of the originally scheduled date. The home team shall be responsible for making field arrangements for playing the game within this time frame. The home team must give all parties concerned i.e. the opposing team, League and any other party to be notified, three (3) days notice.
- 1.7.2 Teams entering the Ontario Cup competition shall notify the League at time of registration.

RULE 2 - TEAM REGISTRATION

- 2.1 Each team shall register with the League the following information:
 - Club
 - Two (2) Contact Names
 - Addresses
 - Telephone #
 - Email addresses
 - Name and location of their grounds
 - Team colours
- 2.2 All teams are required to play in their registered colours. In the event of a clash, the visiting team shall change to their alternate strip.
- 2.3 No team or club shall use a name similar to the name of another club in membership.
- 2.4 Any change in any of the above information shall be e-mailed to the League secretary within five (5) days of the change. It is the responsibility of the club to notify the other member clubs of any such changes. Failure to make such notification may result in disciplinary action being taken.

RULE 3 - TEAM REGULATIONS

- 3.1 Clubs fielding more than one (1) team shall adhere to the following:
- No player shall play for more than one (1) team on any day.
 - Play shall mean one game or any part thereof.
 - Player movement shall comply as published by the District Association.
 - There will be no downward movement of players.
 - For scheduled division play, no more than 3 players from other teams will be allowed to play on any one team at one time.
 - There shall be no movement of players with trial or temporary registration permit in games designated as Cup or Play-off competition.
 - Any club operating two (2) or more teams within the League shall submit a list of players registered with each team prior to the start of the season and again by July 1 each year.

RULE 4 - PLAYER REGULATIONS

- 4.1 In addition to players registered with them, and players with valid trial or temporary registration permits, teams may include players registered with a lower level team from within the same club. The number of players being used and not directly registered with the team may not exceed three (3) in any game.
- 4.2 For games designated as Cup or Play-off competitions, teams shall not include players with temporary registration permits or trial permits for players registered to other clubs.
- 4.3 The transfer or deregistration of players surplus to a team's requirements must be completed on or before July 31 of the current season.
- 4.4 New players may not be signed after August 31 of the current season.
- 4.5 A player shall have in his possession the following documents to be eligible to participate in any game of the LAWSL, an OSA player card authorized and validated by EMSA, and/or a temporary registration permit, and/or a trial permit as per current OSA player registration policies.
- 4.6 The deadline for player de-registration and player transfers shall be July 31st of the current outdoors season.

RULE 5 - COACH REGULATIONS

- 5.1 All Team Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must have an OSA Soccer For Life Coaching Certification.

RULE 6 - GROUNDS

- 6.1 All grounds shall be clearly marked and comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game. The home team must provide regulation goal nets and corner flags. The referee shall be the sole judge as to the playing condition of the field. Should the referee decide the ground is playable, no protest will be entertained!
- 6.2 Should the referee report any ground discrepancies, the team responsible will be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.3 Should the referee declare the grounds unfit for play, he shall be paid an amount equal to half the game fee and any travel expenses incurred.
- 6.4 Referees must inform the home team of any problems before the scheduled kick-off.

RULE 7 - GAMES, GAME SHEETS & SCHEDULING

- 7.1 Any team not fulfilling a fixture shall forfeit the game and be fined an amount agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting. The game shall be awarded to their opponents with a recorded score of 3 - 0.
- 7.2 Any team wishing to change game date, time and/or place, must obtain agreement in writing from their opponent. The agreement shall state the date, time and place that the game will take place and be accompanied by a change of game fee as decided upon at the Annual General Meeting. This information must reach the League's designated person ten (10) days prior to the request being implemented. Failure to comply with the foregoing may result in the change being denied. If agreement by both opponents can't be reached and a game cannot be played within the specified time frame, both teams will be fined in accordance with Section 12 Fees, Fines & Bonds and the game shown as not played.
- 7.3 Any team reported for delaying the kick-off time, shall be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting. Maximum delay shall be fifteen (15) minutes. The referee shall report the outcome of the game.
- 7.4 The home team shall provide an approved game ball to the referee prior to kick-off time.
- 7.5 All games shall be played under the laws of the game as approved by the Ontario Soccer Association.
- 7.6 Any team awarded a throw-in may substitute a player at this time. If a substitution is made, the opposing team may also substitute but only if the awarded team has done so.
- 7.7 Any team defaulting two (2) games in one season shall forfeit their membership and bond if applicable.
- 7.8 Any team dropping out of the League for any reason, all games played by that team shall be declared null and void and removed from the standings.
- 7.9 Any team, if found guilty of having played an ineligible player, shall be fined an amount as agreed upon by the Executive committee and the game awarded to their opponents. Should the team in question persist in using players who are not properly registered or ineligible to play in this League, the team may be expelled from the League.
- 7.10 In the event of any game being abandoned for any reason before the completion of regulation time, the Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on the disposition of the game. Should the abandonment be caused by any team walking off the field without permission of the referee, the team shall be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.11 The home team shall be responsible for all costs of playing the game. They shall ensure that the game officials are paid the game fee and travel expenses that are due. Such payment shall be made prior to or immediately following the game. Any monies collected at the gate shall be the property of the home team. The away team shall be responsible for its' own expenses.
- 7.12 Each team must complete four (3) copies of the team sheets for each game. The team sheet shall contain the team registration number and the full name, number and OSA Registration number of each player eligible to take part in the game. Not more than eighteen (18) player's names may appear on the team sheet. Only those players whose names appear on the team sheet may take part in the game. All players must have identification as authorized by the Ontario Soccer Association. Upon being completed after the game, the referee will provide a Copy to the Submitting Team and a Copy to the Opposing Team. The pink copy of the team sheet shall be given to the opposing team and may be exchanged with the opposing team at the end of the game. The referee will scan and email to be sent to the League's designated person (LAWSLinfo@gmail.com). These team sheets should be presented to the referee fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the game.
- 7.13 An official of each team may check the identifications of the opposing team prior to the scheduled kick-off. Any complaint regarding the eligibility of a player shall be reported to the referee prior to the start of the game. The game shall not be delayed for any reason. Players arriving at a later time must show their Player Card to the opposing coach/manager prior to taking part in the game.

LONDON AND AREA WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS
Revised 2017

- 7.14 Any player playing under trial permits, such permits shall be attached to the game sheets handed to the referee prior to the beginning of the game. Players from house lower level teams from within the same club must be identified on the team sheet with the letter "T".
- 7.15 The home team shall report the result of the game on-line at www.lawsl.ca, using their web access information no later than twelve (12:00) p.m. the morning following the game. Teams must report the game outcome whether the game has been completed or not. Names of scorers must be entered at this time. The away teams may confirm the game result and enter names of scorers, only after the home teams report has been completed. Failure to comply shall be dealt with as noted in Section 12.
- 7.16 Any team failing to show up for a scheduled game shall forfeit the game and be fined an amount as agreed upon at the Annual General Meeting. The game will be awarded to the opposing team with a recorded score of 3-0. The defaulting team shall be responsible for any fees payable to the game officials and any other expenses as determined by the Executive Committee.
- 7.17 The league reserves the right to refuse registration to any team not in good standing.
- 7.18 All teams shall honour the gate pass as issued by the League (if applicable) and of the District Association, O.S.A. and C.S.A. referee pass. Referees shall be given free entrance to all games upon producing a current Referee Registration Certificate as issued by the O.S.A. The visiting team shall be allowed free entry for twenty (20) persons. This includes players. The admission price shall be set at the Annual General meeting.
- 7.19 Kick-Off time shall be decided before the start of the season. The home team shall notify the League on the annual membership application form. The Final schedule shall be posted on the website. No further notification shall be considered necessary.
- 7.20 All games must start promptly and not later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time. Any breach of this rule will result in a fine and possible forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- 7.21 Any team wishing to change the date, time and/or place of the game, must obtain agreement in writing from their opponent. The agreement shall state the date, time and place that the game will take place and be accompanied by a change of game fee as decided upon at the Annual General Meeting. This information must reach the League's designated person ten (10) days prior to the request being implemented. Failure to comply with the foregoing may result in the change being denied. If not played within the specified time frame, both teams will be fined in accordance with Section 12 and the game shown as not played.
- 7.22 Any league game scheduled on the same date as an Ontario Cup game, said game must be re-scheduled within 10 days of the original scheduled game. No league games are to be scheduled within 48 hours of any presently scheduled game.
- 7.23 Failure of either team to agree on a date, time and location of a replay as in Section 7.20 shall require the League to set the replay. The game may be played on a neutral field in which case Section 7.23 will come into effect.
- 7.24 The expenses that are incurred resulting from the postponement and the rescheduling by the League, shall be borne by the home team.
- 7.25 Any team not represented at a Scheduling Meeting must accept any changes made at the meeting.

RULE 8 - REFEREE

- 8.1 All referees appointed to games under the jurisdiction of the League shall be selected from the official list of referees as published by the O.S.A. and provided by the local association.
- 8.2 Referees for all games shall be appointed by the Referee Co-coordinator for the League. Should the appointed referee be unable to officiate or fail to arrive, the teams may agree on a certified referee present at the game, to officiate. No complaints or protests can be made against that person.
- 8.3 Wherever possible, referee assistants will be appointed to Premier Division games if requested. Referee assistant will be appointed for any other division if requested by team.
- 8.4 The home team shall be responsible for payment of the game officials' fee and traveling expenses, with exception of cup games (refer to section 10.5). This fee shall be paid prior to or immediately after the game.
- 8.5 The referee shall keep accurate records of goals scored, names of goal scorers for all regularly scheduled games and all matters of misconduct incurred during the game. He shall submit the completed game sheets and game reports within forty-eight (48) hours of the finish of the game to the League's designated person in the address in the directory.
- 8.6 The fees payable to the referees shall be as agreed upon at the Annual General meeting.
- 8.7 No referee shall ask for, nor receive more, than the scheduled fee.
- 8.8 Game officials failing to carry out their assignments without giving adequate notice of their inability to do so, may render them liable for a fine equal to the game fee that they would have received. The fine shall be paid to the Association by the date specified in the notice who will then forward it to the League.

RULE 9 - MISCONDUCT

- 9.1 All matters requiring a hearing shall be dealt with by a Committee appointed for that purpose.
- 9.2 All member teams shall be responsible for the actions of their players, team officials and spectators.
- 9.3 All protests regarding the playing of a game must be made in writing and received by the League secretary. A protest must be delivered by postal or courier service and date stamped no later than seventy-two (72) hours of the end of the game, Saturdays, Sundays and Statutory Holidays excluded. A copy of the above protest must be sent to the opposing team within the above time frame by the team lodging the protest.
- 9.4 Any team forfeiting a game that directly and immediately affects the promotion, relegation, play-off or cup participation of any other team may pay a fine up to double the amount set out in Section 12 and may be suspended from the league for the next year as deemed fit by the executive after their review of the situation.
- 9.5 The letter of protest must be accompanied by the correct protest fee and the registration or courier receipt for the copy sent to the other party.
- 9.6 On receipt of a valid written protest or complaint, the Secretary will send a notice within ten (10) days of the date, time and location of the hearing. Such notice may be waived, in writing, by all parties to the hearing.
- 9.7 All valid protests shall be heard within three (3) weeks of being received by the Secretary.
- 9.8 Protests of games shall be made according to the rules of the competition in which the game is played.
- 9.9 In the event a protest is upheld, the protest fee shall be returned in full. In the event the protest is denied, the committee shall decide whether to return the protest fee in full or in part or to declare the protest fee forfeit.
- 9.10 Any protest fee, which is not submitted in compliance with the foregoing regulations, will be ruled out of order and will not be heard.
- 9.11 Any party to a hearing not satisfied with the decision of the committee has the right to appeal the decision to the District Association. Conditions for lodging the appeal is as included with the decision of the committee.

RULE 10 - CUPS AND TOURNAMENTS

10.1 The draw in the various cup competitions shall be as follows:

- Names of the teams shall be placed in a suitable container.
- The first team drawn shall be the home team, the second team drawn shall be the opponent.
- The draw shall continue in a like manner until all teams have been drawn.
- When a division is split into divisional sections these sections will play for a combined Division cup (i.e. 3rd west teams and 3rd east teams will play for the 3rd division cup)

10.2 If a game is tied at the end of regulation time, the teams shall play two (2) fifteen (15) minute overtime halves. The first goal scored during the overtime period shall be declared the winner (Golden Goal Rule) If the game is still tied at the end of overtime, the game shall be decided by taking kicks from the penalty spot as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

10.3 If, due to darkness, the referee decides there is not enough light for the regulation overtime, he may ask both teams to consider shortening the overtime halves or go directly to penalty kicks in order to complete the game.

10.4 In all games prior to the Final game, the home team shall pay all expenses and keep the gate receipts. The away team shall be responsible for their own expenses with the exception of the referee fees, which will be shared by both competing teams.

10.5 In all City Cup and/or other division Cup games, a referee and two (2) assistants will be required and appointed by the Referee Coordinator, with the exception of Rec cup games as no referee assistants are appointed until the final.

10.6 The League will provide the officials for the Final game. The League will provide the field and keep the gate receipts for the Final game.

10.7 Division Cups: Only those players registered with that division may play in a division cup
City Cup: Open to all competitive divisions

- A team may play for the City Cup and the Division Cup competition, if applicable
- A player will not be permitted to play for more than one (1) team in any cup competition.
- Clubs with two (2) teams entered into the City Cup may not play the same player on both teams.

10.8 Entries for all Cup competitions must be submitted at a date as decided upon by the Executive committee. In all other matters, Ontario Cup rules will apply. Tournaments shall not interfere with the team's commitment to the League. Each team in games designated as Final, shall provide a game ball to the game officials prior to the start of the game.

RULE 11 - OTHER MATTERS

11.1 The Executive Committee may add to these Rules and Regulations such rules as are required to ensure that all members are treated fairly and consistently, and to uphold the standards of the league.

11.2 Such rules may not violate the rights of others as imbedded in this constitution and its Rules and Regulations.

RULE 12 - FEES, FINES & BONDS

FEES:

Yearly Membership renewal	\$325
Protest	\$50
Admission price: Competitive (Max)	\$3
Recreational (Max)	\$2

FINES:

Any team reported for ground discrepancies	\$25
Any team reported for delaying the kick-off	\$25
Any team found guilty of playing an ineligible player Plus the coach will be suspended.	\$200
Abandoned games caused by walking off the field without permission of Referee subject to the decision of the Executive Committee	\$200
Forfeiting a game - <i>(Should a second offence occur, the offending team is Immediately expelled from the League)</i>	\$300
Ineligible / Suspended player	\$150
Failure to report score within the time frame required <i>(The fine may be doubled for any subsequent infractions)</i>	\$25
Game Changes after May 31 <u>(Not applicable to Ontario Cup Games)</u> <i>(The fine may be doubled for any subsequent infractions)</i>	\$50
Non-Attendance at a General, Special or Annual General Meeting	\$100
Failure to comply with Section 7.20. <i>(Both teams may be fined and Zero points awarded for either team)</i>	\$300

BONDS:

None

NOTE: Teams in breach of any article prescribed in the constitution are required to pay the respective fines/fees upon receipt of written notice of payment. Failure to comply with payment will result in double the fine