

**Memphis Shelby Soccer Federation (MSSF)  
Spring 2015 Season (1/26/15)  
Rules of Competition**

**I. League Issues**

**League Placement** - All teams will be placed in their age division for one year. Any newly formed team not retaining at least 8 players from a previous team entering the league will be placed in the appropriate age group in the “B” division unless unanimously approved by the MSSF coaching directors. All teams will register in their true age group, and club directors of coaching will meet before the season to decide bracket placements.

**Age Divisions** - The MSSF league will consist of U8, U9 and U10 boys and girls (6 v 6), U10 boys and U10 girls (8 vs. 8), U12 boys and U12 girls (8 vs. 8), U12 boys and U12 girls (11 v 11), U14 boys and U14 girls, and High School (U15 to U19 Girls) . If number of teams allow, each age will consist of an “A” Division and a “B” Division. Divisions may vary based upon final registrations and concurrence of club DOCs.

**Standings** – Standings will not be kept for the Spring Season. Teams may be scheduled for multiple games during a week, including Fridays and weekends.

**II. Team Rosters**

**A. Team Rosters and Player Cards** – Player cards, coaches’ cards and a team roster must be presented to the Referee with the Memphis Shelby Soccer Federation Match Report prior to every match. All participants must be identified to Referee prior to the match. All players must be registered with Tennessee State Soccer Association (“TSSA”) or U.S. Club Soccer (“US Club”) or their respective state associations. **Player cards must have a photo ID and be laminated.**

**B. Transfers** – A Player who transfers to another club during the seasonal year of MSSF may play for another team within regular league play IF the following conditions have been met:

- 1) The Player has left the club in good standing – all appropriate fees (team, club and association) have been paid; and
- 2) The club coach and coaching director and /or club president approve the release of the Player to transfer to another club.
  - a) exception: A Player who is registered as USYSA will not be allowed to transfer to another USYSA club unless that Player receives approval from Tennessee Soccer.

**C. Match Reports** – Prior to every match, each team must submit their fully completed “Memphis Shelby Soccer Federation Match Report Spring 2015. Referees will be responsible for completing the final match score, Players Cautioned or Sent off and Injuries and submitting the report to the league.

**D. Non-rostered Players and Guest Play** – All players in MSSF must be rostered on a Tennessee Soccer or US Club Soccer roster. Guest play can be allowed in the following situation. Guest players can only play on their own age or older teams (i.e., a U15 aged player can

guest play on a U15, U16, U17, U18 or U19 aged teams. A U15 rostered player cannot play on a U14 aged team.

Other examples: A player who is 10 years old rostered on a U12 team cannot play on a U10 team. A player who is rostered on a U12 Team, but is a U11 aged player cannot play on a U11 team.

A maximum of three (3) guest players will be allowed for any one MSSF match. Guest players are defined as registered with Tennessee Soccer or US Club Soccer and rostered on the same age of the team guest playing for or a younger aged team only. The Guest Player's name must appear on the Team Roster and the Guest Player must have a valid Tennessee Soccer or U.S. Club Soccer Player Card that is presented to the Referee before the match.

U10 players may play in either the U10 6 v 6 Division or the U10 8 v 8 Division. Guest Players can only play within their own club (i.e., a Midsouth player cannot play on a Lobos team).

These provisions are only for the MSSF League play at the Mike Rose Soccer Complex for MSSF league scheduled games. Failure to abide by this exception to the Tennessee Soccer Policies and Procedure can result in a minimum one year suspension or the coach involved. All coaches agree to abide with Tennessee Soccer Policies and Procedures, even if their team is registered with US Club Soccer.

Any exceptions must be approved in writing prior to any match by the MSSF President.

### **III. Matches**

#### **A. Duration of Games:**

Games will be two equal halves with a five (5) minute halftime. Length of the halves is not to exceed the following time limits:

- U8, U9 and U10 - two 25 minute halves
- U11 and U12 - two 30 minute halves
- U13 and U14 - two 35 minute halves
- U15 and U16 - two 40 minute halves
- U17 and U19 - two 45 minute halves

#### **B. Rules Related to Game Play**

Matches will be governed by FIFA Laws of the Game, the USSF Administrative Rule Book and the TSSA Administrative Manual.

1. The following league exceptions will apply:
  - a. Unlimited substitutions may be made at the following times:
    1. Prior to throw-in by the team in possession of the ball;
    2. Prior to a goal kick by either team;
    3. After a goal by either team;
    4. At half time.
    5. The team not in possession of the ball may substitute an unlimited number of players at a throw-in if the team in possession of the ball is also substituting.
    6. **In small-sided matches, substitutions may be made by either team at a stoppage of play at the discretion of the referee.**

- b. Substitutions will be allowed for each team when the Referee stops play for an injured or cautioned player(s).
  - c. All substitutions must be made from the halfway line after getting the Referee's permission to enter the field. All departing players must leave the field at the halfway line on their team's side of the field.
  - d. Penalty kicks will be taken, if called, in the U8, U9 and U10 6 v 6 matches. The penalty kick will be taken from the mark established on each field by the Mike Rose Soccer Complex staff, adjusted to field size.
2. Matches called due to weather or field conditions:
- a. If the weather is bad or field conditions do not allow play, the Mike Rose Soccer Complex ("MRSC") will cancel the matches prior to their scheduled start.
  - b. If the matches have not been cancelled two (2) hours prior to start time, teams must report to the field for the scheduled match. At that time, the Referee has the sole authority to assess the field conditions and, if needed, cancel the match.
  - c. Matches cancelled because of weather or field conditions will be rescheduled. Matches may only be rescheduled by the MSSF schedule coordinator.
3. Forfeited Matches:
- a. Failure to report to or play a scheduled match will result in a forfeit. The score of the forfeited match is 3 – 0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team. A ten (10) minute grace period will be allowed after the scheduled start time. The performance bond money will be forfeited and used to pay the referees. If the bond is forfeited, a new bond must be paid to MSSF before the team can play again. For second offenses, the performance bond requirement will be doubled. The performance bond for U8, U9 and U10 teams is \$100 per season and for U11 and older is \$150 per team.
  - b. A team abandoning a match shall automatically forfeit the game and their performance bond, as well as being subject to further disciplinary review. A request for a hearing by the team abandoning the match must be made to MSSF President within 24 hours of the end of the match with a \$50 hearing fee.
4. The final results of any match started and terminated by the Referee due to inclement weather and/or field conditions will be determined by MSSF. The final results and any disciplinary actions for any match terminated by a referee due the conduct of any team's players, coaches, assistant coaches, or spectators will be determined in accordance with TSSA Policies and Procedures.
5. The Referee is the sole authority at the field, before, during and after a match. The Referee's authority includes, but is not limited to the decision to start the match, decisions about the conduct of the players, coaches and spectators and any decision to terminate the match.
6. Ejection (red cards):
- a. An ejected (red card) player must remove himself or herself from the field and stay in the team area and in no way participate in the remainder of the game (The intent here is to remove the player from the game, but keep the player in the direct control of the coach until the game has been concluded. We do not want ejected players wandering around the parking lot and not under control of their coach or parent.)
  - b. An ejected (red card) coach or assistant coach shall leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from any contact, direct or indirect, with the team during the remainder of the game. Failure to comply shall result in termination of the

game. For MSSF, “vicinity of the playing area” shall mean relocation to at least the parking lot area and out of hearing range of the referees. The incident must be reported to the MSSF President and TSSA.

- c. Two (2) cautions (yellow cards) to the same individual in the same game constitute an ejection (red card). No substitute will be permitted for the ejected player.
  - d. A player receiving a yellow card does not have to leave the match.
  - e. MSSF teams, players, coaches and spectators must comply with TSSA Policy 9 – Conduct and Discipline.
7. Extreme Misconduct: Any unusual or extreme misconduct by a player, coach, parents or spectator will be reported to TSSA. Each team and its coach are responsible for the actions and personal conduct of all persons involved with the team, including players, coaches, team managers, parents, family members, and spectators, before, during and after the match.

#### 8. Instructions to Coaches

- a. Matches may not be cancelled, rescheduled or postponed by coaches, team managers, or any other team member. Any schedule changes must be approved by the MSSF President.
- b. Coaches and player substitutes must remain on the bench or five (5) feet off the touchline and within ten (10) yards of the halfway line while the match is in progress or within the bench area if the field is so marked. All spectators must remain three (3) yards off the touchline and twenty (20) yards from the goal line or in the bleacher area.
- c. Coaches may not use mechanical devices, such as bullhorns, amplifiers, or megaphones during the match.
- d. FIFA rules discourage coaching from the boundary lines.
- e. The Referee’s judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field, its acceptability for play and to the conduct of the match, and to those prerogatives or judgments inherently granted to the referee by the FIFA “Laws of the Game” shall not be challenged.
- f. It is the responsibility of each coach and his team to insure that the spectators, before, during and after a match, do not bring discredit upon the team in regard to the players (either team), referees, or spectators, nor shall they incite disruptive behavior.
- g. Casts and braces must be protected with padding. The referee’s decision is final as to whether a cast or brace may be acceptable.

**C. Match Results** –Referee Reports will be submitted directly to the MSSF President by the match Referee. Referee Reports can either be mailed to the MSSF President or placed in the MSSF Mailbox by the MRSC lower fields.

**D. Match Start Times** - Full sided matches (11 vs. 11) will start at either 6:00 pm or 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm or 8:00 pm. Small sided matches will be scheduled to start at 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 7:15 pm. The fields at Mike Rose Soccer Complex are scheduled for matches, not team practice sessions. Time prior to the matches should be used for warm-up and match preparation, not practice. The earliest any team can be on the Mike Rose Soccer Complex fields is 30 minutes before the scheduled match start time. For small sided games, a 10 minute warm-up session will be allowed between matches. All second matches may start 10 minutes after the preceding match is completed. Depending upon the number of cancellations, a third small-sided match may be scheduled to begin immediately after the second match.

**E. Rescheduled Matches.** No game may be cancelled unless the Mike Rose Soccer Complex fields are closed or the cancellation has been approved by the MSSF President.

All rainout matches will be reschedule using the following process. Following a rain out, the Mike Rose Soccer Complex will contact the league scheduler. Rainout matches may be rescheduled if fields are available or rescheduled for the last three weeks of the season.

Assuming the reschedule does not conflict with any requests on the original registration application, the team must play the rescheduled match.

When a game is rescheduled an automatically generated email is sent to the contact listed on the team page within the MSSF website. If the team page is not set up properly, the team will receive no notification. The rescheduled matches will also be posted on the MRSC website. Team managers are responsible for checking the MRSC website for rescheduled matches.

During the last three weeks of the season, matches requiring rescheduling will be done based on field availability and may not be consistent with team preferences as noted on their Registration Form. Cancellation of rescheduled matches may affect performance bonds.

**F. State League Matches** – Teams desiring to use a scheduled MSSF match as a State League must notify the MSSF President to facilitate the assigned referee crew.

#### **IV. Team Administration**

**A. Mike Rose Soccer Complex Rules and Regulations** are attached and are subject to change. Please see the website [www.mikerosesoccercomplex.com](http://www.mikerosesoccercomplex.com) for the latest rules.

**B. E-mail notification** – MSSF will provide the MRSC staff with team manager and coaches email address, as provided in team registration materials. The MRSC will send out field status reports daily to those addresses received. All teams must update their team webpage with a valid email contact in order to receive game reschedules or adjustments.

**C. Rescheduled Matches.** Rescheduled matches will be posted on the MRSC website. Team managers are responsible for checking the MRSC website for rescheduled matches. During the last three weeks of the season, matches requiring rescheduling will be done based on field availability and may not be consistent with team preferences as noted on their Registration Form.

**D. Team Duties:**

1. Each team will provide game balls to the Referee for each match.
2. The home team will wear light colored jerseys and socks. The visiting team will wear dark colored jerseys and socks. The team in the incorrect color will have to change.
3. Both team benches will be located on same side of the soccer field as designated by the complex. Home team will get first choice of team benches. Parents will be located on the opposite side of the field from the team benches. For small sided matches, the team benches and spectator area will be located on the same side of the field as designated by the Mike Rose Soccer Complex. This location of the small sided team benches is necessary to reduce wear on the centers of those realigned to accommodate small sided matches. This rule applies to all

- levels of MSSF competition. All spectators should sit on or near the bleachers. No spectator is allowed behind the team bench area or goal area.
4. Prior to each match the coach, assistant coach or team manager MUST give to the referee:
    - a. An official “MSSF Match Report Fall 2012” with information completed must be provided to the Referee prior to the match. The Referee will complete the other items on the Match Report
    - b. The coach or team manager is responsible for notifying the Referee prior to the start of the match if there is an ejected (Red Card) player, Coach or Assistant Coach who is to sit out that match. The Referee is to record this information on the Match Report.
    - c. Match Fees must be paid to the Referee prior to the start of the game. If three referees work the match, each team will pay the one-half of the Referee fee and one Assistant Referee fee. If only two referees work the match, each team will pay one-half of the Referee fee and one-half of the Assistant Referee fee. If only one Referee works the match, each team will pay one-half of the Referee fee. “Club assistant referees” are not to be paid. Licensed referees not in proper attire are considered to be “club assistant referees”. If the match is cancelled due to weather conditions after the match commences and prior to the start of the second half, the referees are to receive one-half of the match fees. If the match is cancelled due to weather conditions in the second half of play, the referees are to receive full match fees.
    - d. Special conditions: In those cases where teams may play outside of their respective two year age divisions (HSA and HSB) and in the U15 to U19 Girls Division, the match will be played at the duration of the oldest team playing and the referee pay will also be at the oldest team playing. For example, in these divisions, if a U15 team plays a U17 team, the match will be played in two 45 minute halves and the referee pay will be at the U17-U19 level. However, in the same division, if a U15 team plays a U16 team, the match will be played in two 40 minute halves and the referee pay will be at the U15-U16 level. If in dissimilar age matches, the coaches, by mutual consent, agree to play a shorter length match, the referees are still to be paid in accordance with the highest level age team.
  5. All players’ must wear shin guards at all practices, warm ups and games with socks pulled up over the shin guards.
  6. Each player’s uniform shall be the same as the other teammates with numbers affixed on the back in a contrasting color. All players are to have their shirts tucked in and any clothing showing beneath their shorts must be of the same color as the short. Each goalkeeper must have a contrasting goalie shirt, which does not conflict with field players.
  7. Every coach and assistant coach must have a valid, current coaching license and TSSA or US Club pass.
  8. Each team shall have a designated Assistant Coach who will be available in the Coach’s absence. No match will be cancelled, rescheduled or postponed due to a coaching conflict or absence of the coach. A Team Manager can be in the bench area and can act as coach should the coach be ejected from the match. A coach listed on the roster must be present to start a match. A match may not start with only the Team Manager in the bench area.

9. Coaching Directors for each club will be allowed in the team bench area for any team in their respective clubs. Coaching Directors will be subject to the Laws of the Game.