



United League of Fútbol (ULOF) Regulation Booklet

Introductions

Purpose of ULOF: The purpose of ULOF is to provide a competitive soccer league to players in the southwest area of Michigan.

Booklet Purpose: The United League of Fútbol (ULOF) Regulation Booklet is our commitment to fostering a thriving soccer community in southwest Michigan. With clarity, fairness, and safety as our guiding principles, we provide a competitive environment where players, coaches, officials, and spectators can come together to celebrate the sport they love. Our regulations ensure equitable competition, uphold standards of conduct and sportsmanship, and promote transparency and accountability. By adhering to legal and regulatory requirements and fostering growth and development at all levels, we strive to create memorable experiences and inspire the next generation of soccer enthusiasts.

Regulation Disclaimer: All stakeholders, including teams, players, coaches, officials, and administrators, are subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing their participation in the United League of Fútbol (ULOF). Compliance with all applicable laws, including those related to sports governance, labor, safety, and taxation, is required at all times. (While we strive to cover all aspects of the league it is impossible to cover all and every single aspect. The regulation book should be subject to improvements to better serve its purpose.)

League Structure

- **Regular Season:** Each team will play a predetermined number of matches against other registered teams.
- **Playoffs:** The Top-performing teams from the regular season may qualify for playoff matches to determine the division or conference champion. Playoffs consist of single match elimination rounds.
 - Individual players must play with a team for a minimum of four (4) games during the regular season to be eligible for the playoffs.

- **Age divisions:**
 - U10: 10 years old or under
 - Middle School: 11 to 13 years old
 - High School: 14 to 18 years old
 - Open 18+: 18 to 29 years old
 - 30+: 30 to 35 years old
 - 36+: 36 years and older
- **Awards:** Recognition will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. Extra recognition will include MVP of the league and highest scorer of the league.

Competition Rules

- **Matches format:**
 - U10: 9 vs. 9, two 25-minute halves, maximum 20 players, unlimited substitutions, minimum of 5 players to begin a game.
 - Middle School: 11 vs. 11, two 35-minute halves, maximum 20 players, unlimited substitutions, minimum of 7 players to begin a game.
 - High School: 11 vs. 11, two 35-minute halves, maximum 20 players, unlimited substitutions, minimum of 7 players to begin a game.
 - Open 18+: 7 vs. 7, two 25 -minute halves, maximum 12 players, unlimited substitutions, minimum of 4 players to begin a game.
 - 30+: 7 vs. 7, two 20-minute halves, maximum 12 players, unlimited substitutions, minimum of 4 players to begin a game.
 - 36+: 7 vs. 7, two 20-minute halves, maximum 12 players, unlimited substitutions, minimum of 4 players to begin a game.
- **Rest Period**
 - Each match should have a 5 minute resting period between halves, unless otherwise stated by the official.

Players eligibility

- Players should meet the age division requirement.
- Players should be enrolled in a single team during the season. (players can be part of a different team as long as it is in a different age division)
- All players will have a playing card by the second week of matches.

- Each player should have a minimum of one emergency contact in their playing card
- Players should be able to provide proof of age, if requested upon by ULOF.
 - This can consist of any official government issue identification with full name and date of birth.

Team responsibilities

- **Team registration**
 - Teams should have an official name.
 - A color/uniform should represent each team.
 - Players are required to use the teams' official shirt for all games.
 - Players may use a short that matches 80% of the official teams' short.
 - Teams should have a roster on file with ULOF.
 - After the second week, teams can add and release players for a fee or \$10.00.
- **Teams representative**
 - Teams should have a minimum of 1 and maximum of 3 representatives who are responsible for all official matters.
- **Roster**
 - A representative of each team must turn in a "Roster" to the official referee at the beginning of the match.
 - The MVP of the team will be added to the "Roster".
 - Failure to give documents to the referee might result in individual players and / or the team being unable to participate in playoffs.
 - The "Roster" will be updated to the website no later than 72 hours of the match.
 - The team representative or captain will sign the Roster at the end of the match.
- **Payment Balance**
 - Teams are responsible to cover all standing balances no later than the third game.
 - Refereeing fee will have to be covered before the starting of the second half of the match.
 - If a team does not pay the referee, the game will be lost by default.
- **Sportsmanship**
 - All players, coaches, parents, fans, and referees will show good sportsmanship. Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of its coaches, managers, players, parents, and fans. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that its actions on or off the field do not bring disrespect upon this league.
- **Rescheduling**
 - Rescheduling will only happen during the regular season. Playoff games will not be rescheduled.
 - A minimum of 24 hours rescheduling notice should be given to ULOF officials.

- Rescheduling team will be responsible for officials' fees, at the rescheduled time.
- **Appeals**
 - Every team has the right to appeal a decision made by an official within 48 hours of the game.
 - A representative has to submit the appeal.
 - The appeal form can be found in the website (<https://unitedleagueoffutbol.com/>)
 - Every team in the division will have a single anonymous vote for or against the appeal.
 - The appeal will include a \$25 fee.
 - If the appeal is accepted the \$25 fee will be refunded.
 - If the appeal is denied there will be no refund.

Officials

Officials will adhere to general soccer rules unless stated otherwise. Those general rules will include the start and restart of play, the ball in and out of play, offside, fouls, misconduct, free kicks, penalty kicks, throw-in, goal kick, the corner kick, etc.

- **Appointment of officials**
 - Each game should have a minimum of one official referee.
 - The official has the right to deliver in-game disciplinary actions.
- **Fair play**
 - The official has the right to request a player to leave the immediate facilities for the duration of the event for safety or disruption reasons.
 - Yellow card: is a warning
 - Two yellow cards to the same player: result in an immediate red card and one will include a one game suspension.
 - Red Card: immediate dismissal of soccer game and will include a two game suspension.
- **Referee penalties**
 - Referees that are not ready to begin a match on time will be penalized.
 - Teams will only pay 50% off the regular price.
 - The entire game will be played.
- **Match score communication**
 - Officials have the duty to communicate the final match score.

Match Procedure

- **Uniform requirement**
 - Players are required to use their team's shirt, beginning the second match.
 - Players' shorts should match their teams' official short color at a minimum of 80%.

- Players must use shin guards at all times without exceptions.
 - No shin guards will result in an automatic yellow card.
- **Equipment**
 - Each team should have at least one number 5 soccer ball for the match.
- **Referee fees**
 - Each team will be responsible for a \$15 cash fee for the referees.
 - This rule only applies to age divisions 18+, 30+, 36+.
- **Match cancelation**
 - Matches canceled for unforeseen circumstances will be rescheduled. This might end up in double headers for teams as to finish the league on time.
- **Grace period**
 - A grace period of 9 minutes will be given to each team.
 - At the 10 minute mark, a goal will be awarded to the present team.
 - The 10 minute rule will not apply for teams traveling further than 1 hour for a game.
 - A 15 minute grace period will be allowed for all games before the start. Any team not ready to play after the grace period has expired shall forfeit the game.
 - The lost grace period will be added to the total math time and shorten the playing time as to end the game in time.

Disciplinary Actions

Consequences for teams and players found guilty of not following rules are essential for maintaining discipline, integrity, and fairness within the league. Possible consequences may include but are not limited to:

1. **Warnings:** Teams or players may receive verbal or written warnings for minor infractions or first-time offenses. Warnings serve as reminders of the rules and expectations.
2. **Suspensions:** Teams or players may be suspended from participating in matches for a specified period, ranging from one game to multiple matches or even an entire season, depending on the severity of the infraction.
3. **Forfeiture of Matches:** Teams may forfeit matches in which they are found to have violated rules or regulations, resulting in a loss of points and potential impact on playoff eligibility or standings.
4. **Points Deduction:** In addition to forfeiting matches, teams may have points deducted from their overall standings or be penalized in league rankings, affecting their position in the standings for playoff seeding.
5. **Expulsion from the League:** In extreme cases of misconduct or repeated violations, teams or players may face expulsion from the league, effectively ending their participation in ULOF and potentially facing bans from future involvement.

6. Loss of Privileges: Teams or players may lose certain privileges, such as eligibility for awards, recognition, or participation in special events or tournaments, as a consequence of rule violations.
7. Physical harm to an official: will result in immediate expulsion from the league.