

BELLE-CLAIR SOCCER LEAGUE BYLAWS

Revised April 2009

**ARTICLE I
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND DIVISIONS**

Section 1.

ELIGIBILITY. All boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 15, based on their age as of August 1st, of the year in which the season begins, shall be eligible to register for the program, subject to field availability; volunteer support, BCSL operation regulations, and such rules as may be issued by the Board of Directors. Proof of date-of-birth must be provided during registration for each child new to the League.

Section 2.

U5 Division U5 division is an instructional division. Classes are held at set times on Saturday mornings and run for 50 minutes. The session consists of 8 Saturday sessions.

U6 DIVISION. U6 includes mixed teams of boys and girls who have not attained the age of six (6) on or before August 1st of the current year and who must be five (5) years old on or before August 1st of the current year or be entering Kindergarten in the current year. U6 games fall under special rules published separately.

Section 3.

DIVISIONS. The following table identifies age eligibility requirements by player division.

Player Division	Youngest Age as of Aug 1st	Oldest Age as of July 31st
U5 (Preschool)	4	5
U6 (Kindergarten)	6	7
U7 (1 st Grade)	7	8
U8(2 nd Grade)	8	9
U9(3 rd Grade)	9	10
U10(4 th Grade)	10	11
U11(5 th Grade)	11	12
U12(6 th Grade)	12	13
U13(7 th Grade)	13	14
U14(8 th Grade)	14	15

Section 4.

Relative to age division, a player may not play down with the only exception being a physical or mental handicap. However, each case must be considered individually and the child may play down only upon the approval of the Board of Directors prior to the start of League play. The parents must make such a request in writing at time of registration.

Section 5.

Relative to age divisions, a player may play up one year only. **ARTICLE II
REGISTRATION**

Section 1.

Every child **must** be properly registered in order to play or practice. The only players eligible to participate during games to are those listed on the Coaches' rosters. This is very important for the safety and liability of the player, coach, and the League.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors shall establish the dates of registration on a yearly basis. A birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or some other legal document showing date of birth shall be presented at time of registration. All fees are due and payable at time of registration. A player is considered registered when a player fee has been received, a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or some other legal document showing date is provided, and the registration committee receives all required registration information. Team assignments will be done after registration.

Section 3.

After the established registration dates, registrations will only be accepted by the Registration committee. any registrations received after the initial registration process will be considered late and placed on a waiting list and assigned to a team on a first-come, first-placed basis.

Section 4.

Only at time of registration may a player opt not to return to a previous team. A player so indication will then be placed on another team. Request for placement on a specific team will be invalid. Neighborhood concept and division equalization will be used as a guideline for reassignment. All such reassignments shall be subject to review by the Director of Coordinators.

Section 5.

Once a player has been assigned to a team, the only way the assignment may be changed is by formal written request to the Registration Committee and then only in cases of extreme hardship. The decision of reassignment or non-reassignment by the committee shall be final without right of appeal. It is of the utmost importance that an applicant designates his preference at time of scheduled registration; at such time this preference will be given all reasonable consideration. Late registrants will have no opportunity to request a change of assignment to a team for any reason whatsoever.

ARTICLE III MANAGERS AND COACHES

Section 1.

All managers and coaches are subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the League. Any manager or coach who violates any rule of the Belle-Clair Soccer League may be subject to dismissal or suspension by the Board of Directors, for a specified period of time determined by the Board, where upon a new manager or coach shall be appointed by the Board. *New managers/coaches should be certified with a Class "F" license within three years. Returning managers/coaches will have two years to obtain certification.*

ARTICLE IV
ROSTER AND ROSTER CHANGES

Section 1.

The following table identifies active roster requirements for teams by player division. The Registration Committee can waive the minimum and maximum number of player per team based on the needs of the league.

Player Division	Minimum Roster Size	Maximum Roster Size
U6 (Kindergarten)	7	10
U7 (1 st Grade)	8	10
U8 (2 nd Grade)	8	10
U9(3 rd Grade)	10	12
U10(4 th Grade)	10	12
U11(5 th Grade)	12	14
U12(6 th Grade)	12	14
U13(7 th Grade)	14	16
U14(8 th Grade)	14	16

Section 2.

Registration for assignment to teams will not be accepted after Uniform Distribution Day without approval from the registration committee. Players requesting assignment to a team will be placed on an appropriate waiting list (gender, age) maintained by the League Manager. When a vacancy must be filled, the next most eligible player will be properly registered and assigned to fill the vacancy.

Section 3.

To obtain a replacement player, the manager must contact the division coordinator who must then request, in writing, stating the reason for the vacancy, to the Director of Coordinators and Registration Committee that a player be assigned to fill the vacancy. Registered players on the waiting list must be used to fill vacancies before the any new registrants can be accepted. In no way may the replacement of a vacancy cause the team to grow beyond the maximum roster size (see Section 1.). No player shall be moved from one team to another after the first game unless to move a player as a result of being ineligible.

Section 4.

No manager or coach shall contact any players on another team roster. Only the Director of Registration or League Manager shall do assignment of late registrants.

Section 5.

Only league assigned players are eligible for play on a team in sanctioned league play. Any team that uses an unregistered/unassigned player shall automatically forfeit all games in which an unregistered/unassigned player has participated when that player has been determined by the Registration Committee to be ineligible. The coach of record of a team playing an unregistered/unassigned player may be suspended by the Board from further league activity upon recommendation of the Disciplinary Action Committee.

Section 6.

The release of a player from a team roster can be accomplished for the following reasons:

- a. A player is determined by the Registration Committee to be a persistent discipline problem at practice or games. The player's parent(s) and the Board must have previously been notified in writing of the inappropriate behavior and a reasonable time period given to correct similar behavior.
- b. A player refuses to attend practice or games on a regular basis. The player's parent(s) and the Board must have been previously notified in writing of the reason for the requested action and a reasonable time period given to correct the situation.
- c. A player's parent(s) continue to create problems for the coach, other players, or referee. The parent(s) and the Board must be notified in writing of the inappropriate behavior disruptive to league play and the immediate sanctions to be enforced upon incidence of repeat behavior.

Requests for Release of Player forms can be obtained from the Board Office or any Board Member by any coach, player, or parent.

**ARTICLE V
FIELDS****Section 1.**

The Program Director will ensure appropriate sized fields are available for each division.

Section 2.

Fields may be repaired at any time if, in the judgment of any League officer, the Head Referee or his appointee determine the conditions of the field warrant repair, especially to prevent injury to players.

Section 3.

Teams are responsible for leaving the field of play free from all debris following the end of each game.

**ARTICLE VI
UNIFORMS****Section 1.**

Required Uniform. A uniform shall consist of a shirt and socks of uniform color as issued by the League for all players on a team and all black, soccer shorts without pockets. The player's shirt should have a sponsor logo as approved by the League. Goalies may wear an appropriate uniform per the FIFA. Additionally, each player shall wear soccer-type or tennis shoes, and as a safety factor, is required to wear shin guards. All Players are strongly recommended to use doctor approved sports glasses/goggles. Any player not in uniform, as described herein, shall not be eligible to play.

Section 2.

Optional Uniform and Decoration. A player's name or team name may be placed on the back of the shirt, but in letters no larger than two (2) inches high. Additional clothing, such as sweatshirts, warm-up suits, or jackets may be worn, however, the uniform must be worn over all additional clothing and be readily visible.

Section 3.

Uniform Color. Uniform colors shall be determined by those colors available from contract supplier.

**ARTICLE VII
PLAYING RULES**

Section 1.

The League adopts the current FIFA rules of each year and League shall also accept all changes made by them.

Section 2.

Exceptions to those playing rules referenced above shall be incorporated into Supplemental Playing Rules and shall be presented to the voting membership for approval prior to the start of the current season.

Section 3.

Line Judges. In the event only one referee is available to officiate, a parent or spectator from each team may be asked to serve as line judges.

Section 4.

Half-Game Policy. It is the policy of the Belle-Clair Soccer League that any player who regularly attends practices and games be allowed to play a minimum of approximately one-half of each game. Flagrant violations may be reported to the Field Manager or the Board of Directors, and subsequent games played by that team are subject to monitoring by the Field Manager.

Section 5.

Conduct. All that is dishonorable, unsportsmanlike and generally impolite is particularly and expressly prohibited. The player, manager, coach, or team guilty of such violation, or in particular, the specific rule of conduct contained herein, shall be removed from the game at the discretion of the referee. The head referee or his appointee or any League officer may consult with the referee at an appropriate time when the play is stopped to determine if disciplinary action should be enacted. Coaches, managers, spectators, and players thought guilty of misconduct may, at the discretion of the referee, be warned (yellow card) or removed from the game (red card). The Soccer Rules also define misconduct and the potential action of referees.

Spectators also guilty of misconduct must leave the proximity of play upon request of the referee. Play shall be stopped until the situation has been corrected.

Any coach, manager, or spectator ejected from the game (red card) must leave the proximity of play and shall not be present at the next game played by the team that the ejected person was supporting. Should a League official (referee, field manager, and League officer) observe that person at the next game, the team shall forfeit. Leaving the proximity of play is defined as the farther of the two options—parking lot, or sufficiently removed such that the person cannot observe the game or be heard by the referees. If the ejected person does not leave the proximity of play, as defined, within two (2) minutes, the game shall be forfeited. If, as a result, such game is forfeited, the ejected individual shall not be present at any future League games. Attendance at any future games will result in forfeit.

Any coach, manager, or spectator who shall make physical contact at any regularly scheduled game with League officials shall be suspended from attendance at any future League games. If the violation occurs after the scorecard has been signed, the Board shall take appropriate action. If the violation occurs from the proximity of the playing field, the Board shall take appropriate action. Violation of such suspension shall result in forfeit.

RULES OF CONDUCT WHICH SHALL BE ADHERED TO ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PROFANITY: Profanity or vulgar language will not be tolerated either on or off the field.

THE USE OF INTOXICANTS: Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs will not be used at any time on BCSL owned or leased property.

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY:

- a. Belle-Clair officers have authority at the game site until they leave. Proper respect must be shown to League officers.
- b. Referees, the head referees, and appointed referee-in-charge are the representatives of the Belle-Clair Soccer League and have authority on the grounds until they leave. These authorities shall be treated with the proper respect. The League considers this respect to be part of objective player experience in accordance with the purpose and the goals of the League.

MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITY: The manager of the team is responsible for the proper conduct of players, coaches, and followers of his/her team.

REFEREE CONFERENCES: Managers, coaches, and team captains only may confer with the referee. This conversation will only take place upon the acknowledgement of the referee and provided it is done in a civil manner. Anyone attempting to rush referees cause disturbances or dispute decisions in an impolite manner is subject to removal from the game and/or the proximity of the field.

REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT: Any player, manager, coach, or team follower expelled from a game shall be noted by the referee and reported to the head referee, who will report the incident to the Board of Directors for possible further disciplinary action.

Section 6.

Postponement of Scheduled League Games. In case of inclement weather or hazardous field conditions, League games may be postponed by the League President or in his absence, the next available ranking League officer. Information concerning postponement of games shall be transmitted to the Director of Coordinators and all division coordinators and then team managers. Team managers may not accept notice of postponement from anyone other than the appropriate division coordinator.

Section 7.

Schedule Changes. These will be made by the scheduling committee to reschedule games postponed as defined in the preceding paragraph. Failure to play a game at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture. Games shall not be rescheduled to accommodate team or manager convenience.

Section 8.

Play outside of League. League teams may play games against teams in other leagues and in tournaments not sponsored by the League, provided that the team plays all regularly scheduled League games, all rescheduled postponed League games and all League play-off games when scheduled by the League.

Section 9.

Eighth grade students may referee U6 thru U12 divisions if required. *Those having FIFA certification will be given preference in work opportunities.*

**ARTICLE VIII
TEAM STANDINGS****Section 1.**

The number of points awarded shall determine team standings. Two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. Teams with the same number of points will "tie" for that position in League standings. There will be no play-off games to determine League standings. The standings will be kept for internal use only to make assignments in the A and B divisions, if necessary. No standings will be published.

Section 2.

Trophies or Participation awards, as determined by the Board of Directors, will be presented to all players in the Belle-Clair Soccer League.

ARTICLE IX

DIVISIONS

Section 1.

The Registration Committee will assign teams to an A or B division based on point standings from the previous year or based on recommendations from the Board of Directors. .

Section 2.

For purposes of determining a returning team, at least seven (7) players must return. A team with six (6) or less returning players from the previous year will be considered a new team.

Section 3.

In the case of U6 teams, all teams are considered new and will be assigned a team number by the Director of Registration. All U7 teams are also considered new and will be assigned a team number by the Director of Registration.

ARTICLE X

RULES VIOLATIONS AND PROTEST PROCEDURES

Section 1.

Only the manager or coach of record can file protests.

Section 2.

Each protest must be submitted in writing, signed by the person making the protest, and accompanied by a protest fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00). This protest shall be filed with the President of the Organization and the fee will be deposited in the General Fund of the League. Knowledge of *FIFA* Rules, supplemental playing rules and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Belle-Clair Soccer League is the responsibility of the person filing the protest. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee will be refunded.

Section 3.

Decision of the Rules and Interpretation Committee are FINAL and there can be no further appeal or review of such decisions. The Chairman of the Rule and Interpretation Committee shall make report of decisions to all concerned parties.

Section 4.

A protest can only be made on a League rule violation, playing rule violation, or player eligibility. NO PROTEST WILL BE UPHELD WHEN IT INVOLVES A QUESTION OF THE REFEREE'S JUDGEMENT.

Section 5.

The Rules and Interpretation Committee shall refer only to the current year edition of the *FIFA* Soccer Rules, League Rules and Supplemental Playing Rules of the Belle-Clair Soccer League when determining decisions.

Section 6.

Protests on a violation or violations of any rule of the organization governing ELIGIBILITY may be filed by a team manager by filing within forty-eight (48) hours following the date of the game in which the alleged ELIGIBILITY rule violation occurred. The League President shall notify the opposing manager within forty-eight (48) additional hours.

Section 7.

Whenever an alleged violation of a League Rule or a Playing Rule occurs during the progress of an official game, the manager or a duly registered coach of the protesting team must request "time" and IMMEDIATELY notify the referee(s) and the manager of the opposing team at the next stoppage of play that the game is being continued "under protest" and the referee(s) must acknowledge same at the exact time of the protest on the official record of the game. This will enable all interested parties to take notice of the exact conditions prevailing at the time and will aid in proper determination of the issue. Failure to notify referee(s) and the opposing manager at the time the alleged violation occurs shall nullify any subsequent protest of that alleged violation.

Section 8.

A protest involving an alleged violation of a League Rule or Playing Rule must be made in writing, signed by the authorized person making the protest on the field, and filed with the President of the organization within forty-eight (48) hours following the date of the game in which the alleged rules violation occurred. Failure to comply with this section will nullify and render void any future protest regarding the alleged violation of League and playing rules referred herein.

Section 9.

In the event a protest referred to herein is withdrawn at the end of the game involved, and the referee(s) is so informed by the manager or coach making the original complaint on the field, there shall be no protest and such action will nullify and render void any future protest regarding the alleged violation of rules referred herein.

Section 10.

In, however, the protest is not withdrawn as described above, it shall then become the obligation of ALL referees working the game to file a written report of the incident causing the protest with the Director of Referees prior to the meeting of the Rules and Interpretation Committee. The referee(s) may also be present at the hearing to discuss same. It shall be the option of the "opposing" manager to file a written report of the incident causing the protest with the President of the organization within forty-eight (48) hours following the date of the game in which the alleged rules violation occurred. The manager may also be present at the hearing to discuss same.

Section 11.

The Rules and Interpretation Committee shall hold a hearing and render its decision within ten (10) days following the date of the game in which the alleged rules violation occurred.

Section 12.

Ineligible Players. Should a manager file a protest concerning alleged ineligibility of a player on a team and should the player be found ineligible, the game under which the protest was filed and subsequent games played with the ineligible player shall be forfeited and the ineligible player shall be moved immediately to a team in the appropriate age division.

Section 13.

Ineligible Referees. A coach or manager may not referee in the same division as his/her team (for example: An "A" division coach may referee a "B" division game, but not an "A" division game in his own age group). The President of the League may not referee a game. A parent or any immediate relative may not referee a game in which a family member is playing.

ARTICLE XI
AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Section 1.

Changes to the Bylaws may only be made by the Board of Directors. Voting members may make recommendations for change. Changes to the Bylaws will be read at the next General Membership meeting.
