

## **STRIKER LEAGUE RULES**

### **Players-**

For 11 v 11 Coed, minimum is 7 players. Minimum of 3 Ladies on the field. If the team cannot field three ladies then they must have 2 ladies and reduce the number of men by one. So 8 men and two ladies.

### **Players Equipment-**

Shin guards are mandatory.

Jersey must be different from the other team. The home team (listed first in the schedule) will have to change if there is a color conflict.

Goal Keepers must be different color from both teams

Referees must be different than both teams and should be different from the keeper. Referee must change

Balls must be provided by both teams and ref approved.

NO hard casts are allowed. Braces are allowed but must be checked for safety

### **Fields-**

We play on county or city fields and these can be a challenge. Every effort will be made on lines and markings, however in the absence of a line or making it is assumed that it is there, such as corner arcs, halfway lines and touch and goal lines. Corner flags may not be in place.

Goals will be placed as best as possible on the field according to the lines, however it is not the goal itself that determines a scored goal, but rather if the ball wholly crosses the goal line in the air or on the ground.

### **Player conduct-**

Dissent to an official, opponent, teammate or a stranger will not be tolerated. Dissent is using profanity or the continued yelling at the ref or questioning of calls. Calls made by refs are based on the laws of the game, rules of the league and just common sense. These are all done with what is good for the game and are in the opinion of the referee. Dissent will be dealt with quickly and result in a Caution (yellow card) or a direct sendoff (red card). The player must leave the field and the game will not restart until that is done. The penalty for send offs will be up to League Director (Steve) and consulting with the games ref and another ref not on that game (to be fair to the player). Any player who has directed profanity or threats of violence will not be permitted to play this season and will forfeit their fees. This

is to be a fun league and every effort will be made to be fair and to make it enjoyable. This is not the “world Cup” Refs do make mistakes, and have different views on the field, expect it, accept it and adjust.

### **Slide tackles-**

A slide tackle is part of the game, however for player safety we will define slide tackles as an attempt to dislodge the ball from the feet of a player by sliding near them, in the path they are running or even into them, with or without contact. A slide to stop a balls path 5 yards away is soccer and not a slide tackle. All of this is in the opinion of the ref. Any legitimate slide tackle that is called will be a dangerous play and an indirect free kick from where it occurred. The act of leaving your feet is not necessarily a slide tackle.

### **Advantage-**

When a referee sees a foul, but it is not in the best interest of the team fouled to stop and attack and do a free kick. The ref should yell “advantage” or “play on” and hold his arms out in front of them. A ref can still give a free kick in a few seconds if the advantage does not develop. This is done to let people know there was a foul and also to keep the game moving and not blowing a whistle for trifling fouls.

### **Letting you play-**

Refs are encouraged to not call every violation for what is called “trifling fouls” or violation. A great example is a tug on a jersey that does not hamper play, a throw in at midfield where the thrower foot comes off the ground and you can see a blade of grass. The game is intended to flow and be fast. Again this is in the opinion of the ref.

### **Offside-**

With only one ref in the 11V11 game it is hard to call an offside. While every effort will be made, the ref must be able to see a separation of the players in order to do this and to be fair. Someone 10 yards off side is an easy one to see...someone with their leg and torso just on the other side of the second to the last defender is not and refs will not call this. The instruction to the ref team is that they must be 100% sure that attacker is off side and remember it is at the moment of the kick not when they get the ball.

Teams are encouraged to designate a linesman each game. It can be a substitute and can change during the game, but the final decision is made by the referee. If a referee is unsure, he will not call it. Accept it.

### **Substitutions-**

Free subs at any stoppage. You do need the ref’s permission. Goal keeper needs to tell the ref when they are switching.

### **Time-**

For 11V 11 it is 45 minutes halves with 5 -10 minute halftime. Each half will have a water break somewhere around 20 minutes. The time is up to the ref to determine. We do not want to stop and attack or the flow of the game.

Scheduled time is kick off time. We do have light issues to deal with and other groups on Sundays. There are times we are running a few minutes behind. Every effort will be made to correct this and get caught up and or to start on time. Refs will be instructed to start their watches at the scheduled time. If a ref continually is late or stops early without a reason please let Steve know so we can correct it.

### **Sportsmanship and fair play-**

The idea is to have fun and blow off steam and while we all want to win and score, it should not cloud our judgement on right and wrong. Please make every effort to make it enjoyable for all...going in too hard on a weaker player is not enjoyable, temper yourself to the game. Particularly in the Co-Ed game, over zealous tackles will be dealt with swiftly with yellow cards. These are your friends and neighbors and at the end of it all we should all walk away saying I worked hard and had fun.

Please also with only one ref and field markings, it gets difficult to see and make the correct call. Please do the right thing if it is out on you and the ref doesn't make the call, just help out, be honest and let them know. Again the idea is to have fun, not win the "World Cup". We don't want the mentality that is in professional soccer, ie, if the ball goes out on you, do not appeal and try to get the throw etc, be honest. We don't want to hear, 'Let the ref make the call' if you clearly know it went out on you. Teammates and opponents respect you more when you are honest.

### **Referees-**

Every effort will be made to use a USSF certified referee. Like players their skill set is going to be different, and in the laws of the game it states in the opinion of the referee as far as application of the law. A referee that does not involve themselves in the game, uses profanity or favors one team or a player will be addressed. Please talk to Steve about this after the game.

Our objective is to be a league where it is not just about winning, but having fun and being with each other! A place where the kids can come and watch Mom and Dad play and where all of us from players to referees can be role models to them and each other. Respect is the Key. Respect your opponent, respect your teammates, respect the referees, respect the game, and mostly respect yourself. Do not be 'that player' or do something that you will regret or make your kids embarrassed.

If you are ejected or persistently infringe league rules you may be banned from playing in our leagues. It has happened in the past. We want everyone to have fun in what is a recreational league.

Thank you for your co-operation and here's to a fun league.