

Guelph Soccer

2022 Adult Outdoor League Rules

All Adult Outdoor leagues and play-off competitions shall be played in accordance with the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) laws of the game.

All spectators, players and coaches agree to abide by the Guelph Soccer Code of Conduct.

1. Referees

All participants must respect the referees.

The Referee's decision is final. Guelph Soccer will not tolerate abuse of any Game Official. Any referee abuse should be reported immediately to the Club with the individual potentially facing disciplinary actions.

Referee shortages continue into 2022, with enrollment down across the province. We'd like to remind our members that this means there may not be enough referees to cover all games this summer. **In the event that there is no referee at your game, the game will move forward as scheduled.** We encourage players/teams to work together to facilitate the game (please be fair and kind). When there is a referee, providing encouragement and support to them is critical, as many of them will be new and learning. Ontario Soccer will promote a Zero Tolerance policy in relation to Match Official Abuse.

Referees are responsible for collecting and completing game sheets, including recording scorers, final score and sanctions. Game sheets and any applicable reports are to be submitted to Guelph Soccer Club within 1 week if no reports, 48 hours if reports and on RefCentre 24 hours after the completion of the match. Scores are to be communicated to the club within 24 hours of the match.

2. The Players:

11 v 11 (10 plus a goalkeeper).

Number of players permitted to be registered to a team is set at a maximum of 25. Rostering of players must follow the club guidelines and dates as set. A maximum of 18 players are to be dressed and on the bench for a league game.

In the event that eligibility of a player is questioned the player must provide proof of identity (health card or driver's license). A legible photocopy is also acceptable. If a team uses an ineligible player, the consequence includes the game score being awarded as 3-0 to the opposing team. Teams may ask the match officials to check the status of a player, and if there is an issue the match official will write a special incident report, but the match official cannot prevent them from playing. Prior to the match beginning it needs to be identified that the match is being played under protest. The Captain is ultimately responsible for players who take part in the match. Note that if a captain allows an ineligible player to play for their team that discipline could include a 3-12 month suspension from all soccer activities.

In the event that a team does not have the minimum number of players to start the match (7) (including 15-minute grace period), the match will be abandoned, and the team will forfeit, a 3-0 awarded to the other team. In the event of a forfeit, teams have the option to play a "fun" game that is officiated by the match officials.

In the event that both teams have less than the minimum required players:

- i. No points will be awarded to either team
- ii. The game will not be rescheduled
- iii. Teams are encouraged to play an exhibition game, with those players who have come out

Note: that when playing under a fun exhibition game that any sanctions given do count.

3. Game Duration:

Games are 2 x 45 minutes in length with a halftime interval of 5 (five) minutes.

A fifteen (15) minute period of grace shall be allowed after the scheduled start of a game (example: allow teams to gain minimum number of players to start/continue a match or other unexpected circumstances).

- Halves may be shortened if light becomes an issue later in the season if playing on a field that does not have lights in place, Referees will discuss this with team captains prior to the beginning of the match.

4. Location of Players, Team Officials and Spectators

The following applies to adult groups:

- a) Players and Captains allowed on the team bench are those who are registered with that Team and registered with the Club
- b) Captains and Players must be at the designated technical area (bench) on one side of the field.
 - i. In the event that a field does not have a bench, Captains and Players should be on the opposite side of the field from the spectators
- c) Nobody can be behind either goal.
- d) Teams will ensure that spectators are kept away from player benches and behind goals
- e) A suspended player may not sit on the team bench, however they can sit with the spectators and must not be dressed to play.

5. Player Equipment

- All teams must wear matching uniforms with unique numbers – the uniform provided in their “passport to play”, and the referee can forbid participation if the player is not registered and on the roster.

In addition, all players must wear shin guards (must provide reasonable protection and be covered by socks), and the appropriate footwear- outdoor soccer cleats permitted. (Note: no metal cleats are permitted)

- Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other team players, other team goal keeper, own team players and the referee crew.
- Jewelry is NOT allowed (exception is medical alert – and the referee should be informed). The referee will deny a player the opportunity to play a game if jewelry is worn.
- No hats may be worn except for the goalkeeper (must have soft brim), when sun is an issue.

6. Game Sheets

Team Captains will provide the games sheets to the referee. These must be signed by the captain of each team and submitted to the referee a minimum of **15 minutes prior** to the start of the game. Only Guelph Soccer Game sheets may be used as game sheets. The game sheet will be the official record of the game result.

The team captain is responsible to ensure:

- All jersey numbers and names are entered on their team’s game sheet and that they match the players wearing the jersey.
- Any players not in attendance should be crossed off the game sheet.
- That they as captain or representative player have signed the game sheet.

The referee team is responsible to ensure:

- All goal scorers have been recorded
- All sanctions have been recorded (subsequent report to be written)

- Sign the game sheets
- Submit to the club within 48 hours of the match if sanctions given, otherwise within 1 week.

7. Discipline:

All players should remember that this is a fun recreational “League”. We do provide referees to keep everyone in line, but cards can and will happen. A player who accumulates 3 yellow cards will receive communication in writing to the affected game they will be suspended for. A player shown a red card may be subject to formal discipline and a suspension can range anywhere from 1 game to the remainder of the season, and onward.

Guelph Soccer’s Discipline Committee will review all matters within the House League Program.

- a) A Player who received a red card must leave the field of play and the bench area immediately. A player who has received a red card must also leave the vicinity of the field. All Players receiving a red card will receive communication with regards to the nature of the misconduct that will outline the number of games suspended for and may receive further disciplinary action in line with their offence.
- b) Any Captain ejected from a game may be required to attend a hearing by the Discipline Committee.
- c) Any Player, Captain or Individual under suspension as a result of disciplinary action, shall not be allowed to participate in any soccer games or practices until the suspension has been served.

8. Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions are allowed during stoppages in play upon approval by the referee. The referee must be made aware of the substitutions otherwise a yellow card may be issued to the offending players (player leaving the field of play and the player entering the field of play).

The substitute must enter the field at half-way, and can only enter the field of play when the departing player has fully left the field of play.

Substitutions may be made with the referee's permission during the following stoppages in play:

- Goal kicks
- Kick-off (start or after score goal, start of extra time, etc)
- Injury
- Throw in – only on team's possession – piggy back allowed

9. Determining the Match Outcome:

For all games the score at the end of regulation time is the final score (as long as at least 60 minutes of the match has been played).

For all post regular season games (semi-finals and finals) kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine a winner if the score is tied at the end of regulation time.

Kicks from the Penalty Mark to determine a winner:

Each team must designate 5 different players that were on the pitch at the full time whistle. If the score is still level after 5 kicks, it will go to sudden death kicks.

9. Scores and Standings

If more than one team has an equal number of points, the following criteria, in order, shall be used to determine a team's standing.

- 1) Head to head
- 2) Goal difference
- 3) Goals for
- 4) Least amount of discipline
- 5) Coin toss

12. Rescheduling of Games

Games will be not be scheduled.

13. Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather and thunderstorms, the following procedure applies

When you hear thunder (or see lightning) the game cannot start or continue unless there has been a 30 minute wait time since the LAST thunder (or lightning).

[Lightning Safety/ Severe Weather Policy](#)

[Safety video](#)

[Canadian Lightning Danger Map](#)

[City of Guelph Sports Field Status](#)