

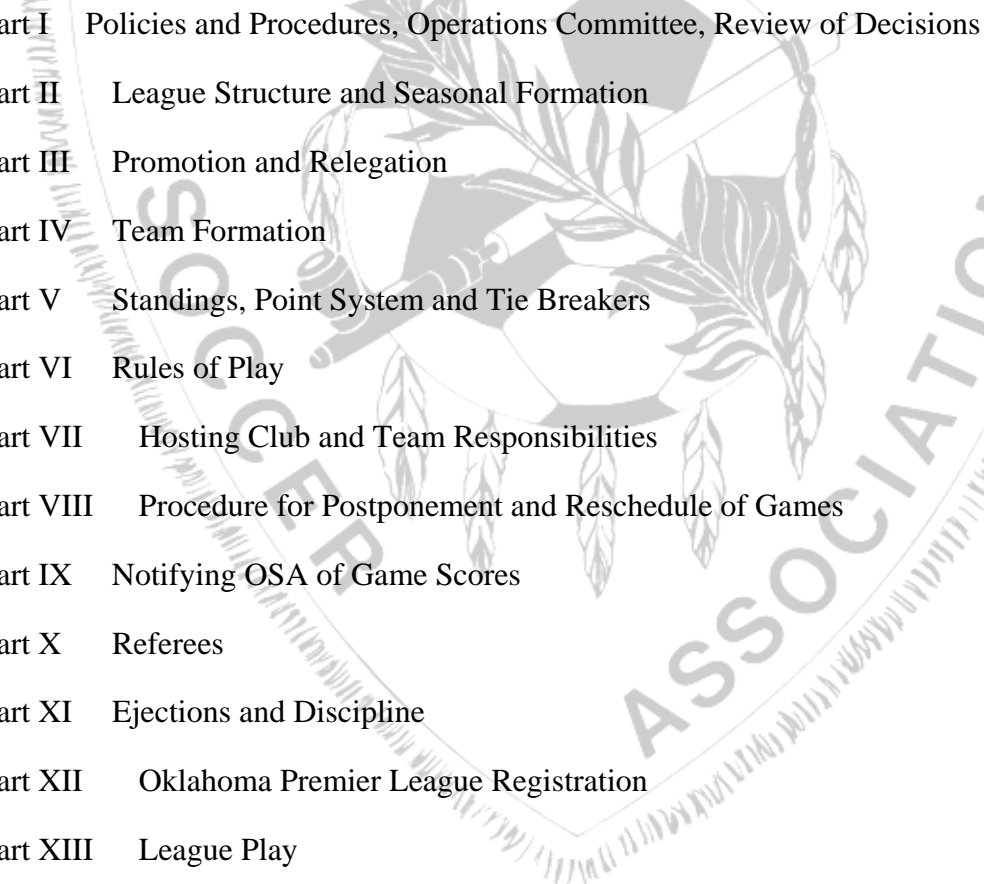


Oklahoma Soccer Association Oklahoma Premier League Policies and Procedures

The mission of the Oklahoma Premier League (OPL) is to identify the best Oklahoma competitive teams through competition and to promote the development of Oklahoma competitive players through strong competition on a weekly basis throughout the playing season.

Oklahoma Premier League Policies and Procedures

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Oklahoma Premier League Policies and Procedures

Part I. Policies and Procedures, Operations Committee, Review of Decisions

- A. League Operation – The Oklahoma Premier League (OPL) shall operate under these Policies and Procedures and other decisions as adopted by the League Operating Committee (LOC).
1. Approval – These Policies and Procedures must be approved by a majority vote of the members of the LOC and presented to the Oklahoma Soccer Association Youth Board (OSAYB) for final approval.
 2. Revisions – Any revisions of the Policies and Procedures must be approved by majority vote of the members of the LOC and presented to the OSAYB for final approval.
- B. League Operating Committee
1. The LOC shall operate under the supervision and direction of the OSAYB 2nd VP.
 2. The LOC shall consist of ten members: LOC commissioner, the competitive commissioners of both Frontier Country Soccer Association (FCSA) and Green Country Soccer Association (GCSA), two at-large coaching members, two at-large positions, referee representative, one West Side DOC and East Side DOC.
 - a. The LOC Commissioner shall be appointed by the OSAYB 2nd VP and approved by the OSAYB.
 - b. The competitive commissioners of FCSA and GCSA are elected into their respective positions and shall serve as long as they hold their elected position except as referred to in Part 1(B)(3).
 - c. The LOC Commissioner and the country competitive commissioners will recommend a candidate for each of the at-large coaching positions. The OSAYB will have final approval of these candidates.
 - (1) A coach holding at least a National “D” license will fill the at-large coaches’ positions.
Effective August 2013 OPL Coaches will be required to hold a USSF C License.
 - (2) The term of the position will be one year and filled by August 15 of each year.
 - d. The LOC Commissioner and the country competitive commissioners will recommend a candidate for each of the at-large positions. The OSAYB will have final approval of these candidates.
 - (1) The term of the position will be one year and will be filled in July of each year.
 - e. The referee representative shall be appointed by the State Youth Referee Administrator and approved by the OSAYB.

3. Removal of committee members – any committee member may be removed at the request of the OSAYB 2nd VP or the LOC Commissioner with the approval of the OSAYB. The reason for removal must be submitted in writing to the OSAYB by the LOC Commissioner.
 4. Replacement of committee members will done by the remaining members of the LOC (with approval by the OSAYB) except for the following committee members:
 - a. The OSAYB President and the appropriate country president will jointly replace country competitive commissioners.
 - b. Referee representative will be replaced at the advisement of the SYRA with the approval of the OSAYB.
 5. Actions and Decisions – All actions and decisions taken by the LOC shall be made by majority vote of all members of the LOC. Votes may be taken in person, via email, or any other method that allows all members votes to be made in a time-appropriate manner. The LOC Commissioner will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie among other voting members.
- C. Meetings – The LOC shall meet at the request of the OSAYB 2nd VP, LOC Commissioner, or a majority of all members of the LOC in any form deemed appropriate providing that all standing members are notified of the time, date, and method of such meeting at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- D. Advisory Subcommittees – The LOC reserves the right to establish advisory subcommittees to assist in meeting the mission of the OPL. All advisory subcommittees will serve at the discretion of the LOC commissioner and will only serve in an advisory capacity to the LOC. It is anticipated that the advisory subcommittees could be used for (but certainly not limited to):
1. Team play-up requests
 2. Review of rules
 3. Recruitment of individuals to fill vacant positions
- E. Request for Review and Appeal
1. Any team may request a review of a decision made by the LOC. To request a review of a decision by the LOC, the following must be accomplished:
 - a. Request for review must be submitted in written form (letter or email) and received by the LOC Commissioner within 7 days of the decision.
 - b. Only a team's coach or clubs' designated representative may make a request for review.
 - c. Only the club or teams' designated representative filing the appeal shall provide any additional information including appearing at an LOC review meeting as required by the LOC Commissioner.

2. An appeal will require a \$200.00 appeal fee which will be refunded if appeal is overturned by the LOC / Youth Board.
3. Once a review of a LOC decision is complete, a team may appeal the decision to the OSAYB by:
 - a. Request for appeal must be submitted in written form and received by the OSAYB President within 7 days of the LOC decision.
 - b. Only a team or club designated representative may make a request for appeal.
 - c. The team or club designated representative filing the appeal shall provide any additional information, including appearing at an OSAYB appeal hearing, as required by OSAYB President.

Part II. League Structure and Seasonal Formation

- A. League Structure – All OPL divisions shall be age pure leagues except the U17– U19 age groups.
 1. U11 Division
 - a. Fall season – There will be no OPL U11 Division. All U11 teams wishing to qualify for the OPL must play in either the GCSA or FCSA competitive leagues.
 - b. Spring season – The top 4 teams from the FCSA league and the top 4 teams from the GCSA league will qualify for the OPL U11 Division.
 2. U12 through U14 Divisions – The OPL will be a fall and spring season and will be comprised of (up to 8 teams. Promotion and relegation will happen between each season (fall to spring and spring to fall)(see Part III below).
 3. U15 through U19 divisions – The OPL will be a year long season with games being played from September through March of the following year.. Multiple divisions within these age groups may be formed based on the number of teams and the quality of the teams. The LOC will make every effort to put teams of like ability in the same division.
 4. The LOC reserves the right to make other decisions as circumstances require adjusting the OPL structure to insure meeting the mission of the OPL. Specifically, the LOC reserves the right to approve or deny a team’s specific placement requests.
- B. Transition between seasons

1. The LOC will place teams into divisions each season as soon as practical after the deadline for forms and fees. *Note: No team will be included in the league or scheduled until the payment of all applicable league fees and bonds.* These divisions will be posted to the OSA OPL web page. Any request for review of a team's placement or omission from the OPL must be received in the Tulsa OSA office in accordance with the procedures set forth in Part I(E) "Request for Review and Appeal".
2. In cases where the LOC is not able to fill an OPL division to eight (8) teams by using promotion and relegation (Part III below), the LOC will:
 - a. Promote the relegated teams in order of finish from the previous season (highest to lowest) until the division is filled or all relegated teams have been invited to participate.
 - b. Promote such other teams, as the LOC deems appropriate.
 - c. Leave the division at less the eight (8) teams.

Part III. Promotion and Relegation

- A. Concept for Promotion and Relegation – It is the intent of the promotion and relegation procedures to ensure the quality of the teams participating in the OPL. The continuing teams that are being considered for promotion and the continuing teams being considered for relegation of each division will compete for the vacant spots in their respective division. The LOC reserves the right to determine to format, timing and rules for this competition. *Note: A team that has been permitted to play-up an age division will be considered as an alternate for the division from which it was relegated or the last alternate for the team's pure age division and be allowed to participate in any promotion/relegation competition for the age group in which this team intends to compete.*
- B. Teams will be considered for promotion or relegation from season to season in each division in the OPL as defined below:
 1. U11 Division – No relegation will be used. The top 4 teams league finishers in both the FCSA and GCSA will be promoted to the spring OPL U11 division.
 2. U12 through U14 Divisions – Teams will be considered for promotion and relegation to form both the fall and spring OPL divisions.
 3. U15 through U16 Divisions – Teams will be considered for promotion and relegation to form the year long divisions.
 4. U17 through U19 Divisions – Teams will be considered for promotion and relegation when feasible since these divisions are formed based on the number and quality of the teams applying to play each year.

Part IV. Team Formation

- A. A continuing team must retain at least 50% plus 1 of the rostered players at the end of the previous season to remain qualified for participation in the OPL. *This "team concept" is applied to the rostered players even though their club affiliation or coach may have changed.*

B. Any team not meeting the 50% plus 1 retention of players outlined in Section A shall be considered a new team.

C. A new team must play its first season in a promotional country league.

D. A player must be 10 years of age on or before August 1st of the registration year to participate in OPL. Any team that has a rostered player in conflict with the above will be ineligible for the Oklahoma Premier League

Part V. Standings, Point System and Tie Breakers

A. A team's standing in its division will be determined by the number of points it receives based on its win/loss record during the league season. Points will be awarded as follows:

1. Three (3) points for a win.
2. One (1) point for a tie.
3. Zero (0) points for a loss.

B. In the event of a tie within a division, the following criteria shall be used to break the tie:

1. Winner of head to head game(s), unless a three way tie exists; (2) is used first if this happens.
2. Most wins.
3. Teams with the greatest net goal difference (no limit per game).
4. Fewest DPS points.
5. Coin toss or other method as deemed appropriate and communicated to the participants by the LOC.

C. Forfeits are recorded as a score of 3-0 for the winning team. If a team withdraws from the league before completing its schedule all games will be considered forfeits and it will further forfeit any applicable league fees and performance bonds. Further, this teams' future requests for participation in the OPL will be evaluated by the LOC.

D. A team that forfeits a game during league play will automatically lose all tie-breakers with any other team that it is tied with in the final standings.

E. Double forfeits or no-plays are recorded as 0-0 loss for both teams. It is not considered a tie for awarding division points.

Part VI. Rules of Play

A. OPL will be played using FIFA Rules as modified by US Youth Soccer Policy on Players and Playing Rules. These rules shall govern this league with the following exceptions and clarifications: *Note: OSA reserves the right to modify the application of any USYS Policies.*

1. Length of Match and Ball Size

- | | | | |
|----|-----------|---------------|--------|
| a. | U11 – U12 | 30 min halves | Size 4 |
|----|-----------|---------------|--------|

- b. U13 – U14 35 min halves Size 5
- c. U15 – U16 40 min halves Size 5
- d. U17 – U19 45 min halves Size 5

2. Substitutions

- a. U11 – U12 matches

- (1) Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at any stoppage of play. Players must be ready to enter the field of play and at the midfield line when the substitutions opportunity arises, with the exception of goals, issuance of yellow or red cards, and injuries.

- b. U13 – U19 matches

- (1) Unlimited substitutions may be taken at the following times:

- (a) Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession.
- (b) Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- (c) Following a goal by either team.
- (d) After an injury by either team, if the injured player is substituted.
- (e) After a caution is issued for the cautioned player only.
- (f) At half time.

3. Uniforms

- a. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey including the goalkeeper. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. The official team roster shall include the number of each player's jersey.
- b. All players are required to wear shin guards that provide adequate protection.
- c. Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from other players, including the opposing goalkeeper.

Part VII. Hosting Club and Team Responsibilities

- A. The hosting club will have properly prepared fields; including proper markings, nets, goal size, and corner flags. A club representative will be available to fix any problems associated with the fields. If the field is unable to be prepared properly by the hosting club, the game will be played if the referee determines that a hazardous condition does not exist. The referee will file a report with the referee assignor and the LOC documenting any improper field condition that: 1) was unable to be fixed before a match was played; 2) or, if a match was unable to be played due to hazardous field conditions.

- B. The hosting club will be responsible for closing the complex in case of inclement weather. If the complex closes, it will be the responsibility of the hosting club to notify the home team and referee assignor. The home team shall notify the opposing coach and/or manager and OSA as soon as possible that the game has been postponed. Failure to notify OSA, the referee assignor and/or opposing coach or manager could result in the game being declared a forfeit. Failure to notify referee assignor will result in the hosting club paying the referee fees.
- C. Each team must provide the referee with a copy of the team's official OPL roster including jersey numbers and official USYS laminated player passes.
NO PASSES - NO PLAY - NO EXCUSES
Coaches and team managers must have USYS laminated cards as well.
- D. Only rostered players and qualified coaches will be allowed on the teams' side or in the team area.
- E. The home team will wear lightest colored jersey and lightest socks. The visiting team will wear the dark jersey and darkest socks. The team not wearing the correct uniform will be required to change.
- F. The home team will provide a game ball to the referee. If the referee does not deem any provided games balls to be acceptable, the visiting team may be asked to provide the game ball.
- G. Team Rosters/Game Forms are the official document and constitute the record of the game. The game officials will give the completed forms to the winning team, or home team in case of a tie at the conclusion of the match (The winning team, or home team in case of a tie, is responsible for reporting the result and sending the game report to the Tulsa OSA office.
- H. Each team shall cleanup their respective areas before leaving. The hosting club will be asked to notify the LOC if a non-home club team(s) (which could be the home and/or visiting teams) leave their respective area(s) in an inappropriate manner.

Part VIII. Procedure for Postponement and Reschedule of Games

- A. If the COMPLEX is closed because of inclement weather, the home team shall notify the referee assignor, OSA Tulsa Office, and the opposing coach or manager as soon as possible that the game has been postponed. Failing to notify the referee assignor and/or opposing coach or manager could result in the game being declared a forfeit
- B. In order to facilitate a premier league and in consideration of all the parties involved, the LOC will severely limit the number of reschedules. In order to make this work. it is essential that as much information as possible is provided prior to the scheduling. The following criteria will be applied to assist in scheduling:
1. Coaching conflicts will be avoided as much as possible when scheduling but no promises can be made. This is especially applicable to coaches who have more than two teams. Teams are encouraged to have qualified assistant coaches available whenever possible.

2. Teams are allowed to submit no-play dates with their application as follows:
 - i. U11 – U14 teams are allowed 6 no-play days per season.
 - ii. U15 – U19 teams are allowed 8 no-play days per season.

No-play weekend dates will not be accepted by LOC after the intent to play application has been submitted.

3. For teams participating in Premier League West (PLW) games (other than in-state matches), the LOC will not schedule these teams on these weekends. It is the intent of the PLW to have these dates published well in advance of the OPL scheduling.

- C. No reschedules will be allowed after the designated reschedule period.
- D. All rescheduled games must be played so that all results can be reported by the scheduled season end date. It is NOT anticipated that the season end dates will be extended and determination for this will be the sole discretion of the LOC.

Part IX. Notifying OSA of Game Scores

- A. A representative from both teams must report the game result via e-mail (or other electronic form as directed by the LOC) to the OSA OPL administrator. The winning team, or the home team in case of a tie, must submit the official game forms to the OSA Tulsa office within one week of the game being played. Failure to report scores and submit game forms may result in the game(s) being declared a forfeit or a double forfeit.

Part X. Referees

- A. Payment – All referee payments will be made by OSA.
- B. The OSA SYRA or designee shall assist in the original and any rescheduled assignments working in cooperation with the home club assignors.

Part XI. Ejections and Discipline

- A. Any player ejected from an OPL match shall be suspended for their next OPL match and/or next match in the National Championship Series (State Cup, Presidents Cup, etc).
- B. Any coach ejected from an OPL match shall be suspended from the next OPL match and/or next match in the National Championship Series (State Cup, Presidents Cup, etc) for the team they were coaching at the time of the ejection.
- C. Ejections (red card) cases that involve "Violent Conduct" (fighting) as noted by the game official's Misconduct Report will always be reviewed by the LOC and considered for additional game suspensions. If an additional match(es) suspension is determined, the LOC will notify both the coach and manager in writing after the LOC has reviewed the incident and rendered a decision. LOC rulings on additional game suspension may not necessarily be completed before the next scheduled OPL or National Championship Series game.

- D. The LOC may review any ejection for coach, manager, and/or player in situations that it determines to be egregious or excessive and issue additional match suspensions as is deemed necessary.
- E. In the case of an ejected coach, the use of radio communication systems, which include cell phones, between players and/or technical staff, is not permitted.
- F. A player is allowed to serve his/her suspension at the game on the team bench and must not be in uniform.
- G. It is the responsibility of the coach or manager to submit to the Tulsa OSA office a sit-out verification form. (Available on the OSA website). The sit-out form provides the reason for the sit-out (previous game ejections, additional suspension imposed by the LOC, and/or disciplinary point system suspension as noted in Part XI. J,K.,L.&M) and must be submitted immediately following the match the player or coach sat out. If the required suspensions are not served, additional sanctions may be imposed.

The Disciplinary Point System (DPS) shall be applicable to all teams registered in the OPL. The purpose of the DPS is to identify those players and coaches responsible for receiving repeated yellow and red cards during the seasonal year (Fall and Spring season).

Players and coaches shall receive disciplinary points as follows:

- 1. Caution (yellow card) – 1 point
- 2. Ejection/Send-off (red card) – 3 points
- 3. Examples
 - a. 1 yellow = 1 point
 - b. 1 red = 3 points
 - c. 2 yellows = 2 points
 - d. 3 yellows and 1 red = 6 points
- H. The referee of the match shall have the responsibility of recording infraction(s) on the game form under FIFA Laws of the game Law XII.
- I. Information of the game forms submitted to the Tulsa OSA office will be used to track the DPS points earned by each player, coach and team. While the LOC has a responsibility for maintaining a record of DPS points, it is the coaches and/or manager's responsibility to maintain a record and suspend players as required under the DPS. If the required suspensions are not served as outlined below, additional sanctions may be imposed.
- J. Player points and penalty points are earned during a seasonal year. . A seasonal year is defined as July 1st to June 31st.
 - 1. 7 points – player is suspended from the next official OPL match.
 - 2. 11 points – player is suspended from the next two official OPL matches.
 - 3. 15 points – player is suspended from all official matches until the player has appeared before the OSAYB at which time further sanctions could be imposed.
 - 4. All suspensions are in addition to any penalty for the card(s) received.

- K. Coach points & penalty points are earned during the seasonal year (In order to encourage coaches to set a positive example for their players, fans and the good of the game, coaches are held to higher standard than players).
1. 6 points – coach is suspended for next official OPL match.
 2. 9 points – coach is suspended from all official games until the coach has appeared before the OSAYB at which time further sanctions could be imposed.
 3. All suspensions are in addition to a penalty for the card(s) received.
 4. Disciplinary points for coaches are accumulated per team.
- L. Team points – team points are the total of all player and coach points earned within the seasonal year.
1. 32 points: Forfeiture of the next official OPL match.
 2. 39 points: Forfeiture of the next two official OPL matches
 3. 45 points: Suspension from all official games until the coach has appeared before the OSAYB at which time sanctions will be imposed. Sanctions could include, but are not limited to, additional forfeits, suspension of traveling papers, or suspension of the team from all official games for the balance of the seasonal year, including State and Director’s Cup.
- M. DPS points earned in country league play will move with a player or team being promoted into the OPL.

Part XII. Oklahoma Premier League Registration

- A. Each team playing in the OPL must be properly registered in its respective country and all Club, Country, OPL and OSA fees paid in full.
- B. Each player playing in the OPL shall be registered with OSA and shall submit a properly completed USYS youth registration form. Each player shall have a current, laminated USYS player pass with a current photograph affixed.
- C. Each coach participating in OPL competition shall be registered with OSA with a completed US Youth disclosure statement and shall have a minimum of a National “D” (or its equivalent) and a current, laminated USYS pass with a current photograph affixed. National “D” license must be on file or completed within year of taking control of a team in the OPL. See OSA Coach Education Guide Book for more details on coach licensing requirements. **Please note that effective August 2012 coaches will be required to hold a USSF “C” license in order to coach in the OPL.**
- D. Each club shall submit an official OPL roster for each team playing in the OPL, which shall consist of:
1. U11: No fewer than 11 players or more than 14
 2. U12 – U15: No fewer than 14 players or more than 18
 3. U16 – U19: No fewer than 14 players or more than 22. Only 18 players can dress-out for any one game

Part XIII. League Play

- A. Teams must be able to start the match within 10 minutes of the scheduled match time. If a team cannot start within 10 minutes of the scheduled match, the other team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit.
- B. If a game is terminated because of weather, it shall be judged a completed game if the game has reached halftime before the game was terminated. If the match was of lesser duration, then it shall be replayed.
- C. If a referee terminates a match because of player, coach or team conduct, the game score shall be reported, as it was at the time the game was terminated.
- D. If a referee suspends a match due to situations other than described in Sections B or C, the game score shall be reported, as it was at the time the game was terminated. The LOC will review the causes of suspension and determine if the game will be accepted as a complete game, resumed from the point of suspension, or replayed.

Part XIV. Registration and Recruiting

- A. A player may be rostered on only one team in any competition sponsored by OSA. This rule will be interpreted to include the application of the OSA Club Pass System.
- B. Rules governing rosters and players for competitions leading to the US Youth Soccer National Championships supersede OSA rules outlined in this section.
- C. Formation of teams, recruiting, adding, dropping, releasing and transfers of players shall be controlled by the respective country rules where a team formed and any OSA rules that may apply.