



TO: **2012 Spring Season MRL Team Coaches and Managers**  
FROM: Paul Luchowski, MRL Commissioner  
DATE: February 7, 2012  
RE: **Points of Emphasis (2011-2012)**

Please be sure to review the following points of emphasis in regards to the upcoming season.

### **TEAM ROSTERS**

With the recent rules changes to Rosters in the National Championship Series Policy, there have been some modifications to MRL terminology and the size of Team rosters permitted at Under 14 and Under 15 for MRL competition.

--The maximum number of players on an Under 14 or Under 15 Team Roster is now 22. This means that the maximum number of players on all Team Rosters in the MRL is 22.

--We will now refer to "*Guest*" Players and Rosters as "**Club Pass**" Players and Rosters. This is consistent with NCS Policy. There are no changes to the MRL method of operations as we will continue to permit additional players as per our rules for teams, provided that such players come from within your club and subject to our Team Roster & Player Rules and Policy. (3 to 7 Club Pass, formerly Guest, players are permitted). Nothing really changes except for the terminology.

To summarize, Club Pass (formerly Guest) player rules for Under 14 and Under 15 now mirror our Under 16 through Under 18 rules so that all roster rules and policy are consistent through all MRL age groups. Teams can continue to use up to 25 players during the course of the season in accordance with our rules and policy that were previously in effect.

Be sure to refer to the "2012 Spring Season—Team Roster & Player Guide" for additional information.

### **COACHES LICENSING REQUIREMENT**

As you all know, the MRL has adopted the following minimum coaching license requirements (MRL Rule 7.15):

#### **"Team Coaches – Licensing Requirement**

Beginning in the 2010-2011 season, all coaches participating in MRL games must hold at least a US Soccer "D" License (or equivalent\*) as the minimum coaching qualification.

Beginning in the 2013-2014 season, all coaches participating in MRL games must hold at least a US Soccer "C" license (or equivalent\*) as the minimum coaching qualification.

\*Equivalencies are based on US Soccer standards."

At each MRL game, teams are required to submit a MRL Team Line-Up Card to the Referee listing all players, coaches and team officials that are participating in the game. On the Line-Up Card, each coach that is listed must include his/her US Soccer License Status (i.e. an A, B, C or D license). The MRL may review game reports to monitor that teams are in compliance with the new MRL Rule. Violation of the rule may result in the forfeiture of games and/or fines imposed on the individual coach and/or team/club at the discretion of the MRL Commissioner. In addition, teams should be aware that opposing teams may also file a protest in accordance with MRL Rules should the opposing team believe that a coach participating in a game violates the above stated rule.

## **SEND OFFS**

Please be familiar with following MRL Rules.

### **9.01 Send Offs**

Any player, coach or team official who is sent off (red card) from a match will be suspended for the team's next MRL match. If a player, coach or team official who is ejected (red card) two times in a season, the player will be suspended for the next three (3) MRL matches. Any player who is deemed guilty of fighting with another player or coach (violent conduct) on or off the field of play will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) MRL matches, pending further review by the MRL Commission.

### **7.14 Team Bench Supervision**

A coach, manager or team official must supervise a MRL team at all times at the Team Bench Area. Coaches, managers and team officials are required to provide the Referee with a pass, as provided by their host state association, certifying that the coach, manager or team official is currently rostered with the team/club. If by send off or emergency, a team does not have a coach, manager or team official to supervise the MRL team during a MRL game, then the game shall be forfeited.

**Teams are responsible in implementing the suspension of players, coaches and/or team officials due to send offs. With teams playing multiple games during a weekend, we rely on team managers and coaches to self-enforce suspensions. On all Send Offs, the player (and/or coach/manager) must not participate in that team's next scheduled MRL game. A team that plays an ineligible player shall be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to: forfeiture of the match, suspension of the team's coach from MRL competition, or expulsion of the team from the MRL.**

**NOTE: the MRL no longer has a yellow card accumulation rule resulting in suspensions.**

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Substitutions may be made during any stoppage in play. There is Unlimited Substitution for U14 games. For U15, U16, U17 and U18 games, the MRL operates under the FIFA-Seven (7) "per half" substitution system. Once replaced, players cannot re-enter the game during that half of play.

**MRL rules do not permit any modifications to this rule (i.e. coaches agreeing beforehand to waive the rule). In the event that the MRL determines that a game was played under substitution rules not outlined above, the MRL at its sole discretion may deem the game a double forfeit.**

*Thanks for taking the time to review these items. Good luck with your Spring season.  
Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [MRLCommissioner@Region2.com](mailto:MRLCommissioner@Region2.com)*