

Kanawha Valley Soccer League (KVSL)
July 2004

(Incorporates changes approved 6/28/04)

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KVSL Rule Book

Request for Change or Update to KVSL Rule Book

The following rule or wording of the rule needs to be changed:

Section: _____ Page: _____

Current wording, (enter her or attach a copy of the current page(s)).

Proposed change or update (enter wording here)

Reason for the change. What is to be gained? What is benefit? Pros or Cons?

I. Rules of League Play

A. General

All games or competitions sanctioned by the KVSL shall be played under the rules and procedures of the KVSL. Any deviations from these rules of play will require application to the KVSL for approval prior to implementation.

The rules shall be the “Laws of the Game” as published annually by FIFA and USSF except for modification made by USYSA, WVSA and within this document.

B. Modifications to the Laws of the Game (All Age Groups)

1. The Field of Play (Changed for Small Sided games)

- 1.1 Field dimensions may be modified for younger players.
- 1.2 The team designated as the home team shall be responsible for the condition of the grounds, field markings and proper equipment. Proper corner flags and nets are highly recommended. Each team is responsible for having game balls available. Team bench areas (see below) and spectator viewing lines are recommended.
- 1.3 Team Bench Areas (aka Technical Areas) – When both teams are on the same side of the field each team area is defined as being parallel to and two yards from the touchline. These areas commence at a point two yards from the side touchline, five yards from the halfway line and extend towards the goal line for a maximum of twenty yards. A distance of ten yards should be maintained between the team bench areas. These areas should be marked on the field when possible.

2. The Ball

- 2.1 Ball sizes for various age groups shall be as follows.

Age Group	Ball Size
U-5/6	#3
U-7/8	#4
U-9/10	#4
U-11/12	#4
U-13 & Above	#5

3. Number of Players (Changed for Small Sided games)

3.1 Number of players on the field for various age groups shall be as follows:

Age Group	Field Players (max)	Minimum
U-5/6	3 – No Goalkeeper	3
U-7/8	4 – No Goalkeeper	4
U-9/10	6	5
U-11/12	8	6
U-13 & Above	11	7

3.2 It is recommended that team field an equal number of players during the course of a game (except when numbers are reduced due to an ejection).

3.3 Substitutions shall be unlimited, with consent of the referee, as follows:

Substitution Opportunity	Who May Substitute
Prior to a throw-in	as long as the team in possession of ball substitutes, then either team may substitute
Prior to a goal kick	either team
After a goal	either team
At half-time	either team
(A) after injury, when play is stopped	Injured Player(s) – Mandatory
(B) After injury, when play is stopped	Either Team
After a Caution	Cautioned Player(s) – Optional ; opposing team can make a like number of substitutions

3.4 Each player must participate a minimum of 50% of the total playing time barring extraordinary circumstances. (Refer to discipline Section X).

3.5 Games will be played by teams participating in boys or mixed team (boy/girl) bracketing or by teams in a bracket constituted of girl's only teams.

4. Player Equipment

4.1 Players wearing equipment that in the opinion of the referee is dangerous to other players or to themselves shall not be eligible to participate in the game. Equipment which shall be considered dangerous includes but is not limited to the following.

Any rigid or semi-rigid cast or splint, apparently designed to protect a joint or limb segment, regardless of any padding or covering of said cast or splint.
Hair control devices of any material other than soft pliable plastic, rubber, cloth, etc. Hair barrettes that are constructed of metal or containing hard plastic parts are considered dangerous regardless of any coverings.
Earrings of any kind, including post earrings, regardless of any coverings.
Jewelry of any sort (religious medals or medical tags may be taped to the body).
Joint braces or supports which have exposed hinges, buckles, buttons, zippers, or other components that are dangerous in the opinion of the referee.

4.2 A jersey or shirt (with number) must be worn.

- 4.3 Shin guards are required equipment for all players in all matches and practice sessions sanctioned by the KVSL. A player shall not be allowed to participate in a match or practice session without shin protection. Stockings shall cover the shin guard completely.
- 4.4 Footwear must be worn. The officials during the pre-game inspection must deem the footwear non-dangerous. Examples of dangerous shoes include baseball spikes or baseball cleats with toe cleat or any sharp metal cleats.
- 4.5 Eyeglass straps are encouraged and if used, must be a non-metal strap. (Modified & Adopted at April 3, 2000 meeting)

5. Referees/Assistant Referees

- 5.1 All referees used in matches sanctioned by the KVSL shall be certified for the current seasonal year by the USSF. In the event a certified referee is not assigned by the league or should for some reason fail to appear for a game (and a certified official cannot be located) the coaches should mutually agree upon an official from available personnel. If both coaches cannot agree on a substitute official from available personnel the match shall not be played.
- 5.2 The referee and/or assistant referee shall inspect the equipment of each player prior to the start of the match.
- 5.3 The referee's judgement with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptability for play shall not be challenged except by those holding park or field responsibility (then only if their ruling is more restrictive than that of the referee).
- 5.4 All persons in the immediate vicinity of the field of play shall be under the jurisdiction and sanction of the referee.
- 5.5 Referees shall wear the official USSF referee uniform, as outlined in the USSF guide for referees.

6. Assistant Referees

- 6.1 Assistant referees shall be used in games involving age groups U11 and above to facilitate the enforcement of the offside rule.
- 6.2 For ages U-9 & U-10 and below club linesmen may be used, each team should provide a volunteer to be a club linesmen. Club linesmen may only assist the referee in determining whether or not the ball has crossed the touchline and which team has possession. Offsides will be called only by the referee. (Refer to Section II, A.1, page 10)

7. Duration of Game (Changed for Small Sided games)

- 7.1 The duration of the game shall be governed by the rules of the USYSA, as follows.

Age Group	Game length	Overtime Periods
U-5/6	Four 8 minute quarters **	none
U-7/8	Four 12 minute quarters	none
U-9/10	Two 25 minute halves	Two 10 minute halves
U-11/12	Two 30 minute halves	Two 10 minute halves
U-13/14	Two 35 minute halves	Two 10 minute halves
U-15/16	Two 40 minute halves	Two 15 minute halves
U-19	Two 45 minute halves	Two 15 minute halves

*** As may be adjusted by referee and both coaches by mutual agreement.*

- 7.2 There will be no overtime for games during the regularly scheduled season. The only exception would be to determine a league champion or to advance forward to tournament play.
- 7.3 In Cup and tournament play, if the game is still tied after overtime periods, FIFA “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” rules will apply in order to determine a winner.
- 7.4 Half-time breaks shall be 5 minutes. When applicable the breaks between Quarters 1 and 2 and Quarters 3 and 4 shall be 2 minutes.

8. The Start of Play

- 8.1 KVSL conforms to FIFA “Laws of the Game”. Play starts when the ball is kicked.

9. Ball In and Out of Play

- 9.1 KVSL conforms to FIFA “Laws of the Game”. The ball is out of play only when it has wholly crossed the goal or touch lines or when the referee signals a stoppage of play.

10. Method of Scoring

- 10.1 KVSL conforms to FIFA “Laws of the Game”. The whole of the ball must cross the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar. The ball cannot be thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm over the goal line by other than the defending goalkeeper.

11. Off-Side

- 11.1 KVSL conforms to FIFA “Laws of the Game”. Except as noted in Sections II, III and IV.

12. Misconduct

- 12.1 KVSL conforms to FIFA “Laws of the Game”. Additions are noted below and in Section V.
- 12.2 Coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct contained herein. This includes cautions, ejections and standard suspensions. Other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team such as relatives or spectators shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the referee and the KVSL. Additional information may be found in Section V.
- 12.3 If a player is ejected from a game, that player shall be subject to an automatic one game suspension that shall be the next regularly scheduled KVSL game that is played. An ejected player shall not participate in the post-game handshake.
- 12.1 Charging a goalkeeper who is holding the ball shall not be permitted.

13. Free Kick, Penalty Kick, Throw-In and Goal Kick

- 13.1 KVSL conforms to FIFA “Laws of the Game”. Except as noted in Sections II, III

14. Corner Kick

14.1 KVSL conforms to FIFA “Laws of the Game”.

15. Rosters (Changed to accommodate small sided games)

15.1 Roster maximums are as follows. For additional information see section XI.

Age Group	Roster Limit (max)
U-5/6	10
U-7/8	12
U-9/10	12
U-11/12	14
U-13 & Above	18

16. Miscellaneous

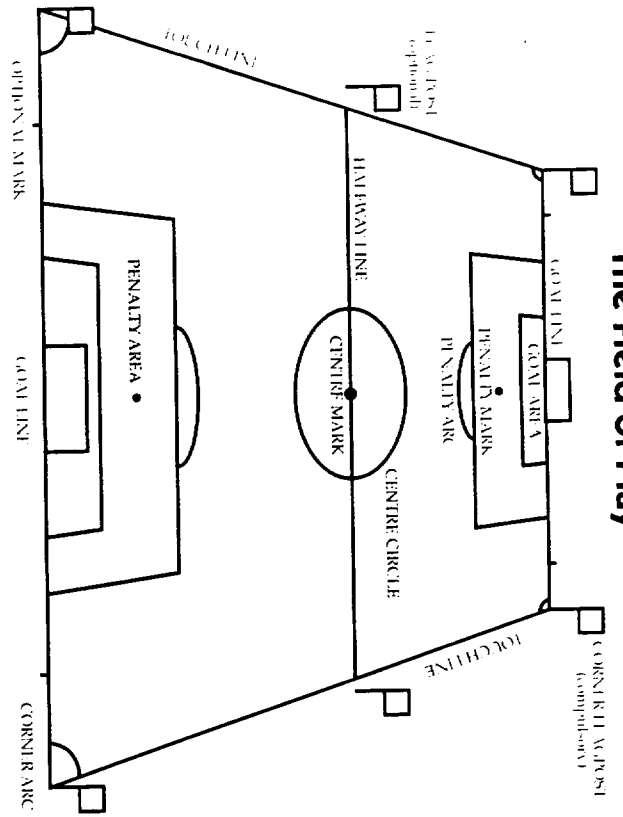
16.1 Team officials and players are encouraged to shake hands with their opponent after each game.

16.2 No league standings should be kept.

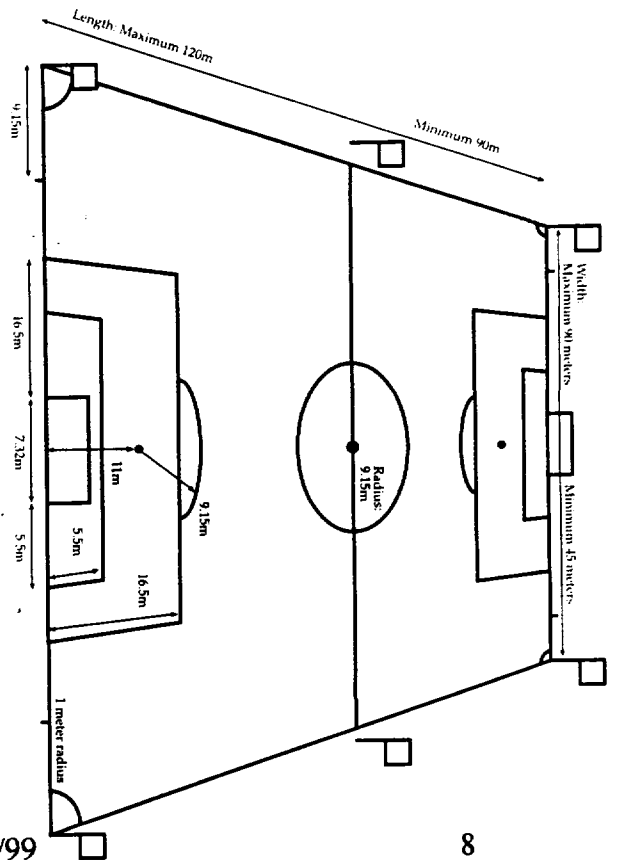
16.3 Publicity of games or their results is discouraged

16.4 This is an instructional league. Referees should explain all calls and infractions to players.

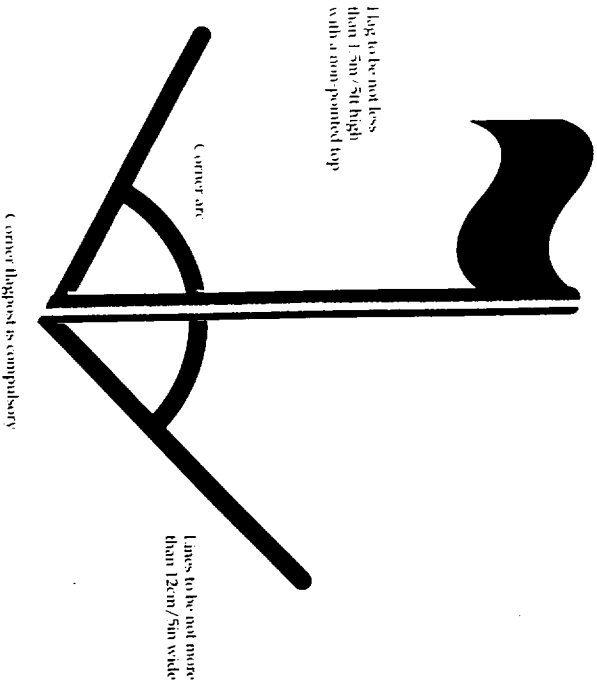
The Field of Play



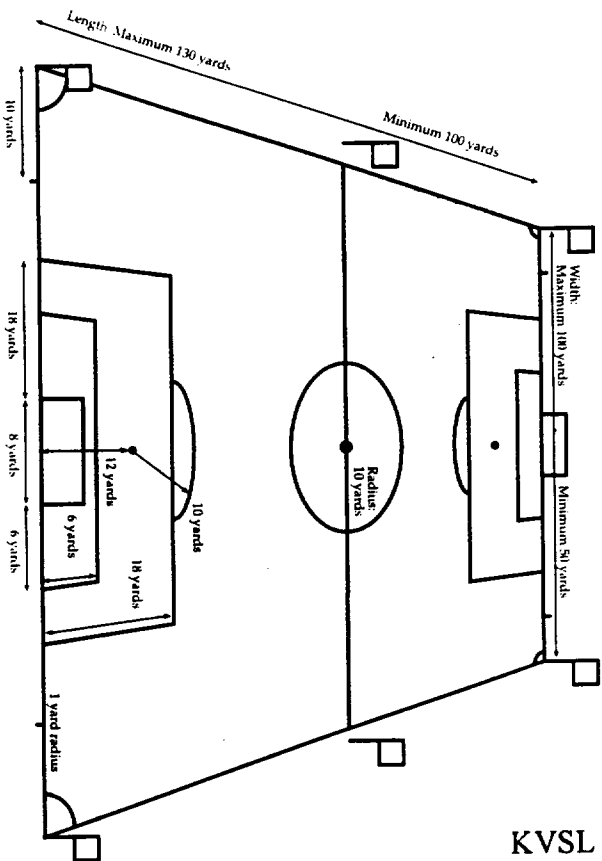
Metric Measurements



Corner Flagpost



Imperial Measurements



II. Additional Rule Modifications for Small Sided Play

This section contains material specific to age groups that was not previously covered in Section I.

KVSL Rules of Play Small Sided Games

In conjunction with the WVSA and the USYSA the KVSL has adopted the small sided game format. The following age divisions: U5, U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 & U12 will be affected by these changes.

The following section addresses the small sided games format that was adopted at the April 2003 KVSL meeting and further modified at the June 2004 meeting.

Team Size and Players on Field Matrix:

Age Group	Minimum Roster Size	Maximum Roster Size	Players on Field
U5 – Dual Games	8	10	3 - no goalkeepers
U6 – Dual Games	8	10	3 - no goalkeepers
U7 – Dual Games	10	12	4 - no goalkeepers
U8 – Dual Games	10	12	4 - no goalkeepers
U9	9	12	6
U10	9	12	6
U11	11	14	8
U12	11	14	8

NOTE: AGE GROUPS U5, U6, U7 & U8 WILL PLAY TWO GAMES SIMULTANIOUSLY. This will allow teams to observe 50% playing time rule if needed.

Game Length, Ball Size and Goal Size Matrix:

Age Group	Game Length	Ball Size	Goal Size (feet)
U5	4 x 8 Minutes	3	4 x 6 (Hockey)
U6	4 x 8 Minutes	3	4 x 6 (Hockey)
U7	4 x 12 Minutes	4	6 x 12
U8	4 x 12 Minutes	4	6 x 12
U9	2 x 25 Minutes	4	6 x 18 or 7 x 21
U10	2 x 25 Minutes	4	6 x 18 or 7 x 21
U11	2 x 30 Minutes	4	6 x 18 or 7 x 21
U12	2 x 30 Minutes	4	6 x 18 or 7 x 21

Field Size Matrix: (Sizes in yards, except as noted)

Age Group	Field Size	Ctr. Circle (radius)	Goal Box	Penalty Box	Penalty Spot Arc (radius)	Corner Arc (feet)
U5	25 x 20	3	None	None	None	2
U6	25 x 20	3	None	None	None	2
U7	40 x 25	4	3	None	None	3
U8	40 x 25	4	3	None	None	3
U9	50 x 40	8	6	14	8	3
U10	50 x 40	8	6	14	8	3
U11	80 x 50	8	6	14	8	3
U12	80 x 50	8	6	14	8	3

Penalty Spot for U9 & U10 is 10 yards from touchline at center of goal. U11 & above 12 yards.

A. Off-Side

A.1 Offsides shall not be called in age groups U8 & below. Offsides will be called in age groups U9 & above in accordance with WVSA rules. Offsides for age group U9 & U10 can be called only by the center referee unless certified A/R's are working the game. If an association utilizes club linesmen then only the center referee may call Offsides.

B. Fouls and Misconduct

B.1 All fouls will result in a free kick (with the opponent 6 yards away).

B.2 The game official will explain all infractions to the offending player.

C. Free Kicks

C.1 All free kicks in age groups U8 & below shall be indirect. A goal may not be scored as a result of this kick until a player (either team) has touched the ball other than the kicker.

C.2 Direct kicks are allowed in age groups U9 & above.

D. Penalty Kicks

D.1 No penalty kicks will be awarded in age groups U8 & below.

E. Throw-Ins

E.1 One re-throw must be allowed in age groups U8 & below if a foul throw occurs. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

E.2 Kick ins are allowed in age groups U5 & U6.

E.3 For age groups U9 & above no re-throw is allowed if a foul throw occurs. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

F. Goal Kick

F.1 Goal kicks will be taken from the top of the goal box.

F.2 Opponents must be 6 yards away when the kick is taken or outside the penalty box for older age groups.

G. Miscellaneous

G.1 **For age groups U5 and U6 dual field play will occur** and a field facilitator/official shall over see the games. **Each team is responsible for providing one (1) field facilitator who shall be acting in an official capacity to monitor the games and play. Therefore, in the dual game scenario one field will be monitored by the home team and the other monitored by the visiting team. These officials should be familiar with the small sided rules and can be a parent, coach or other party. The KVSL has available the guidelines and rules of play for small sided games, all coaches, field officials should be familiar with these rules and guidelines.** A coach or team official must be at the team bench area with players not currently on the fields. The coaches are allowed in these areas for instructional purposes. If in the opinion of the field facilitator any coach interferes with play, he shall be warned; if interference continues the coach will be sent to the sideline.

G.2 **For age groups U7 and U8 dual field play will occur** and a field facilitator/official shall over see the games. **Each team is responsible for providing one (1) field facilitator who shall be acting in an official capacity to monitor the games and play. Therefore, in the dual game scenario one field will be monitored by the home team and the other monitored by the visiting team. These officials should be familiar with the small sided rules and can be a parent, coach or other party. The KVSL has available the guidelines and rules of play for small sided games, all coaches, field officials should be familiar with these rules and guidelines.** A coach from each team shall be at the team bench area with players not currently on the field. The coaches are allowed in these areas for instructional purposes. If in the opinion of the field facilitator any coach interferes with play, he shall be warned; if interference continues the coach will be sent to the sideline.

G.2 **For all single game ages groups** all coaches and players not currently on the field must remain in the technical area on the sideline opposite the fans. The coaches are allowed in these areas for instructional purposes. If in the opinion of the referee any coach interferes with play or continually leaves the technical area, he shall be warned; if interference continues the coach will be sent to the sideline.

III. Misconduct

1. Any coach or team official shall be held responsible for the action of any individual(s) at that match that, in the opinion of the referee, is supporter of that team. Prolonged remarks or abusive disagreement with the referee or a linesman, by a team parent, supporter or other spectator shall result in a request by the referee to the coach to control the unacceptable behavior. If the coach cannot, or will not, control the individuals involved, the referee shall have the authority to caution the coach for ungentlemanly conduct. If the disturbance continues uncontrolled and with no attempt by the coach to control it, the referee shall have the authority to eject the coach for persistent misconduct after having received a caution. An ejected coach cannot participate in the team's next regularly scheduled match.
2. The referee shall have the authority to stop or suspend play in any match when the referee deems it necessary due to spectator interference, and to request that the individual(s) creating the disturbance immediately leave the playing area to a minimum of 100 yards from the field. In the event the individual so ejected is the only team representative capable of administering first aid to an injured player, the offending individual shall retire to a minimum of 50 yards from the field. Said individual shall remain silent for the duration of the match, and may return only when the referee deems that first aid services may be required. Failure of any individuals ejected by the referee to respond within two (2) minutes of the referee's request to leave shall result in the referee terminating the game. Any such incident shall be reported to the KVSL by the referee, in writing, within 48 hours. The incident shall be reviewed by the KVSL, and may result in forfeiture of the match or other sanctions.
3. Any individuals guilty of violent conduct shall be reported to the KVSL by the referee, in writing, within 48 hours. The KVSL may then take disciplinary action accordingly.
4. Any verbal threat to a game official or any physical attack on a game official shall be reported by telephone to the President, Vice-President or member of the Board of Directors of the KVSL. The referee shall also submit, in writing, a detailed report of the incident within 48 hours to the League President. An individual who physically attacks any referee shall be penalized in accordance with the Rules of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), that is, a minimum suspension of one (1) year.

IV. Alcohol and/or Illegal Drugs

KVSL prohibits the use of or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any of its competitions.

1. Persons suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs regardless of where the alcohol was consumed or the drug was used will be removed from the area of competition.
2. Penalty for violations of this rule will be suspension from all KVSL activities for not less than one- (1) year.

V. Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

1. The Board of Directors of the KVSL shall establish a Disciplinary Committee.
2. The Disciplinary Committee shall have jurisdiction to act on all disciplinary matters in which the Rules and Procedures, By-laws, or Articles of Incorporation of this association have been violated. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the discretionary power of determining the degree of penalties to be applied to team personnel, players, club officials and game officials. Certain penalties stated herein are to be considered automatic minimum penalties for the corresponding offense. The Disciplinary Committee may modify the degree of penalty on any specific matter after review.
3. Any suspension stated in these rules shall commence with the next affiliated game in any competition that the individual's team may play. In any game that an individual is not participating by reason of being under suspension, it is the responsibility of the team through its coach or other representative to inform the referee of the name of the person not participating. The Referee should then note this information on the record of the game.
4. Any incident involving serious or violent misconduct requiring written notification of the league by the Referee shall result in a mandatory hearing by the Disciplinary Committee within 21 days of the incident, which may result in additional disciplinary action.
5. A coach who removes a team from the field during play shall be reported to this association. The Disciplinary Committee shall hold a mandatory hearing on the matter in 21 days of the incident.
6. Any individual who refuses to give his/her correct name to the Referee when being cautioned or ejected shall be subject to additional penalties at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.
7. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to place an individual on probation and to set the conditions of that probation for a given period of time. In the event that an individual may be given other specific penalties and conditions as deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Committee.
8. Any individual has the right to appeal any disciplinary action imposed by the Disciplinary Committee to the West Virginia Soccer Association (WVSA) Chairman of Protest and Appeals. Any individual subject to disciplinary action shall be advised in writing of his/her rights to appeal and the procedures for initiating an appeal.
9. Any costs associated with the taking of disciplinary action against any player, coach, spectator, club or association will be assessed to the home club/association. This will be done at the completion of the appeals process, with the Appeals Committee upholding the disciplinary action.

VI. Protest And Appeal Procedures

1. A Protest and Appeal Committee Shall be established by the KVSL and shall be appointed by the president of the Association consisting of the following:
 - One (1) President of the KVSL or designated member of the Board of Directors.
 - One (1) neutral coach
 - One (1) neutral referee.
2. The protest and Appeal Committee shall have jurisdiction to act on all matters dealing with matters of violations of the Rules and procedures, By-laws, or Articles of Incorporation of this Association, misapplication of the “Laws of the Game”, or an appeal of a decision of the Disciplinary Committee.
3. Any party wishing to file a protest or appeal, must submit a Written Notice of Intent to Appeal, and deliver same to the KVSL within two calendar days, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, following the date the incident occurred or that notice of a decision was received. The appeal fee made payable to the KVSL in the form of certified check, cashiers check or money order must accompany the appeal. Any protest or appeal filed without the required fee will not be considered.
4. The appeal fee shall be \$50.00 (fifty dollars).
5. The Protest and Appeal fee shall be refunded if the committee upholds the protest or appeal. The fee shall be retained by the KVSL if the protest or appeal is denied.
6. The Protest and Appeal Committee of this Association shall consider all pertinent information arising out of an appeal of any disciplinary action.
7. Decisions rendered by the Protest and Appeal Committee shall be conveyed in writing to all affected parties within seven (7) days of the decision, and a copy of the decision, along with all pertinent documents and filing, shall be made available to the Board of Directors of the KVSL.
8. Any decision rendered by the Protest and Appeals Committee of this Association may be appealed to the West Virginia Soccer Association (WVSA) Chairman of Protest and Appeals. Procedures to be included with the Protest and Appeals decision in writing.
9. No local association, official, referee, player, coach, or associated party may invoke the aide of the courts of any city, county, state or of the United States without first exhausting all available remedies within the body of organized soccer. For violation of this rule the offending parties shall be subject to suspension form this organization and be liable for all expenses incurred for legal costs and time of any officials of this organization: These include court fees, attorney’s fees, compensation for time spent by KVSL/WVSA/USYSA/USSF officials, travel expenses and expenses for special meetings necessitated by said action.

VII. Recruiting and Poaching Recreational Players

1. Any team which, through its coaching staff, parents or guardians, responsible officers or any other representatives, induces or attempts to induce a registered KVSL player to leave his/her team to transfer to and play with another KVSL team during the current seasonal year shall be deemed to have committed an act of poaching. Violation of this rule may result in reprimand, probation or suspension, depending upon the recommendations and findings of the Disciplinary Committee.
2. Allegations of poaching shall be cause for a hearing by the Disciplinary Committee on the particulars of the situation.
3. The following recruitment practices shall be considered improper:
 - A. Recruitment or an attempt to recruit any player or player's parents or guardians with the enticement of playing on a stronger recreational team.
 - B. Holding team tryouts for a recreational team for the purpose of loading a team with the primary intent of winning the recreational league.

VIII. Playing Time

It is a KVSL rule that each player present at a match is allowed the opportunity to participate in at least one-half of every match unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Examples of Extenuating Circumstances:

- Player cannot play due to league or state rules;
- Player has a cast or hard splint;
- Player received a red card in that or previous match;
- Player is ill or injured;
- Parents or team is disciplining Player.

This is not nor is it intended to be a complete list for any reported infraction of the playing time rule the coach or club may have to justify additional reasons.

Game Cancellations

Games may be canceled due to bad weather only by the field referee, the club or KVSL. If marginal conditions exist, the Referee at the field makes the final decision. A Coach may cancel a game in advance for other reasons, but must notify the Coach of the other team. **A Coach may not cancel a game due to key players being unavailable (such as out of town for tournaments or competitive league play).** The home coach must also notify the Club Referee Coordinator of canceled games in adequate time to cancel the Referee(s). If Referee(s) show up for a game that has been canceled, the home Club (not KVSL) must pay the referee(s).

(Game cancellation rule reaffirmed at the April 2002 KVSL Board meeting)

Good of the Game

The above rules, regulations and procedures are not meant to be all-inclusive. Questionable areas or extraordinary circumstances should be brought to the Board of Directors for decisions prior to taking action.

IX. Coaches Section

A. Responsibility to Players

1. The coach must never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players. Winning should be the result of preparation and discipline with emphasis placed on the highest ideals and character traits.
2. Coaches shall instruct players to play within the written laws of the game and within the spirit of the game at all times.
3. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players.
4. Coaches should not tolerate inappropriate behavior from players, parents or spectators regardless of the situation.
5. Demands on player's time should never be so extensive as to interfere with academic goals and progress. Motivation for excellence should include academics as well as athletics.
6. Coaches must never encourage players to violate WWSA or KVSL recruitment, eligibility or guest player rules and policies.
7. Under no circumstances should coaches authorize or encourage the use of medicinal or performance enhancing drugs. Players should be directed to seek proper medical attention for injuries and to follow the physician's instructions regarding treatment and recovery. At no time should a player be put at risk by returning from injury prematurely or by being forced to play while injured.

B. Responsibility to KVSL and Member Associations

1. Adherence to all KVSL and Member Associations rules and policies, especially those regarding eligibility, team formation, recruiting and guest players is mandatory and should never be violated. It is the responsibility of every coach to know and understand these rules.
2. Player development and the growth of the player through participation are essential to the growth of the sport. Additionally, the coach must behave in such a manner that the principles, integrity and dignity of the sport are maintained.
3. Any problems that cannot be resolved between coaches should be referred to the KVSL Board or Member Association Board immediately.

C. Responsibility to the Laws of the Game.

1. Coaches should be thoroughly acquainted with and demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws of the game of soccer. Coaches are also responsible to ensure that their players understand the intent as well as the application of the laws.
2. Coaches must adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws of the game. Those coaches who circumvent the rules to gain advantage have no place in soccer.
3. Coaches are responsible for their players, parents, and fans actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
4. If coaches permit, encourage or condone performance that is not in the letter or spirit of the laws, they are derelict in their responsibility to players, Member Associations, KVSL and the sport worldwide. The coach must strive constantly to teach good sporting behavior.

D. Responsibility to Officials

1. Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Criticism of officials undermines their purpose in the game. Coaches must always refrain from criticizing officials in the presence of players.
2. Coaches should strive to develop a line of communication with officials, giving each an opportunity to better understand the problems relating to their specific area. This shall not be taken as encouragement to debate referee decisions during the match.
3. On game day, officials should be treated with respect before, during and after the game. Officials should be addressed as “**Referee**” or “**Mr./Ms. Referee**” and not by name. Professional respect should be mutual and there should be no demeaning dialogue or gesture between official, coach or player. Coaches must not incite players or spectators or attempt to disrupt the flow of play.
4. Comments regarding an official should be made in writing to the appropriate organization responsible for instructing and training the official. (Les Baldwin, 2091 Superior Ave., South Charleston, WV 25303)

E. Responsibility Regarding Scouting and Recruiting

1. It is unethical to scout any team, by any means whatsoever, except in regularly scheduled games.
2. The use of video tape or motion picture equipment to scout an opponent’s regularly scheduled games for the purpose of recruiting is unethical.
3. All KVSL rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly observed by the coach, manager or any team representative.
4. It is unethical to recruit player(s) actively playing for another team at the same level of competition.
5. It is unethical for a player to be recruited or enticed from the Olympic Development Program (ODP) setting, either by his ODP coach or any other coach, manager, parent or team representative.

6. When discussing the advantages of his/her organization, the coach has an ethical obligation to be forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams, players and organizations.
7. It is unethical for any coach to make a statement to a prospective athlete which cannot be fulfilled; illegal to promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play; and immoral to deliver same.
8. Allegations of illegal or unethical recruiting are very serious and should be based on concrete facts rather than here-say and innuendo. While documentation of recruiting violations is essential, the use of videotape and other electronic equipment is discouraged.

F. Responsibility of Public Relations

1. Coaches have a responsibility to promote the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, player, parents or the media should be positive and constructive never prejudicial or inflammatory.
2. When asked to give a recommendation concerning team, camp coach or organization, it is in the best interest of all concerned if no less than three referrals are given in order to provide a professional unbiased source of information.
3. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public while representing their team, Member Association and KVSL.
4. Publicly predicting a win is folly and serves no useful place in a coach's public image.
5. Comments stressing injuries, team, personnel conflicts or disciplinary problems as an excuse for a loss or unsuccessful endeavor are detrimental and should be avoided.
6. It is unethical for a coach to solicit alumni; parents, booster club or managers to pressure organizations, Member Associations or KVSL to alter established rules. The coach must not attempt to influence these organizations in political or financial dealings outside the framework of their own rules and bylaws.
7. The media should be allowed access to the players for comment. Players should be instructed in how to conduct themselves during an interview.

G. Coaches Training

1. In order to properly educate coaches to the game of soccer, it is a mandatory requirement that each team coach (or his/her deemed representative) must meet with their individual Association President, Registrar or their representative to review the rules and code of conduct for the appropriate behavior of coaches, players, parents and spectators. Association Registrars are not permitted to release team rosters to any coach or team representative whose team has not completed this review. This review is required before each fall season or whenever a new team is formed.

Coach/Referee Hints

Friend vs. Foe

Positive role model by the Coach and the Referee

- Role Model for Players
- Role Model for Parents
- Role Model for Fans
- Role Model for other Coaches and Referees

Equal responsibility to the Coach and Referee for the development of the game.

Coaches should reserve discussions with the referee until after the game. Discussions during the game contribute to the players and fans wanting to get involved with the referee decisions during the game that could lead to player dissent. Discussions during the game are also distracting to the referee and assistant referees.

Parents should support players, coaches and referees. Complaints are not necessary or productive and should be kept to a minimum.

Coaches should not interfere with the referee's ability to make decisions by being confrontational.

Coaches don't have to run, sprint or make split second decisions during a game as do the players and referees. Good coaching requires understanding; soccer is a player's game.

Coaching interference can cause:

- Loss of concentration by players and referee
- Frustration of the players, fans and referee
- Anger from the players, fans and referee
- Misbehavior by the players and fans.

Remember referees are human too, they can make mistakes just like coaches, players and fans. Do not assault or abuse a referee for what you feel are their mistakes.

Responsibility of Referees

Keep the Score of the Match

Keep the Time of the Match

Arbitrate the Match

Know the Rules

The Referee is Expected to be an Expert