

# UNITED AFRICA PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE

## RULES OF COMPETITION

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- ❖ All information can be found on [www.uapsl.com](http://www.uapsl.com)
- ❖ We will follow each cities guideline for COVID and administration will notify teams if there are any changes to guidelines
  - Denver
  - Aurora
- ❖ Coaches/Players Registration
  - Registration will be open until before the first day of the league
    - Players can transfer to another team by the following:
      - Mutual consent between both teams
      - A written letter regarding the reason for the transfer if one coach does not want to release the player from their team
      - If the team they were playing on is not competing in the new season and the player had good standings from previous seasons
    - Registration will reopen mid-season
      - Discretion of the administration
      - Players can not transfer teams during mid-season registration
      - A limited of 5 players can be registered at this time
    - All players and coaches must register to receive their player pass/ lanyard
      - If coaches want to be a player coach, they will need to also register as a player and will receive a player pass.
  - 22 max. on roster
  - Players under 18 need to sign a waiver
- ❖ Teams will be on one side
  - 5 officials/Players
    - Officials- head coach, assistant coach allowed to stand during the match
    - Remainder 3 officials must sit on the bench and have a guest lanyard
      - ALL guest lanyards must be returned to administration after each match
    - If otherwise notified, we will only allow 18 registered players on the bench (COVID)
  - If administration need to remove an outside agent, they will notify the coach or assistant coach for them to assist with the removal (**forfeit/fines and suspension**)
- ❖ Spectators will sit on the other side
  - COVID- must wear mask and practice social distancing
- ❖ Teams will need to have home and away jerseys
  - Dark is home
  - Light is away
- ❖ Match card will have home and away listed
- ❖ The league will keep track of goal scores, yellow and red cards.
  - Will be updated after every match
- ❖ Everyone will need a jersey and a number
  - If there is no number, they cannot play.
- ❖ Shin guards is MANDATORY
- ❖ No Jewelry
- ❖ 7 subs no re-entry
  - They can make sub's anytime
  - Subs must give player pass to the assistant referee
- ❖ 15-minute grace period
  - Number of players you started with in the first half, must start the same way in the second half

- No one can check in once the referee ends the first half
- ❖ All matches will play two 45 minutes (10-minute halftime)
- ❖ Quarter and Semi-finals two 45 minutes (15-minute halftime)
  - If tied- kicks from the mark
- ❖ Finals play two 45 minutes (15-minute halftime)
  - Tied- two 10-minute overtime  
kicks from the mark.
- ❖ IFAB (Laws of the game)
  - Officials will use IFAB (2020-2021) to officiate and to make decisions during the match
  - USPAL will follow IFAB to make any decisions
- ❖ Point system
  - 3 points for win
  - 1 for tie
  - 3 points for forfeit plus 1 goal
  - 0 for loss
- ❖ Tie breaker (system on the website)
  - Goals scored
  - Goals against
  - Yellow cards
  - Red cards
- ❖ If still tie- kicks from the mark will determine tiebreaker

## GAME DAY

- ❖ There will be a representative at every match day
- ❖ Each team will need to provide one match ball to the match officials
- ❖ Each game will have 3 match officials
  - If an accident occurs and we can not replace one of the match officials, we will do a 2 man system
- ❖ Check-in
  - Check-in 30 minutes before kicking off
  - Players and coaches need to check in at the administration tent before every match to get their player and coaches passes/lanyards
  - If there are other staff other than the coach and assistant coach on the bench, make sure they come and check in at the tent to get their lanyard
  - 18 rostered players need to wear their jersey and have a number
  - Must show their player pass to admin
- ❖ League officials will be monitoring benches
  - It is up to the team staff to make sure the bench is following the rules
- ❖ Weather –
  - lightning must follow city guidelines
    - we will follow the 15 minutes every strike:
    - If strike happens in the first half, we will begin with the second half and match officials will discuss with admin how much to play in the second half
    - If strike happens in the second half and it passed the 70<sup>th</sup> minute mark, it will be a complete game
    - If it happens in the second half and not passed the 70<sup>th</sup> minute mark, admin and match officials will discuss how much more to play
  - Rain
    - We will play if raining but if temperatures drop below 25, admin will have to assess the conditions and the safety of the players
  - Snow and ice can be dangerous for the safety of the players and admin will assess the conditions of the field
    - Temperatures 30 degrees we will play
    - If temperatures are below 25 without snow- discretion of the admin games will be played unless both or one team does not want to play
      - If temperatures below 25 degrees with snow- games will be rescheduled

- Game will resume with the same players on the field
  - Time will be on the officials and administration
- ❖ A complete match is 70 minutes
- ❖ Water break must be determined before the match
- ❖ Time is on the match official

## APPEALS

- ❖ If a team has an appeal or dispute a \$25 fee needs to be paid before the following looking into the matter
- ❖ Teams have 24 hours to send an email with a statement
- ❖ Administration will respond within 48 hours
- ❖ Statement needs to include the following:
  - Proof of incident
  - Name of player(s), jersey number(s), and teams
- ❖ Appeals/disputes can be inputted on the website and email to the league administration
  - [www.uapsl.com](http://www.uapsl.com) go to the tab league and click on our staff

## FINES AND SUSPENSION

(MINIMUM EXPLANATION FOR RED CARD OFFENSE, UAPSL AND MATCH OFFICIALS WILL FOLLOW IFAB FOR FURTHER ACTIONS)

- ❖ Player/coach receives 3 cautions consecutively will have to pay \$25 to be available to play or coach the next match
  - Admin will keep card until fee is paid.
- ❖ Red card *(Referee's will write a supplementary report)*
  - All red cards reported by the referee shall subject to further disciplinary action with a minimal \$50 fine and a minimal 1 match suspension:
    - 2ct- 1 match suspension
    - DOGSO- 1 match suspension
      - Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence or scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick
        - Holding, pulling pushing, no possibility to play the ball (Law 12)
    - Violent Conduct- 2 to 3 match suspension
      - Uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against the following:
        - Teammate, team official, match official, spectator, or any other person whether contact is made (Law 12)
    - Serious foul play- 2 to 3 match suspension
      - Tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality
        - Ex: lunges in the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent. (Law 12)
    - Player changing jerseys will be fine
    - Foul and abusive language
    - Removal of outside agent
- ❖ Fighting on and off the field will not be tolerated-
  - Players will be suspended or ban from the league- discretion of the administration of the length of the suspension with a \$75 and/or ban
  - Fighting on the field, referee has the authority of terminating the match resulting in a forfeit for either one team or both
    - If both teams are at fault, both will receive 0 points for that match and will not be replayed
      - Referee will complete a supplementary report

- \$75 fine will be placed on either one team or both and a ban will be at the discretion of the administration
    - Fighting between benches will result in a forfeit and both teams will receive 0 points and match will not be replayed
    - A \$75 fine will be placed on both teams
  - Fighting between spectator and player
    - Spectator comes on the field referee terminates the match
      - If the referee's report indicates the player was a victim, the game will be rescheduled without spectators
      - If referee's report indicates the player played a role of the spectator coming on the field, his team forfeit the match and \$75 fine
    - Player goes after spectator the referee terminates the match, match will be replayed but player will be ban from the league and no spectators for the reschedule match
  - If fighting is among spectators and interferes with the match the referee has the authority to terminate the match and the match will be replayed with no spectators
    - Both teams will need to pay a \$75 fine
      - Player cannot try to join another team if banned
  - Same team gets into fight will be suspended for the remainder of the season and/or the following season- discretion of the administration
    - Players cannot join other teams for the new season's
- ❖ Referee abuse will not be tolerated
    - \$500 fine or more- discretion of administration
    - Suspension for verbal and physical abuse
    - With a possible ban from the league- discretion of the administration
  - ❖ Unregistered player that plays in the match will receive a \$250 fine
  - ❖ Removal of an outside agent will receive a 2-match suspension or ban
    - Refuse to leave the technical area
    - Refuses to leave and then uses verbal and aggressive language

## **FORFEIT**

- ❖ If administration need to remove an outside agent, they will notify the coach or assistant coach for them to assist with the removal (already stated but disciplinary actions occur if the following occurs):
  - If agent refuses to leave the teams area, the administration will go to the assistant referee to inform the referee to stop the match but not the clock- we will wait until the agent leaves
    - If the agent refuses to leave- the referee can end the match and it will be considered a forfeit- regardless of how much time is left on the match officials time
    - Continuous disruption from the bench occurs the discretion of the referee will end the match and match considered a forfeit plus a fine- regardless of how much time is left on the match officials time
- ❖ Player changing jersey either with someone else or changes to a different number
  - Result in a forfeit
  - Suspension of the player-fine
    - Discretion of the administration
- ❖ Illegal player/coach- was caught after the match was played
  - Player never checks in
    - Forfeit and player fine
  - Unregistered player
    - Forfeit and team fine
  - Coach approaching and giving instructions to team
    - Forfeit and additional fine for the coach
  - If both teams are at fault result both teams will get 0 points

- ❖ Illegal player/coach- by match official or administration during the run of play
  - Player will receive a red card and team must play down a player
    - Plus, a fine- discretion of the administration
    - Unregistered player- Referee will terminate the game and result will be a forfeit with a team fine
  - Coach on the touch line giving instructions to the team
    - Will be asked to leave, and game will end in a forfeit
- ❖ Player/coach serving suspension
  - Must sit out for the full suspension
  - Should be at least 100 yards away from the field from kick off to the end of the match
    - Cannot go to the teams during half time
  - They can not be on the bench with street clothes
  - Can not be on the spectator's side
  - Cannot go to the teams during half
  - If seen on the field the team will forfeit with addition fine for the player/coach serving the suspension
- ❖ If a team cannot make it to their game, they need to notify the league administrator-schedule 48 hours in advance, or they will be fine, and it will be forfeit
- ❖ No show
- ❖ Fighting

## CHAMPIONSHIP (NEED TO GO OVER)

- ❖ Location and time will be announced
- ❖ Champion will receive:
  - trophy and medals
  - Registration fee waived for next season
- ❖ Finalist will receive:
  - Medals
- ❖ 4 match officials
- ❖ Must check in with Administration 30 minutes before kickoff
  - Everyone will need to be properly equipped
    - No jewelry
    - Shin guards
    - Cleats
    - Uniforms with numbers
    - Player cards
- ❖ 5 substitutes with no re-entry
  - Substitutes checks in with 4<sup>th</sup> official with player card
  - Game goes into overtime each team can make 2 addition substitutes
- ❖ Substitution at any stoppage
- ❖ Match balls will be provided

## Law 12 (Fouls and misconduct)

## **SENDING-OFF OFFENCES**

A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:

- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick (unless as outlined below)
- serious foul play
- biting or spitting at someone
- violent conduct
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- entering the video operation room (VOR)

A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

## **DENYING A GOAL OR AN OBVIOUS GOAL-SCORING OPPORTUNITY**

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence, the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs.

Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.) the offending player must be sent off.

A player, sent-off player, substitute or substituted player who enters the field of play without the required referee's permission and interferes with play or an opponent and denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is guilty of a sending-off offence.

The following must be considered:

- distance between the offence and the goal
- general direction of the play
- likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- location and number of defenders

## **SERIOUS FOUL PLAY**

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

## **VIOLENT CONDUCT**

Violent conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a team-mate, team official, match official, spectator or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made.

In addition, a player who, when not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, is guilty of violent conduct unless the force used was negligible.

## **SENDING-OFF**

**Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):**

- delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- deliberately leaving the technical area to:
  - show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
  - act in a provocative or inflammatory manner

- enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- entering the field of play to:
  - confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
  - interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official
- entering the video operation room (VOR)
- physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment
- violent conduct

### **OFFENCES WHERE AN OBJECT (OR THE BALL) IS THROWN**

In all cases, the referee takes the appropriate disciplinary action:

- reckless – caution the offender for unsporting behaviour
- using excessive force – send off the offender for violent conduct