



Howe Sound Soccer League

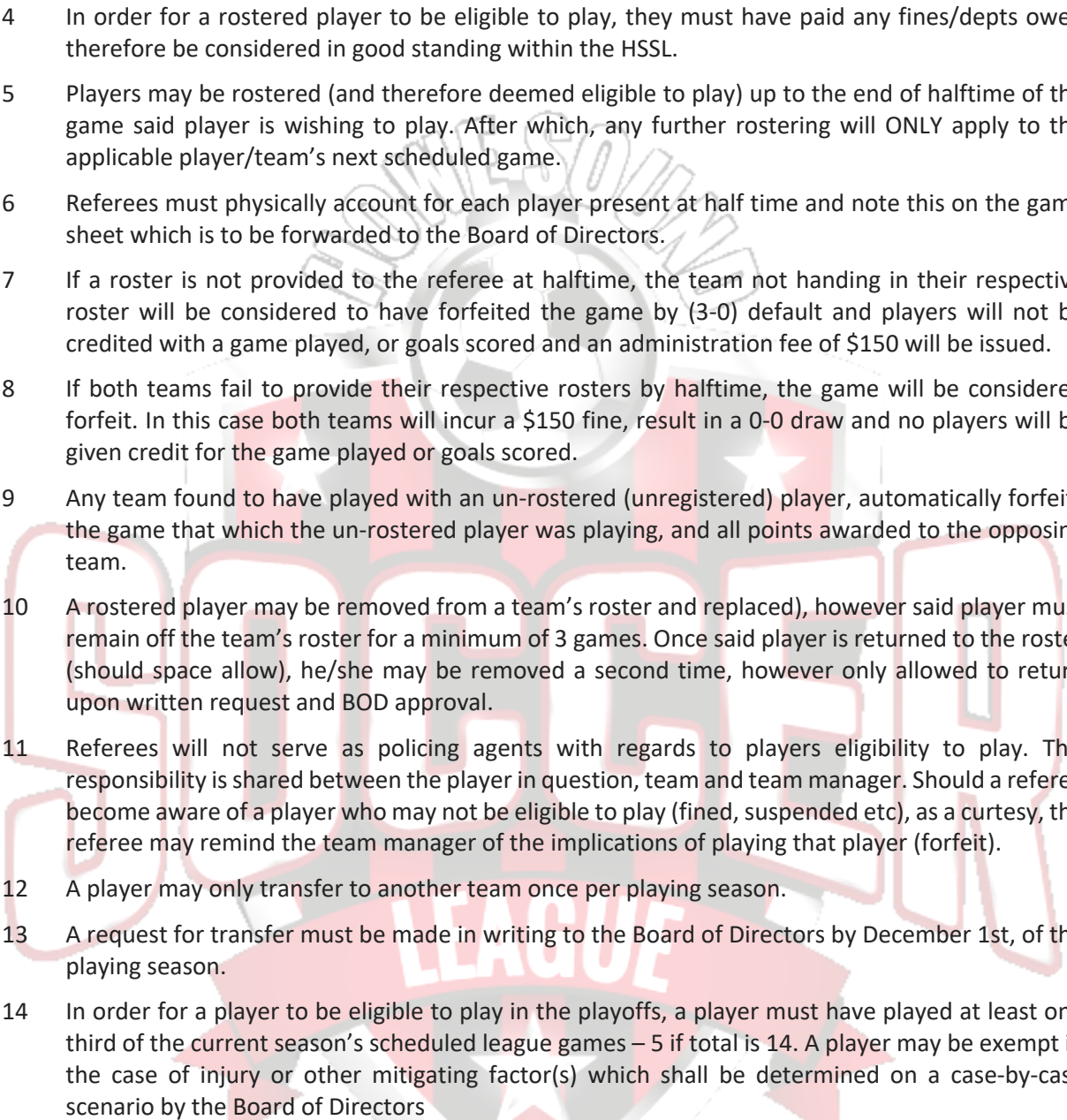
Policy and Procedures

Article 1: GENERAL

- 1.1 Each team is responsible for providing a ball suitable to be used as a game ball.
- 1.2 Definition of a participant - A person that participates with the HSSL "participant" as defined as someone who has registered with the HSSL read, understood and signed the HSSL Amateur Athletic Waiver and Release of Liability form, HSSL Code of Ethics, HSSL Code of Conduct, and HSSL By-laws, for the current playing season.
- 1.3 Each new and existing team will be provided (upon request unless already purchased) - one "sport First aid kit" with ice packs.
- 1.4 In the occasion of an extreme heat event, the HSSL will adopt the BC Soccer Extreme Heat Guidelines to assist with ensuring the health and safety of HSSL participants during these events. Those guidelines can be found at:
https://www.bcsoccer.net/media/3ylet34e/bc_soccer_extreme_heat_guidelines.pdf
- 1.5 In the instances where an HSSL event is scheduled while the Quality of Air may be considered hazardous, the HSSL will adopt the BC Soccer Air Quality Safety Guidelines to assist with ensuring the health and safety of HSSL participants is maintained. Those guidelines can be found at <https://www.bcsoccer.net/media/f55onmgp/air-quality-guideline-bc-soccer-updated.pdf>
- 1.6 In in instances where cold weather may impact the playing surface of the field, and given the rapidly changing weather and temperatures, so long as the playing field is completely clear of snow, the decision for the game to proceed will be made by the referee. Further, there are no cold temperature limitations at this time.

Article 2: ROSTER

- 2.0 Each Men's Division team shall carry a roster no more than 22 players. Each Women's Division team shall carry a roster no greater than 25 players. Roster shall be handed to the presiding referee in the form of a pre-printed game sheet prior to play (HSSL version preferred).
- 2.1 The minimum age requirement to participate in any HSSL event including but not limited to games, team practices and Drop-in sessions is 16. Players between the ages of 16 and 18 are required to complete and return to the HSSL a signed Parent/Guardian Waiver Form prior to participation.
- 2.2 Rosters can be download from the HSSL website which will comprise a list all of the team's registered players, their full name, and jersey number. Rosters shall be updated as required by a league admin, team admin or referee only.

- 
- 2.3 Rostered players are those that have signed and acknowledged the HSSL Waiver/Registration form, Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, By-laws and paid the HSSL registration fee for the upcoming season.
- 2.4 In order for a rostered player to be eligible to play, they must have paid any fines/depts owed therefore be considered in good standing within the HSSL.
- 2.5 Players may be rostered (and therefore deemed eligible to play) up to the end of halftime of the game said player is wishing to play. After which, any further rostering will ONLY apply to the applicable player/team's next scheduled game.
- 2.6 Referees must physically account for each player present at half time and note this on the game sheet which is to be forwarded to the Board of Directors.
- 2.7 If a roster is not provided to the referee at halftime, the team not handing in their respective roster will be considered to have forfeited the game by (3-0) default and players will not be credited with a game played, or goals scored and an administration fee of \$150 will be issued.
- 2.8 If both teams fail to provide their respective rosters by halftime, the game will be considered forfeit. In this case both teams will incur a \$150 fine, result in a 0-0 draw and no players will be given credit for the game played or goals scored.
- 2.9 Any team found to have played with an un-rostered (unregistered) player, automatically forfeits the game that which the un-rostered player was playing, and all points awarded to the opposing team.
- 2.10 A rostered player may be removed from a team's roster and replaced), however said player must remain off the team's roster for a minimum of 3 games. Once said player is returned to the roster (should space allow), he/she may be removed a second time, however only allowed to return upon written request and BOD approval.
- 2.11 Referees will not serve as policing agents with regards to players eligibility to play. This responsibility is shared between the player in question, team and team manager. Should a referee become aware of a player who may not be eligible to play (fined, suspended etc), as a curtesy, the referee may remind the team manager of the implications of playing that player (forfeit).
- 2.12 A player may only transfer to another team once per playing season.
- 2.13 A request for transfer must be made in writing to the Board of Directors by December 1st, of the playing season.
- 2.14 In order for a player to be eligible to play in the playoffs, a player must have played at least one third of the current season's scheduled league games – 5 if total is 14. A player may be exempt in the case of injury or other mitigating factor(s) which shall be determined on a case-by-case scenario by the Board of Directors
- 2.15 Players shall not be restricted from playing in other leagues simultaneously.
- 2.16 Teams shall be allotted an unlimited number of substitutions per game.
- 2.17 Each player must have an easily identifiable number displayed on his jersey that corresponds with the number on their respective roster. No two players may wear the same number on the same team.

Article 3: SCHEDULE

- 3.1 Games shall be played at their designated time and date as per the pre-determined schedule unless alternative arrangements were made and approved by the Board of Directors.
- 3.2 Games may be postponed or rescheduled but not cancelled and only by the Board of Directors.
- 3.3 Teams requesting to reschedule a game are responsible for providing and paying for the referee and field. Any proposed schedule change requests must be made in writing to the Board of Directors no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the game wishing to be re-scheduled.
- 3.4 Teams will be given a 15-minute grace period to field a minimum of seven players to start the game. A team must start and end the game with a minimum of seven players.
- 3.5 Forfeit (a) - If a team is unable to field seven players within the 15-minute grace period, that team shall forfeit the game by (3-0) default and no credit for the game played or goals scored shall be given to players. The team requiring to forfeit will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$150, and the total fees for the game including the turf rental and referee fees. If both teams are unable to field seven players neither team shall be awarded points and no credit for the game played or goals scored shall be given to players of both teams
- 3.6 Forfeit (b) - If a team requiring to forfeit a game prior to the game commencing, that team shall forfeit the game by (3-0) default and no credit for the game played or goals scored shall be given to players. The team requiring to forfeit will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$150, and for the total fees for the game including the turf rental and referee fees.. (This policy does not apply to unpredictable/uncontrollable situations such as weather).
- 3.7 Forfeited games shall not count towards playoff eligibility.
- 3.8 Referees will be compensated for scheduled games what which have been cancelled or forfeited for any reason 50% of their normal wage (including travel pay) when such cancellation or forfeiture occurs greater than 24hrs before the scheduled to occur. Should a cancellation or forfeiture occur within 24hrs, then the presiding referees will receive full compensation (regular wage (including travel pay)).

Article 4: SUSPENSIONS

- 4.1 Players who have been handed a suspension from another league shall report the suspension to the HSSL Board of Directors.
- 4.2 All suspensions from leagues outside the HSSL will be honoured
- 4.3 Any team found to have played a player suspended from another league will forfeit (3-0) all games involving the suspended player. Further sanctions and/or suspensions may result at the discretion of the Board of Directors following an investigation.
- 4.4 A suspended player in League play, except for players suspended by other leagues will be allowed to play in League Cup games.
- 4.5 Accumulations of yellow cards in League play will not be carried over to Cup play and accumulation of yellow cards in Cup play will not be carried over to League play.
- 4.6 League suspensions (but not Cup suspensions) will apply to all playoff games
- 4.7 Both League suspensions and Cup suspensions will be carried over from season to season.

- 4.8 A player receiving two yellow cards in a game, leading to a red card, will not have any yellow cards for accumulation purposes; they will be assessed a red card only.
- 4.9 All fines must be paid in full to the league before any player is considered no longer suspended and considered eligible to play
- 4.10 Game suspensions will follow the game in which the card was given.
- 4.11 Any team playing a suspended player will forfeit that game resulting in a 3-0 loss and fined \$150, and additional penalties may be added at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 4.12 Any team found to be playing an unregistered player will forfeit the game 3-0, be fined \$250 and the player in question will be fined \$100
- 4.13 All yellow cards will incur a \$20 fine and, red cards incur a \$50 fine – players are deemed ineligible to play and therefore suspended until such fines are paid
- 4.14 All team fines must be paid in full prior to the team being deemed eligible to play.
- 4.15 Suspensions and fines will be allocated as follows:

Alleged Offence	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence
1. Dismissed or reported by Match Official for "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at anyone other than the match official(s).	3 game suspension	6-game suspension	TBD
2. Dismissed or reported by Match Official for "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures/actions" directed at the match official(s).	3 game suspension	8-game suspension	TBD
3. Dismissed or reported by Match Official for "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures/actions" directed at a match official(s) after having been previously dismissed or reported	6-12 game suspension	8-16 game suspension	TBD
4. Dismissed for "Serious Foul Play". (Must occur on the field of play, against an opponent when challenging for the ball, while the ball is in play).	3 game suspension	6 game suspension	TBD
5. Dismissed for "Serious Foul Play" where in the opinion of the Match Official and/or Board of Directors there was an obvious "attempt to injure" or "a complete disregard for the safety of an opponent" (Must occur on the field of play, against an opponent while the ball is in play)	4-8 game suspension	4-8 game suspension	TBD

6. Dismissed or reported for "Spitting at an opponent or any other person", other than a Match Official.	4-game suspension	8-game suspension	TBD
7. Dismissed or reported for "Violent Conduct".	3-6 game suspension	6-12 game suspension	TBD
8. Dismissed or reported for "Violent Conduct" where in the opinion of the Match Official and/or the Board of Directors there was an obvious attempt to seriously injure a member or non-member.	6-10 game suspension	12-20 game suspension	TBD
9. Player re-enters the field of play or player bench area after having been dismissed from the game by the Match Official.	2-game suspension	5-game suspension	TBD
10. Match Official Assault for "striking, spitting, kicking, or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct". <i>This charge carries an immediate suspension from all soccer activity</i>	2-5-year suspension + \$400.00 fine	5-10-year suspension + \$400.00 fine	TBD
11. Match Official Assault for "deliberate physical contact (i.e., pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening". <i>This charge carries an immediate suspension from all soccer activity</i>	6-12-month suspension + \$400.00 fine	1-3-year suspension + \$400.00 fine	TBD
12. Participated in a soccer activity from which he/she was suspended	3 game suspension	6 game suspension	TBD
13. Instigated and/or participated in a brawl between two teams before, during, or after a game.	3 game suspension	6 game suspension	TBD
14. Dismissed or reported by a Match Official or other registrant for racist, homophobic or sexist comments made during the game or in the vicinity of the playing field either during or after the game	3 game suspension	6 game suspension	TBD
15. Reported for "using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at an Board of Directors member.	3 game suspension and \$200 fine	6 game suspension and \$400 fine	TBD
16. Dismissed for "Receiving a second caution in the same game" for which neither of the cautions was directed at the match official(s).	1-game suspension	3-game suspension	TBD
17. Dismissed for "Receiving a second caution in the same game" for which at least one of the cautions was directed at the match official(s).	3-game suspension	6 -game suspension	TBD

18. Cumulative Yellow cards	3= 1 game 5= 2 games	6 & 7 = 3 games	8 & 9= 3 games
19. Cumulative Red cards	1= 1 game 2= 2 games	3=3 games 4=5 games	Additional cards = TBD
20. Mass Cautions / Expulsions Where a Match Official Sanctions at least five members of the same team during a Match (caution/expulsion) (Players, Team Officials involved in the incident should be sanctioned individually, as per the infraction)	Fine up to \$250	Fine up to \$500	TBD
21. Conduct Unbecoming and/or Disrepute Behaved in a manner considered by the HSMS Board of Directors to be unbecoming or not in the best interest of the game. Committed any act or made any statement either verbally or in writing, or been responsible for misconduct, continuing misconduct or any other matter which, in the opinion of the HSMS Board of Directors, is considered to be unsporting, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute.	Fine up to \$500	Fine up to \$1000	TBD
22. Entering the Field of Play To confront a Match Official (including at half-time and full-time) in an intimidating manner To interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official	3 game suspension	6 game suspension	TBD
23. Failure to Respect Decisions by the Match Official(s) Persistent Protest Persistent protest after ejection (counts as 2nd or 3rd offence) Returning to the field after ejection (counts as 2nd or 3rd offence) Refusal to leave the field after ejection counts as 2nd or 3rd offence) Directing players to leave the field or show dissent Remaining on the grounds, does not leave the grounds fully and/or remains close to the touchline after ejection but does not result in Match abandonment counts as 2nd or 3rd offence)	Fine up to \$250 and 3 game suspension	Fine up to \$500 and 6 game suspension	TBD

24. Intentional Unethical Physical Contact Intentional unethical physical contact with any person including but not limited to pushing, pulling, charging, striking, kicking, an/or any other attempted negative physical contact	3 matches	6 matches	TBD
25.Discrimination and/or Harassment As described in HSMS Code of Conduct	Fine up to \$1000 and 3-6 game suspension	Fine up to \$2000 and 6-12 game suspension	TBD
26.Coercion, Threats and/or Intimidation Comments, gestures or motions that are threatening or can be perceived to be intimidating or threatening May be where several (more than 2) players or Team Officials of the same team confront a Match Official in a perceived intimidating manner	Fine up to \$1000 And 3-6 game suspension	Fine up to \$2000 and 6-12 game suspension	TBD
27. Brawling Instigated and/or participated in a Brawl before, during, or after a Match	3-6 game suspension	6-12 game suspension	TBD
TBD = To be determined by Board of Directors after formal investigation			

Article 5: STANDINGS

- 5.1 If a resignation or removal of a team occurs prior to the completion of the first round of the schedule, all results involving that team will be expunged from the league record.
- 5.2 If a resignation or removal of a team occurs prior to the completion of second round of schedule, only the second-round results will be expunged.
- 5.3 If the referee abandons any game, the HSSL Board of Directors will decide the outcome.

Article 6: NEW TEAM

Criteria for adding a new team to the HSSL

- 6.1 Able to prove a roster of 15 players minimum (22max)
- 6.2 Shall designate a team representative to represent/participate on the HSSL Board of Directors to help govern and conduct day-to-day league operations as required.
- 6.3 Shall designate a team manager who will be responsible for team player communications, team roster, uniforms and practice/game balls.

Amended, Aug 2023

