



2010 SPRING SEASON SCHEDULING INFORMATION

(as of November 28, 2009)

In a change to meet the desires of the majority of the teams in the MRL, **all teams** will schedule their own games through a face-to-face meeting (on Saturday, December 19 in Indianapolis IN or Saturday, January 9 in Madison WI) or through teams within a division working together, on their own, and agreeing to their entire sub-division schedule no later than three days prior to their scheduled face-to-face meeting. The site of face-to-face meeting for your sub-division shall be solely determined by the MRL. Expected meeting sites are:

AGE GROUP/DIVISION

DATE

SITE

BOYS

All PREMIER Divisions	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN
All FIRST DIVISION EAST sub-divisions	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN
FIRST DIVISION WEST sub-divisions	Saturday, January 9	Madison WI

GIRLS

All PREMIER Divisions	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN
U-14 FIRST DIVISION EAST sub-divisions	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN
U-14 FIRST DIVISION WEST sub-divisions	Saturday, January 9	Madison WI
U-15 FIRST DIVISIONS	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN
U-16 FIRST DIVISIONS	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN
U-17 FIRST DIVISIONS	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN
U-18 FIRST DIVISION	Saturday, December 19	Indianapolis IN

After the placement of teams into divisions, teams will be notified as to the site of their scheduling meeting through a group email to the primary and secondary contacts for teams within a specific sub-division. The MRL provides the opportunity for teams to pre-schedule all games in a division in accordance with MRL procedures prior to the scheduled meeting. Thus, if all teams within a division agree to a schedule, then the teams will not need to attend the face-to-face scheduling meeting. All teams in a sub-division must agree in writing to the entire schedule and agree to a schedule no later than three days prior to the scheduling meeting. Pre-scheduling is driven by the teams and a Scheduling Coordinator (SC) will be appointed by the MRL from within the division to assist in the process. Generally, this person will be someone who has scheduled MRL games in the past and understands the nuances in scheduling on a regional basis.

At these meetings, each sub-division meeting will be held during its allocated Age Group time slot. Time slots are:

Boys and Girls U18	8:00 am to 9:30 am
Boys and Girls U17	9:30 am to 11:00 am
Boys and Girls U16	11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Boys and Girls U15	12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Boys and Girls U14	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of your assigned time in order to sign in and to receive updated information for the scheduling process.

Note...we have found that in the past, team representative arrive early for these meetings...teams will start working on schedules before the actual starting time listed below...thus we encourage team reps to arrive early for check in (note...we have had instances where teams are scheduling one hour prior to the official start time).

2010 SPRING SEASON SCHEDULING INFORMATION

PAGE TWO

BACKGROUND

- Each game should be assigned a site and a host organization designated for such site. The MRL is cognizant that teams, primarily with opponents from within their own state association, may opt to play One-Offs or Self Schedule Games (i.e. teams set their own date, time and location---the dates for these games need not be firmed up until before March 5). **No team may list more than two One-Offs (Self Schedule Games).** However, the designation of which games are One-Offs (Self Scheduled Games) must be firm. Once it is agreed that certain games shall be Self Schedule Games then those games must be confirmed (site, date, time) by no later than March 5. (See Scheduling Policy for sanctions if games are not confirmed by March 5).
- A reminder from the MRL 2010 Spring Season Information Sheet: *“All teams understand that this is a Regional League and that teams may travel hundreds of miles to participate in MRL games. The determination of game sites is based in part due to home locations of teams within a division and field availability. Teams understand that they may not play any home games”*
- The MRL does not prohibit teams from scheduling more than one game per day if the teams so agree.
- If scheduling two games in one day, MRL Rules stipulate that efforts be made so that a minimum of three hours rest occur between games. Rule may be waived if both teams agree.
- Also, in situations where teams agree to play three games in a weekend, teams understand that their opponents may not play a similar schedule of games for that particular weekend. Teams should understand that if they agree to play three games in a weekend, that their opponents and other teams participating that weekend may not play an equal number of games and have equal rest between games.
- In the event that there is a conflict where teams are unable to agree to a mutually agreeable date for their game, teams should apply the concept that State Cup Games are the **ONLY** games that take precedence over availability for MRL games.
- All games that are to be played between teams from the same club must be played during the first one-third of each team's season or the game will be considered a No-Contest. No consideration will be made for games that are postponed. These games must be played within the first third of a team's schedule. For example, in a 9 game season, this game must be 1st, 2nd or 3rd game of each team's season. For 6, 7 or 8 game season, this game must be the 1st or 2nd game of each team's season.
- The MRL hosted sites are: April 17-18 in Overland Park KS; April 24-25 in Rockford IL, May 1-2 in Muscatine IA and May 8-9 in Hebron IN. **These are not required sites and are merely offered to teams as an option in scheduling games.**
- **Premier Division Games to be played anytime from March 6 through May 30, 2010 (inclusive)**
- **Fist Division Games to be played anytime from March 6 through June 13, 2010 (inclusive)**
- The MRL Commission has determined that all teams **Must Be Available to Play** on the following weekends:
 - Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18
 - Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25
 - Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2

Teams that are competing in their State Cup competitions on these dates will not need to be available for MRL play on such dates but must be available to play MRL matches on April 3-4 and 10-11. Teams must be available to play on these weekends in order to insure that all game match-ups can be scheduled. Teams may opt to schedule their season avoiding a “Must Be Available To Play” weekend provided that all required games are scheduled (or are agreed to be One-Off [self schedule] games by the participating teams). It is the responsibility of teams affected by their State Cup competitions on Must Be Available to Play weekends to be flexible in being able to schedule MRL games on other weekends during the spring and should expect to travel to face out-of-state opponents in order to fulfill their schedule.

2010 SPRING SEASON SCHEDULING INFORMATION

PAGE THREE

PROCEDURES

- Teams must work together in order to develop a schedule that is as fair as possible considering the distances between teams. Remember, teams may play one another in coming seasons—thus it is highly recommended that teams work with one another.
- Reconfirm the availability of each team
- Reconfirm the host site information as provided by teams within the division. Teams should reconfirm that a host team has the number of fields available necessary in order to play games at the same time and provide for equal rest time in situations where teams agreed to play two games in one day. Teams should also reconfirm the playing surface of each field.
- **Game times for all games except those to take place at MRL hosted sites and any one-offs are to be determined.** It is expected that game start times and rest time between games played on the same day shall be equal (unless otherwise noted). **If field changes require game time changes and un-equal rest time between games, the hosting team shall be required to accept a schedule with the least rest time between games (unless agreed upon by the other participating teams). In other words, hosting team shall have no scheduling advantage in regards to rest.** If game times are not determined, the MRL shall have the sole authority is establishing game times.
- It is highly suggested that games are stacked (i.e. 9am, 11am, 1pm) where possible for referee assignment efficiency.
- **In situations where games are scheduled for MRL hosted sites, the MRL shall have the sole authority to determine game times (as multiple divisions will be playing on-site for these weekends).** If a group of teams are scheduled to play two games in one day, game times should be designated as AM-for the series of games to be played first in the day; and PM-for the series of games to be played later in the day. This does not necessarily mean that AM games will be played in the morning. Games may start as early as 7:15 am. Added on 11-28-09..it should be expected that at MRL hosted sites that all U14 games will be played at the same time; all U15 and U16 games will be played at the same time; and that all U17 and U18 games will be played at the same time. Teams should be aware of this when developing schedules. The MRL does not make schedule changes for individual coaching conflicts/requests.
- MRL games may be scheduled during other US Youth Soccer sanctioned competitions (i.e. some showcases) during Spring Season weekends. Games must be played under MRL rules and are subject to approval by the MRL. Teams and host organization will be held responsible for MRL rules compliance in these situations.
- Teams may designate games to be One-Offs (Self Scheduled)—date/time/site of these games to be scheduled by March 5, 2010 or the game will be considered a No Contest Game (see Scheduling Policy).
- All games that are to be played between teams from the same club must be played during the first one-third of each team's season or the game will be considered a No-Contest. No consideration will be made for games that are postponed. These games must be played within the first third of a team's schedule. For example, in a 9 game season, this game must be 1st, 2nd or 3rd game of each team's season. For 6, 7 or 8 game season, this game must be the 1st or 2nd game of each team's season.
- Remember, SAT testing is scheduled for March 13, May 1 and June 5 -- ACT testing is scheduled for February 6, April 10 and June 12.
- **Premier Division Games to be played anytime from March 6 through May 30, 2010 (inclusive). First Division Games to be played anytime from March 6 through June 13, 2010 (inclusive)**
- MRL Commissioner to post schedule on MRL website after follow-up review. Please contact the MRL Commissioner with any scheduling discrepancies.
- Be sure to review and be familiar with the MRL Scheduling Policy.
- MRL shall have sole authority in matters not covered in MRL Rules or this information document.