



# FLORIDA STATE PREMIER LEAGUE

## 2024-2025 Rules, Guidelines, And Procedures

## **Mission Statement**

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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**

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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.
4. “Ineligible Player” means payers listed on the Master Roster in GotSport, but not eligible to play due to reasons such as not appearing on the match card, illegal substitutions, serving a suspension, or incomplete registration shall be considered an ineligible player.
5. “Illegal Player” means any player who does not appear on the official Master Roster within GotSport, has not been registered and/or is not age eligible, and competes in a game shall be considered an illegal player.

## **100. League Management**

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### **101. Florida State Premier League Commission**

**101.1** The members will be represented by 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.

**101.2** The FSPL Commission will be responsible for interpreting all FSPL policies and reviewing disciplinary matters. 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.

**101.3** 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 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**

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### **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** Coaches with a valid FYSA pass and players who are rostered to an FSPL 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 Rule 201.5.

**201.3** 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.

**201.4** A player cannot be simultaneously rostered to more than one team in the same gender age group in FSPL and will be considered an Ineligible player per Rule 201.5. Players are allowed to Club Pass to other teams within the same club in FSPL if none of those teams are in the same gender age group. Players cannot Club Pass from a Sunshine Conference Team onto an FSPL team.

**201.5** Ineligible Players – Players listed on the Master Roster within GotSport, but not eligible to play due to reasons such as not appearing on the official match card, not having a valid FYSA player pass, illegal substitutions, or serving a league suspension shall be considered an ineligible player. Teams using players before they have been properly cleared to compete by FYSA will be subject to a forfeiture of the game(s) in which the ineligible player was used resulting in a \$500 fine per rule 308.3.

**201.6** Game Report Administrative Error – If a player does not appear on a game report due to an administrative error, this player can be written in the match card by an FYSA Site Director provided the player is properly registered with the club and FYSA before the match and does not violate any FSPL rules. The club will be fined \$100 for every Game Report Administrative Error. It is up to the League's discretion to determine an administrative error. If a player is written in onto the game report without FYSA's authorization, the match will result in a forfeit and the club will be fined for utilizing an ineligible player per Rule 201.5.

**201.7** Illegal Players – Any player who does not appear on the master roster within GotSport, does not appear on the official match card, has not been registered with FYSA and/or is not age eligible and competes in a game shall be considered an illegal player. Any team using an illegal player shall be subject to a forfeiture of the game in which the illegal player was used and a fine of \$1,000 for violation of this rule per Rule 308.1. Teams who forfeit a match due to an illegal player participating are subject to disqualification from the league.

## 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.

**202.6** Withdrawing from the league after the schedule has been released will result in forfeiture of the entry fee plus an additional \$1,000 fine.

**202.7** Withdrawing from the league after playing at least one game will result in forfeiture of the entry fee plus a \$250 fine for every match remaining when there are ten (10) or less matches not played. If more than ten (10) matches remain, the additional fine will be a set amount of \$2,500.

**202.8** FSPL teams are required to participate in the FYSA State Cup or Presidents Cup in the 2024-25 season. Failure to participate in State Cup or Presidents Cup will result in forfeiture of your returning slot for the following FSPL or Sunshine Conference season.

## 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.

A. Registration Fee: 13U-18/19U: \$650.00

B. Fines:

- i. \$50.00: Home Team failure to complete post-game report (rule 312.2) and failure to respond to opponent's request on GotSport (rule 502.4)
- ii. \$100.00: Game Report Administrative Error: (rule 201.6)
- iii. \$250.00: Reschedule Fee (rule 502.3)
- iv. \$500.00: Ineligible Player Forfeit (rule 201.5)
- v. \$1,000.00: Standard Forfeit (rule 308.1), Abandoned Match (rule 308.4), and Illegal Player Forfeit (rule 201.7)
- vi. \$1,500.00: Short Notice Forfeit (rule 308.2)

**203.2 Referee Fees** - Each team will pay half 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.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Total Fee</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>AR1</b>	<b>AR2</b>	<b>Total Per Team</b>
13U-14U	\$140.00	\$60	\$40	\$40	\$70
15U-16U	\$160.00	\$70	\$45	\$45	\$80
17U-19U	\$180.00	\$80	\$50	\$50	\$90

**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 (each team will still need to pay half of the total Referee fees for each match). For all self-scheduled matches, the home team will incur the fees to cover the assignment of referees.

## 204. Bond

**204.1** Florida State Premier League reserves the right to require a team and/or a club to post a performance bond of up to \$1,000 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**

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### 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 - The Ball - 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.

**302.3** If the referee (or assistant referee) believes that, in their opinion, a player has suffered a head injury or possible concussion, the match must be stopped IMMEDIATELY. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from an FYSA Health Care Professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. If there are no FYSA Health Care Professionals on site (such as in home/away matches), the referee may not allow players to return to the match with a possible concussion without a clearance from a medical doctor.

### 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	YEAR	FORMAT	ROSTER LIMIT	BALL SIZE	HALFTIME	HALVES
13U	2012	11V11	22	5	10	2x35 min.
14U	2011	11V11	22	5	10	2x35 min.
15U	2010	11V11	22	5	15	2x40 min.
16U	2009	11V11	22	5	15	2x40 min.
17U	2008	11V11	22	5	15	2x45 min.
18/19U	2006	11V11	22	5	15	2x45 min.

### 305. Weather

**305.1** 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. Teams must wait a minimum of one hour before postponing a match due to weather. 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. In the instance that teams and the referees wait the designated amount of time but first half is unable to be completed, the referees are to be paid 50% of the match fee. Matches in which the first half of the game has been completed may be considered official by the FYSA Director of Competitions and the final score will be the score at the time the match is terminated. 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. The League reserves the right to delay, postpone, or cancel a game due to unfavorable/extreme weather conditions.

**305.2** Red card suspensions will not be considered served for matches that are cancelled prior to starting or during the first half due to weather. Red card suspensions will be considered served if the match has been considered official. Any cards that are received during the first half of a match that is cancelled due to weather will not carry over to the restarted match.

**305.3** Game Cancellation Criteria - Game cancellations should only happen under dire circumstances. However, the safety of participants in League events shall always be the highest priority. Factors that the referee and the League shall consider include: whether or not the teams have requested the cancellation, difficulty in rescheduling the game, current and forecasted weather conditions, travel conditions, and the current whereabouts of teams and officials.

**305.4** Postponing a Game Prior to Start - A game may be postponed no earlier than two hours prior to kickoff due to inclement weather, unless agreed to by both teams and the League. In a case where a third party (field owner) closes the venue, a game may be cancelled more than two hours prior to kickoff, as long as the League and both teams are notified in writing by the

field owner/managing authority. If referees are not given the proper notification of the postponement and arrive to work the match, they are to be paid by the home team or the team causing the postponement. Clubs must notify referee assignors of the postponement. Referees will only receive payment for weather related cancellations if they are not notified properly.

### 306. Players' Uniforms and Equipment

**306.1** 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. Numbers are not required for goalkeepers. Exceptions will be made under extreme circumstances at the discretion of the League.

**306.2** 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.

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

**306.4** 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. Teams that violate this rule are subject to a fine.

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

### 307. Check In

**307.1** 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.

**307.2** 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. Virtual passes will be allowed with the approval from FYSA. If teams are not able to reach FYSA for approval before the match, an email will need to be sent to the league with the virtual cards used at check-in and the player/coaches will be allowed to participate pending an eligibility review. 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.

**307.3** 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.

**307.4** Failure to present items detailed in Rule 307.2 will result in a “Short Notice Forfeit” per Rule 308.2.

### 308. Forfeited and Terminated Matches

**308.1** 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. Standard Forfeit also includes games in which an “Illegal Player” per Rule 201.7 has been used during a 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. At the direction of the FSPL Oversight Committee, a team who forfeits a match may be disqualified from the league.

**308.2** 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 \$1,000 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.
- D.** The opponent of the violating team will be awarded a 1-0 win.

**308.3** “Ineligible Player” Forfeit – any team that is found using an “Ineligible Player” per Rule 201.5 will be fined \$500 per match and the final score shall be 1-0 in favor of the opposing team.

**308.4** Abandoned Match – Any match that is terminated for any reason outside the scope of weather, Florida State Premier League, or team administration error, or neutral 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, no points will be awarded, and the match will be marked as a “No Contest” per rule 308.7.

**308.5** 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 be removed from the schedule and not count to determine standings. If a team plays more than 50% of their scheduled games and then is disqualified, all its matches, including those that have been played, will be marked as a forfeit in the league standings.

**308.6** 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.

**308.7** No Contest – Any match that is not played or terminated where both teams or neither team is at fault. A match that is labelled a “No Contest” may be rescheduled at the discretion of the League.

### 309. Touchline and Technical Areas

**309.1** 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.

**309.2** The spectator area is located on the opposite side of the field from the technical/bench area. 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. It is expected that respect for the game will prevail if a limited number of spectators wish to quietly observe the match from the far end of the opposing spectator section (for example, the Goalkeeper’s parents). In the event of disruptive behavior by these spectators, a referee or competition official may require them to return to their designated area and restrict any further sideline movement of spectators.

**309.3** At mandated FYSA neutral site weekends, FYSA athletic trainers will take priority. Players must be cleared by FYSA athletic trainers before returning to the field of play. Team coaches, managers, and trainers will be secondary and cannot clear a player to return to the field of play. At self-scheduled matches, each team may utilize their own certified athletic trainers.

### 310. Coach Requirements

**310.1** 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 team that does not meet this requirement is subject to a \$1,500 fine. An exemption may be granted at the discretion of the FYSA Director of Competitions.

### 311. Conduct

**311.1** 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.

**311.2** 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.

**311.3** 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.

**311.4** 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 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.

**311.5** 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.

**311.6** 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.

**311.7** 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.

**311.8** 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.

**311.9** 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.

**311.10** If a player is sent off for Violent Conduct, Spitting, or Abusive Language, a US Soccer Supplemental Report and the Match Report must be filled out and submitted to FYSA. Additionally, a US Soccer Supplemental Report must also be filled out and submitted to FYSA for situations involving Referee Abuse or Referee Assault. For matches hosted at an FYSA hosted weekend, reports must be handed to the Site Director. For Home/Away matches, referees will need to send supplemental reports via the [Game/Supplemental Report Form](#) on GotSport.

### 312. Match Reports

**312.1** 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.

**312.2** 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 scores. 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.

### 313. Rosters

**313.1** 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 serving 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. Only players that appear on the game report roster are eligible to play unless a “Game Report Administrative Error” approved by the League per Rule 201.6 has occurred.

## **400. Protests and Appeals**

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### 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 appeals 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**

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

**501.2** FSPL Playoffs: the FSPL Playoffs consist of semi-final and final matches held at a neutral venue hosted by FYSA over a weekend at the end of the season, with semi-final matches on Saturday and final matches on Sunday.

- A.** Advancement from 3 Regional Brackets: the 1st place FSPL team from each regional bracket plus 1 Wild Card will qualify for the FSPL Playoffs, with the winner and finalist earning promotion to the NL Sunshine Conference from FSPL 1 or to FSPL 1 from FSPL 2.

- B.** Advancement from 2 Regional Brackets: the 1st and 2nd place FSPL teams from each regional bracket will qualify for the FSPL Playoffs, with the winner and finalist earning promotion to the NL Sunshine Conference from FSPL 1 or to FSPL 1 from FSPL 2.
- C.** Advancement from 1 Statewide Bracket: the 2nd through 5th place teams will qualify for the FSPL Playoffs, with the winner earning the second promotion spot to the NL Sunshine Conference from FSPL 1 or to FSPL 1 from FSPL 2. The 1st-place regular-season team will earn automatic promotion to Sunshine Conference/FSPL 1 and will not participate in the FSPL Playoffs.

## 502. Schedule

**502.1** Teams may have matches scheduled at the two (2) neutral site weekends posted on the event's website. These games will be against teams from out of your region when the brackets allow. The rest of your schedule will be placed on set dates part of the FSPL Play Dates, posted on the event page before the league season. The deadline to complete all matches is May 4, 2025.

**502.2** The home team will be responsible for setting the kickoff times and locations for their home games only. Matches can begin no earlier than 10AM and no later than 6PM for matchups between teams that are 150 miles or more apart unless both teams agree. Requests for earlier and later kickoffs can be made to the FSPL League Commissioner. Teams are required to input the kickoff times & venues for Home matches no later than 14 days before the scheduled date.

**502.3** Teams that request a game reschedule, outside of catastrophic reasoning, will be subject to a \$250 fee. Teams will be required to follow the reschedule policy. Instructions on how to request a reschedule can be found here: [Reschedule Policy](#)

**502.4** Teams who do not respond to requests in the GotSport chat within 72 hours are subject to a \$50 fine.

**502.5** Rescheduling rain-out matches – Should a match or matches be cancelled due to rain or inclement weather, teams will be given 10 days from the originally scheduled match to reach an agreement to reschedule this match. If no agreement is reached or submitted to the league, FYSA will choose the new date/location/start time that the match will be rescheduled. The rescheduled match may be scheduled as the second match on a day when both teams are at the same event. Once the reschedule is published, it shall be considered official.

**502.6** Florida State Premier League Commission reserves the right to schedule un-played games in order to complete the league.

**502.7** For self-scheduled (Home/Away) matches, if a field is deemed unplayable or unsafe by the referee due to something other than weather or an "Act of God", the match will be deemed a forfeit for the host team. Examples include: no lines painted, damaged goal equipment, severely damaged field surface not caused due to weather.

**502.8** Rest Periods - It is the intent of the league to play only one (1) match per day; however, when circumstances dictate, no more than two (2) matches a day may be scheduled. Every effort will be made to provide a minimum of three (3) hours rest between matches. Most circumstances

involving teams playing two (2) matches in a day will be related to rain-out reschedules.

### **502.9 Emergency Match Management Procedures**

On an emergency basis, the League Manager reserves the right to impose emergency Match Management Procedures. These procedures shall be limited to those items that are necessary, in the sole opinion of the League Manager, in order for a match to be played. Such procedures could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Shortening match lengths or half time due to inclement weather, lack of light, or other extraordinary circumstances.
- B. Moving a match to earlier or later in a day.
- C. Establishing additional match day(s) due to excessive rain-outs.
- D. Approving the use of less than a 3-man referee crew or approving use of a “club” linesman.
- E. Approving an alternate method to validate eligible players.

## **600. Team Responsibilities**

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### 601. Game Day Responsibilities

**601.1** Both teams will be responsible for:

- A. Providing 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. Presenting the Player/Coach passes for the active participants in the upcoming match.

## **700. Team Standings**

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### 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:

- A. Win = 3 points
- B. Tie = 1 point
- C. 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 the least goals against.
- F. A blind draw will be held to determine the final standings.

**702.2** Uneven number of games - If teams in the same division end the season with an uneven number of games, points per game (total points divided by games played) will be used for teams with at least 50% of matches played. However, if points per game results in a change in the standings between two teams, head-to-head will be used to determine final standings. If head-to-head does not apply, then points per game will stand, followed by:

- A. Team with greater Total Wins divided by games played.
- B. Team with greater Total net goal differential divided by games played.
- C. Team with greater Total goals for divided by games played.
- D. Team with less Total goals against divided by games played.
- E. Blind draw will be held to determine the final standings.



# **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.