

# ROUND ROCK WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

## RULES of COMPETITION

*Adopted August 16, 2009*

### A. REGISTRATION RULES

1. The Executive Committee will determine the registration deadlines and registration materials needed to allow adequate time prior to the start of the season.
2. A team is registered when all required team and player materials are submitted and the required fees are paid.

Teams registered with the RRWSL will always submit the following:

- a. Team Registration Form (All teams must designate an Alternate Captain, all contact information and specify team colors)
  - b. Roster of all players
  - c. Payment of any team registration fees and/or outstanding fines must be paid as a single check or money order. Payment of registration/player fees must be paid with a single check or money order made payable to RRWSL. **Cash will not be accepted.**
3. Each Player must have a current USASA player card for each team for which they register.
  4. Teams and players may register to play in one team per division within RRWSL.
  5. 11v11 Competitive Division
    - a) A team may register a maximum of two (2) players of eighteen (18) years of age as of the first game played.
    - b) In the case of a player who plays on multiple RRWSL teams and is involved in a disciplinary problem (non-inclusive of red card penalties) resulting in that player's suspension, the suspension shall apply to all teams.
    - c) Players may not be on multiple teams in the same division.
  6. 11v11 Over-30 Division
    - a) All players must be 30 or older in order to play their first game. This rule applies to RRWSL play only. Teams that enter tournaments or that compete in the State and National Cups should check the rules of competition for those events.
    - b) In the case of a player who plays on multiple RRWSL teams and is involved in a disciplinary problem (non-inclusive of red card penalties) resulting in that player's suspension, the suspension shall apply to all teams.
    - c) Players may not be on multiple teams in the same division.
  7. 7v7 Over-30 Division

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- a) All players must be 30 or older in order to play their first game. This rule applies to RRWSL play only. Teams that enter tournaments or that compete in the State and National Cups should check the rules of competition for those events.
  - b) In the case of a player who plays on multiple RRWSL teams and is involved in a disciplinary problem (non-inclusive of red card penalties) resulting in that player's suspension, the suspension shall apply to all teams.
  - c) Players may not be on multiple teams in the same division.
8. 7v7 Over-40 Division
- a) All players must be 40 or older in order to play their first game. This rule applies to RRWSL play only. Teams that enter tournaments or that compete in the State and National Cups should check the rules of competition for those events.
  - b) In the case of a player who plays on multiple RRWSL teams and is involved in a disciplinary problem (non-inclusive of red card penalties) resulting in that player's suspension, the suspension shall apply to all teams.
  - c) Players may not be on multiple teams in the same division.
9. New team registration may be accepted following the closing of regular registration, as long as scheduling permits and if space exists for additional teams.
10. The individual player registration deadline is Thursday of the week prior to the Sunday game. Player registrations must include all paperwork (i.e., Player Registration Form, player card and picture, copy of driver's license (new players only) necessary to register the player. Registration paperwork must include a check or money order for the amount due made payable to RRWSL. **Cash will not be accepted.**
11. Games played with an unregistered or improperly registered player, shall be recorded as a forfeit by the offending team. The offending team will forfeit each game in which the unregistered or improperly registered player participated. The offending player may not play again until registration is properly completed. Any player who is found to be an illegally registered player two times or more will be subject to the ruling of the Judicial Committee.
12. All returned checks will be assessed a \$10 fine plus bank fees. The player responsible for submitting the returned check may be suspended from league play until their bounced check clears.

### **B. CHANGING TEAMS**

1. A player may change teams within a division of the League during any season. The player will be required to get a release signed by a representative affiliated with the team she is leaving. The player must register with the new team as a new player, subject to completing all appropriate forms and paying a \$10 transfer fee to RRWSL.

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The (Player) Registration Form from TSASS allows the release and new team registration on the same form.

2. Transfer players from teams outside the RRWSL are handled as new registrations.

### **C. TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Responsible for registering each player according to the rules of the League.
2. Responsible for the submission of all necessary registration materials (i.e., rosters, fees, fines, etc.) Signatures determined to have been forged on registration materials will result in a \$50 fine against the individual who forged the signature. The individual will be suspended from play until the fine is paid.
3. Represent their team at all general meetings; name an alternate team representative and communicate the business conducted to his/her team members. In the event that she is unable to attend, she should identify a team member to attend in her place.
4. Notify their team of the date, time and location of each game. League schedules will be maintained on the League web page.
5. Responsible for cleanup at their field of play. May include restroom duty and/or parking lot cleanup on a rotating basis.
6. Responsible for presenting valid USASA player cards for all players to referee prior to the start of the game.
7. Responsible for securing volunteers for RRWSL-hosted and/or sponsored tournaments.
8. Ensure that team members are familiar with, and abide by, the RRWSL Constitution and RRWSL Rules of Competition and the FIFA Laws of the Game. Each team representative is responsible for ensuring that all rules of competition are complied with by her players and spectators and for the conduct and courtesy of her players and spectators.
9. Responsible for maintaining order and respect for the authority of the referee during games.
10. Ensure that your team contact information is current and accurate on the RRWSL website.
11. All Team Captains are responsible for ensuring that their teams adhere to the RR PARD – Facility Use Agreement. The current agreement is posted on our website: <http://www.rrwsl.org> under league documents.

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### **D. DIVISION COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES**

A Division Commissioner is responsible for the performance of the following activities within the RRWSL.

1. Following the Officer Election post spring season, all Division Commissioners will convene and designate a Senior Commissioner to handle interactions between the League and Tournament Directors.
2. Act as a liaison between their Division Captains and the Executive Board
3. Become familiar with each team's position on issues facing the League so that appropriate votes may be cast during Executive Board Meetings.
4. Attend all Board Meetings (Officers and Captains).
5. Cast a vote at Board meetings that appropriately reflects the majority opinion of teams within their division.
6. Attend and/or serve as Commissioner at Tournaments at which RRWSL is co-hosting and/or participating.
7. As necessary, attend the TSSAS Annual Meetings and/or Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department monthly meetings.
8. Coordinate referee issues with the Referee Commissioner and/or Assignor.
9. Each game date, perform the following duties:
  - Verify field conditions, including goals, lining of fields and referee presence and report any discrepancies to the Registrar.
  - On at least a bi-monthly basis, speak with each Captain and/or Team in the Division to discuss any issues or concerns, including any infractions of rules and or un-sportsmanlike behavior.
  - Ensure that the Captains perform their duties related to game cards, injuries, scoring, and field clean-up.
10. Based upon observation and reports from Captains, Division Commissioners shall report unsportsmanlike behavior to the Judicial Committee for resolution.

### **E. STATISTICS**

1. Standings will be based on the prior season. New teams for multiple division leagues will enter division selected by their captain and league commissioner subject to revision by the board as deemed appropriate during the first month of league play.
2. Rankings shall be determined by a point system: 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, and 0 for a loss.
3. When two teams in the same division have an equal number of points, final standings will be determined and the tie broken as follows:
  - a. The winner of head to head play.

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- b. Highest goal average (goals for divided by goals against) with a maximum of 3 goals per game.
  - c. Highest goal difference (goals for minus goals against) with a maximum of 3 goals per game.
  - d. Finally, a playoff game, if necessary, to break the tie.
4. The League shall use these guidelines to the extent possible in determining standings.

### F. PLAYING RULES

The playing rules shall be those promulgated by FIFA, with the following exceptions:

1. An 11v11 (Div 2 or Div 3) or Over 30 Division team may have no more than 25 players on its roster per season and suit up a maximum of 18 players per game.
2. A 7v7 Over 30 or Over 40 Division team may have no more than 18 on its roster per season and 14 players may suit up per game.
3. In 7v7 Division play, there are free substitutions; a player may be substituted and return to the game any number of times during a RRWSL league game
4. If a game is called for any reason other than abandonment of game for misconduct, the score at that time shall stand as the final score if at least half of the game has been played.
5. All jerseys must have permanent 8 inch numbers affixed to the back of the jersey. Additional numbers of a different size may be added to the front or to the shorts and must match the number on the back of the jersey. Permanent markers or tape are not considered a legitimate number. Returning teams must comply with this rule within 2 weeks from the start of the season in which they are currently registered.
6. In the event of a uniform color conflict, the team designated as the "home" shall change uniforms. If, after the schedule is published, a team changes its uniform colors, that team is responsible for avoiding color conflicts, regardless of whether it is the home or visitor team.
7. In 7v7 play, goal kicks will be taken 10 yards of either side of the goal post on the end line.
8. In 7v7 play, a penalty kick will be 10 yards from the back goal line.
9. In 7v7 and 11v11 Over 30 play, slide tackles are prohibited and can result in the offending player receiving a red card.
10. In 7v7 play, off-sides will not be enforced. However, any player blatantly "camping out" (i.e. hovering in the penalty or goal boxes) will be cautioned. Players must maintain a five (5) yard distance around the penalty box to avoid receiving a caution from the referee.

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### G. FORFEITURES, POSTPONEMENTS or RESCHEDULES

1. In 11v11 play, a team must have 7 players to begin a League game.
2. In 7v7 play, a team must have 5 players to begin a League game.
3. **In the event of a forfeit, the RRWSL will assess fines against the offending team.**

Teams have two weeks from the date of the forfeited game to pay the fine or the team is suspended from playing in the league until the fine is paid. Fines may be paid by check or money order to RRWSL. The fines for forfeiture are below.

- a. If a team has been unable to reschedule a game with, or without notification, to the Game Scheduler, Division Commissioner and opposing team captain by Thursday at 5pm preceding the scheduled RRWSL game, a **\$30.00** fine will be assessed against the forfeiting team and credited to the opposing non-forfeiting team. Game score is recorded as a 3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team.
  - b. Forfeitures due to inadequate number of players (refer to G-1 and G-2 above) at the field: a **\$30.00** being credited to the opposing non-forfeiting team.
    - If a team has an inadequate number of players (refer to G-1 and G-2 above) at scheduled game time, the referee will postpone the decision of forfeiture for up to 15 minutes. If the game is so postponed and not forfeited, the referee shall shorten both halves proportionally as needed so as to end the game at the appointed time. If a forfeiture results, the game is recorded as a 3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team.
    - If neither team has adequate number of players (refer to G-1 and G-2 above) at the scheduled game time the referee shall postpone the kickoff by 15 minutes. If at the end of 15 minutes, one team has at least seven players but the other team does not, the referee shall record a forfeit by the team with fewer than seven players. If at the end of 15 minutes, neither team has seven players ready to play, the referee shall record a double forfeit. When a double forfeit occurs the teams must divide the cost to reimburse the League for the center referee fee.
4. If the center referee is not present at the scheduled game time, both teams may agree to a substitute referee. If no referee is available, or if both teams cannot agree, the teams shall wait 15 minutes (or more if both teams agree, but the wait time detracts from the game length) for the center referee. At the end of the 15 minutes, the team captain must notify the Division Commissioner or a member of the Executive Committee of the situation in order to obtain an acceptable substitute referee for the scheduled game.
  5. Any team that has forfeited three games in a season is automatically disqualified from the RRWSL for the remainder of the season, with no fee refund. The disqualified team will be removed from the schedule and will not play the remainder of the season.

### H. ABANDONMENT OF GAME

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RRWSL follows the FIFA Laws of the Game, Section 5.12: "The referee may abandon a match if there is an insufficient number of players to meet the requirement of the Law or the competition, if a team does not appear or leaves before the completion of the game, or if the field or any of its equipment do not meet the requirements of the Laws or are otherwise unsafe."

Additionally, RRWSL will allow a captain to request the Referee to abandon a game after the half-time whistle if the continued competition would create undue hardship for team.

Whether the Referee or a RRWSL Captain abandons a game, the match will be considered to be complete. The match will not be replayed. The score will be recorded as of the time of the abandonment. The game cad will be notated with "abandoned in the nth minute", injuries, issued cards, scoring information and returned to the appropriate league official.

After an abandoned RRWSL games, all referees, players, coaches and observers of that game must leave the field of play as an abandoned game is a statement that play of an official RRWSL can not continue.

A RRWSL game "abandoned" by a Captain prior to half-time will be considered a "forfeit" and subject to the rules outlined in the RRWSL, Rules of Competition, Section G.

### **I. RESCHEDULED GAMES**

A regularly scheduled game may be postponed and/or rescheduled if:

1. A team is registered to play in any sanctioned tournament and informs the captain of opposing team, game scheduler and Division Commissioner by the Thursday before the scheduled game.

**OR**

2. The team desiring the postponement contacts the captain of the opposing team and obtains her consent to postpone the game. The postponing Captain must contact the game scheduler and Division Commissioner by the Thursday prior to the regularly scheduled game. Both teams must agree to a desired time for reschedule and must contact the game scheduler and Division Commissioner within one week of the postponed game with the new game date and time.

### **J. USE OF THE FIELDS**

1. In the event of a rainout, players may not use the affected fields.
2. Rainouts, at game time, will be determined by the officiating referee using FIFA rules.
3. The League's Executive Committee, based upon geographic location to ascertain condition of OSP, will be declared prior to 11:00am on Sunday. A recording will be placed on the number advertised on the League's web site. An email will be sent by the webmistress, or designated backup, to the players who have signed up for the "Rainout Notification" on the League's web page.

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### **K. CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS**

1. Caution/yellow and Expulsion/red (Penalty) Cards may be issued by the referee following FIFA and TSSAS rules. All penalties associated with the Penalty Card received may be enforced by RRWSL.
2. In Over 30 and Over 40 Division play, a player performing a slide tackle can result in the offending player receiving a red card.
3. A player who receives a red card (expulsion) must immediately leave the field and the area associated with the RRWSL. The player is not eligible to play in the next sanctioned game within that Division of RRWSL.
4. Any player who accumulates four (4) cautions (yellow cards) in a season will be fined \$25.00 and suspended until the player has appeared before the Judicial Committee to justify further participation in the league.
5. Any player who shall accumulate two expulsions (red cards) in one Fall or Spring season must appear before the Executive Committee to justify further participation in the league.
6. Penalty points will be maintained, as set forth by FIFA, by the League Scorekeeper and the game card for the next scheduled game will be noted with the ineligibility of any player.
7. Any non-RRWSL member affiliated with a team ejected from a game shall be suspended from the next game and the team fined \$50.00. If ejected from the area of the field a second time during the same season he/she will be suspended from participating in the RRWSL the entire rest of the official season. Any infringement of the prohibition from attendance may result in forfeiture by the team affiliated with the offender.
8. All Fines shall be paid in a check or money order to RRWSL by the next scheduled game.
9. Any player or non-RRWSL member affiliated with the team sent off for conduct manifesting a clear intent to injure shall be suspended for a minimum of three games. A second offense shall result in a minimum suspension of 15 games.
10. Any player or non-RRWSL member affiliated with the team sent off for flagrant verbal harassment or foul and abusive language shall be suspended and fined \$50.00. The player shall be suspended from league play until the fine is paid in full. A second offense shall result in a \$75 fine and suspension from league play the remainder of the season. The offending player will not be allowed to return the following season unless the \$75 fine has been paid in full.
11. Any player or non-RRWSL member affiliated with the team who assaults a game official shall be permanently suspended from the RRWSL. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a game official: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into a game official, the act of kicking or throwing any object at the official that could inflict injury, damaging the official's uniform or personal property, etc. In the event of an assault the local police will be notified.

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12. Any player or non-RRWSL member affiliated with the team in the RRWSL is subject to the rules of the RRWSL while at any RRWSL-sanctioned game, regardless of whether he/she is a participant. Any such person guilty of misconduct described in this section may be suspended after a hearing as outlined in Section I of the Rules of Competition.
13. The judgment of the center referee cannot be protested and shall be considered final. However, misinterpretation or mis-application of the Rules of the Game or player eligibility may be questioned and reported to the attention of the Referee Commissioner or designee.