

Greater Kingston Senior Soccer Association Outdoor Soccer Rules and Regulations

Revised Feb-2024

Rule 1 Membership

- A) For active membership to remain in good standing, each active member, that shall be a team, shall:
1. Comply with the Constitution of the GKSSA and the published rules (constitution, policies, and procedures) of the District and the Ontario Soccer.
 2. Remit all outstanding monies to the GKSSA when due.
 3. The bondholder shall be delegated by the team executive and will be listed on the team application form. Notice of any change of bondholder shall be submitted to the GKSSA Board of Directors in writing for approval.
 4. Notify the GKSSA Board of Directors of the current team representative seven (7) days prior to the annual general meeting.
 5. Bonds are not permitted to lie dormant. If a bondholder does not wish to enter a team in the outdoor session, the bond must be redeemed. The GKSSA Board of Directors must be informed in writing of the bondholder's intentions two (2) months prior to the beginning of the outdoor season.

Rule 2 Team Registration

- A) All new team applications must be in writing to the GKSSA Board of Directors and accompanied by a Three Hundred Dollar (\$300.00) bond.
- B) Each team shall register its playing colours when applying for membership each year. New teams are not permitted to register playing colours that are similar to any existing team unless they also register an alternate colour.
- C) Each team shall forward to the GKSSA Secretary two (2) contact names, their email addresses, and phone numbers. Only these team contacts shall be emailed on the happenings of the GKSSA including decisions regarding suspensions, protests, decisions on appeals, and dates, times, and locations of hearings.
- D) In the event that a team is relegated to another division based upon their final standings in the previous season, a minimum of seven (7) players from the relegated team must move with that relegated team. If the number of seven (7) players cannot be met for whatever reason, the GKSSA Board of Directors has the authority to deal with such situations on a case-by-case basis.
- E) The GKSSA Board of Directors will have the authority to designate all team movement between divisions. Champions of each division shall be promoted to the next highest division, if possible, and teams finishing in the lowest rank in each division shall be relegated to the next lowest division, if possible.
- F) A new team cannot be formed by signing or using seven (7) players, at any time during their first season, from a single already existing team or a team registered in the GKSSA the previous season. The intention of this rule is to prevent teams from disbanding and re-registering in the same division (thereby avoiding their possible relegation or promotion to another division), and shall not apply where both the new and previous teams will be playing in the same division.
- G) Any new team will be delegated into any division at the discretion of the GKSSA Board of Directors.

Rule 3 Player Registration

- A) The GKSSA shall administer player registration in conjunction with the published rules of Ontario Soccer.
- B) No team shall have less than eleven (11) or more than twenty-four (24) registered players at one time. No more than six (6) players of these players may be registered in a competitive league.
- C) For each division, the registration and release deadline shall be four (4) weeks prior to the last date on which regular season games are scheduled in that division.
- D) A player shall be eligible, after twenty-four (24) hours following the registration, to play games for the team with which he is registered.
- E) A player must be sixteen (16) years of age or older as of May 1st of the current season to be eligible to play.
- F) A player shall only play for one (1) team within the GKSSA league structure.
- G) Any player currently under suspension from another outdoor league may not register with a team.
- H) Any player who was last registered in another country requires an international transfer before being able to register.
- I) Any player who was last registered as a non-amateur or professional player requires a reinstatement to amateur status from Ontario Soccer and/or the CSA prior to registering.
- J) It is the team's responsibility to ensure that each of its players complies with Rules 3(G), 3(H), and 3(I).
- K) An ineligible player shall be defined as per Ontario Soccer's Discipline procedure (Section 9 – Item 9.11.2) and Competition procedure (Section 1 – Item 19.2).
- L) If an ineligible player plays, the team will forfeit any points earned in games played by the ineligible player. The opposing team will be designated the winner by a 3 to 0 score and receive three (3) points.
- M) Players may play up in a higher division for league play a maximum number of times in a season as dictated by the "Call-up & Trial Player" rule.
- N) Players may register as trial players with the league for a maximum number of times in a season as dictated by the "Call-up & Trial Player" rule.

Rule 4 General Rules

- A) The Laws of the Game shall be those adopted by the CSA through its association with FIFA.
- B) Each team, and its officials, is responsible for the conduct of their players and is required to take any precautions necessary to prevent their players and team officials from threatening or assaulting game officials before, during, or at the conclusion of a game. Teams will be responsible for all fines and administration fees levied by the GKSSA, SOSA, Ontario Soccer, or CSA.
- C) All games shall be played as scheduled and every effort must be made to do so.
- D) No scheduled game shall be postponed by either of the two (2) teams scheduled to play unless the GKSSA Board of Directors furnish written permission. Application for postponement must be made in writing to the GKSSA Board of Directors seven (7) days prior to the game. The team requesting a change in the date and/or time of a game shall obtain agreement in writing, facsimile, or email, if applicable, from their opponent and this agreement shall be forwarded with the application for postponement. The re-scheduled game must be played within twenty-one (21) days of the original date and the proposed new date must be agreed upon by both teams and shall be submitted with the application for postponement to the GKSSA.
- E) All teams must appear on the field in their registered team colours. Where the uniform colours of competing teams are similar, the away team shall use uniforms (i.e. shirts) of an alternate colour. Goalkeepers must wear colours which, in the opinion of the referee, plainly distinguish them from the other players and from the game officials.

- F) All players other than the goalkeeper must wear uniquely Arabic numbered shirts. These numbers shall be clearly visible and distinguishable.
- G) Each team shall be responsible for providing a net and two (2) corner flags prior to the start of the game. The home team shall also provide a properly inflated game ball subject to approval by the referee. The home team is also responsible for unlocking and relocking the gates and for turning on and off the lights as necessary.
- H) Fifteen (15) minutes grace time shall be allowed from the scheduled kick-off time of the game to permit both teams to field the minimum number of seven (7) players. The game shall commence when both teams have the mandatory minimum number.
- I) A game shall be declared forfeited if a team cannot field the mandatory minimum number of players after the grace period and the game shall be awarded by a 3 to 0 score to the opponent. The offending team will face disciplinary action. If neither team can field the mandatory minimum number of players, the game shall be declared a double default, marked as a 0-0 loss for each team, and neither team shall receive any points. Both teams will face disciplinary action.
- J) Substitutions are unlimited and may be made at the discretion of the referee in accordance with Law 3:
 - a. After a goal is scored,
 - b. At half-time,
 - c. At the award of a goal kick,
 - d. At the award of a throw-in, in a team's favor or either throw-in, if other team is substituting, and
 - e. To replace an injured player.
- K) In all league games, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. Division placements shall be determined by the following protocol, with the protocol applying regardless of the number of teams that may have the same number of accumulated points:
 - a. The team with the highest number of accumulated points;
 - b. Head to head records between the tied teams if only two teams are tied;
 - c. Team with the fewest card accumulation; yellow = 1, red = 3.
 - d. Team with highest goal differential for all regular season games between the tied teams;
 - e. Team with highest goal differential for all regular season games;
 - f. Team with most goals scored during all regular season games;
 - g. A coin toss (or coin tosses, depending on how many teams are tied).

When more than two teams are tied on points, if one team emerges the winner before the coin toss stage, the process begins again from the start for the remaining teams.
- L) Should any team drop out or be suspended from the League before the completion of the season, all of their games played will be declared null and void and removed from the League standing. The GKSSA Board of Directors may terminate the membership of the team.
- M) Referees and Assistant Referees appointed to GKSSA games shall be selected from the Official List of Referees published by Ontario Soccer. Should the referees fail to appear, the game will be re-scheduled and a disciplinary report will be submitted to the District by the GKSSA.
- N) Only team officials and substitute players shall be within to the technical area. If there are no benches, the area shall be situated twenty (20) yards on each side of the halfway line of the playing field. These areas, where possible, shall be located on the same side of the field.
- O) Team officials (manager, coach, or trainer) listed on team sheets are subject to the same disciplinary action as players and are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate fashion so as not to bring the game into disrepute.
- P) Each team must complete the game sheet for each game. The team sheet must contain the printed first and last name (neither initials nor signatures) and number of each player eligible to take part in the game. Only the players whose names appear on the team sheet may take part in the game. The

completed team sheet shall be forwarded to the referee prior to the start of the game. No players may be added to the game sheet after the second half of play begins. All players entering the field of play must be on the game sheet. All players must be accounted for in every game. If a player is playing up, as a trial, or suspended, this must be marked as such on the game sheet. Failure to mark a suspended player listed on the game sheet as “suspended” will deem that the player played as a suspended player. There may be up to three (3) team officials recorded on the game sheet, and all team officials present must be listed. At the end of the game each team’s representative or team official must sign the sheet, confirming the score and any cautions or dismissals given to their players. Game sheets improperly filled out may result in forfeiture of the game in addition to fines.

- Q) A player whose name appears on a game sheet for a game will be considered to have participated in that game even if it was not played (i.e. a default by the either team) unless they are marked as suspended or a line is drawn through their name.
- R) A league game, to be considered official, shall consist of a minimum of seventy (70) minutes of playing time and consist of two (2) equal halves if weather conditions permit.
- S) Should a game be abandoned by the referee for any reason prior to its minimum completion time, the GKSSA Board of Directors has the right to determine whether the game shall be replayed and under what conditions.
- T) Should any game not be completed for an occurrence of any type of misconduct, such as spectator problems, fights, assaults, or a team leaving the field of play without the permission of the referee, the team shall be disciplined in accordance with Ontario Soccer’s Published Rules.
- U) All GKSSA trophies presented annually shall remain the property of the GKSSA unless the team representative is notified otherwise in writing by the GKSSA Board of Directors. These trophies shall be returned to the GKSSA Board of Directors before July 15th of each year and must be in the same condition as received. The GKSSA shall repair damaged trophies at the expense of the team responsible for the damage. The expenses must be paid prior to August 1st of that year. Failure to do so will result in the GKSSA taking the repair costs from the bond which must be replenished as per Rule 9(B).
- V) Each team must have their player registration forms (player books bearing the standard player’s picture and signature approved by the GKSSA Registrar) at every game, subject to the following:
 - i. One representative from each team shall inspect the player registration forms of the players on the opposing team. It shall be the responsibility of the Team representative to notify the referee of any discrepancy immediately after the registration forms are checked. The referee shall record such discrepancies in his/her report but take no further action.
 - ii. In extenuating circumstances where the player registration forms are not present at the start of the game, the player registration forms shall be checked at any time prior to the beginning of the second half.
 - iii. A player whose name is included on the team sheet, but is not present at the time when the player registration forms are checked by the opposing team representative, shall not play in the game until after his player registration form has been checked by the opposing team representative in his presence.
 - iv. When a team representative has reported a player eligibility discrepancy to the referee, the referee shall have the player clearly write his name, date of birth, and signature on the reverse side of the referee’s copy of the game sheet.

Rule 5 Protests

- A) All protests shall be lodged and submitted in writing to the GKSSA general manager not more than two (2) business days following the game concerned. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays are not considered business days. The GKSSA general manager email address is available on the GKSSA website.

- B) The only time exception applies to complaints made as a result of playing ineligible players according to Rule 3(K) which can be brought to the attention of the GKSSA Board of Directors at any time during the current season.
- C) All protests shall be submitted in writing by email, registered mail, or recognized courier service.
- D) A copy of the letter or protest shall be sent by email, registered mail, or courier service to the appropriate individual or organization against which the protest is directed. The person receiving it should acknowledge this copy. Proof of delivery should accompany the original protest.
- E) Every protest involving an individual shall be made by the individual and shall be accompanied by a protest fee of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) by cheque or money order to be made out to the GKSSA.
- F) Every protest involving a team shall be made by a member of the team's executive and shall be accompanied by a protest fee of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) by cheque or money order to be made out to the GKSSA.
- G) Any protest not submitted in compliance with all of the above regulations shall be ruled out of order and shall not be heard.
- H) Assuming all of the other requirements have been met, the protest shall be heard as per Ontario Soccer regulations within three (3) weeks of its receipt by the GKSSA Discipline Chair.
- I) In the event the protest is upheld, the protest fee shall be refunded. In the event the protest is denied, the protest fee shall be forfeited.
- J) If either party to the protest submitted to the GKSSA is not satisfied with the decision, that party may appeal to the District.
- K) For Cup and Playoff Tournaments where the protest will impact subsequent games, the protest must be delivered at the first available opportunity and sufficiently in advance of any subsequent games that might be affected by it. The GKSSA reserves the right to refuse to consider a protest if it is not delivered at the first available opportunity and/or not sufficiently in advance of any subsequent games that might be affected by it.
- L) No referee decision may be protested. Any dispute concerning the awarding of a card to a player must be done as per Rule 6(F) and 6(K).

Rule 6 Discipline

- A) The GKSSA shall operate its own discipline committee. All discipline matters, including hearings and suspensions, shall be conducted in accordance with the discipline procedures set out in the Ontario Soccer Discipline Policies and Procedures. A copy of these Policies and Procedures is available on the Ontario Soccer website: <https://www.ontariosoccer.net/governing-documents-discipline>
- B) The GKSSA Board of Directors will appoint a Discipline Chair for appeals and discipline on major offences.
- C) The GKSSA Board of Directors, in conjunction with the GKSSA Discipline Chair, shall appoint up to two individuals per division as part of the DBR Committee to review the reports and base their judgment upon the game report.
- D) All referee assaults shall be referred to the District.
- E) The teams of all players who receive red cards shall be responsible for discovering the reason for dismissal from the referee. The offence shall be specified by the referee on the game sheet.
- F) All players who are dismissed from a game shall incur an automatic one (1) game suspension unless a request for a hearing is made by the player or team representative within seventy-two (72) hours of the completion of the game in which the dismissal occurred or up to two (2) hours before the team's next GKSSA game (whichever is less). This request must be received in writing via email by the GKSSA General Manager, President, and Secretary and must be accompanied by a non-refundable hearing fee of

- Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). Hearings may not be requested for offences of caution accumulation or being dismissed for a second caution as per Ontario Soccer's Discipline procedure (Section 5 – Item 5.2.6.1)
- G) A registrant who has been dismissed from a match may request a copy of the report from the GKSSA General Manager if the request is submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game in which the dismissal occurred.
 - H) DBR shall follow the published Ontario Soccer guidelines. While reviewing the penalty, if the DBR Committee feels a more severe penalty is warranted, a hearing will be scheduled and the player will be required to attend as per Rules 7(C) through 7(F).
 - I) Yellow cards are accumulated throughout the season separately for league games and cup games. Playoff games are considered an extension of league games. A player dismissed for a second cautionable offence in a game shall not have an accumulation of yellow cards from that game.
 - J) A Discipline by Hearing (DBH) shall be convened to deal with any offence not covered by the Ontario Soccer Discipline Policies, including offences by team officials.
 - K) In discipline cases, when a team disputes the identification of an ejected player, the onus is on the team to prove the correct identity of the player and the affected team shall have twenty-four (24) hours to inform the GKSSA General Manager of the error. If the error is not reported within this time frame, the identity of the disciplined player shall be assumed to be correct.
 - L) All suspensions shall be for a stated number of games, except where the Ontario Soccer Discipline Policies and Procedures provide otherwise. Time-based suspensions shall be based on the equivalent of one game per week.
 - M) Suspensions shall be served within the same competitive level in which the misconduct occurred. A player cannot play up during a suspension or use a play up game as time served.
 - N) It is the team's responsibility to enforce suspensions for yellow and red cards as per Ontario Soccer guidelines. Any players or team officials serving suspensions shall not be allowed to be in the team's bench area.
 - O) Any suspension not completed by the end of the season (including playoffs) shall carry over to the next outdoor season.

Rule 7 Discipline by Hearing (DBH)

- A) The GKSSA Discipline by Hearing Committee shall be responsible for all matters of discipline of players, teams, or team officials under the jurisdiction of the GKSSA, after the matter has been initially reviewed by DBR (where applicable).
- B) An appointed Discipline Chair shall deal with all protests.
- C) The DBH Committee shall be comprised of a Discipline Chair as well as two members from a different division to which the discipline matter pertains. None of these members shall be from the division in which the discipline matter pertains. This will avoid conflict of interest within the division.
- D) The members of the DBH Committee shall be selected at random from available teams. The teams selected shall be required to serve as committee members unless they can present a conflict of interest. No team shall be required to serve twice in the same season unless all available teams have served as committee members already or no other teams are available due to a possible conflict of interest.
- E) Once team representatives have been notified that they are to provide a DBH Committee member for a scheduled hearing, the team is responsible for sending a member to the hearing.
- F) Failure of a team to provide a DBH Committee member when a member has been requested shall result in a fine under Rule 10(G) and possible additional disciplinary action.

Rule 8 Appeals

- A) The decision of GKSSA DBH on any protest or complaint may be appealed in writing to the District. The hearing chair will discuss the proper procedures at the hearing.
- B) A player or his team representative **cannot** appeal a decision made by DBR as per Ontario Soccer guidelines, except where a decision has been made that is in contravention of or not in accordance with a published rule.

Rule 9 Fees and Fines: General

- A) A fine set out in the schedule of fees and fines shall be levied against teams for infractions listed within these Rules and Regulations.
- B) All fines are due within forty-eight (48) hours of the time levied or they will be deducted from the team's bond. The bond must be replenished not fewer than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the team's next game. Failure to do so will result in a 3 to 0 loss of that game and suspension from play in all GKSSA competition until the bond has been reimbursed.
- C) Any fees payable to the District or Ontario Soccer may be subject to an additional administrative charge as determined by the GKSSA Board of Directors.

Rule 10 Schedule of Fees and Fines

- A) Failure to furnish legal corner flags, Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each instance.
- B) Failure to furnish nets where required, Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each instance.
- C) Failure of the home team to furnish a game sheet, Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each instance.
- D) Failure to return GKSSA trophies by July 15th, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), as per Rule 4(U).
- E) Failure to report game results by email by noon of the day following the game date, Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each instance. See Rule 12(A).
- F) Failure to provide a DBH Committee member when selected, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each instance. See Rule 7(F).
- G) A team representative or proxy must attend the annual general meeting and each membership meeting of the GKSSA. Failure to do so will require the team to pay a fine of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), according to Article 10.5 of the GKSSA Constitution.
- H) Forfeiture of any scheduled game, without two (2) days' notice in writing to the GKSSA General Manager, President, and Secretary will require the team to pay a fine of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).
- I) Excessive profanity and taunting by players directed toward any officials, managers, coaches, or players will result in a Twenty Dollar (\$20.00) fine for each occurrence as per the referee's game report.
- J) If the team is found guilty of intentionally playing an ineligible player by the GKSSA disciplinary committee, that team shall be fined Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).
- K) If a player is "suspended until he/she requests a hearing", such request must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).
- L) Should a game be abandoned by the official(s) due to lack of lines or no lines at all, the team responsible for the field shall pay for the officials' fees for that game. This rule only applies to teams that have their own fields and are responsible for their own lines.

Rule 11 Conduct

- A) No team shall be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages at or near public soccer fields. Any team (or their supporters) that is proven to be breaking this rule will be fined a minimum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each occurrence.

- B) Any player, team official, or member of the GKSSA that acts in a manner that is detrimental to the game of soccer, or who tries to or does impede, harass, or otherwise intimidate a game official, opposing team official or player, or a member of the GKSSA Board of Directors shall be charged with violation of the Codes of Conduct of the District and Provincial associations and disciplined accordingly.

Rule 12 Submission of Game Reports

- A) Both teams must report the game result, all scorers, and all cards from each game by noon of the day after the game. Reporting must be done by emailing the GKSSA General Manager. If a game is cancelled or abandoned for a reason such as inclement weather, damaged fields, or fields closed by the Municipality, both teams must report the cancellation in the same manner.
- B) The Referee must email legible scans to the GKSSA General Manager, or mail or deliver the paper copy of all game sheets to the league office within forty-eight (48) hours of the game's completion. A Referee who fails to submit the required documents within ninety-six (96) hours of completion of the game shall be reported to the District for discipline.

Rule 13 Cup Competitions

- A) The GKSSA may annually hold Cup Competitions called the Nathalie Cave Memorial Trophy, the Alford Cup, and the Carmine Lanzo Sr. Cup. The GKSSA may elect to hold one or more cup competitions that include teams from more than one division.
- B) The Cup Competitions shall be based on a random draw to be held prior to the start of the season and in the presence of at least one (1) GKSSA Board of Directors member or team member from each division.
- C) Player must be registered with their team not less than twenty-four (24) hours before participation in Cup Competition. See Rule 3(D).
- D) The GKSSA Board of Directors, upon preparation of the schedule, will determine regulation time for the Cup Competitions.
- E) All knockout round games in Cup Competitions shall conclude with a winner.
- F) If, in Cup Competition, there is a draw after the stipulated regulation time, the tie breaking procedure will be determined by the GKSSA Board of Directors and submitted to each team representative not less than seven (7) days prior to the Cup Competition.
- G) A player may not play with more than one team in Cup Competition. Any player will be considered ineligible who does so, and any team using an ineligible player will forfeit the game by a 3 to 0 score.

Rule 14 Play-Off Games

- A) The GKSSA may hold an annual play-off competition with the games being arranged accordingly to the position in the league standings that each team has achieved. This may vary from year to year.
- B) Prior to the start of the season, the GKSSA Board of Directors shall determine the play-off format.
- C) Only players fully registered with a team prior to the registration deadline specified in Rule 3(C) shall be eligible to play.
- D) A play-off competition shall be viewed as a form of Cup Competition and all rules outlined in Rule 13 other than 13(A), 13(B), and 13(C) shall apply to this competition.

Rule 15 Other Regulations

- A) The GKSSA Board of Directors may modify these Rules and Regulations as required to ensure that all members are treated fairly and consistently, and to uphold the standards of the GKSSA.
- B) Upon actively serving for the entire outdoor season (ordinarily March-September of each year), each member of the GKSSA Board of Directors shall be entitled to a credit of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00).

This credit is intended to encourage participation on the executive and to acknowledge the time commitment involved in the administration of the GKSSA.

- C) Upon actively serving for the entire outdoor season (ordinarily May-September of each year), each member of the DBR Committee (other than the GKSSA Board of Directors member responsible for DBR matters) shall be entitled to a credit of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00). A maximum of two (2) members per division shall be entitled to this credit. If a member should resign prior to the end of the season, their replacement (if any) shall be entitled to the credit instead if the replacement serves for the remainder of the season.
- D) Voting members of the GKSSA may submit a proxy for votes at General Meetings. This must be sent in writing to the GKSSA President and Secretary a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting's start time. Proxy votes will not count toward quorum for a meeting. A member of the GKSSA may hold a maximum of one (1) proxy vote.
- E) For postponed or cancelled games, the GKSSA will contact the District Referee Coordinator prior to 3pm on the date of a game by both email and phone. In these cases, no match fee will be paid to the match officials. If notification occurs after 3pm, the match officials shall be entitled to half of their match fee. If a game must be cancelled prior to kick-off by the match officials, they shall be entitled to half of the match fee. In this case, the referee must collect game sheets and submit a game report as per Rule 12(D).

Appendix A Discipline and Hearing Dates, Times and Place

- A) Discipline and/or protest hearing dates may be posted on the GKSSA web site and may be distributed to all team contacts prior to the season.