

CITY OF LANCASTER
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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SOCCER RULES AND REGULATIONS

The purpose of this league, to be sponsored by the Lancaster Department of Parks and Recreation, is to combine the interest of the Soccer teams of the community into friendly rivalry, wholesome recreation, and clean sportsmanship. The LRC shall be responsible for the collection of team entry fees, the scheduling of all dates for league play, the enforcement of the Soccer Rules and Regulations and Code of Conduct, and the provision of the necessary facilities, officials, and equipment for the operation of the program.

SCHEDULING:

1. Once a team is officially registered in the program, leagues are formed by matching those teams of similar competition and skill levels. The top priority in league formation is to create competitive, balanced leagues.
2. Once a team has completed fifty (50) percent of their scheduled games, no refund will be allowed.

PLAYER WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION & ROSTER FORM:

1. A completed roster must be neat and legible and have player's names, signatures, addresses, and telephone numbers. A manager and additional contact person must also be designated. Rosters must be on file prior to a team playing its first game. Signatures are required after a teams' first game of the season.

All roster changes must be:

- a. Submitted on a ROSTER CHANGE FORM obtained in the LRC office or off the LRC website at (www.lancaster-tx.com) and signed by the player(s) being added.
 - b. Delivered, faxed, emailed, or postmarked (if mailed) to the LRC office by 5:00 p.m. on the day in which the player(s) being added wish(es) to participate. An individual may also add himself/herself to a team by completing a ROSTER CHANGE FORM online and emailing it from their personal email to the LRC Sports Staff.
 - c. No roster changes will be accepted at a field after a team's second game of the season.
3. An open team's roster is officially closed after: the 4th game in a 6-game league, the 5th game in an 8-game league.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Players may play in as many leagues as desired provided they do not play on more than one (1) team in the same league.
2. High School participants:
High School players are responsible for checking their eligibility with their Coaches or Athletic Director prior to participation in any LRC league.
3. Players must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

INELIGIBILITY:

1. A player will be considered ineligible if they:
 - a. Play in a league classification in which they are not eligible.
 - b. Play under an assumed name, address, place of employment, or place of church attendance.
 - c. Are not listed on either the OFFICIAL ROSTER or a ROSTER CHANGE FORM of their team.
 - d. Fail to sign the player waiver release on the roster form.
 - e. Play for (2) two teams within the same league at the same time. In this case, the player will be property of the first team with which they play and considered an ineligible player on the second team.
 - f. Under the age of 18.
2. Any player or team not paying a levied fine for disciplinary action or game forfeiture will be ineligible until that fine is paid.
3. Player ineligibility must be verbally protested by the Manager of the offended team, or any manager of a team within the same league, to a member of the LRC Sports Staff within one (1) week of the alleged violation. Any team found to be using an ineligible player will forfeit the protested game.

GENERAL RULES:

1. The first team listed on the schedule wears White Shirts. The second teams listed wears dark colored shirts.
2. Each team is required to bring two (2) quality soccer balls each week for match play.

MATCH PLAY:

1. All play will be governed by FIFA laws of the game, with noted exceptions.
2. Teams will play with eight (8) players. Both male and female players will be allowed in these leagues, and there will be no gender specific rules. For example, a team is not required to

have "X" number of males or females on the field at any one given time. Goals will be worth one point for both males and females.

3. Match play will consist of two (2) 25 minute halves and a five (5) minute half time.
4. Substitutions may enter and reenter on any stoppage of play at the referee's discretion, except on unsportsmanlike conduct penalties as listed in #6 below.
5. There will be no overtime during regular season match play, only during position matches. Overtimes during position matches will consist of multiple 2 minute overtime periods. The first overtime will begin with 8 vs. 8 with one player from each team leaving the field of play every 2 minutes until each team is down to 5 vs. 5. No substitutions will be allowed in overtime. The first goal scored will decide the match. If still tied after 5 vs. 5, penalty kicks will be taken as per FIFA regulations.
6. Unsportsmanlike conduct, especially inappropriate language, may be penalized by removal from the match for 4 match time minutes. The team will play short during this penalty; no substitute will be allowed for the removed player.
7. Goalkeepers may not punt or drop kick the ball. No ball may be kicked from the hands. A thrown ball by the goalkeeper must touch the ground or a player in the goalkeepers own Half of the field, or the opposing team will receive an indirect free kick.
8. Throw-ins must be "on the ground". All balls into touch will be put back into play with an indirect free kick from the spot it went out.

FORFEITS:

1. "Match time" is defined as the scheduled starting time on a team's schedule, or, the conclusion of the preceding match if the previous match is running late.
2. Teams must have a minimum of at least five (5) players present at match time or their opponent has the option to:
 - a. Ask for immediate forfeit, or
 - b. Start the game clock (not play) and allow that team up to ten (10) minutes to get at least five (5) players. Failure to field a team within ten (10) minutes will result in a forfeit. (**Note:** The ten (10) minute grace period will not extend beyond ten (10) minutes past the scheduled starting time. Therefore, if a teams scheduled starting time was 7:00 pm and the previous game ended at 7:20 pm and a team can not field a minimum of 5 players, the game is declared a forfeit.)
3. If either team is reduced to less than a five (5) person line-up, a forfeit will be recorded. If both teams are reduced to less than a five (5) person line-up, a double forfeit will be recorded.
4. If a match is declared a forfeit and there are sufficient players in which to form two (2) teams, the teams may play two (2) twenty minutes halves with a 5 minute half time. No overtime periods will be allowed during forfeit matches
5. A \$15.00 fine will be assessed for a team's first forfeit. This fine must be paid prior to the team's next scheduled match, or that match will also be a forfeit. If the team notifies the LRC Sports Staff of an unavoidable forfeit at least 24 hours in advance, the fine will be waived, but

the game will be recorded as a forfeit.

6. Any team forfeiting twice during the course of the season may be dropped from the program with no refund of entry fee.

RAIN-OUTS:

1. The Sports Information Hotline (972) 218 3720 has been established to inform teams, and team members of delays, and/or rain-outs. **Please do not flood the LRC office with calls regarding delays, or rain-outs.** Teams should go to the field if in doubt. Due to the fact that flag football games are very rarely canceled, except in extreme weather conditions, most games will play as scheduled. But, during extreme weather, the LRC Sports staff will update the Sports Information Hotline to inform teams of cancellations. Any game cancellations will be updated on the hotline number listed above. If no information has been recorded, the games will be considered playing as scheduled.
3. In the event a game is delayed by weather, teams will be required to wait for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes, unless the game is officially canceled by the supervisor.

INTERNET ACCESS:

The Sports division of the Lancaster Parks and Recreation Department currently has schedules, forms, standings, and registration information on our website. We also have the Sports rain-out and game cancellation page available to interested teams. The Sports Information Hotline 972-218-3720 will be updated before any web related pages.

Please visit the City of Lancaster Department of Parks and Recreation official website at:

<http://www.lancaster-tx.com/123/Parks-and-Recreation>

On the left hand side of the Parks Department homepage, you will find links to the sports pages.

POSTPONEMENTS:

Teams may postpone a game in case of an emergency only. The judgment of the LRC Sports staff shall prevail in determining an emergency situation. Where postponements are allowed, the team asking for the postponement must get approval from their opponent and notify the LRC Sports Staff at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled game if possible, and pay a \$20.00 postponement fee.

MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Inform all team members of game times, dates, and locations.
2. Ensure that all team members are recorded on the OFFICIAL ROSTER FORM, or a ROSTER CHANGE FORM.
5. Ensure that all team members are familiar with the items covered in this manual, as well as those in the Player Code of Conduct.
6. Be responsible for the actions of their team and spectators while participating in this program.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP:

1. League Standings will be based on games won and lost.
2. A team **trophy** will be awarded to the winner of each league. In the event of a first place tie, the teams involved will each be awarded a team trophy.

