



SUASL Rules - *(Last updated December 2015)*

Welcome to SUASL, this is your amateur soccer league. Team managers are active members of SUASL's Advisory Board and participate in the creation and revisions for all SUASL's major rules, which are reviewed when proposed changes are submitted at SUASL's preseason mandatory team manager's meetings. Each player is required to be fluent on all SUASL's rules. SUASL's Executive Board reserves the right to review and amend any of the rules and as the discretion to determine what is in the best interest of SUASL's programs.

Discipline and Rules Committee (D&R)

D&R is a volunteer position appointed by SUASL comprised of team managers and players. D&R's role and responsibility is to enforce SUASL's rules.

League Decisions - Any and all information distributed by SUASL becomes an integral part of procedures and league standards. All other questions or rule interpretations will be decided by SUASL's Discipline and Rules Committee, which reports to SUASL's League Director and the Executive Board of Directors.

REGISTRATION

SUASL is sanctioned by and affiliated with the USSF (United States Soccer Federation) through USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association).

NO REFUNDS- Team Fees and Player Fees are non-refundable. A refund will apply *only* if your registration arrives under sold out conditions. **NSF Checks/Chargebacks** - Players with NSF checks or chargebacks will be taken off the team roster and a \$30.00 bad check fee will be assessed to the team.

All players must be registered, provide a legal photo identity card and must be listed on the league's provided team roster prior to the start of each game in order to participate in league play. All registered players must sign SUASL's code of conduct.

A team will forfeit their game if found guilty of player registration fraud, or playing with ineligible, suspended player, or non-registered players. The team manager or the entire team may be suspended indefinitely if found guilty of player registration fraud, this includes the use of players that are under age for age specific divisions, such as over 40s, 48s and 55s.

SUASL's minimum player requirement for a team is eleven (11) players and each team may carry up to twenty-five (25) players. A player must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older. The minimum age limit to play in the top Division is minimum of 16 years of age, all other divisions are 18 years of age or older.

Teams in the Over 40's, 48's and 55 divisions- Players must be turning 40 years of age in the current calendar year of the season being played. Teams in the Over 48's division, players must be turning 48 years of age in the current calendar year of the season being played. Teams in the Over 55's division, may have players turning 55 in the current calendar year of the season being played.

Dual Rostering - A player cannot be registered on 2 teams in the same division. A player may be dual rostered when playing in any division and rostered to play in another division.

Player Transfers- Players are free to choose the team they wish to play for and may transfer to any team in any division as long as they meet the division age requirement. There are no limits on transfers, but there is a small fee associated with each player transfer. **Player transfers within the same division are not allowed 3 weeks prior to play-offs.**

Poaching Players- It is a violation to recruit players from an opposing team during SUASL's season, any team manager or teams engaged in such activities will be fined and suspended. Player recruiting is open during the summer and off season months.

Free Agents - Free agents are players that do not have a team and enroll for free on the free agent list. Registered team managers can request players to complete their rosters. A maximum of 4 player names will be given to a requesting team manager, unless a new team will be formed with new players. Please notify the SUASL office when player(s) have been selected for your team so that player(s) may be removed from the list.



Team\Player\Eligibility - Historical disciplinary and player suspension records with SUASL or other USSF affiliated and non-affiliated leagues will be reviewed by D&R Committee (Discipline and Rules Committee) to assess registration eligibility. The league reserves the right to deny registration due to discipline problems, dangerous, and violent conduct of a player or a team that does not meet the disciplinary standards of behavior set by SUASL, including conduct on and off the field.

Play-offs - All rosters will be frozen two weeks before the playoffs providing it does not exceed the maximum twenty-five (25) rostered players.

Flight Division Relegation and Requests - Division request are on a first come first serve basis. Champions for each division during season games and play-offs must automatically advance to the next upper division. The bottom teams in each division must be dropped to the lower division, creating room for advancing teams. SUASL uses additional criteria based on first come first serve basis, competition level, division size, field availability and any other logistic matters in deciding team division allocation. Teams wanting to enter the top Premier division must try out to qualify for the division. Division requests will be assessed based on competitive record, priority request given to existing league teams. New teams must be placed in their competitive brackets if a spot is not available in the requested division. SUASL schedules and division allocations are final and cannot be changed.

Schedule Requests – All league games are played on Sundays from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. SUASL may schedule games on different dates if field availability is limited. Schedule requests are for teams who have justification and needs such as tournaments, working schedules, etc. SUASL usually is able to accommodate most schedule requests as long as they are submitted prior to the deadline, usually one day after the manager's meeting. Teams may submit a schedule request via email to suaslsoccer@gmail.com. **Schedule requests will NOT be considered by teams that do not attend the Mandatory Team Manager's Meeting.**

Once the schedules are posted there are no changes allowed. SUASL's computer generated schedules assign play times for morning and some afternoon games. The software system has limited flexibility in automating change requests. Consequently, changes have to be done by hand, and it is time consuming and complicated, therefore SUASL discourages unnecessary requests and will not guarantee or promise any specific timeslots to any team with no proven justification. Only the team manager may submit a schedule request via email, providing the necessary justification for schedule request. **No schedule changes are allowed once schedules are established and posted online. Schedule requests are NOT considered for the playoff schedule.**

Schedules/Cancellations - SUASL games are played on Sundays and sometimes on weekend days, and if necessary may be played during other days as per field availability. Teams need to be aware that a forfeit will apply if teams do not show up to play on a scheduled game. Only the league can make schedule changes and will do so with justification affecting field logistics.

SUASL Hot Line - Unscheduled game cancellations due to weather or other reasons will have messages placed on voicemail on S.U.A.S.L. Soccer Line at (480) 391-3477 starting at 6:00 AM Sunday mornings. Please check the hot line prior to your scheduled game, right before you travel to the soccer field. The field Marshal, a league official, or the Referee may decide whether to play a game based on weather conditions or other reasons.

Make-up Games - Only the league Director can reschedule games and usually is only done due to rainout days.

Cancellation due to shortage of players: If a team knowingly realizes that it will not have enough players three (3) days prior to the game, it must give notification to the SUASL office at least three (3) days prior to game day. (Officials, League, and other team need to be notified.) If the team fails to notify SUASL via email, **fees associated with cancellation of games without sufficient notice will be the responsibility of the team canceling the game.** This rule does not apply to teams who show up short of players.

Chaparral East Field Restrictions – Be a good neighbor and respect the residents and people that live in the area of the park. If the ball goes into a residence's yard with a high wall, **DO NOT CLIMB ON THE HIGH WALL**; please knock on the door to retrieve the ball. The homeowner doesn't mind retrieving the ball for you. Also do not sit on house walls at Chaparral East Field.

Alcohol Restrictions – With a city issued permit SUASL players may enjoy beer after their games as long as their behavior is in line with SUASL's rules and code of conduct. Players must be free of drugs or alcohol to participate in league play and face suspension or expulsion for drinking, prior or during their game. The city of Scottsdale has rules regarding alcohol beverages at the parks, please be aware that beer is the only alcoholic beverage allowed in



designated city parks, and if your team is going to consume beer, a beer permit must be purchased from the City of Scottsdale Parks and Rec. offices. Beer and any kind of alcohol is NOT allowed at Copper Ridge and McDowell Mountain Back fields, both of these fields are school properties. NO Glass bottles are allowed at any of the parks and soccer fields.

Mandatory Team Manager's Meeting - All teams must be represented at each season's mandatory meeting by a team manager/representative. Failure to do so will disqualify registration entry unless approved by the league commissioner and a disclaimer is signed by manager/representative. Mandatory meetings provide information on due process, registrations, red cards, appeals, new procedures, issues discussed and voted upon, etc. and are the team representative's responsibility to inform each player on their team. Failure to adequately inform the team will result in the replacement of the team manager and possible team disqualification. **Schedule requests will NOT be considered by teams that do not attend the Mandatory Team Manager's Meeting.**

RULE OF PLAY - All games will be governed by the FIFA laws of soccer, with the following exception:

- a) There will be an unlimited number of substitutions allowed during a game during any stoppage of play.
- b) Substitutes will only be allowed to enter the field of play with permission of the Referee during game stoppages.

Games will start on time when at least seven (7) players are on the field. When a team is short on players, there will be a fifteen- minute grace period for the start of games; the game length will be shortened accordingly. A game will be forfeited if a manager cannot field at least seven (7) players after the grace period has expired. Any team that forfeits two (2) or more games in one season due to lack of players, may be excluded with no registration refunds, and may be required to pay a security deposit prior to registering the following season. A team quitting at halftime will receive a forfeit and the score will stand at a minimum of 3-0. In the case of a higher score against the forfeiting team, the higher score will prevail.

Uniforms – All teams must have a good set of matching uniforms and an alternate jersey in case of color conflict. At the beginning of the season there will be a one (1) week grace period for all players to be in the same color shorts, socks, and jerseys with numbers on them. It will be the responsibility of the home team to change jerseys if a conflict in color exists.

Stoppage of game due to team behavior - When stoppage is due to a team's bad behavior and dangerous conduct the game is forfeited by the team causing the problem and an additional point will be deducted for violent behavior. Additional sanctions may be assessed by the D&R Committee based on the specific circumstances.

Complete Game - Any season game that has been played 45 minutes or more will be considered a full game despite the score at the time of stoppage.

Bracket points are calculated as follows:

- Win = 3 points
- Tie = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points
- Forfeits = 3-0 against the forfeiting team, and 3 point for the other team.

Tie Breakers will be decided with the following:

- 1-Points
- 2-Goal differential
- 3-Goals for
- 4-Head to head competition

Post Season Play (For Quarterfinal, Semifinal, and Championship Final Games Only) - If a game is tied at the end of regulation play, FIFA "Kicks from the Penalty Mark" rules will apply in order to determine the winner.

Injuries - Please call 911 or emergency support as soon as possible on any injuries that require medical assistance. SUASL has NO insurance through USSF. Each player assumes all risks.

League Decisions - Any and all information distributed by SUASL becomes an integral part of procedures and league standards. All other questions or rule interpretations will be decided by SUASL's Discipline and Rules Committee, which reports to SUASL's League Director and the Executive Board of Directors. In the event of a tie on any vote, the league Director will have the deciding vote. The league's administrative office shall use the Referee's report and official



complaints filed to impose the minimum standard suspension based on SUASL's Standard Suspension Schedule, herein included as Exhibit A.

DISCIPLINE AND RULES

SUASL's Codes of Conduct must be reviewed and signed by each player and team managers to be eligible to play and lead the team. All players registering online are required to accept the registration terms including the code of conduct. The team's conduct and behavior is a reflection of the team manager's leadership therefore; the team captain/manager is responsible for the conduct of the team. If a manager is found negligent in leading the team according to the manager's code of conduct and league's rules, the manager will be removed from the leadership of the team, and a new manager must be assigned or elected by the team to allow the team to remain in the league. The entire team may be expelled from the league if the first measure does not work and additional problems occur under the new leadership.

Spreading False Information: Any player or team spreading false information about SUASL with intent to disrupt the program will be expelled from the league.

Distribution of Promotions – It is prohibited the distribution of any type of promotion materials at SUASL's venues without prior consent from the league.

Notification of Red Cards: Red Cards are posted on the website www.suasl.com under SUASL Bad Boys. It is the responsibility of the player(s) and team(s) to check the SUASL website for Red Card suspension (SUASL Bad Boys) to find out about fines and game(s) suspension(s) for red card(s). The fine and game suspension report will be attached to the roster the following Sunday. All fines need to be paid on-line by Wednesday before the game weekend. Any fines not paid on time will preclude player from playing in upcoming game. Appeals apply only to the suspension (number of games); no appeals are allowed for game outcome or Referee decisions.

Sidelines: All players, coaches and fans will stand or sit at least four (4) yards away from the sideline. This allows the linesman easier access down the line to do his job without interference and allows the players more room while taking throw-ins. Teams that do not comply may be penalized, or the referee or league official may halt the game. Team captains/managers are responsible for sideline behavior. Under no circumstances shall any spectators enter the soccer field during the game.

Players, substitutes, substituted players, or team managers on the sidelines may only enter the field with permission from the referee. During a violent conduct/fight situation (see below) on the field, anyone stepping on the field without the referee's permission will be Sent-Off or Dismissed from the game, and possibly expelled from the league. Under some circumstances, and for safety purposes, further action may be required for any individual whose conduct threatens others.

Cautionable Offenses (Yellow Cards): - Same as FIFA Laws with the following exceptions:

1. A player receiving a caution during the game may be substituted by the team manager with the Referee's permission.
2. Slide tackling is NOT allowed in the Over 40s, Over 48's, and Over 55's Divisions. A Direct Free Kick shall be awarded or Penalty Kick if in the penalty area. Slide tackling infraction is when a player tackles an opponent that has ball possession. The referee's decision is final. Sliding on a loose ball is not an infraction.
3. Any player with four (4) Cautions (yellow cards) during a season will be treated like a Send-Off (red card) and shall receive one (1) game suspension and a \$25.00 fine. The fine must be paid to the league in order for the player to return to team play. Additional cautions may result in probation, suspension or expulsion. Any player with two Send-Offs in a season must pay a \$50.00 fine and may be expelled from the league, cases will be reviewed on an individual basis and the D&R Committee will use own judgment based on the severity of infractions.

Send-Off Offenses (Red Cards): - Same as FIFA Laws with the following exceptions:

1. **Hard Tackles/Collisions/Unsafe Play** - SUASL is an amateur league, therefore, the FIFA Laws applicable to Serious Foul Play in the professional ranks are enhanced in the amateur divisions to protect the safety of players, reduce injuries and promote longevity of players in the game.



2. **Violent Conduct/Fighting** - If a player, substitute, or substituted player is Sent-Off from the game for Violent Conduct, Fighting, or uncontrollable behavior, that individual must leave the park or the referee will suspend the game until such individual is removed from the sidelines and the park. Subsequent disciplinary actions will be undertaken by the D&R Committee. Repeat offenses most likely will carry a long suspension and possibly the loss of privileges of playing in the SUASL program. The above rule applies for assault on league officials and Referees, which include spitting, verbal abuse & threatening to harm. The league's administrative office shall apply the standard suspension based on SUASL's Standard Suspension Schedule, herein included as Exhibit A. Finally, a USSF Supplemental Referee Report on the incident may be completed and sent to the Arizona State Referee Administrator for further review and possible additional disciplinary action.
3. **Indecent Exposure** - Any player, substituted, or substituted player found urinating or in any indecent exposure situation in the park or public area around SUASL's venue, or found in any similar conduct will be suspended for a number of game(s) as per SUASL rules & D&R criteria.
4. **Suspensions and Fines**- Any player, substitute, or substituted player that is Sent-Off will be required to sit out the next game and will be issued a \$25.00 fine. The fine must be paid in order for the player to return to the team to play. Suspensions are carried over from season to season if left unpaid. The D&R committee, (Discipline and Rules Committee) will meet to review the Referee's report and decide on the fate of the player's status at that time. Any appeals must be sent by email Wednesday at 6 p.m. to: suaslsoccer@gmail.com. Appeals apply only to the suspension (number of games). No appeals are allowed for game outcome or Referee decisions.



EXHIBIT A

Minimum Standard Violations & Suspensions

The following list documents the **minimum** disciplinary action resulting from the described behavior. Other circumstances including, but not limited to, prior disciplinary record, probationary status, severity of conduct, additional witness corroboration and disciplinary precedent will be used in determining if additional disciplinary action above and beyond the minimum will be levied.

RED CARDS with one (1) game Suspension:

A player will be suspended for at least one (1) mandatory game when sent off for one of the following offenses.

1. Serious Foul play
2. Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunities
3. Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball
4. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
5. Receiving a second Caution (yellow card) in the same game

No appeals will be heard in the above cases.

RED CARDS - with multiple game/season suspension or expulsion:

1. **Serious foul play with injury**- Minimum 4 games, possibly one season or possible expulsion, depending on the severity of the circumstances.
2. **Violent Conduct** – All violent conduct offenses carry an automatic minimum 2 game suspension, with additional consequences pending D&R review and process –including expulsion depending on the level of aggravation.
3. **Spitting**: 4 games min, possibly one season or possible expulsion.
4. **Assault with injury**- Throwing objects at an individual: 1 season min. possibly multiple seasons, or possible expulsion, depending on the severity of the circumstances.
5. **Assault**- punching, elbowing, kicking, head butting or otherwise striking with violent intent on or off the field: 1 season min. Possibly multiple seasons or possible expulsion.
 - a. Team assault- more than one player assault on individuals or team brawl: 3 game min., possible expulsion.
 - b. Assaulting or attempting to assault an official: Banned from the league.

Disorderly Conduct

1. Offensive, insulting, abusive language and insults in any language, including, but not limited to, profanity, pejoratives based on race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion: 2 game min.
2. Refusing to leave the field: min. 2 games
3. Persistent offensive behavior, threats and insulting language: minimum 2 games.
4. Abuse of **SUASL OFFICIALS**, including referees, staff members or board members.
5. Insulting toward a SUASL official: min. 2 games
6. Threatening a SUASL official: min 3 games
7. Assaulting or attempting to assault an official: Banned from the league

A one (1) point deduction and play-off disqualification will apply to teams with more than one Violent Conduct Incident. SUASL's rules and code of conduct exist not only on the field of play during a match, but on all league premises before, after and during games including sideline areas, parking lots, and other park facilities. If a breach of league rules and/or code of conduct take place outside of match play, SUASL's incident report can be used to initiate an investigation and discipline may result.

SUASL team's and team managers are subject to disciplinary action for breach of the rules above by spectators on their sideline.

Spreading False Information: Any player or team spreading false information about the SUASL with intent to disrupt the program will be expelled from the league.



Discipline and Rules Committee (D&R)

D&R is a volunteer position appointed by SUASL comprised of team managers and players. D&R's role and responsibility is to enforce SUASL's rules. As a member of USSF (United States Soccer Federation), SUASL follows FIFA's rules and has adopted its own league governing rules to administer the adult amateur program. Team managers participate in the creation and revisions for all SUASL's major rules, which are reviewed when proposed changes are submitted at SUASL's preseason mandatory team manager's meetings.

D&R Process

SUASL administrative office reviews referees Send Off reports and applies the minimum suspension standards as described in Exhibit A -Standard Suspensions. D&R reviews send off-reports (red cards). To find out about player suspensions or any other disciplinary actions go to www.suasl.com front page and click on SUASL BAD BOYS.

All red cards require a one game suspension automatic, mandatory 1 game suspension and a fine. No need to meet with D&R for standard red cards. **There is no appeal for referee decisions on a standard red card.**

The D&R hearings will be held for **appeals only upon written request to suaslsoccer@gmail.com**. Meeting locations will vary. The D&R Committee reviews the referee's send-off report and applies suspensions and fines according to SUASL's and FIFA's rules.

Hearings and Appeals are scheduled for players suspended for violent conduct, or other serious offenses with multiple game suspensions or expulsion situations. Player and team manger must contact Discipline and Rules **Email:** suaslsoccer@gmail.com to schedule a hearing.

Suspended players will be noted on the team's roster, if team plays with a suspended player the game will be forfeited and additional suspensions, expulsions and fines may apply according to SUASL's rules.