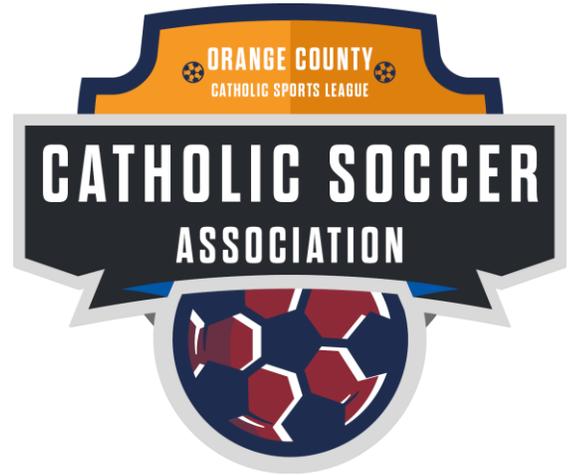


CATHOLIC SOCCER ASSOCIATION



Diocese of Orange
Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Rule Book

REVISED DECEMBER 21, 2017

Rules and Regulations Players, Spectators and Referees must follow to be able to participate in the Catholic Soccer Association league.



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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Start of game:

- Players must check in with Referees showing their individual jersey number, shin guards and cleats worn at all times. Failure will result in a yellow card (especially shin guards and cleats).
- Prayer must be said before the match. One player from the Home Team will be in charge of prayer before the match.
- At the beginning of the match, a prayer will be done immediately and each team needs to line up and shake hands respectfully.

Player Identification Cards:

- Players are given 1 player identification card (The first card is covered by the OCCSL)
 - Cost to replace lost Player I.D. Cards is \$10.00
- Player I.D. Cards need to be given to the referee before the start of the game in order to be eligible to play. NO PLAYER I.D. = NO PLAY
- Player I.D. Cards will be returned to Captains at the end of the game.
- Expect to receive your replacement card by the next game.

Arriving late and forfeits:

- The game should start promptly at the designated time. No extra time will be rewarded.
 - If team[s] takes a long time to line up, be checked in, prayer etc this is also included in 90 minutes. The only exception if Referee is late, time regained.
- If a team is not present at the posted game time the referee will wait **5 minutes**.
- Game time will start at the time posted.
- If the team does not show after 5 minutes, the game will be forfeited.
 - Winning team receives 3 points but no awarded goals.
 - The forfeited team receives an automatic loss and -1 on points but no goals against.

Forfeits:

- A team **cannot** forfeit during their match.
- Must play if present with at least 7 players.
- Or must notify the forfeit 24 hours before it not they will be deducted -1pts.

Fines:

- A fine of **\$30** will be put on the team in which a ref finds players that have not registered and are playing.
- The fine must be paid in cash by their next game and failure to do so will result in an automatic forfeit until it is paid
- **Lost Soccer Ball:** If a team especially that particular player who kicked the ball over the fence or out of the pitch must retrieve that ball. The league provides the balls to keep the game neutral and eliminating any type of advantage a team may gain by using their own

ball. Referees will note who kicked the ball away. If that ball is not returned and shown to a referee that player will be fined \$25 and will not play until paid.

Game Rules of Play:

- Each half shall be 45 minutes
- 5-minute break in between.
- Playoffs: No ties, a game will go straight to penalties.
- No slide tackling allowed [see under RULES and REGULATIONS for more details]
- Co-Ed and Mercy rule in effect.
- Only league balls may be used.

Mercy Rule:

- No team may score more than a **six-goal differential**.
- No goals will be rewarded past the six-goal differential.
- A **yellow card** will be given to the player scoring the goal past the six-goal differential

Co-Ed Rule:

- League is Co-Ed and should have at least one female on each team. If the team does not have a female the team will subtract players according to the following:
 - Team with girl on field vs Team without girl (play one down, 10 men)

Team Representation:

- Team minimum must be 13 players to be recognized as a team.
- A girl is suggested to be part of the team as it is a co-ed league but not mandatory.

PLAYERS RIGHTS AND LIMITATIONS:

Eligibility in League:

- The captain must be Catholic and registered to a Parish.
- Only players who have submitted complete registration forms and associated league fees may play in the OCCSL and copy of I.D. if and when requested.

Age:

- Players must be within the age range of 18 years old (during the season) and up to 39 years of age.
 - A form of identification must be provided with the date of birth visible and picture to identify the participant.

Blood:

- If a player is seen bleeding he/she must leave immediately off the field.
- Bleeding must be controlled and shown to the referee to re-enter.

Injuries:

- If a player gets injured the team must remove the player by stopping play:
 - Kicking ball out
 - Fouling
- The referee will only stop the match if the injury is life-threatening. "Fair play" is encouraged.
- If a player is severely injured, **Captain is responsible** to call 9-11 if needed and provide transportation to the hospital, home or a safe place if an ambulance is not called. Also, must notify Referee or Coordinator in case medical expenses need to be covered by the medical insurance that Diocese provides.

Conduct:

Un-Christian heckling, shouting, etc. at the referee(s) or other players on the field or anyone observing the match is considered to be punishable by a yellow card first as a warning and second with a red card or asked by Referee or Coordinator to leave.

Players are to treat each individual from referees, opposing team and fans with respect and manners of the highest degree possible.

OCCSL is a private league, therefore fans are a privilege and should follow field rules and are accountable to proper Christian conduct as stated above. If in violation, can be asked to leave the field immediately with or without warning. The captain is responsible for team, fans and his/her own conduct. If this persists throughout the season, Coordinator or Director will request meeting resulting in loss of fans or being a fan after a match, not being allowed to stay and watch other matches.

Alcohol:

- If you are intoxicated you will be asked to leave immediately.
- Having any container (alcohol) will result in the person leaving immediately. This also includes individuals that smell like alcohol meaning it is still in your system. We have a zero tolerance for alcohol in our league as this individual is disinhibited and may pose a threat to anyone.

Misconduct:

- Any behavior or apparel, whether by a player or someone present at the field, deemed to be un-Christian (such as swearing in excess, arguing for a long duration repeatedly during one game with the referee, taunting in bad spirits, attacking others, etc.) will be subject to warning and/or caution by Referee or Coordinator if present.
- The referee at any point can during a match with no additional time card any fans that are players in the league for misconduct or remove fans individually or completely to restore order, authority, and respect.
- A second warning and/or caution will result in disciplinary action subject to league Coordinator and/or Director review and may include, but is not limited to, time off the field, removal from the field or ejection from a match as appropriate, suspension from a number of games or the field as appropriate, and expulsion from the league.
- The league Coordinator and Director of the Diocese may choose to handle a situation that may arise during a game or outside of it should they deem the situation to affect the league contrary to its Catholic spirit.
- Consequences of analysis of a situation can include meetings, expulsion from the league, and fines up to \$50 per person involved (including lost and damaged equipment).

Players:

- Players must be exclusively and faithfully committed to being part of a team (either under a church name, team name, or unison color) and cannot be interchangeable.
- Only exception: If a team resigns and players want to continue to play, they will be considered free agents and can request to be added to a team by asking one of the Coordinators in person or through email. We are not obligated nor can force any team to add any players. The request will be submitted and must wait for approval and response from other teams. After receiving the approval and placement, the player is immediately part of the new team and committed, allowing them to play next match.

Attire:

A team must have jerseys, shorts, shin guards, and cleats. They all must be matching colors and be numbered. No duplicate numbers allowed. Failure to have this will result in not participating that day.

Jewelry/Eyewear:

- No jewelry or alcohol can be used or be present at any game.
- Goggles or glasses can only be used to play with a prescription. The prescription must be turned in at the same time as the application to play before the season starts. It also must be noted in the roster by each captain.
- If this is not followed and eyewear is broken at any time before, during or after the match, OCCSL is not responsible.

Appeals:

- An email must be submitted by the team captain, identifying problem, parties involved, the reason for appeal and evidence **within 24 hours**. The Coordinator will review this based on our league rules providing evidence to keep decision or overturn. An investigation will take place and a ruling will be made in a timely manner. The email must be submitted in the format stated above to be acceptable as an appeal or it will be discarded. Failure to do so results in forfeiting your chance to appeal any call.
- The referee will stand in the middle of the field for 2 minutes to wait for Captains ONLY to discuss and review any calls, cautions, goals during a match in a respectful and edifying manner.
- Coordinator updates what is on referee time sheet to IMLeague/website within 48 hours.

CAPTAIN RIGHTS, LIMITATIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conducts:

As Captain, you must be a registered member of a Catholic parish in full communion with the "Church in Rome." Members of the team may be of other faith groups for purposes of ecumenism and outreach, but to ensure that Catholicism and its values are the mainstays of our league, Captains must set an example of our Catholic faith. It is of course highly encouraged and expected that a majority of team members are registered members of a parish that they may serve as an example to other brethren. Should any questions arise regarding the Catholic membership of a team, the team's captain will be held responsible to demonstrate to the league representatives that a majority of his or her team is a registered Catholic; verifiable by parish records.

It is expected that a Catholic-Christian prayer be said before the start of the match followed by shaking hands between both teams. An individual team prayer is recommended at halftime before breaking.

Communications:

If a team member or members are disruptive to the league and its spirit in any significant manner, the captain will be the primary arbiter of resolving issues. If any help is needed in discerning a solution, please consider your teammates, other captains, the league coordinators, and the Director of the Diocese in matters of advice and solutions.

Taken from League Rules:

The league coordinators and Director of the Diocese may choose to handle a situation that may arise during a game or outside of it should they deem the situation to affect the league contrary to its Catholic spirit. Consequences of analysis of a situation can include meetings, expulsion from the league, and fines up to \$50 per person involved.

Above all, this league is a ministry of the Catholic Church with careful consideration for everyone's well being. Please enhance the experience of all those around you!

Appeals:

Appeals must be submitted within 24 hours from the game they are contesting. Appeals will not be accepted on the field or in person. Appeals can only be submitted via email and team captains will be kept informed on the progress and verdict.

Resignation:

A team can resign during the season by requesting in written format by Team Captain with reason. This is to verify that everyone on the team has agreed to no longer be recognized as an official team in the league and dropped from roster, schedule, and forfeit his or her opportunity to play within the league. This should be done as soon as the team knows, preferably before a match, to notify all teams, referees, and no longer reserve field for time allocated for that team to play. Once your resignation has been approved, Coordinator(s) will take the necessary step to notify all parties, adjust the schedule and remove registration forms, NO REFUNDS will be given. Players can be considered free agents if they chose to continue but must request, permission to continue in the league and request to add on a team. A Coordinator will attempt to place them but Coordinators are not obligated to place them on a team; team MUST be willing to ADD player(s).

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Card Accumulation:

- Yellow cards that have been awarded during a match will **rollover** throughout the season. A total of 3 will equal a Red Card, which will result in the suspension of the player for the next game. It will also roll over into playoffs.
- A player that earns a red card (ejection) may be subject to a one-game suspension after the game in which the red card was served. They must leave the field immediately. Any player with three red cards in a season will not be eligible to play for the remainder of the season and will be subject to review by the Diocese to play the next season.

Shin Guards:

Any players playing without shin guards is cautioned and sent off the field.

Slide Tackling:

Slide tackling is not allowed and up to referee's discretion to define it and see it as such. Only in a rare exception is it allowed if no other player is around when saving a ball going out of bounds but the final decision is up to the referee's discretion.

Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions are available. Player entering must be allowed on by the referee and must wait for a player being subbed to completely leave the field before setting foot on the field. Failure to do so results in the incoming player being cautioned.

Official League Balls:

Only league balls provided can be used in OCCSL official matches. This is so no advantage is given to either team and so there is always a ball present. No one is allowed to bring balls or take balls if team or players do, OCCSL is not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced balls. This is to protect players from the theft of balls. If the ball goes over the fence, it is the responsibility of the team that kicked it over to retrieve it. If a team loses it or it is stolen they are responsible for replacing it.

Mercy Rule:

- No team may score more than a six-goal difference.
- No goals will be rewarded past the six-goal differential.

Co-Ed Rule:

League is Co-Ed and should have at least one female on each team. If the team does not have a female the team will subtract players according to the following:

- Team with girl on field vs Team without girl (10 men play on)

Out of bounds:

Entire ball must leave the field to be out of bounds.

Kickoff and Restart:

- Start of Game players must be at least 10 feet away from the center of the field.
- After scoring.

Changing Keeper:

Must be made during a stoppage and allowed permission beforehand by the referee. Failure to do so results in a caution.

Cautions:

A yellow card is shown for the following offenses based on referees discretion:

- Tackling from behind
- Slide tackling
- Illegal substitution and goalie change
- Cussing and/or misconduct in gestures
- Repeated offenses
- Striking an opponent without intent of ball or not touching ball
- Deliberate use of hands [consisting of: hands, elbow, complete arm in an illegal use or "unnatural position"]
- Delay of game
- Failure to respect distance from a corner/free kick
- Excessive celebrating (ex. removal of shirt)
- Holding a player or pulling down a player
- Impeding the release of the ball from the keeper

Sending offs:

A red card is shown and the player must leave if he/she does following:

- Guilty of serious play*
- Violent or misconduct conduct towards referee, linesman(s), fans, player(s) (ex. Spitting, cursing, threatening)*
- Denies obvious goal scoring opportunity*
- Last man and fouls player*

*based on Referees discretion and analysis of events.

Penalties:

A foul committed inside the penalty box.

- Keeper may only move from side to side

- Kicker must kick in flowing motion without stopping
- Surrounding players may not enter until kicker touches the ball, failure to do so will result in penalty redo immediately. Only 11 players during a match can be on the field while they take place, rest of team must be on the sidelines.

Throw-Ins:

- There is no offside in a throw-in.
- The player must release the ball when it reaches his/her head, keep both feet down and motion must start from behind player's head to be correct.
- The goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in, must touch someone before going in the net.

Keeper Infringements:

- Holds ball more than 6 seconds. (indirect rewarded)
- Picking up the ball from a teammate that has used his feet to pass back. (indirect rewarded)
- Picking up a ball that he/she has already placed down. (indirect rewarded)

Direct Free Kick:

Can score a goal directly, a wall that is 10 feet away is placed.

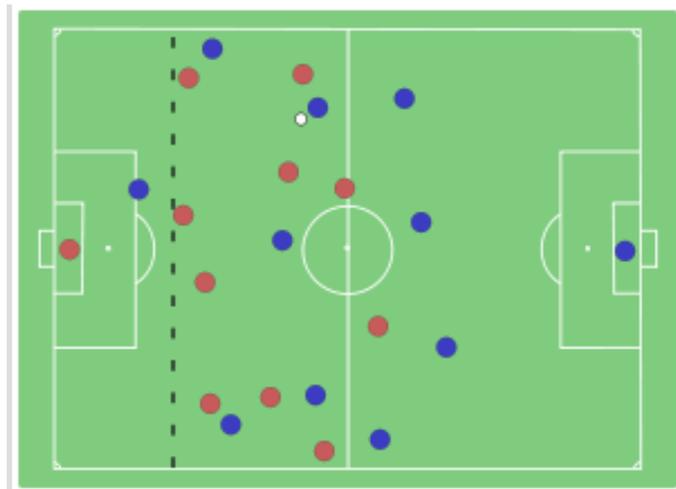
Indirect Free Kick:

Can not score a goal from this it must touch another player beforehand. Wall is placed as well.

Offside:

A player is in an *offside position* if three conditions are met:

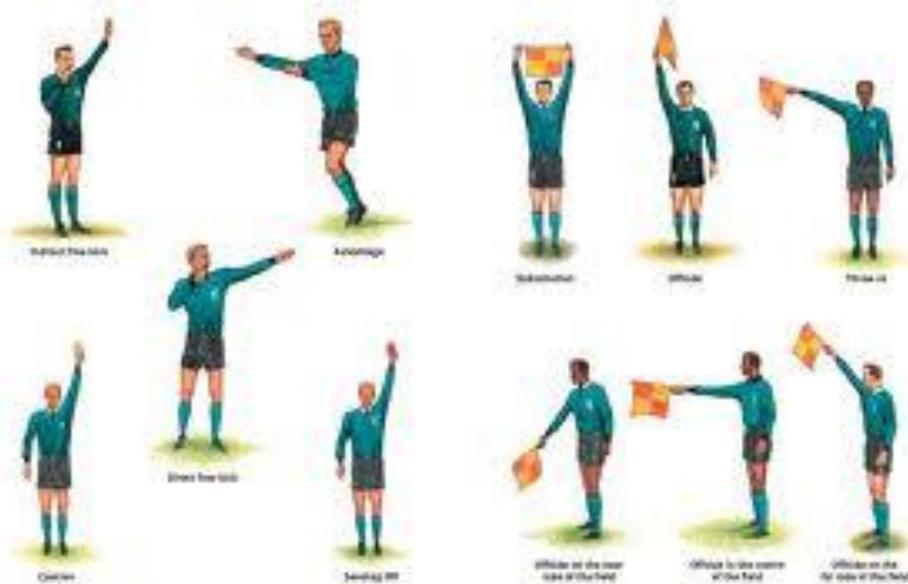
- First, the player must be on the opposing team's half of the field.
- Second, the player must be in front of the ball.
- And third, the player is in front of the last defender when the initial pass is made.



Common Offenses:

Kicks, trips, jumps at, charges, strikes, pushes or pulls down an opponent. Also, extended arm is not allowed. A bent arm is allowed to keep a distance from another player.

Referee Hand Signals:



When deciding whether a player's actions are cautionable for dissent (by word or action) or can be red carded for offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures apply the following criteria:

Public - Are the player's actions public in nature? From a visual perspective, can others see it and, if so, what message is the player sending? Verbally, who can hear the comments (other players, spectators, television) – consider the volume of the comments? Are the actions or comments meant to “show the referee up?” Consider whether the actions/comments create a negative impression/attitude towards the referee in general.

Personal - Are the comments directed at the referee or just said as a reasonable emotional reaction to a poor play? Consider the tone of voice and the derogatory content of what was said. Are the actions of the player aimed at the referee or merely personal frustration?

Provocative - Are the comments or actions intended to incite further misconduct or heighten the tension level? Do the comments elicit anger and potentially provoke further conflict on the field? Consider the ramifications of racial or gender-based comments.

Overall, are the comments and actions disrespectful to “any referee” – not just to the referee to whom they were addressed? Officials must be aware of actions/comments that undermine the position of the referee and must take the appropriate action that matches the actions of the player.

***CSA Rule Book is subject to change at the discretion of the OCCSL Coordinator or Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. If changes do occur all captains will be notified immediately.*