



2012 SPRING SEASON SCHEDULING INFORMATION ALL AGE GROUPS AND DIVISIONS

as of November 18, 2011

This document outlines the scheduling information needed by teams for the coming MRL season. Be sure to read through this document so that you are familiar with all aspects of the scheduling process.

Scheduling will be done by the respective teams within your assigned division. It is our hope that teams will be able to schedule their matches within their division on their own in a coordinated manner following the process outlined herein and in a Scheduling Email from the MRL Commissioner.

A Scheduling Coordinator (SC) will be appointed from within your division to coordinate scheduling within your division. The SC's role is to facilitate and guide the process and all duties cease when the schedule is finalized.

Schedules must be completed on or before Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 9:00 am ET. Failure to do so may result in a daily fine assessed against each team in the division until a schedule is finalized.

Spring Season play may begin on March 2, 2012

All Premier Division games must be played on or before June 3, 2012.

All First Division games must be played on or before June 20, 2012.

Spring Season MRL teams must be available to play on the following weekends (April 21-22, April 28-29, and May 5-6). Teams are excused from MRL play during these weekends only for State Cup play (Note: Those teams that are unavailable to play due to state cup conflicts must be available to play on all other non-state cup weekends throughout the MRL season).

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MRL Scheduling--GROUND RULES and PROCEDURES--2012 Spring Season

GROUND RULES

- The Goal is to come out of this process with your MRL schedule for the 2012 SPRING SEASON. 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). **No team may list more than three One-Offs (Self Schedule Games).** However, the designation of which games are One-Offs (Self Scheduled Games) must be firmed up. Once it is agreed that certain games shall be One Offs/Self Schedule Games, then those games must be confirmed (site, date, time) by no later than February 24, 2012. (See Scheduling Policy for sanctions if games are not confirmed by February 24).
- A reminder from the MRL 2012 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"* Also, *"Teams should understand that due to the nature of scheduling of games for teams from across the region that scheduling games for the benefit of a single coach who coaches multiple teams should not be expected. Time conflicts will occur for those coaches that coach multiple teams on MRL weekends and the MRL, as well as the other teams within a division, are under no obligation to assist these coaches with their conflicts."*
- 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.
- 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. For example, in situations where opponents have different amount of rest in the same day between games, the host team or a local team should be the team scheduled with the least amount of rest.
- 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 listed on the availability sheets for each division. **These are not required dates and sites and are merely offered to teams as an option in scheduling games.**
- Spring Season play may begin on March 2, 2012. All Premier Division games must be played on or before June 3, 2012. All First Division games must be played on or before June 10, 2012. Waivers to these dates will be permitted only if all teams in a division agree in writing to extending the season.
- Spring Season MRL teams **must be available to play** on the following weekends (April 21-22, April 28-29 and May 5-6). Teams are excused from MRL play during these weekends only for State Cup play. Those teams that are unavailable to play due to state cup conflicts must be available to play on all other weekends during the MRL Spring Season.
- There is risk involved in scheduling matches on grass fields. Do not expect hosts to guarantee that games will be played as field and weather conditions may deem fields unplayable and/or closed.
- Once the schedule is finalized teams are released from the Must be Available weekends requirement.

MRL Scheduling--GROUND RULES and PROCEDURES--2012 Spring Season

PROCEDURES

- Confirm the availability of each team
- Confirm 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. Teams should confirm if games are scheduled on grass or turf. Hosts are not obligated to secure back up turf fields as delays or postponements due to weather or field conditions cannot be controlled. All teams understand that there is a risk of postponement.
- Utilizing the scheduling match-up template provided to the Scheduling Coordinator, place sites and dates agreed to by teams next to game match-ups. **Game times for all games except those to take place at MRL hosted sites and any one-offs should 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 unequal rest time between games, the hosting team (followed by other local teams) 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 host team has the right to schedule matches as they deem appropriate, pending MRL approval.
- It is highly suggested that games are stacked (i.e. 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm) where possible for referee assignment efficiency. For example, instead of scheduling four games at the same time on Sunday (one time slot—four fields), it would preferred that games be scheduled back to back on two fields (two time slots—two fields).
- **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. Be prepared for games may be scheduled as follows: all U14 games in one time slot; all U15 and U16 games scheduled in another time slot; and all U17 and U18 games in a third time slot. These games times will not be posted until around April 1.
- Matches are scheduled on grass fields with no turf back-ups at MRL hosted sites in Rockford and Muscatine. MRL hosted sites are: Overland Park KS Soccer Complex (all-weather fields) on April 21-22, Rockford IL Sportscore II on April 28-29; and Muscatine IA Soccer Complex on May 5-6 and 12-13. The MRL also has access to fields at the Hallmark Sports Complex in Hebron IN; however teams must provide the hosting administrative duties at this site. Hallmark has fields available on a weekend by weekend basis—SC should check with MRL Commissioner for availability. Please know that field sizes vary from 105 to 120 yards in length and 60 yards to 75 yards in width. Fields at MRL hosted sites are available on a first finalized, first to secure basis as fields are limited.
- MRL games may be scheduled during other US Youth Soccer sanctioned competitions 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. Events that are willing to host MRL games may be posted on the MRL site and may be updated from time to time. Teams should know that scheduling matches at such events essentially strips MRL teams of all scheduling rights including but not limited to re-scheduling.
- Teams may designate games to be One-Offs (Self Scheduled)—date/time/site of these games to be scheduled by February 24, 2012 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.
- Once a schedule is submitted to the MRL, the MRL Commissioner will distribute a note to all teams confirming that the schedule has been received and that all teams have agreed to the schedule. Teams will have no more than 24 hours to respond in writing if there is a dispute with the schedule.



2012 SPRING SEASON Scheduling POLICY

(as of November 18, 2011)

SCHEDULE

Once a division schedule is posted on the MRL website www.MidwestRegionalLeague.com, it shall be considered official. Changes are permitted at the discretion of the MRL Commissioner due to transcription errors, inaccurate information provided to the MRL or other cause as determined by the MRL Commissioner.

Other than One-Offs (self schedule games - see below) the dates and sites are final. If game times are posted, then they are confirmed (final) -- otherwise game times listed as TBA or am/pm are still being confirmed. As confirmations occur on game times, they will be posted.

MRL games must be played under MRL Rules.

ONE-OFFS (SELF SCHEDULE GAMES)—

DEADLINE TO SCHEDULE IS FEBRUARY 24, 2012

Games listed as TBA for the site, date and time are considered One-Offs or Self Schedule Games. The two teams are to mutually agree upon a **date, site and time** for the game and communicate the agreed upon date, time and site for the game to the MRL for posting. The designated host team is to secure referees.

The deadline to establish game dates for One-Offs (Self Schedule Games) is February 24, 2012. The MRL Commissioner must be notified in writing of the game date, time and site as agreed to by the teams. If the game is not finalized by this date the game may be considered a NO CONTEST GAME and the game will be recorded as played but with no score and thus each team earning zero (0) points for the contest. Failure to schedule One-Offs by February 24, 2012 may result in fines assessed against teams.

GAMES BETWEEN TEAMS FROM SAME CLUB

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.

SCHEDULING FEE

Any game that is scheduled as a one-off or game that was postponed and re-scheduled must be scheduled with at least seven (7) days notice to the referee assignor or each team will be assessed a \$20.00 rescheduling fee (both teams are liable for payment—total of \$20 is due to the MRL). Payment due within ten days of notice or the game will be counted as a No Contest. The date in which notice is given to the MRL and the ref assignor shall serve as the determining date of scheduling in applying this procedure.

NO CONTESTS

Games deemed to be No Contests will be recorded as a game played but with no score and thus each team earning zero (0) points for the contest.

CHANGING CURRENT GAME SITE, DATE AND/OR TIME

If for some reason your team wishes to change a game date or time, the procedure to change the game is as follows:

- (1) the team seeking to make the change contacts its opponent ...opponent must mutually agree on the game change in order for the change to occur. **(NOTE: in a weekend where teams are playing multiple games and teams are seeking to move a game off of the weekend, provided that the game being changed does not improve the competitive status of teams in a weekend with such determination made solely by the MRL Commissioner, then the teams may proceed in requesting a game change).** When notifying the MRL of any game changes, such communication must also be sent to the opponents.
- (2) if mutually agreed, contact the MRL with the request including the revised game date, time and site; and
- (3) MRL confirms the change by posting the revised game on its website.
- (4) Host team contacts local referee assignor with the change(s)

If your opponent does not agree to a change then the game is scheduled to be played as posted.

For all Game Changes after December 21, 2011, information from both teams must be completed and forwarded to the MRL for approval.

POSTPONED GAMES

Due to Closing of Field, Field Conditions or Inclement Weather (One Off)

If games are postponed the day of the game due to inclement weather, the participating teams will reschedule the game as if it were a One-Off (Self Schedule) game. Teams will have three (3) days following the date of postponed game to reschedule the contest. Failure to re-schedule shall result in the game considered a NO CONTEST GAME, as described above. MRL may allow teams past the three day deadline to reschedule if circumstances warrant.

Due to One Team Attempting to Postpone (or Change Game) Without Opponent's Approval

In the event that a team arbitrarily postpones a game, without the consent of the opposing team, the game will be treated as a forfeit. Please know that a Premier Division team that forfeits any game will be relegated to the First Division for the following season. Team forfeiting a game within seven (7) days of a match is also responsible for full payment of Referee Fees for such games.

Due to One Team Failing to Adhere to MRL Rules regarding Player Passes

In the event that a team is found to failing to adhere to the MRL Rules in regards to Player Passes (i.e. failure to bring player passes to game), the team in non-compliance shall forfeit the game. Please know that a Premier Division team that forfeits any game will be relegated to the First Division for the following season.

Due to Field Conditions or Inclement Weather (as part of a series of division games during a weekend)

In situations where multiple games are being played at one site within a division, and games are postponed during the first day of competition (i.e. Saturday), the postponed games are to be scheduled to be played the following day (i.e. Sunday) if possible with such determination made solely by the MRL. A team committing to play games at a site with multiple games commits to play for the entire weekend (Saturday/Sunday). Any game changes should receive MRL approval. If the postponements occur on Sunday, then the teams will have three (3) days following the date of postponed game to reschedule the contest. Failure to re-schedule shall result in the game considered a NO CONTEST GAME, as described previously in this policy. MRL may allow teams past the three day deadline to reschedule if circumstances warrant.

Should you have any questions on scheduling please direct them to the MRL Commissioner

**If your team is designated as a
HOST TEAM for MRL games,
your team is required to follow the
MRL Game Hosting Guidelines
posted on our website**

http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/2012_Spring_Season/hostinginfo.htm

**Your team should complete the
following tasks immediately following
the scheduling meeting:**

--designate a LOCAL SITE COORDINATOR and provide information to the MRL on the LSC Designation Form

--secure referees through a local assignor that is approved by the MRL...assignor list to be posted at: <http://www.midwestregionalleague.com/referees.htm>

--contact all visiting teams (via email with the MRL cc'd on all correspondence) no later than one month prior to your game dates with field information including but not limited to directions etc.; hotel information; and contact information for the Local Site Coordinator.

All information in this six-page document may be updated at the discretion of the MRL at any time including but not limited to the revising of deadlines.