



FLORIDA STATE PREMIER LEAGUE

Rules, Guidelines, And Procedures

Mission Statement

Florida State Premier League exists to provide elite 13U-19U teams with the opportunity to compete against the most competitive teams within the state of Florida. The Florida State Premier League is operated by the FYSA State Office staff and serves as a statewide league designed to complement the USYS League Structure, as a pathway to the USYS National League Sunshine Conference. The overall direction of the league falls under the FYSA Competitions Department and FYSA Competitions Committee.

Definitions

1. “Registered” means having the intent to play the sport of soccer and having paid the fees to become a member of Florida Youth Soccer Association and USYS (US Youth Soccer).
2. “Rostered” means a registered player has been assigned to a club’s team roster.
3. “Eligible” means registered, rostered as a verified player under a Primary or Club Pass designation, and not under suspension or in bad standing.

100. League Management

101. Florida State Premier League Commission

101.1 The Florida State Premier League Commission will be comprised of the FSPL Oversight Committee, the FSPL Commissioner and at least eight voting members appointed by the FSPL Oversight Committee for a term lasting no more than two years. Commission members may serve more than one term.

101.2 The members will be represented by at least three directors of coaching, at least three club administrators, and must include at least one person who primarily resides in each of FYSA's four regions. No voting member of the FSPL Commission may be an active member of the FYSA Board of Directors.

101.3 The FSPL Commission will be charged with the guidance and direction of the league including but not limited to the creation, implementation and interpretation of all FSPL policies, review of disciplinary matters, and development of a competitive structure that benefits FYSA member clubs. The FSPL Commission will hear all Protest and Appeal cases. The FSPL Commission has a duty and obligation to uphold and enforce the rules of the Florida State Premier League and must act in the best interest of the FSPL and FYSA.

101.4 The FSPL Commission will host at least two forums in a seasonal year in order to provide club directors of coaching and administrators an avenue to discuss the overall direction of the league, potential rule modifications and special topics as applicable.

101.5 FSPL Commission Members may be involuntarily removed at any time by the FSPL Oversight Committee in collaboration with the League Commissioner in response to non-participation or actions that discredit the Florida State Premier League or FYSA.

102. Florida State Premier League Commissioner

102.1 The Florida State Premier League Commissioner will be appointed by the FSPL Oversight Committee and will serve as the primary contact for the FSPL. The day-to-day operation of the league will be under the responsibility of the Director of Competitions. The FSPL Commissioner will directly report to the FSPL Oversight Committee.

102.2 The FSPL Commissioner will act as a non-voting member of the FSPL Commission. If the commission vote results in a tie, the Director of Competitions will cast the deciding vote.

103. FSPL Oversight Committee

103.1 The Florida State Premier League Oversight Committee will be comprised of the FYSA VP of Competition, FYSA VP of Player and Coaching Development, FYSA Executive Director, and FYSA Director of Competitions. The Oversight Committee will be responsible for the selection and evaluation of the Florida State Premier League Commission members.

103.2 The FSPL Oversight Committee will evaluate recommendations for the FSPL Commission provided by FYSA Regional Vice Presidents

103.3 The FSPL Oversight Committee will act as non-voting members of the FSPL Commission and will ensure that all policies put forward by the FSPL Commission do not violate any USSF, USYS or FYSA rules or bylaws.

200. General Rules

201. Eligibility

201.1 Teams from registered FYSA member clubs in good standing and from the age groups of 13U to 19U that are currently registered and in good standing with FYSA.

201.2 Team and player eligibility requirements are the same as those used by FYSA in its Rules and those of USYS in its National Champions Series rules. The FSPL is not part of the National Championship Series but uses their eligibility requirement to ensure compliance for FYSA teams that enter into the National Championship Series competition.

201.3 Coaches who are rostered to a team and players who are rostered to a team as Primary or Club Pass players are eligible to participate in FSPL games. Secondary and Guest players are not permitted. The participation of an ineligible player will result in the game being declared a Forfeit as detailed in Section 308.

202. Participation

202.1 All applications must be completed on-line by the established deadline. Payments must be received by the application deadline. Failure to provide league fee payment by the application deadline may result in the team's removal from consideration for the league and/or a late fee no greater than \$100.

202.2 Submitting an application is NOT a guarantee of acceptance into the FSPL. It is the team's responsibility to have the correct information on the application.

202.3 Eligible teams must participate in the age group of their oldest player. Playing up an age group must have the approval of the FYSA Director of Competitions.

202.4 Clubs will be notified of their team's application status and placement. Application is considered the teams agreement to participate in the league.

202.5 Withdrawing from the league after the application has been accepted will result in forfeiture of the entry fee. Additional fines may be imposed as determined by FYSA and the FSPL Oversight Committee.

203. Fees

203.1 The FYSA Competition Committee shall set the entry fee for the following season by December 31. Teams will be responsible for required travel, and referee fees.

203.2 Referee Fees - Each team will pay ½ of the total Referee fees for each given match. The current fees are below. All fees will be paid in cash prior to the start of the match.

Group	Total Fee	Center	AR1	AR2	Total Per Team
13U-14U	\$110.00	\$50	\$30	\$30	\$55
15U-16U	\$130.00	\$60	\$35	\$35	\$65
17U-19U	\$160.00	\$70	\$45	\$45	\$80

203.3 Referee Assignor Fees - All Referee Assignor fees for games hosted at a mandatory neutral location named by FYSA will be covered by FYSA. For all self-scheduled matches, teams will incur the fees to cover the assigning of referees.

204. Bond

204.1 Florida State Premier League reserves the right to require a team to post a performance bond of up to \$500 prior to the start of the season. During the season, Florida State Premier League may also require a team to post a performance bond prior to the team's next game in response to incidents of non-compliance.

300. Playing Rules

301. Laws

301.1 The Florida State Premier League will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game Observed by USSF and USYS with the adjustments outlined in this document.

301.2 Law I - The Field of Play - No change

301.3 Law II – No change

301.4 Law III - Number of Players – No change

302. Substitution of Player

302.1 Substitutions shall be unlimited for all age groups and can be made in accordance with IFAB Laws of the game, with the consent of the referee, during any stoppage of play. Substitutes must be waiting at the half line when the referee calls for the substitution.

302.2 A cautioned player (shown a yellow card according to FIFA Laws of the Game) may be substituted by the coach, but substitution is not required.

303. Minimum Number of Players

303.1 Teams may begin play with a minimum of seven players and at no time may be the number of players on the field drop below seven players per team. The addition of late arriving players, who are on the official roster, will take place with the permission of the Referee and at regular legal substitution periods. The opposing team may play at full strength.

304. Age Format

304.1 Age groups will play as follows:

AGE	FORMAT	ROSTER LIMIT	BALL SIZE	HALFTIME	HALVES
13U	11V11	22	5	10	2x35 min.
14U	11V11	22	5	10	2x35 min.
15U	11V11	22	5	15	2x40 min.
16U	11V11	22	5	15	2x40 min.
17U	11V11	22	5	15	2x45 min.
18U	11V11	22	5	15	2x45 min.
19U	11V11	22	5	15	2x45 min.

305. Club Pass Players

An eligible club pass player is one who is properly rostered to a team within the same club. A team may have no more than eleven (11) club pass players on their roster for any game. The total roster of primary and club pass players may not exceed 22, with 18 named per game.

306. Weather

306.1 If lightning is in the immediate area, the Referee and/or Site Administrator will suspend play or delay start of the match. USSF Lightning Policy will be followed. Such delay or suspension must remain for a minimum of 30 minutes past the last sighting of lightning or longer at the discretion of the Referee. If a match is cancelled prior to starting or during the first half due to weather, the match will be rescheduled and replayed in its entirety. Matches in which the first half of the game has been completed may be considered completed by the FYSA Director of Competitions. FSPL, FYSA, USYS, nor anyone affiliated with them, assumes any responsibility or liability if a match is cancelled in whole or in part for any reasons, weather related or not.

307. Players' Uniforms and Equipment

307.1 Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.

307.2 In the event of a uniform color conflict, the team designated as the home team will wear light colored jerseys and socks, and the team designated as the away team will wear dark colored jerseys and socks. The team causing the conflict will need to change jerseys and socks.

307.3 Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and game officials.

307.4 A player or team official at a game site to participate in a game and all other activities of the competition may only have on the outer wear of the player or team official a name, logo, or other identifying mark of a youth soccer organization that is US Youth Soccer, a State Association or other member of US Youth Soccer, a member of a State Association, or an organization that is a member of an organization that is a member of a State Association. A name, logo, or other identifying mark of any other youth soccer organization not affiliated with FYSA or US Youth Soccer must be removed, replaced, or covered before the player or team official may continue to remain at the game site or related events.

307.5 The Referee is the sole judge of allowed player equipment as prescribed by FIFA Laws of the Game.

308. Check In

308.1 It is recommended that each team submit all appropriate paperwork to the referee at least 30 minutes prior to each match. All credential verification must be completed by the start of the match.

308.2 Each team must have the following items present prior to the start of the match

- A.** A one-sided USYS laminated pass issued by FYSA and signed by the issuing registrar for each rostered player and coach. Each pass must have a recent picture. Players must be verified, and coaches must show as Safe Sport/CDC Heads Up/Background Check approved. Personnel who do not meet these requirements are not permitted to participate in the upcoming match. Failing to uphold this rule will result in the match being declared a forfeit.
- B.** An official Florida State Premier League game report printed from GotSport for each team with accurate jersey numbers for each player.
- C.** A properly signed medical release form for each rostered player will remain in the possession of the coach or team manager. (Not required by Referee at check-in but team must have in its possession). Medical Releases are not required to be notarized.

308.3 Teams without the minimum required players will be allowed a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the scheduled kick-off time before the match will be deemed a forfeit. All credentials must be checked and verified prior to the start times while waiting for the additional players to show. At the discretion of the league extended time may be allowed for unforeseen circumstances.

308.4 Failure to present items detailed in Rule 307.2 will cause the dismissal of players which may result in an Administrative Forfeit of the match per Rule 307.3.

309. Forfeited and Terminated Matches

309.1 Standard Forfeit – considered as a game in which one or both teams fail to show at a scheduled game, but notice was given to the Florida State Premier League Commissioner at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of the match. For games that are classified in this manner, the opponent of the violating team will be awarded a 1-0 win. The violating team will be charged with a fine of \$1,000.

309.2 Short Notice Forfeit – considered as a game in which a team fails to show for a scheduled match without a minimum 72-hour notice. A team that fails to appear for a duly scheduled match without a minimum 72-hour notice to both the opponent and Florida State Premier League Commissioner or his designee, shall be subject to the following:

- A.** The team will be fined \$1,500 per match, subject to an additional fine per match and a \$500 performance bond may be required to be paid to FYSA within 30 days of the official forfeited match. If failed to do so, the club will be placed in Not In Good Standing.
- B.** The club shall be placed in Not in Good Standing until such time that both the performance bond and fine are paid.
- C.** The team may be barred from participation in the Florida State Premier League for the remainder of the seasonal year that the forfeit(s) occurred.

309.3 Abandoned Match – Any match that is terminated for any reason outside the scope of weather, Florida State Premier League, or team administration error, or hosting site error may be considered an Abandoned Match. A team which is found to be at fault for a game's abandonment will be scored a 0-1 loss, will be fined \$1,000, and any persons who are identified as contributing to the termination of a match may be subject to FYSA Code of Ethics violations. When the situation causing the abandonment is such that league officials cannot assign responsibility -- each team will be fined up to \$1,000. The game will not be included in the standings.

309.4 Any team which fails to play two or more officially scheduled games may be disqualified and will be fined \$1,000 in addition to any other fines assessed. A disqualified team's games will not count to determine standings.

309.5 A team may appeal the assessment of the penalties if they can demonstrate catastrophic circumstance that precluded the team from participation. Catastrophic means an auto accident in

route to the match, severe weather, such as a tornado or flood, or other situations that impacts the entire team. Avoidable conflicts are not considered to be catastrophic circumstances.

310. Touchline and Technical Areas

310.1 Players and team officials (i.e., coach, assistant coach, manager, or club's athletic trainer) will be located in the technical/bench area on one side of the field. Home teams have choice of preferred technical/bench area. No more than four (4) Team Officials will be permitted in the technical area.

310.2 The spectator area is located on the opposite side of the field from the technical/bench area. No spectators are permitted anywhere behind the goal line during a match. The spectator area is behind the line marked 3-yards beyond the touchline and extends from a point 3-yards from the center line down to the corner flag. Spectators must remain in this area, in the half of the field directly across from their team's bench.

311. Coach Requirements

311.1 Each team will have a rostered and properly registered coach holding a USSF D License in the technical area for the duration of the match. Only individuals listed on the teams' roster will be permitted on the team's bench area. A match in which a team does not meet this requirement will be considered a forfeit. An exemption may be granted at the discretion of the FYSA Director of Competitions.

312. Conduct

312.1 Coaches are responsible for their behavior, for the conduct of the players, team staff, and spectators of their respective team. Coaches shall be familiar with the FYSA Code of Ethics.

312.2 Referees are authorized to take appropriate action(s) to maintain proper control of matches. If the referee terminates play due to unruly behavior the match is recorded as an Abandoned Match and may result in further sanctions as defined in Section 308.

312.3 Any person(s) "sent off" from a match either by being shown a red card (or asked to leave) according to FIFA Laws of the Game shall not participate further in that match and shall serve a suspension as set forth in FYSA Rule 502. Any player "sent off" may not be substituted. A player that receives a red card may remain on the team bench for the remainder of the match provided the player does not cause any additional problems.

312.4 A player/coach who has been ejected from a Florida State Premier League match will be suspended from their next scheduled Florida State Premier League match or if the season has ended the suspension will be served at the next FYSA sanctioned scheduled match. If a player/coach has other FYSA sanctioned leagues and tournaments between FSPL matches that need to be served, the player/coach will be allowed to participate in those other FYSA sanctioned

matches, provided his or her team has enough FSPL matches left in the season to serve their suspension and no further sanctions are imposed by FYSA. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the match being declared a forfeit, and additional individual penalties will be enforced per FYSA rules.

312.5 A coach/manager that is part of more than one team in FSPL that receives a red card cannot coach for their other FSPL teams until the suspension is served with the team with which the suspension was earned.

312.6 Any coach, trainer, parent, or other person(s) removed from a Florida State Premier League match will serve their suspension from the next scheduled Florida State Premier League match or if the season has ended the suspension will be served at the next FYSA sanctioned scheduled match. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the match being declared an Administrative Forfeit, and additional individual penalties will be enforced per FYSA rules.

312.7 Any Red Card issued during a Florida State Premier League game that is also counted as a game in another USYS sanctioned league will be reported to and served in the higher league.

312.8 Violations that are deemed of a serious nature (including but not limited to fighting, assaults, threats, Referee abuse, etc.) may require further disciplinary action as referenced in FYSA Rule 502.

312.9 The player card of the “sent off” player will be collected by the Referee, used in the completing the Match Report and returned to the team coach or team official after the conclusion of the match.

313. Match Reports

313.1 The Referee will complete and sign the official game report then return it to the Home Team official. Reports will include the printed name of all 3 USSF licensed referees. Each coach must verify the match results before legibly signing the report.

313.2 Game Reports must be uploaded by the Home Team into GotSport. The report must be kept by the Home Team manager until the end of season. Teams will be provided access to report score. The home team is responsible for entering the final score along with misconducts into GotSport within two (2) business days of the match completion date. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine.

314. Rosters

314.1 Each team will produce an official Florida State Premier League game report roster for all matches. The referee will determine which game report will become the official document. Any person(s) serving a suspension must be crossed off and noted in writing on the Game report, as

servicing a suspension during the match that the roster is issued for and does not need to be included in the active 18 game day roster named for that match.

400. Protests and Appeals

401. Protest Requirements

401.1 All questions relating to the qualifications of the competitors or interpretation of the rules, or any dispute or protest shall be referred to the Florida State Premier League Commissioner. A protest may be discarded in the case that the protest violates any portion outlined below.

401.2 All protests relating to the ground, goal posts, bars or other appurtenances of the game shall be entertained only if a written objection has been lodged with the referee and the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.

402. Filing a Protest

402.1 All match protests must be filed with and to the attention of the Florida State Premier League Commissioner, no later than noon of the next FYSA business day.

402.2 All protests related to the decisions of the Florida State Premier League Commissioner must be filed with and to the attention of the Commissioner, no later than the end of business one week after the decision was communicated.

402.3 All Protests must include the following items:

- A.** A verdict-dependent refundable fee in the amount of \$500. This fee may be in cash, cashier's check, or money order (Payment is to be made payable to "FYSA"). Personal checks will not be accepted.
- B.** Protest must include full particulars of the grounds on which the protest is lodged.
- C.** Protest must include any information to be presented by witnesses.

403. Protest Procedure

403.1 Upon receipt of a protest which meets the above criteria the team against which the protest is made shall be given a copy of the protest and all particulars and will then have a right to defend its case, with or without witnesses.

403.2 A plea of ignorance to the rules and regulations of the Florida State Premier League is not sufficient grounds for protest. Judgment decisions of the referee are not subject to protest.

403.3 The Florida State Premier League Commissioner shall compile the necessary information to hear the protest, from all available sources before the protest is heard. This shall include, if possible, coaches, field marshals, referees, assessors, witnesses, if necessary, etc. All materials will be treated with confidentiality. After compiling the necessary information, the Florida State Premier League Commission will meet to review the protest. The decisions of the Commission shall be binding upon all parties.

403.4 The Florida State Premier League Commissioner will notify the parties of the final decision.

500. Structure and Schedules

501. Division Structure

501.1 In most cases there will be two divisions in each age group: FSPL 1 (Tier 1) and FSPL 2 (Tier 2). Depending on the number of teams in the age group there may be only one division.

501.2 Bracket formats for each division will be posted on the event's official website.

502. Schedule

502.1 All teams will have matches scheduled at the three (3) Mandatory Neutral site weekends posted on the event's website – no reschedules are allowed for those weekends. These games will be against teams from out of your region if the brackets allow. The remainder of your schedule will be self-scheduled matches where teams will need to schedule their own matches on agreed upon dates for both parties. The deadline to complete all matches is March 31, 2023.

502.2 All self-scheduled matches must have dates agreed by both parties submitted to FYSA by October 1, 2022. Any games without agreed dates after this deadline will be subject to FYSA's decision on date, time, and venue, as well as responsible for incurring the costs associated with booking each match. Failure to show to the match will result in a forfeit.

502.3 It is the responsibility of the teams to keep track of schedule changes made by FYSA. A notification email will be sent to coaches and managers included in the event roster and the updated match details will be posted on the Public Schedule.

502.4 Teams that request a game reschedule, outside of catastrophic reasoning, will be assessed a \$250 fee. This fee is only assessed if the game is scheduled at a location and has referees assigned.

502.5 Florida State Premier League Commission reserves the right to schedule unplayed games in order to complete the league.

600. Team Responsibilities

601. Game Day Responsibilities

601.1 Both teams will be responsible for:

- A.** Provide a Florida State Premier League Game Report to the Referee at least 30 minutes prior to each scheduled match.
- B.** Presenting at least one match ball to the referee prior to the start of each match for the Referee's approval as the match ball.
- C.** Present the Player/ Coach passes for the active participants in the upcoming match.

700. Team Standings

701. Point System

701.1 Team Standings in each bracket will be determined by a three-point system. Teams will be awarded points for each match as follows:

Win = 3 points

Tie = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

702. Tiebreakers

702.1 In the event that at the conclusion of the season teams are tied on the basis of the points earned, the following tiebreakers will be considered in order until the tie is broken:

- A.** Winner of head-to-head competition. (This criterion is not used if more than two teams are tied.)
- B.** Most wins.
- C.** Team with greatest net goal differential (NGD) which is computed as "goals for" minus "goals against."
- D.** Team with the most goals.

- E. Team with least goals against.
- F. A blind draw will be held to determine the final standings.

Amendments

800. Amendments

800.1 Amendments to the FSPL Rules, Guidelines and Procedures (this document) regarding playing rules may be implemented by the FSPL Commission between seasons. Amendments specific to the structure of the league and governance (predominately Rule 100) must be ratified by the FYSA Board of Directors before taking effect.

FYSA Code of Ethics

Coaches/ Volunteers

- I will never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players.
- I will always show respect for players, other coaches, and game officials.
- I will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
- I will demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game, and teach these rules to my players.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
- I will not tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- I will not allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by any of my players.
- I will never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.
- Youth have a greater need for example than criticism. I will be the primary soccer role model.
- I will at all times conduct myself in a positive manner.
- Coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players to be winners.
- My actions on sidelines during games shall be in the spirit of “good sportsmanship” at all times. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, shall require disciplinary action from the affiliate.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will refrain from any activity or conduct that may be detrimental or reflect adversely upon FYSA, its members or its programs.
- I will accurately and completely complete the coach/volunteer application form and by application attest to the accuracy of the information submitted.

Players

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at all times.
- I will remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
- I will do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as I do
- I will treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and fans with respect at all times; regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly
- I will concentrate on playing soccer. Always giving my best effort
- I will play by the rules at all times
- I will at all times control my temper, resisting the temptation of retaliation.
- I will always exercise self control.
- My conduct during competition towards play of the game and all officials shall be in accordance with appropriate behavior and in accordance with FIFA’s “Laws of the Game,” and in adherence to FYSA rules.
- While traveling, I shall conduct myself so as to bring credit to myself and my team
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.