MEDFORD PARKS & RECREATION
Adult Outdoor Soccer League Rules, Regulations & Procedures
Revised August 2016

Spirit of the Game: The Medford Parks and Recreation Department believes that safety is the most important component to recreation programming. Therefore, it is important that all participants understand that the emotional and physical safety of all players is of the utmost concern of the League Director and the Medford Parks and Recreation Department.

All decisions of the referee are final and binding. The League Director reserves the right to decide on all matters relative to the league and its decisions are final. The Medford Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) reserves the right to modify rules, regulations and policies whenever due cause warrants a change.

Current FIFA rules govern play except the variations denoted here. The Medford Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) reserves the right to modify rules, regulations and policies whenever due cause warrants a change.

1. ..... LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

A. League Director has final authority to make decisions pertaining to all soccer league rules, regulations and schedules.

B. Upon enrolling as a team in leagues sponsored by the City of Medford, each team and all players agree to abide by MPRD rules and regulations.

C. Whenever possible, league placement decisions will be made to ensure competitive balance and logistical convenience.

D. MPRD staff and game officials may stop, postpone or cancel any game due to weather, darkness, unsafe conditions, participant behavior or other circumstances that may jeopardize participant safety in any way.

2. ..... FIELD USAGE

A. Teams using City of Medford owned or leased facilities must abide by City codes and ordinances.
1) These include no alcoholic beverages, drugs and controlled substances in, around or on fields, parking areas or spectator areas at all times.
2) Players and spectators must abide by U.S. Cellular Community Park rules and regulations.

B. When not scheduled for league games or rented for other uses, soccer fields at U.S. Cellular Community Park and Fichtner-Mainwaring Park may be rented. Organized practices or games require a facility rental. Call 541-774-2400 for rental fees and information.
2) Teams not abiding by policies may face sanctions determined by MPRD.

3. ..... ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

A. To be eligible, players must have personally signed the official team roster or a liability waiver prior to playing in any league games. Failure to comply subjects a team to possible forfeiture in which ineligible player(s) participated. All participants must be prepared to present a picture ID, upon request, as proof of identity. Participants who refuse to produce a picture ID when requested are subject to ejection and additional sanctions
1) Teams may have as many players as needed. Rosters are not limited to a maximum number.
2) Each team may make unlimited roster additions until the start of the team's final regular-season game. Players must participate in at least one full regular-season game to be eligible for the team's playoff game(s). Roster additions after the cutoff must be approved by the League Director.

B. **Minimum age for participation is 18 with the following exceptions:**
1) Men's, Women's, and Coed Teams (non 35+ leagues) may have one player 16+ with parent/guardian signature.
2) Coed 11v11 League may have two players 16+ with parent/guardian signature.
3) Coed 35+: Male players must turn 35 before the end of the calendar year.
ex. A player may play in any 2016 League as long as he turns 35 before Dec.31, 2016.
4) Minimum age for women competing in the Co-Ed 35+ league is 18+.

C. **A player may not compete on two teams in the same league.** Leagues are men's, women's, Co-Ed 35+ and Co-Ed 11v11.

D. Only amateur players are permitted to participate in MPRD leagues. Professional or semi-professional soccer players are ineligible for MPRD league play without permission from the League Director.

E. Players may switch teams only after one of the following two conditions have been met:
1) Team captains (old and new) must agree to the switch.
2) In the event the old team captain does not grant permission, the player must sit out one game before being allowed to play for the new team.
3) The League Director or site supervisor must be notified (and grant approval) prior to a player switching teams.
4) Rosters may not be altered after the designated cutoff date.

4. ..... STARTING TIMES, FORFEITS, TIME LIMITS

A. Game times begin at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted on schedules.
1) Forfeit time is five minutes after scheduled game time. Teams must have at least four (7v7) or seven (11v11) players on the field for a counting game to begin (at or before forfeit time). The Referee's watch is the official time. In addition to the above, at least one female must be present for a game to begin.
2) In the event of a forfeit, teams may play a practice game lasting no longer than 45 minutes from the originally scheduled start time, whichever comes first. All players must follow eligibility guidelines to compete in a practice game. Referees and supervisors may stop a practice game for reasons that represent the best interests of the league or MPRD.
3) After two forfeits, a team may be dismissed from the league for the remainder of the season. A waitlisted team may be given an opportunity to fill the league spot.
4) A team that foresees a conflict with a particular game and notifies the League Director at least 24 hours in advance of game time will be credited with a loss but will not be penalized.
5) Games will not be rescheduled unless a league management clerical error or a weather-related event arises.
B. Games consist of two 30-minute halves.
C. If a game is tied at the end of regulation, the game is considered a tie. No overtime will be played. In tournament play, a tie is broken by penalty kicks.

5. ..... PLAYOFFS

A. No players may be added to rosters after the roster cutoff deadline.
B. Home team is the higher seed.
C. The postseason tournament determines league champion. The regular-season games determine tournament seeding.
D. League champions will receive t-shirts and three (3) pizza gift cards. Second place of the tournament will receive two (2) pizza gift cards. *Gift cards provided by Wild River Pizza.*

6. ..... RAINOUTS AND CANCELLATIONS

A. Outdoor soccer games are played rain or shine. However, in the event of severe weather conditions (ice, snow, lightning), team captains should check www.sportsmedford.com. MPRD will make every effort to notify team captains of weather-related postponements.

7. ..... REFEREES AND SUPERVISORS

A. Referees and supervisors are given full authority to take prudent actions necessary to maintain proper and safe playing conditions.

B. The referee may inspect equipment and participant gear for safety at any time.

C. A facility supervisor is provided for each game. His or her scorekeeping is final unless a discrepancy is brought to the attention of the referee or supervisor at or very near the time of occurrence. Protests are not valid after the game is over.

D. In the event a referee is not present by game time, teams may start a practice game. The game will be rescheduled. The facility supervisor will attempt to locate a referee for the remaining game(s).

E. In the event of a no-show by a facility supervisor, the referee is responsible for keeping score and reporting it to the League Director.

F. Lineups are due to the referee/facility supervisor at least five minutes prior to game time. Failure to comply may result in a penalty assessed at the start of the game for the offending team.

8 ..... UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

A. Turf shoes with rounded cleats and rubber molded toes and edges are recommended footwear for soccer. Metal cleats are not allowed on the field at any time. Shoes with any metal showing, including removable cleats, are not

allowed. No hard soled shoes or boots will be allowed. Referees determine if a shoe is a potential safety hazard.

B. Home team is listed first on the schedule must wear white/light-colored jerseys or be prepared to wear pennies. Both teams are encouraged to bring reversible jerseys with numbers to avoid color conflicts and for player identification.

9 .....CODE OF CONDUCT/DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

A. The captain is the official representative of his/her team unless another player designates him/herself as team captain to the scorekeeper prior to the game. Captains must have current contact information including **email address** that will be used by the director for league correspondence. The captain is responsible for his or her team abiding by rules, procedures and regulations. All players are expected to know Medford city-league rules, regulations and expectations.

B. No smoking, tobacco chewing, swearing, profanity or obscene gestures allowed.

C. No physical attacks or verbal threats before, during or after games will be tolerated. Excessive foul language will not be allowed and may be grounds for suspension.

D. Only captains may address officials regarding judgment calls.

E. Any player or spectator deemed by the Facility Supervisor to not have control of his/her faculties to the extent that there is a chance of physical injury to him/her or others will be asked to leave the facility.

F. Any player or spectator ejected (Red Card or directed) from a game must leave the facility immediately. Ejections result in an automatic 7-day (minimum 1 game) suspension from all leagues and a $25 reinstatement fee (or three hours of documented community service). The League Director must authorize player reinstatement.

G. Destruction of property, theft or assault before, during or after activity will be handled by law enforcement. Individuals and teams will be held equally responsible for any damage or theft stemming from their use of the facility.

H. Verbal abuse, negative comments, vulgarity, racial remarks and objectionable demonstrations will not be tolerated. Officials may issue a warning. If ignored, the player or spectator faces ejection from the game and from areas surrounding the court, and potential stiffer penalties.

   a. Any player, spectator, or coach refusing to abide by an official's decision will be ejected.
   b. Any player or spectator deemed by the official or scorekeeper/supervisor to not have control of his/her faculties to the extent that there is a chance of physical injury to him/her or others will be asked to leave the facility.
   c. Any player physically attacking or striking an official, scorekeeper/supervisor, player or spectator before, during or after games shall face expulsion from the league and possible criminal charges.

I. Penalties for Code of Conduct violations may include (but are not limited to) the following:
   a. Verbal warning from official or Supervisor
   b. Ejection
   c. Suspension

J. A Code of Conduct letter will automatically be issued to player if the following occurs:
   a. Ejection from game = 1-game suspension
   b. 3 total yellow cards in a season, including playoffs = 1-game suspension
   c. Multiple red cards in a season, including playoffs = Multi-week suspension

K. A player or team expelled from the league will not receive a refund.

10.....LEAGUE DESCRIPTIOINS

A. **7v7 Leagues**

1. Games are played on 53 yard x 70 yard fields with two field officials.
2. At least two women must be on the field per team during play. If only one female player is available, the team must play short-handed by one male player. Teams unable to field a female player will forfeit the game at that point, regardless of score.
3. FIFA rules govern play. Offsides is enforced.
4. Players may substitute freely on a dead ball.
5. Slide tackling is prohibited.

B. **Co-Ed 11v11 Leagues**

1. Games are played on full-size fields.
2. At least three women must be on the field per team during play. If only one or two female players are available, the team must play short-handed by either one or two male players. Teams unable to field a female player will forfeit the game at that point, regardless of score.
3. FIFA rules govern play.
4. Slide tackling is prohibited.

C. **Men's and Women's Leagues**

1. Games are played on full-size fields.
2. FIFA rules govern play.
3. Slide tackling is prohibited.

11.....PROTESTS

A. Protests must be submitted in writing, accompanied by a $25 filing fee, to the MPRD office, at the Santo Community Center, 701 N. Columbus Ave., within 24 hours after the game. Protests are to help clarify and interpret rules, not to question the judgment of officials. Protests are to help prevent similar occurrences and to better the league. Depending on the amount of staff time required to investigate the protest, the League Director may refund the $25 fee if the protest is upheld.

B. Protests must be stated at the point of contention and the referee, scorekeeper/supervisor and opposing team captain must be notified as to the exact rule that is being protested. Protesting captain must complete a typed description of what happened.

12. .....MISCELLANEOUS

A. Blood rule. When blood is visible, the game will be stopped to allow for quick dressing of wounds.

1) Any visible blood stains on clothing must be taped over or removed entirely. Numbers are not required for those needing to change shirts due to blood stains.
2) Skin wounds/abrasions must be bandaged with no visible blood leakage.
3) Each team should have a supply of athletic tape and bring spare shirts.

B. Exposed jewelry must be removed unless it can safely covered or taped.

1) Jewelry deemed unsafe by officials must be removed.
2) Casts (plaster, metal or other hard substance in its final form), exposed jewelry (wrist watches, bracelets, metal barrettes, large earrings and neck chains or any other item deemed dangerous by the umpire) may not be worn during the game.

C. The City of Medford does not provide medical or accident insurance to participants. Participants compete at their own risk.

D. The postseason tournament determines the league champion. Regular-season games determine tournament seeding. Ties are broken by head-to-head outcomes; multiple ties are broken by the League Director using traditional tie-break methods.

E. The MPRD web site (www.sportsmedford.com) is the primary source for up-to-date schedules, standings and rules. MPRD will use e-mail and/or phone communication to disseminate schedules or other information.

F. Past team performance may be considered during initial league composition. The League Director reserves the right to make scheduling decisions in the best interests of competitive balance.

G. Teams that drop or are dropped from the league lose any right to reclaim any part of their entry fee once the schedules have been posted on the MPRD web site.