



# Sierra Vista Soccer League

2024  
Constitution &  
Regulations

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## SVSL - Constitution

### **ARTICLE I – Name, Purpose, and Boundaries**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization is the Sierra Vista Soccer League (SVSL).

**Section 2.** The object, purpose, and power of this organization shall be to develop, promote, and govern amateur soccer within Southern Arizona under the Arizona State Soccer Association (ASSA), the United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA), and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rules or as otherwise specified by the SVSL. This organization is dedicated to the youth and adult players of Cochise County and surrounding areas by providing a higher level of competition, coaching, mentoring, and monetary support.

**Section 3.** The headquarters of this league shall be in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

### **ARTICLE II – Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The governing authority of the SVSL shall be the Board of Directors, in compliance with the SVSL Constitution and Rules and Regulations.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar.

a. **The President**

The President of the SVSL shall preside at all SVSL meetings. The President shall appoint all service committees. The President shall only vote in the event of a tie at a meeting or may waive the right to do so. The President is responsible for the SVSL and must maintain situational awareness of all SVSL activities. The President is responsible for the growth and welfare of the SVSL. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees. The president may also invoke his or her powers to initiate special disciplinary review board to review player and referee conduct in special circumstances.

b. **Vice President**

The Vice President shall succeed to the powers of the President in the President's absence. The Vice President shall be Chairperson of the Disciplinary committee and shall report the functions of this committee. The Vice President must identify two other league members to serve on the Disciplinary committee prior to the start of each season. Discipline proceedings shall be held in an undisclosed location while reviewing the week's disciplinary issues. The identities of the discipline board shall remain confidential to all members of the league to include the executive board. Upon completion of the hearings the team representatives shall be informed individually of the findings so that the rest of the teams in the league are kept unaware of any actions taken.

c. **Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all SVSL meetings, handle all correspondence, and provide notice of meetings (All correspondence should be available upon request). The Secretary shall maintain a list of member teams in good standing and their official team representatives to meetings of SVSL. The Secretary shall arrange the meeting place for all SVSL meetings. The Secretary shall continuously review the rules of the SVSL and receive input from the teams and players on proposed changes in SVSL rules. The Secretary shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning such changes. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a current list of SVSL rules, which shall be made available to member teams. The Secretary shall appoint assistant secretaries as needed.

d. **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall maintain all dues, fees, and assessments and have charge of all monies of SVSL and shall keep a detailed account of income and expenditures thereof. The Treasurer shall submit a written report of income and expenses monthly. The Treasurer shall pay all bills

properly passed upon and approved by the SVSL. The Treasurer shall also serve as Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall provide a receipt of all monies received, which shall be deposited in a recognized bank in the name of SVSL. Bills will be paid by check and require the signature of the Treasurer or President, both signatures are to be filed with the bank on a signature card. The books shall be kept up to date and properly balanced and shall be produced for inspection upon request by any registered player. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the preparing of any and all papers pursuant to the tax status of the SVSL. The Treasurer will prepare and maintain an annual and seasonal budget that must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

e. **Registrar**

The Registrar shall be responsible for conducting the annual and seasonal registration of teams and players and for maintaining registration records of all teams and players. The Registrar shall also be responsible for issuing player identification cards to affiliated players. The Registrar will print game cards for each match and deliver them to the fields at least 10 minutes prior to game time. The Registrar will collect team and player fines NLT 5pm on the Thursday prior to the next game. Upon receipt of payment, player passes will be returned to the team representative. On a weekly basis the Registrar will coordinate with the Treasurer to transfer all monies collected. In conjunction with the Treasurer and Secretary, the Registrar will complete all State requirements, reports and any other paperwork necessary to keep the SVSL in good standing. The Registrar will be paid \$25 per week during the regular season and playoffs. The registrar shall appoint assistant registrars as deemed necessary.

**Section 3.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Board and one (1) team representative from each team in good standing as defined in Article III.

- a. Each team shall nominate an individual as a team representative for the purpose of voting at SVSL meetings. The team representative is responsible for keeping updated contact information for his/her team, informing team members of all SVSL information, maintaining SVSL uniforms and other equipment, maintaining SVSL player passes, and upholding the SVSL constitution and division rules. The team representative must sign the Team Representative Code of Conduct.

**Section 4.** Any member of the community may be nominated for office. All duly elected officers of SVSL shall be deemed to be full members of the organization during the term of their respective offices. Nomination of Officers may only be submitted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Any general member who is present at the AGM and in good standing may submit a nomination. To be nominated for the Executive Board nominees must be present at the AGM. Any officer, while in office, may run for re-election. Elected officials/board members will be registered with the state. State Registration will be paid for by the SVSL.

**Section 5.** The Executive Board shall be elected to office at the SVSL Annual General Meeting (AGM), or by the SVSL General Populace if so decided by the Board of Directors at the AGM. Terms of office for the positions will be one (1) year and will begin immediately upon tabulation of votes. The election vote shall be open to the general membership of the league. Members must be present at the AGM and in good standing to cast their vote.

**Section 6.** Vacancies which occur between elections shall be filled by appointment by the President and ratification by a majority of the Board of Directors. If the position of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall succeed followed by the Treasurer, registrar, and lastly the secretary. Should all offices be vacant simultaneously a special election shall be held, after notification of all team representatives. Board members may resign by submitting a written resignation. Any officer shall be required to resign following a vote of no confidence. A petition for such vote must be signed by the team representatives of at least three (3) teams and must present substantial evidence to support the loss of confidence. Any additional actions which result in a detriment to the league or its existence may also result in the removal

from the executive board. The vote of no confidence must be equal to two-thirds majority of the team representatives, provided all teams have received due notice and copies of the petitions.

**Section 7.** If applicable, Division Coordinators shall be appointed and responsible for the promotion of the women's, men's or coed division(s). The Division Coordinator is responsible for gathering player registration materials for their division, rostering the teams and planning the division schedule in conjunction with the Executive Committee.

### ARTICLE III – Committees

**Section 1.** The President shall appoint such committees as necessary. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to dissolve any committee that in their membership shall not be on a voluntary basis. In any event, the President shall have the authority to appoint any member of the board to serve on a committee in any capacity. The board shall be responsible for providing the committee with guidelines of authority and outline of services required. The board shall reserve the right of final judgment of any matters that arise from meetings of the committees. Standing committees shall include:

- Disciplinary committee
- Publicity Committee
- *Field Preparation Committee (removed 8/9/23)*
- Scheduling Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Social Committee

**Section 2.** Duties of the Committees:

- a. **Disciplinary committee** – The Disciplinary committee shall consist of not less than three members of the SVSL who are in good standing, one of whom shall be Vice President. Committee members will be chosen by the Vice President and the names will be kept anonymous. The Disciplinary committee will be established prior to the start of each season. This committee shall also be responsible for the interpretation of all constitutions and rules and regulations. The committee shall determine if a violation has occurred and recommend the penalty for said violation. The committee shall review all protests and appeals made by players, teams, referees or other parties affiliated with SVSL. The final disciplinary action will be reviewed and decided upon by the Executive Board. The committee may appoint a parliamentarian. None of the representatives involved in the hearings shall be associated with either of the teams that are being reviewed. Additionally, one of the representatives shall be a currently certified USSF official in order to provide clear interpretations of the Laws of the Game.
- b. **Publicity Committee** – If necessary, a Publicity Committee will be formed and shall be responsible to promote the SVSL and send out announcements of all registrations. The Publicity Committee will maintain the SVSL Website to include announcements as well as weekly and seasonal standings/results.
- c. **Scheduling Committee** – The Scheduling Committee is responsible for developing the schedule for each year/season as well as reserving all playing fields. The annual schedule will be produced NLT 7 days after the AGM based on input from the Team Representatives, Board of Directors, and Executive Board. Each season's schedule will be produced and disseminated one week after the close of registration and NLT the Wednesday prior to the first game. The Scheduling Committee will coordinate directly with the City of Sierra Vista for field reservations, lights, and any other scheduling related requirements.
- d. **Budget and Finance Committee** – The Budget and Finance Committee shall continually review the financial status of the league and will assist with the preparation of an annual budget. The committee will conduct fundraising events as deemed necessary. All funds collected for league fundraising will be given to the Treasurer for deposit.

- e. **Social Committee** – If necessary, a Social Committee will be formed and shall be responsible for arranging all social functions of the SVSL such as parties, potlucks, end of year awards, etc.

#### **ARTICLE IV – Membership**

This organization does not unlawfully exclude from participation or deny membership, or otherwise subject to unlawful discrimination, any person because of race, color, creed, sex, disability, or national origin.

Any properly constituted team that operates within the territory under the jurisdiction of the SVSL may become a member of the SVSL if all requirements of membership are met. Application for membership must be accompanied by required dues and membership fees as set up by the Board of Directors. All amounts shall be returned if the applicant is denied membership.

**Section 1.** Each league team, provided it is in good standing, shall have one (1) team representative. A team representative shall have one (1) vote in all matters where a vote by the Board of Directors is necessary.

**Section 2.** To be in good standing with the SVSL, a team or individual must meet all the following requirements:

All current dues, fees, and assessments due the SVSL must be paid. Membership dues are payable on or before the registration date set by the Board of Directors and become delinquent with commencement of league play. Players joining after the initial registration must pay dues three calendar days prior to their first match. Individual registration shall remain open until three weeks prior to the final regular scheduled game. Individual registrations made after the season midpoint may be entitled to a reduced rate.

All players and teams must be properly registered and the teams must provide the Board of Directors with name, address, email address and telephone number of their team representative.

**Section 3.** A league team failing to meet any requirements of good standing shall be subject to discharge from the SVSL, which would include all the entitlements therein. Such discharge shall be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** Upon acceptance into the league, each team will be presented with a copy of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations as well as any other documents pertaining to the governance of the SVSL. At the start of the league year each team representative shall submit a signed document which states that member has read and fully understands the constitution and the rules regulations. This shall be deemed sufficient notice of this club's liabilities. **IN ANY CASE, A PLEA OF IGNORANCE OF THIS CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND ITS REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE SUFFICIENT EXCUSE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE THEREWITH, AND VIOLATORS SHOULD EXPECT APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

#### **ARTICLE V – Jurisdiction**

The SVSL shall have jurisdiction over all teams, its members and any players affiliated with it. Each team shall abide by the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the SVSL and shall comply with its authority.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Meetings**

The SVSL shall hold meetings every other month that are open to all membership. Each team representative will have one (1) vote. The President will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie or may choose to abstain and waive the right to do so. If a meeting is required aside from the regular bimonthly meeting, ALL members of the Executive Board must cast a vote before a decision is final (this vote can be done over the phone if necessary). **Board members are allowed to represent their teams and their Board Position at the same time (updated 8/9/23).**

**Section 1.** A quorum for any official SVSL meeting shall be constituted by a simple majority of the Executive Board and the team representatives present. The majority of the votes cast shall decide all questions except as provided below:

An amendment to the Constitution of this club shall require a two-thirds majority of the quorum.

The Board of Directors may bar from office any of the officers, and bar from participation any members, official, club, or other representative by two-thirds majority by all members of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** In the absence of the President, the line of succession for conducting meetings shall be:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Registrar

**Section 3.** All matters and proceedings of the SVSL which are not otherwise provided herein to the contrary shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as amended.

**Section 4.** Each team must have a representative present at the bimonthly meeting. If a team is not represented, one (1) point will be deducted from the team's standings.

#### **ARTICLE VII – Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Section 1.** The AGM of the SVSL shall be called during the month of August. The order of business shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Approval of minutes of last meeting
- Reports of officers/committees
- Election of officers
- Review and acceptance of changes to the Constitution
- Review of the budget for the next operating year
- New business
- Adjournment

**Section 2.** The board may also conduct business as it deems appropriate for the meeting.

**Section 3.** Each team representative shall have one (1) vote per topic discussed at the annual general meeting, provided they are present and in good standing.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – Amendments to the Constitution**

**Section 1.** Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any SVSL Annual General Meeting (AGM) by a vote of two-thirds of the voting memberships present, provided that all league teams have been given fourteen (14) days written notice of the meeting and a written copy of the proposed changes. Voting members for this purpose are defined as team representatives of affiliated teams in good standing, divisional coordinators and the league officers. Voting members at the AGM have the option to extend the vote to the SVSL General Populace, whereby voting will take place on the fields the first games following the AGM. Amendments will go into effect immediately.

**Section 2.** In emergency situations when an amendment needs to be made prior to or after the AGM, the amendment may be made and approved by the voting members after all voting members acknowledge receipt of the proposed change(s). Two-thirds of the voting membership must concur with the proposed change for the amendment to be added. These proposed changes to the constitution during the league year will be handled on a case by case basis and will be subject to review by the executive board. In order for a proposal to be considered the proposed change must be submitted in writing to the executive board members prior to the next meeting in order for the board members to review the proposal and determine if it shall be presented to the league for a vote. The executive board may decide to table the



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vote until the next AGM. The ultimate goal is to ensure full continuity and consistency throughout the league year.

### **ARTICLE IX – Indemnification**

The SVSL shall indemnify, to the maximum extent permitted by Arizona Revised Statutes, Chapter V, Article I, Section 10-1005 (B), any person who is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, or any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the SVSL to procure a judgment in its favor, by reason of the fact that she is or was a director, officer or employee of the SVSL or is or was serving at the request of the SVSL in any attorneys' fees and against judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement to the extent permitted by law. Expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred in the defense of a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the SVSL in advance of the final disposition of any such action, suit or proceeding to the extent permitted by law.

### **ARTICLE X – Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of this association for whatever reason, all of its assets shall be turned over to the USSF in trust for submission to any state association which is properly organized and affiliated with the USSF.

### **ARTICLE XI – Establishment of Rules and Regulations**

Rules and regulations will be established to provide for the effective and consistent administration of the SVSL activities.

## **SVSL – Rules and Regulations**

The “Spirit of the League” is the philosophy behind this organization. It is defined as recreational soccer for fun and not serious competition. It is playing soccer to have a good time, improve the skills of all players and socialize within and between organized teams. It is meeting new friends and learning new skills. It is sharing your expertise with your fellow teammates and fellow league mates. It is being a team player and not an individual. It is playing fair and acting as a good sport at all times. It is being generous when you win and being graceful when you lose. It is obeying the officials and accepting their decisions. It is promoting the enjoyment of soccer for all. We should all strive to achieve the “Spirit of the League” when participating in this organization.

This league will be committed to the players, with a focus on the youth players that are still working towards High School, College or even Professional soccer careers. With the vast age range in the league, the adult players should strive to assist the younger players to raise their level of play by mentoring, coaching and setting a good example. Even while playing competitively, all players will maintain respect, courtesy and fair play.

The SVSL is a “Not-for-Profit”, tax-exempt organization that depends entirely on its players to volunteer to run the organization. Its purpose is to organize safe, recreational soccer for players 14 and up.

Teams and players are responsible for reading and understanding all of the league rules and regulations.

### **Schedule**

#### **Playing Year**

The playing year is intended to take place between the months of September to the following calendar year August, although some years dates can fall outside of this timeframe. The Board of Directors and the Scheduling Committee will determine the number of seasons, season dates, and durations of each season.

#### **Canceling/Rescheduling Games**

The SVSL will use player season fees to pay for fields used for regular season and playoff games.

Teams may not agree between themselves to have a "friendly" game and count it as an "official" game.

To reschedule a game, a team must notify the Executive Board and the opposing team in writing at least one week in advance. The opposing team must agree to the reschedule in order for it to be approved. Game dates and times are subject to the availability of fields and referees.

When requesting a reschedule, the team must include two proposed dates for the make-up game. The Executive Board will work with the teams to find a mutually agreeable date.

A rescheduled game must be completed within 2 weeks of the original scheduled game day and before the postseason begins.

Postseason matches cannot be rescheduled EXCEPT for inclement weather.

If the opposing team will not reschedule, a forfeit with a score 3-0 will be the result. (See Section IV. A.)

#### **Postseason Games & Team Standings**

Standings are determined as follows:

- Win counts as three (3) points
- Tie counts as one (1) point.
- Loss counts as no (0) points

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At the end of the season, if any teams are tied in the standings, meaning that they have the same point totals, then the following determines which team is placed above the other(s).

- Head to head competition
- Goals against
- Goal Differential
- Goals for
- Coin flip

Any games not played (other than due to a forfeit) do not count in the standings.

At the end of any season, play-off games may be held. The playoff structure will be voted on by all eligible teams and board members prior to their start.

Trophies and participation awards will be decided on prior to playoffs by all eligible teams and board members

## Registration/Team Formation

### Registration

Registration fees will be set by the SVSL prior to each season registration.

Player registration fees must be paid three calendar days prior to playing in any league game, tournament or any match that the SVSL sponsors.

The team representative shall provide the Registrant and the Registrar with their consent or dissent.

Registrants who do not request to play with a specific team will be put into the free agent pool and will be assigned to a team by the SVSL.

A player can transfer teams during the season, provided the Team Representatives from both teams agree and sign the player transfer form.

Registration will open at least three weeks prior to the first scheduled game of each season and will close three weeks prior to the final regular scheduled game. The Executive Board will establish specific dates within the period.

### Insurance

Players are responsible for their own medical insurance. The SVSL will purchase liability insurance through A.S.S.A.

### Eligibility

Any male or female in good standings with the USSF is eligible to register in the SVSL.

Active professional soccer players are not allowed to play in this league. This is an amateur soccer player league.

### Youth Players

Players between the ages of 14 and 18 years of age may register with SVSL provided their parents or legal guardians have expressed their consent in writing. Parents and players must sign a waiver and acknowledge that they understand this is an adult league.

A youth player officially registered with, and in good standing with the Arizona State Youth Soccer Association (ASYSA) may play with the SVSL in accordance with USSF rule 2104.

ASYSA players are not eligible to compete in any competition leading to the USSF Open or Amateur Cup.

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All regulations regarding eligibility for high school participation must be adhered to.

Youth players must be 14 by the date of the first match played.

### Fees

The Board of Directors, prior to the start of each season, shall set the amount of such dues. The registration dues must accompany a player's application for membership. Those who register after the season midpoint may be eligible for reduced fees.

Board of Directors have their league fees waived each season they are in active office. Team Captains get 50% off discount on their league fee cost each season they are representing their team (*added May 4, 2023*).

### Refunds

A refund request, along with the player pass (if issued), must be submitted in writing to the SVSL Treasurer before the first game of the season. Once the player is registered with the state, only a partial refund will be given. Once the player's first game is played, no refunds will be given. Exceptions can be reviewed on a case by case basis and may require documentation.

### Player Passes

Each player must provide the registrar with a digital JPEG photograph. All player passes will be locally issued. Permanent and/or temporary player passes may only be issued from the SVSL registrar. Each player shall present to the referee their individual player pass before the start of each game. All passes will be returned to the team representative at the conclusion of each game unless the referee retains a pass (or passes) because of misconduct or violations. Guest players, who do not have their player pass with them may use a government issued identification or something equivalent to be used as a temporary player pass, which will be returned at the end of the game by the player to a league official. If the permanent player pass is lost, the player may be charged a replacement fee of \$5, payable to the Registrar.

### Ineligible Players

Only properly registered SVSL players may participate in sanctioned league games or tournament play. Illegal players pose severe liability problems to the league if they are injured/injure someone else in a game.

If a player is not properly registered, the team for which the player is playing shall automatically forfeit that game by a score of 3-0 and may face further disciplinary action as determined by the Disciplinary committee and Executive Board.

Violations of this rule, including but not limited to the use of altered official passes or use of non-registered players will result in all or any combination of the following disciplinary actions:

- Forfeiture of the game and any possible points gained from the following game.
- Suspension of the team's voting privileges for a minimum of two meetings in the current or succeeding season of play.
- \$50 fine assessed to the Team. Failure to pay assessed fines or adhere to suspension will result in suspension of the offending team and each registered player of that team and forfeiture of games as determined by the Executive Board.

### Guest Player(s)

**Eligibility:** League members in good standing and registered with SVSL may play as guest players for another team during the regular season and consolation post-season matches.

**Number of Guest Players:** The total number of guest players allowed will not exceed four (4).

**Pre-game Requirements:** If both captains and the referee agree before the game starts, the Guest Player limit may be increased at the discretion of parties involved. This cannot override the minimum 7 rostered players rule (see "Forfeits" section below).

Guest players must be present at the start of the game in which they are guest playing and present their passes to the referee before the start of the match. Team representatives are responsible for identifying the player(s) they will be using to guest play with their opposing team representative and match officials prior to kickoff. Guest players will not be allowed to participate once the match has started.

**During the Match:** 7 rostered players need to be on the field at all times (they cannot be subbed off). If they have to stop playing due to injury, the team must forfeit.

When/if additional rostered players arrive at the field and enter the field of play, they must replace a guest player. Once a guest player is replaced by a rostered player, they will not be allowed to return.

At the conclusion of the game, guest players are responsible for retrieving their player passes. Failure to do so could prevent the guest player from playing in their next scheduled match.

**Summer Session Exception:** During the summer session (and only during the summer session), teams who have a minimum of seven (7) rostered players, may have up to five (5) guest players allowing for one (1) substitute to be used throughout the match.

**Post Season:** Teams may not use Guest Players during competitive playoff matches. Guest players are allowed to be used in consolation matches.

**Other Restrictions:** Once a game has kicked off, guest players cannot be used to replace rostered players that need to leave the game early due to schedule or injury.

### Disbanding Teams

Teams that disband during the season are required to notify the Registrar and President within 24 hours. The disbanding team's remaining players may join another team without sitting out a game.

## Game Day Responsibilities

### Equipment and Clothing Requirements

Each team must provide two (2) match balls prior to kickoff.

All players must wear the following equipment:

- A jersey that is similar (excluding number and goalies) to their teammates'.
- Shin guards.
- Approved cleats or turf shoes (no metal spikes).
- Players must also wear a unique number on their jersey.

The number listed on the official game card as being the number worn by a specific player will only be worn by that player in that game.

Each team's goalie must wear a jersey with a color that is visibly different from the other players on their team and visibly different from the jerseys of the opposing team. Goalie jerseys are not required to be numbered.

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Players who do not have an identical jersey (excluding their number and goalies) must be approved by the opposing team representative and match officials.

If there is a conflict with the opposing team's jersey colors, the teams must change jersey colors at the beginning of the game. In these instances, the requirement of numbers for the jerseys is waived for the specific game. This must be done prior to kick-off.

No jewelry, hard casts, braces with exposed metal or any equipment that the referee deems dangerous to any player.

### Behavior

Players will not drink alcoholic beverages before or during their game. A permit is required through The Sierra Vista Parks and Recreation Department. Those teams who do not obtain a permit but choose to consume alcoholic beverages at the field can be subject to fines from the city of Sierra Vista.

Team's members are responsible for the conduct of their spectators as well as their players. Please be aware that unruly people have a negative impact on the enjoyment of the game by others. Due to language barriers team captain will speak to the referee (center & AR's) if conduct is in any way derogatory to referees, players or spectators.

Each team is responsible for field clean up after each game. This needs to be enforced by reminding teams as the fields have been left with trash (empty water bottles) everywhere.

### Game Sheets

At conclusion of a game the team reps must check the game sheet to verify that all present players were checked in; especially the late arrivals.

Teams should forward referee evaluations to the Executive Board and Referee Coordinator.

The team representative is responsible for ensuring that the above rules are followed.

### Protests

Any team filing a protest of a game must do so in writing to the Executive Board within 72 hours after the completion of the match in question.

Only Team Representatives may file a protest.

Concerns or questions about rules, fields, etc., may be brought to the attention of the Executive Board at any time, provided that they are presented in writing.

## **Forfeits, Fines and Discipline**

### Forfeits

Forfeits are recorded as a 3-0 loss for the forfeiting team and a 3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team.

A team forfeits a game when:

- The team does not have enough players. If a team has fewer than the minimum number of rostered players, it forfeits the game 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game. The minimum number of rostered players is seven (7). In this case, the forfeiting team will be penalized with a \$50 fine. This fine is the responsibility for the team representative.
- A team that starts a game with the legal number of players but then, due to an ejection or injury of a player, falls below the minimum requirement for a legal team, forfeits the game to the other team regardless of the score at the time. In this case, the \$50 penalty fee will be waived.

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- The team or its spectators are responsible for the abandonment of the game. If the Disciplinary Committee and Executive Board judge that a team or its spectators are responsible for the abandonment of the game, the team forfeits the game. This includes situations where the team or its spectators engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting or throwing objects.
- The team uses ineligible players. If a team uses ineligible players, the team forfeits the game. Ineligible players include players who are not registered with the league, players who are suspended, guest players outside of what is outline by the constitution or pre-match team representative's agreement, or players who are under the age of 14.

Teams must notify board 2-days before their scheduled game if they want to forfeit and avoid the \$50 fine. If any team forfeits 3 of their matches, their team cannot play in the playoffs (their players may still guest play for teams playing Consolation Matches).

### Player Fines & Disciplinary Action

Any player involved in or engage in the intent to fight will be automatically suspended for remainder of season. Player can appeal this to the disciplinary committee. Intent to fight will be defined as instigating, taunting, or verbal abuse of another player with the intent to provoke a response. Fighting will be defined as a physical altercation between two or more players.

Any player leaving the bench due to engage in the altercation on the field will be suspended. Additionally, any incidents where player benches are cleared to participate in a fight will also be subject to team disqualification for the remainder of the season or playoffs. Players and teams can appeal this to the disciplinary committee.

The welfare of the officials before, during and after the match will always be the leagues priority. Any individual who confronts a referee before during or after a match in an aggressive and threatening way will be subject to immediate league discipline. Any confrontation with a referee in the parking lot or outside the field of play will also be subject to immediate league discipline.

Any serious infraction against a referee can result in an immediate dismissal from the league. This is an SVSL rule.

These actions and more will be outlined in the "Code of Conduct" that every player must sign at the start of each season. Disciplinary actions by the league are managed by the "Disciplinary Committee" outlined in Article 3, Section 2a.

### Yellow Cards

The league employs a yellow card accumulation rule. When a player receives his or her third yellow card of the season the player will be fined \$25 and will be automatically suspended for 1 game. The number of yellow cards will be wiped clean upon the completion of the playoff semi-finals. If a player receives his or her third yellow card during the semifinal game that player will be suspended for the championship and the \$25 fine will be assessed.

Players who continually receive yellow cards may be subject to further disciplinary action determined by the disciplinary committee.

Any yellow card can be subject to review and maybe elevated to a red card if the league and the officials determine that the offense warrants escalation.

### Red Cards

Players receiving a red card must leave the playing field and sidelines immediately. Play will be suspended until the player is out of sight and sound from the playing fields.

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If a player refuses to leave the area and continues to be aggressive from outside the fence line the match can be abandoned and the red carded player's team will forfeit for the match.

In the event that the above actions occur the team may be assessed an additional \$25 team fine. Teams will forfeit every match until the fine is paid. The disciplinary committee will determine if a team fine is necessary for the situation. Team representatives are responsible for their player's actions and must be able to control their team's behavior on and off the field.

Players receiving a red card will have their player pass held by the referee. They will be subject to a minimum \$25 fine (which must be paid in full to the Registrar NLT 6pm on the Thursday before the player's next game played) and a one game suspension. They will be automatically subject to review by the Disciplinary committee which may take further action if deemed necessary. Disciplinary action may include but is not limited to banishment from the SVSL.

Red card suspensions will carry over from season to season (i.e. If a player receives a red card during the last game of a season, that player will carry out his/her suspension during the first game of the next season for which the player is registered.)

Any red cards issued during a game will be reviewed by the disciplinary committee for possible additional game suspensions. Players can appeal this to the disciplinary committee. While the appeal is being reviewed the player will only serve the one game suspension until a final decision is made.

### Conduct Detrimental to the SVSL

A player or team may be subject to disciplinary action by the Disciplinary committee and Executive Board for conduct detrimental to the SVSL or the game. The Disciplinary committee will initiate an investigation of such behavior upon the request of the Executive Board. It may also undertake an investigation on its own.

### Conduct of Spectators

Each Team Representative is responsible for the actions of their players and spectators during the course of the game. A team's failure to ensure that the conduct of its players and spectators adheres to the spirit of the league and the rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action for the team as determined by the Disciplinary committee and Executive Board. The following are examples of inappropriate sideline behavior: Foul Language in any language directed at opposing players or officials, fighting, taunting, entering the field of play, throwing objects, and inciting or applauding violent behavior on the field. These are just examples and other behaviors related to these actions are also considered inappropriate behavior.

### Disciplinary Appeals

A disciplinary appeal must be:

- Presented in writing within 48 hours of the incident to the Vice President.
- The appeal must include details of the game, incident, player(s) involved, desired outcome, and date of next game.

The Disciplinary committee must notify the other parties involved and prepare written documentation of its decision within 72 hours or before the next scheduled game (whichever is greater) after receipt of the appeal. This written documentation is considered the official decisions of the Committee.

Decisions of the Disciplinary committee may be appealed to the Executive Board. Such an appeal must be submitted to the President within 48 hours.

Appeals of decisions of the Executive Committee can be filed with the Arizona State Soccer Association under provisions of the appropriate regulations governing affiliated leagues.



### League Disciplinary Actions

The following table will be used to assess disciplinary infractions during league play. All disciplinary actions will be reviewed by the head of the disciplinary committee to determine if additional action is warranted.

Offense	Suggested Suspension
Second Caution same game	1 game
Third Caution cumulative (within season)	1 game
Red Card	1 game
Serious Foul Play ( <u>play within the game that involves risk to another player</u> )	1-2 games
Violent Conduct**	3 games
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play	4 games
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense Violent Conduct or Serious Foul Play	5 games up to Season Suspension
Code of Conduct violation (1 <sup>st</sup> Offense)	1-2 games
Code of Conduct violation (2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense)	3 games
Code of Conduct violation (3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense)	4 games
Pushing, Striking, or Spitting <u>with a threat to violence.</u> (to include attempts)	A Season Suspension

\* All infractions will be reviewed by the disciplinary committee

\*\* **Violent Conduct** is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent, team-mate, team official, match official, spectator or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made

## Referees

All games under the jurisdiction of the SVSL shall be officiated by properly designated USSF certified referees. If a certified referee is unavailable, another qualified adult may be asked to referee the game, provided that both team representatives indicate their agreement before the game starts. This does not apply to play-off games. Rather than use a non-certified referee, a team representative may ask for the game to be rescheduled.

### General Guidelines

Referees must be at the field 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to make sure that the field is in proper condition. Referees will notify both teams 5 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time that if they do not have a legal team within 15 minutes, a forfeit will be recorded against them.

Referees will do the following prior to the start of the match:

- Collect the official game card with rosters from each team. The game Roster will be provided by the SVSL registrar to the referee prior to start of game

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- Collect a player pass from each individual player on each team and check them off on the game sheet.
- Inspect each individual player's equipment while collecting their player card. Make sure uniforms are identical.
- Collect 2 game balls from each team prior to start of game.

Referees will do the following at the completion of the match:

- The Center Referee must submit the game score per the designated method (virtual/paper/etc) to the Executive Board within 48 hours of a match. If there are any violations recorded, that e-card must be submitted within 12 hours to the above mentioned.
- Referees will annotate the start time of the game on the game card.
- Return player passes to the team representatives (minus the player passes of players receiving yellow/red cards).
- Referees will retain player passes for both yellow and red cards and will turn them in to the Registrar or a member of the Executive Board.
- If a player receives a red card, a detailed report of the incident must be sent by every member of the officiating crew directly to the vice president within 12 hours for league review.

Referees will be paid for showing up at the field for games that are forfeited.

Referees may also be players in the league but will remain unbiased when refereeing other teams in the league.

Out of courtesy to the referee coordinator, please contact him/her at least 48 hours prior to a game that you have been scheduled for and cannot make. Otherwise, you are responsible for finding a replacement.

### Referee Payment Policies

Only the official game card authorizes payment.

Payment shall be made by SVSL check. On special occasions (such as a tournament or play down), the Board of Directors may decide to pay in cash.

Each official must sign their own name on the game card. Names not listed on the game card will not be paid. Write 'CLUB' on the game card next to the name of a person who fills a vacant referee position and is not certified.

The game card must be delivered to the Registrar.

Game cards that are not filled out correctly may be rejected, or cause delays in payments. Make sure all requested information on the card is filled in (i.e. date, field, time, teams, score, carded players) and legible, to include complete descriptions of any violations on the field.

### Conduct of the Referees

It will be the responsibility of the referees in the SVSL to conduct themselves with class and respect. The SVSL, in cooperation with the team representatives, will maintain and enforce respect towards the referees. Team Representatives should submit referee evaluations to the Executive Board and Referee Coordinator within 48 hours of an incident if they observe referees not conducting themselves in a professional manner. The Referee Coordinator is responsible for disciplinary actions as they relate to Referees. The Executive Board can recommend a referee be removed from game assignments, but the final decision remains with the Referee Coordinator.

Referees will turn in player passes for both yellow and red cards along with game sheets to the Registrar immediately following the game. Failure to do so may result in a recommendation for removal from game assignments. If the Registrar is not available, then player passes will be turned into a member of the Executive Board. Referees will uphold, abide and enforce the constitution. Due to language barrier between players and referees, the captain from team will inform referee of any derogatory language being said during game.

## Rules of Play

FIFA Laws of the game prevail with the following exceptions:

### Team Representatives

Team Representatives and Team Captains are the only persons allowed to voice concerns to the referees; other players should speak with their captain or representative in order to communicate with an official. There must be an acting captain on the field at all times. When speaking to a referee, the Team Captain(s) and representatives will maintain respect. If a referee feels they have been verbally abused by a player, captain, representative or spectator, they not only have the right and ability to caution the individual, but they will report the offense to the Executive Board and the Disciplinary committee who will decide if further punishment needs to be administered.

Team representatives must stay within 10 yards to either side of the center line during the game.

### Game Start Time & Duration

Games will start at the time indicated on the schedule. A forfeit will be recorded against any team that does not have the legal number of players on the field within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time and/or are missing their player passes.

In the event that a referee fails to show within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, a substitute referee may be used upon mutual agreement of the teams. A game officiated by a substitute referee counts as an official game and will be reflected in the league standings. It is the substitute referee's responsibility to notify the league in order to collect his or her payment for officiating the match. Teams using a substitute referee must notify the league's referee coordinator as soon as possible after the match.

In the event that a referee fails to show within 15 minutes past the scheduled starting time and/or no substitute referee is available, the game must be rescheduled.

If a game starts after 15 minutes past the scheduled starting time due to weather, field problems, or other unforeseeable circumstances, which are not the fault of either team, the referee can shorten the game.

Games will consist of 45-minute halves (this is subject to change during the fall season should the amount of light interfere with the safety of the game). The referees have the discretion of ending the game due to darkness, weather or other factors that make playing conditions dangerous and their decision shall be final.

Water breaks will be held as close to the 22:30 mark of each half. Time will continue to run during these breaks.

The referee and team captains have the freedom to add additional water breaks due to extreme heat during the summer and fall season. This decision must be made during the coin toss and both team captains along with the referee have to agree to them. If one of those people does not agree then no additional water breaks will be granted. Additional water breaks cannot be added solely because a team is short on players. Player attendance is the team's responsibility and no one else. There will be a 5-10-minute break at half time.

### Inclement Weather

Team Representatives are responsible for notifying their players in the event of a rainout. The SVSL will contact Team Representatives as soon as possible before game time. The ultimate decision to cancel a game because of safety will be made at the field by the center referee.

If a game begins but is stopped due to inclement and half the game is played, then the result becomes the final result. If 45min is not yet reached, then the game will be rescheduled and is replayed from the beginning starting at 0-0. The center referee will make the call of continuing or suspending the match.

During Post-Season Playoffs, if half the game is played and the score is tied, then the result is being determined by a coin flip.

### Substitute Players

You **MAY** substitute a player at the following times:

- On a throw-in by your team
- On a goal kick by either team
- On any kickoff
- For an injured player on your team
- To replace a player receiving a yellow card, the player substituting must be ready to come onto the field (no delaying the game while players remove their sweats, etc.).

Substitute players must enter from the center line and wait until the referee waves the player onto the field of play. Players coming off the field may leave by the most direct route.

Players ejected from the game because of a red card cannot be substituted for and must leave the general vicinity. The team must play short-handed.

Upon the stoppage of play and acknowledgment from the referee, a team playing with fewer than 11 players is allowed to add eligible players to the game

### Slide Tackling

**No slide tackling will be permitted.** A slide tackle is defined as when a player not in possession of the ball and in direct proximity to an opposing player leaves their feet to play the ball. Generally, a slide tackle is an intentional slide within the player's horizontal body length of an opposing player. Whether the opposing player is touched in any way is irrelevant. The following plays are legal: Sliding for the ball when there are no other players within the player's horizontal body length; a goalie sliding for the ball within the penalty area, even if feet first, so long as the goalie's intention is to catch or smother the ball; reaching for the ball, but unintentionally slipping due to field conditions, etc. If a slide tackle occurs, an indirect free kick or direct free kick, depending on the slide outcome, will be awarded to the opposing team at the site of the slide tackle. The referee has the discretion to issue a yellow or red card, if warranted.

### Playoffs

Teams may not use Guest Players during competitive playoff matches.

Guest players may play in consolation matches.

Teams may only use players that were registered and on the team roster in accordance with the 3-week registration cut-off as described in Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution.

All players in the play-offs must have played a minimum of 3 games throughout the current season. For those players that registered just before the cut-off for registration, that means they must play in each of the last 3 games and have been checked off on the official game card for those games.

In the event that playoff games are tied at the end of regulation time, play shall be extended by two 15-minute halves. Overtime shall begin after a rest period of two minutes. If the score remains tied after the overtime periods, the game will be decided by shots from the penalty mark in accordance with the USSF/FIFA laws of the game.

### **League Catch-All**

The Executive Board and Directors of the Sierra Vista Soccer League (SVSL) reserve the right to dismiss, fine or take any actions against any participant in the league for any reason at any time. The "Spirit of the League" is the bottom line. Any decisions made by the Executive Board and/or Directors may be consistent with, contrary to or in lieu of action already taken by the officials.

### **Amendments to the Rules and Regulations**

Amendments to the Rules and Regulations may be made at any SVSL meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the voting members present, providing that all league teams have been given 14 days written notice of the meeting and written copy of the proposed changes. Voting members for this purpose are defined as executive board members, the team representatives of member teams in good standing, and division coordinators. Voting members have the option to extend the vote to the SVSL General Populace, whereby voting will take place on the fields the first games following the SVSL annual general meeting (AGM) in August.