

2018 Blytheville Soccer Rules Supplement

The Blytheville Area Soccer Association wants to ensure that games are fair, positive, and an enjoyable experience for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying – a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees, and spectators. **This is a recreational league.** No scholarships are awarded. Everyone should work to help provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our young players. We are all out here to learn about soccer and have FUN!!!

- Each player SHALL be played as EQUALLY as possible, whether you are winning or losing. No child wants to sit on the bench.
- Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but the Team Jersey must be worn on the outside of other clothing. Players must be able to identify each other. However, any non-uniform clothing must not present a hazard to the wearer or any other player. Soft headgear (no brimmed caps) is permitted for shade or warmth – but keep in mind it will interfere with proper heading of the ball. Clothing may not have any offensive markings (as determined by the Board).
- Players may not wear jewelry (of any shape, form, or style). Tape cannot be used to cover jewelry. This is for the safety of every player; including the wearer.
- The Referee(s) will enforce the laws of the game, serve as time keeper, and keep score (U11 and up). For penalties in U11 and up; red/yellow cards will be issued as described in the Red/Yellow Card Procedure.
- Should play be stopped due to an injury, all players (except the goal keeper) will go to the bench while the injured player is receiving care. Parents should wait in the spectator area until called for by the coach or referee.
- *Intentional* sliding is not allowed by anyone. This means **no slide tackles**. The goalkeeper may extend a foot or dive for the ball in an attempt to prevent a goal. Slipping (usually due to damp grass or unsure footing) is expected – but the call is up to the referee(s). The result is a direct free kick by the other team – or a Penalty Kick if the offense occurs inside the defending Penalty Area. This is for the safety of all players and referees. You can't play if you are lying down. NOTE: no player may kick a ball while lying down.
- **Avoid running up the score!!!** If you see your team has the advantage over the other team; try positioning your players in unfamiliar positions (including giving others a chance to play as a forward or the goalkeeper). ***New for 2018, we now have a "mercy rule"*** – as described in the Mercy Rule Procedure. Remember to not 'give them a goal' – they want to earn it. (To do so would be unsporting behavior and therefore, a penalty).
- Coaches should, to the best of their ability, teach the players the Laws of the Game as well as respect for the game, players, coaches, and referees. Before, during, and after the game; coaches should be an example of dignity, patience, and positive spirit. ALL players and coaches are to participate in post-game "high-fives" and use only respectful phrases such as "good game".
- Coaches should be reasonable in the demands placed on players - (**remember they are children**). Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes. Constructive feedback is encouraged.
- During the game; coaches are responsible for the sportsmanship of their team including any assisting volunteers.
- Foul, abusive, threatening language, or taunting (verbally or by gesturing) is not allowed by anyone anywhere on the soccer complex.
- Coaches should respect the game officials at all times. Coaches should refrain from questioning decisions during the course of the game. Small issues can be discussed with the Referee calmly and patiently before play restarts, during a break, or after the game. Major complaints may be discussed with any Board Member if the issue cannot wait. The Board Member will communicate with the Division Commissioner and a final decision/clarification will be made on the field. *The Referee is the only one that can reverse their decision. However, the decision can't be reversed if play has restarted.*
- Spectators are only permitted to be in the designated area across the field from the teams.
- Only team members and coaches are to be in the technical areas. Game play shall stop until unauthorized personnel are out of and away from the technical areas. A brief visitor delivering an item is permissible.
- Team members and coaches are to remain **inside** their own technical area. Only enter the field of play by request of the Referee.