



# CONDENSED VERSION of RULES for GAME OFFICIALS and TEAMS 2012 SPRING SEASON

We are providing Game Officials and Teams with the following condensed version of the MRL Rules as they pertain to the playing of matches. The complete MRL Rules are available at [www.MidwestRegionalLeague.com](http://www.MidwestRegionalLeague.com)

## SECTION VI. MATCHES--OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

### 6.08 Uniforms

Teams playing in the MRL are only permitted to wear the following on their game uniforms:

- (a) US Youth Soccer logo
- (b) Their individual club and/or team logo and team sponsor logo
- (c) Manufacturer of uniform logo
- (d) Name and number of player

No other patches or logos are permitted unless written permission is granted by the MRL Commission.

### 6.13 Inclement Weather

The Host Club/State Association is responsible for notifying the MRL Commissioner as soon as possible if the scheduled fields are unavailable due to inclement weather. The MRL Commissioner will be responsible for notifying all teams regarding game postponement due to inclement weather. All reasonable efforts must be made to complete the match on the scheduled dates.

## SECTION VII. RULES OF PLAY

### 7.01 Laws of the Game

Games will be played under the applicable rules of US Youth Soccer. Teams are responsible for obtaining and being familiar with the U.S. Soccer Official Administrative Handbook and the FIFA Laws as they govern play subject to the modifications noted herein.

### 7.02 Substitutions

In the U18, U17, U16 and U15 age groups the MRL will operate under the FIFA-Seven (7) "per half" substitution system. Once replaced, players cannot re-enter the game during that half of play. Substitutions may be made during any stoppage in play. In the U14 age group, unlimited substitutions will be permitted.

### 7.03 Match Length and Ball Size

Age Group	Length of Half	Ball Size
U-17 and U-18	45 min.	5
U-15 and U-16	40 min.	5
U-14	35 min.	5

### 7.04 Field Size

Fields for all age groups must meet the FIFA requirements for full size fields. The MRL recommended field size is 116 yards by 72 yards.

### 7.05 Official Match

A match shall be considered official after one full half of play is completed (the second half does not have to start). If less than one half is completed and the match is abandoned, the entire match must be replayed, subject to MRL Rule 8.04 and/or review by the MRL Commission. If a match is abandoned in the second half of play due to inclement weather, the final score will be the score at the time the match is abandoned. If a match is abandoned for any other reason including but not limited to gross misconduct, the MRL Commission will decide the disposition of the match score following review of all information available including but not limited to Referee Game Reports, reports for MRL staff, etc.

### 7.06 Forfeits-Lack of Appearance

A one-hour delay in the start of a game due to a team's lack of appearance is permitted for scheduled matches before the game is abandoned. Failure to appear for a scheduled match will result in a forfeit.

### 7.07 Anchored Goals

The coaches and match referee should inspect the integrity of the goals to ensure they are secure and suitable for play. Matches shall not begin until both goals have been firmly secured.

### 7.08 Player Passes/Rosters/Lineup Game Cards

Each team must bring their laminated US Youth Soccer member passes signed by an official of their home State Association, a MRL Lineup Game Card, and a copy of their Official MRL Roster and Official MRL Team Guest Roster to every match. Lineup Game Cards are to be given to the Match Referee prior to the start of a match. The Official MRL Team Roster and Official MRL Team Guest Roster are to be provided to the opposing team upon request. Each team must complete and provide a three-part copy of the Lineup Game Card to the Referee prior to the match. No more than 18 players from a team may appear and play in any single game.

### 7.09 Playing of Ineligible Player

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.

#### **7.10 Member Passes Presented to Referee**

US Youth Soccer Member Passes shall be presented to the referee upon entering the field of play. Passes will be returned to the players at the end of the half. Players will present passes upon entering the match during the second half. This rule shall not apply for U-14 age group as due to the open substitution rule for this age group, all player passes are to be presented to the Referee prior to the game.

#### **7.11 Availability of Team Rosters**

Upon request, copies of official MRL game rosters must be provided to the opposing team coach/manager prior to the start of each game.

#### **7.12 Uniform Color Conflict**

When there is a conflict in uniform color, the team listed first on the schedule must change their uniform color, subject to the Match Referee's decision

#### **7.13 Coaching from Sidelines**

Limited coaching from inside the team's respective Technical Area is permitted. Coaches may not leave their team's Technical Area or enter the field of play without permission from the Referee.

#### **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.

#### **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."

### **SECTION VIII. MATCH CONTROL**

#### **8.01 Three Person System**

Matches must be officiated by the three-person FIFA/USSF Referee System. In the event the assigned referee fails to appear (within 10 minutes of the match time); a certified official must be found to officiate the match. The Referee may appoint replacements for Assistant Referees who fail to show up by the match time. In the event certified USSF officials are not available, the Referee may appoint Club Assistant Referees. Club Assistant Referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA/USSF Referee Guidelines.

#### **8.02 Game Officials**

Game officials will be assigned under the authority of the MRL working with the hosting US Youth Soccer State Association SRA or SYRA

#### **8.03 Payment of Referees**

Referees and Assistant Referees appointed under the provisions of these MRL Rules shall be paid at the conclusion of the match upon receipt by the Site Coordinator of the MRL Referee Report, Game Cards, and Team Rosters. Each team is responsible for payment of one half of the MRL required fees of the match officials.

- (a) Referee fees for U-17 and U-18 games shall total \$140.00 (\$60 for Referee and \$40 for each Assistant Referee).
- (b) Referee fees for U-15 and U16 games shall total \$120.00 (\$50 for Referee and \$35 for each Assistant Referee).
- (c) Referee fees for U-14 games shall total \$100.00 (\$40 for Referee and \$30 for each Assistant Referee).

If fields are closed and/or games are cancelled and the referees are not notified prior to their arrival at the site, the officials will be paid for their first scheduled match only. The site coordinator is responsible for collecting the referee fees prior to the match, and distributing them to the officials. In the event that there is only one Assistant Referee, only one Assistant Referee payment is made. The other Assistant Referee fee may be paid to a club assistant referee, if they are a registered USSF official.

#### **8.04 Termination of Matches**

Referees may terminate matches for lack of crowd control, poor team behavior or other unsportsmanlike circumstances. Each coach is responsible for the behavior and conduct of his/her players. Upon request by the Game Officials, coaches are responsible to assist in the control of parents, fans, and spectators. The Referee will report the termination of any match to the MRL Commissioner within 24 hours. The MRL Commission shall ascertain the facts and determine appropriate disciplinary action that may include:

- (a) Reprimand,
- (b) Forfeiture of game as appropriate;
- (c) Suspension from future MRL matches or
- (d) Recommendation to the US Youth Soccer Region II Director of a more severe penalty.

If play is stopped at any time due to one of the teams (by action of players, coaches, administrators, spectators) adjudged to be at fault, it shall be at the discretion of the MRL Commission whether the game is to be replayed or declared a forfeit.

#### **8.05 Filing of Referee Match Report**

In the event that the Match Referee does not provide the Site Coordinator with the Referee Report, Team Lineup Game Cards and Team Rosters immediately following the match, the Referee must file such Report with the MRL Commissioner within 24 hours of the match. In the event that red or yellow cards are issued during the match, the Report must be filed within 12 hours of the match. Filing shall be defined as providing pertinent match information via e-mail or fax. Original copies of all paperwork must be postmarked within 48 hours of a match.