

# SPECIAL RULES FOR THE BCYSL

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Players must have a completed registration form to be assigned to any team and begin practices. Players must submit a birth certificate in order to be eligible for games. Once a player is assigned to a team for a season, they may continue to play for that team in subsequent seasons.
2. Players may not change rosters once regular season games begin, players may be added to rosters only if a team loses a player or if they begin with an inadequate number. The penalty for a coach playing players not assigned to his roster is forfeiture of the games in the event of a win and a reprimand of the coach whether the game was won or lost.
3. If the BCYSL Coaches Committee feels there is justification (advanced skill level, physical size, team number, equalization or parent coaching,) younger players may play up a division, but only with consent of both coach and parents. Coaches may not move a player up without BCYSL Coaches Committee consent. No child may play down a division!
4. Players on teams who participate in the last scheduled game for that day are expected to form a garbage detail over the premises so that we may have continued use of the facilities.
5. SPORTSMANSHIP is stressed and will be expected from all players, coaches, officials, and spectators. If an accumulation of four (4) warnings is given to any coach and/or bench throughout the season that coach will be asked to leave the league. Foul or abusive language by a player will be cause for an automatic caution (yellow card) unless deemed excessive by the referee and then it would result in a send-off (red card). Any such language by a coach or spectator will result in a verbal warning unless the referee deems excessive and then the coach or spectator will be ask to leave. The referee will supple the committee with names of coaches or spectators that receive warnings or are ask to leave.
6. RAIN POLICY – A decision will be made by the Program Coordinators regarding play in the rain, and radio announcements will be made beginning one (1) hour prior to the start of the first game if there is a postponement. If a game is in progress when it starts to rain, the official will determine the length of play. Games that are called off in the second half of the game will be considered played. Games called in the first half of play will be rescheduled and started from the beginning not from the point they were called.

## PLAY & GAME

1. The rulebook for the BCYSL will be the current issue of the FIFA laws of the game. The BCYSL Coaches Committee must approve any changes or adaptations of these rules
2. Field sizes are as follows:
  - a. U-8 Division – 40 yards by 60 yards
  - b. U-10 Division – 50 yards by 75 yards
  - c. U-12 , U-14 & U-18 Divisions – 60 yards by 110 yards
  - d. Goals for U-12, U-14, and U-18 divisions will be official size as stated in the designated rulebook. U-8 division will be 6 1/2 'high and 12' wide. U-10 division will be 6 1/2 'high and 18' wide.

3. Size 4 balls will be used in the U-8, U-10, and U-12 Divisions, while size 5 balls will be used in U-14 and U-18 Divisions.

4. Length of games: U-8 Division will play four (4) ten (10) minute quarters switching sides after the second quarter. U-10 Division play two (25) minute halves. U-12 Division will play two (30) minute halves. U-14 & U-18 Divisions will play two (35) minute halves. Each division is allowed unlimited substitution of Goals, Goal Kicks, own Throw-Ins, Injuries, and cautions (yellow cards). Each Division will have a five-minute half time break. If the Referee feels it is necessary due to heat, that a break is needed in the U-10, U-12, U-14, and U-18 they may stop midway through the half to allow a minute or two water break. In all Divisions the clock will stop only for injury, except for the last (5) five-minutes of the game when it will be stopped for injury, goals scored, penalty kicks, and yellow or red cards.
5. Regular season games that end in a tie will remain in a tie. Play-off games that end in a tie will be decided as stated in the designated rulebook of by the BCYSL Coaches Committee and officials prior to the beginning of playoffs.
6. U-14, and U-18 Divisions will play 11 v 11, but may start with as few as 7, in the spirit of the game, it is hoped that the opponent would play with an equal amount. However, the opponent may play with no more than two additional players (example: 11 v 10, 11 v9, 10 v 8, and 9 v 7). U-10, and U-12 Division will play 8 v 8 but a team may start with as few as 7. U-8 Division will play 7 v 7 but a team may start with as few as 6.
  - a. Note: If the BCYSL Coaches Committee feels it necessary (due to the number of children in that given division) each team may be required to field eight (8) or nine (9) players during play, but may not start with less than five (5) players. If less than five (5) players are present at the scheduled game time, or five (5) minutes after the field becomes available, forfeiture will result.
7. Each player, in all divisions, who attends his/her game, will play a minimum of ½ of the game.
  - a. UNLESS he/she is: (1) injured or ill (2) being disciplined
    - i. Coaches may use their discretions as to when each player plays. Teams will forfeit their game if this rule is not followed. BEFORE each game, the coach MUST indicate to the official the name(s) of the player(s) not participating in that game and for whatever reason (illness, injury, discipline).
    - b. ATTENTION: It is recommended that all coaches play each player three (3) quarters before any player plays four (4) quarters or the whole game. This will be stressed at the coaches meeting, with the intention that it may become mandatory if not complied with during the season.
8. Fighting will not be tolerated on or off the field at any location holding practices or games sanctioned by BCYSL. Any person, whether player, coach, or spectator, that participates in a fight will be automatically suspended from the league for the remainder of the season and their application for re-instatement next season will be reviewed the BCYSL Coaches Committee. Any player, coach or spectator that is suspended or banned from the premises will have the right to appeal, in writing to the Committee.
9. Any person whether player, coach or spectator, that physically assaults or physically contact a referee or referee assistant (flag person) will be banned from any further participation in Berkeley County Youth Soccer activities and will be barred from all facilities being used by or activities being sponsored by Berkeley County Youth Soccer.
10. Any player interested in playing for the All-Star Teams must be a member of the BCYSL and will have the opportunity to try out in the Spring. Selection of the team is at the sole discretion of the coach assigned to the team. Each player that makes the

All-Star Teams must participate in a minimum of one half of their regular season games in order to remain on the team and participate in the State Cup.

11. Coaches of the U-8's may walk the entire length of their sidelines for instructions to players, but must not interfere with the linesmen view or impede their path. Coaches of the U-10's, U-12's and U-14's may no longer walk the sidelines but must remain in the Coaches Box. This box extends from their side of the mid-field line fifteen (15) yards along the front of their bench. No coach, assistant, or player will be allowed in front of the opponent's bench. Each team is limited to three (3) adults on the bench sidelines; this doesn't include the sideline volunteer. No one is permitted behind the goal line or over the touchlines during play. Players must stay in the player's box near their bench only coaches and players are permitted there. Spectators must all be seated on the opposite side of the field from team benches and be at least five (5) yards from the sidelines.
12. After each game players on each team are required to line up for the handshake. The official(s) of that game will monitor the handshake and has the right to yellow card players for misconduct. The second yellow card to a player in handshake will result in immediate suspension from the next scheduled league game.
13. No team may have more than three (3) organized workouts (including practices, scrimmages, etc.) per week prior to regular season games beginning, or more than two (2) organized workouts after regular season has begun. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in forfeiture of games as well as a coach's reprimand.
14. Officials will be appointed by the Referee Coordinator, if one is filling that position, or the Chairman of the BCYSL Coaches Committee. No coach has the option of choosing or refusing officials for his/her game.
15. League standings will be determined by the point system: Win = 2 points; Tie = 1 point; Loss = 0 points. In the event of a tie in points, the team with the most wins will be seeded first. If teams have identical records, the team which won in head-to-head competition will be seeded first.
16. Playoffs may be held if felt necessary with the exact date and times to be announced at the conclusion of the regular season.
17. The following reprimand system for coaches and assistant coaches has been adopted (Not to be confused with or used as a replacement for yellow/red cards): Three (3) reprimands during the course of the season (including all games and practices) will result in a coach being asked to leave the league pending appeal to the BCYSL Coaches Committee for reinstatement. Actions that result in reprimands are:
  - a. Playing players not on official rosters.
  - b. Playing players down a division: failure to seek consent of parents and/or committee before advancing a player up a division.
  - c. Failure to play each player at the minimum time requirement for each game (unless excused). If a questionable situation arises with regard to compliance with this rule, the BCYSL Coaches Committee will appoint a monitor for future games.
  - d. Number of practices and/or scrimmages exceeding those permitted.
  - e. If the BCYSL Coaches Committee feels a coach has done something detrimental to the league. This will require a unanimous vote of the eligible BCYSL Coaches Committee membership.
18. Slide Tackling from behind (anything out of the peripheral vision of the player with the ball) is strictly prohibited in all divisions and will result in an automatic red card.
19. Two yellow cards or an automatic red card for unsportsmanlike conduct will result in disciplinary action requiring that the player sit out the next regular scheduled league game. If any one player receives a total of four yellow cards during the season,

- he/she will be disqualified from participation for the remainder of the year. If necessary, this action may carry over to the following season.
20. ALL players are required to wear shin guards during competition and must remove all jewelry.
  21. It is the Referee's discretion to stop the clock due to the ball traveling way out of bounds.
  22. If in the Referee's opinion a team is using stall tactics in retrieving an out of bounds ball, they may issue a warning to the coach, which would result in an In-direct Kick.
  23. Parent volunteers for each game will be as follows:
    - a. U-8 Division – each team will need to supply a parent to serve as the flag person (minimum 12 years of age). The flag person should refrain from coaching players. If the flag person creates a distraction to the opponent then they must be replaced at the quarter or halftime break.

**The following is a list of guidelines to be used by referees of BCYSL recommended by the soccer BCYSL Coaches Committee.**

Players: All are to be properly equipped; no jewelry of any kind is permitted, earrings must be removed, they cannot be taped over. No hard hair accessories are to be worn by girls playing in our league. No hard casts will be permitted.

Substitutions: Must enter & be recognized as a substitute from mid-field line only. Bench players must remain within immediate bench area.

Stoppage of play for an injured play should be done only when it is clear there is no advantage or injured players team has gained possession of ball. Exception to the rule is the severity of injury & if player is in jeopardy of further injury. This decision is the judgment of the referee when the proper stoppage should be called.

Exception of stoppage rule: U-8 Division play will be stopped immediately when any player has been injured.

Yellow Cards – Players who receive a yellow card must leave the field for a cooling off period But may re-enter the game at the next stoppage of play.

Linesmen – Must work up and down field of play to assist referee. Always be in position to make offside calls. If you have spotted an offside or foul & raised your flag hold your flag until you are recognized by referee.

Stay focused on the game & what your responsibilities are.