

Midland Soccer Club
Adult Summer Leagues
RULES OF THE LEAGUE
Revised: June 16, 2022

- A. Overall League Rules: The character of the game of soccer relies on the willing cooperation from all participants in complying with the rules of the game and the decision of the referee. The MSC Adult League games will be played under FIFA, MSA and USSF rules except where modified by MSC ADULT LEAGUE amendments. Managers will be provided copies of MSC ADULT LEAGUE amendments prior to the start of the season. Key exceptions to FIFA rules:
- Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions are permitted by either team at any stoppage of play with the referee's permission and receiving a signal from the referee to enter the field.
 - A team must substitute a player out when he/she is bleeding or has blood on the uniform.
 - After a player is cautioned, as an option to the referee for the good of the game, the referee **may** require that a substitution be made for the cautioned player. If the team has no substitutes, the team will play short until the next sub opportunity.
- B. Playing Time: Each member of a team is required to play at least 1/2 of every scheduled game he/she attends, if they are physically able and want to play. Players suspended for misconduct or for disciplinary reasons are exempt from this ruling. Managers are expected to see that each player meets this requirement. Failure to do so is grounds for sanctions against the team and/or the manager by the discipline committee.
- C. Player League Registration and Player Cards:
1. Player Cards: Each player must have an approved player card available to the referee at each game in order to be eligible to play. A player CANNOT play in a game without a player card being presented to the referee officials and subsequently approved by the referee officials to play.
 2. League Registration: If a player who is not properly registered, or who has not paid his/her participation fee, or is ineligible for any reason including due to a cardable offense, takes part in a sanctioned league game, he/she shall be considered guilty of "serious misconduct" and barred from playing the league for the next 12 months. In addition, his/her team automatically forfeits the game to their opponent and the captain of the offending team will not play in the next four games.
 3. Uniforms: All players MUST have a shirt with an assigned number to play. Any player without a number on their shirt that matches the playing roster will be prevented from playing per the refereeing officials.

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D. Team Registration:

1. A minimum roster of 14 players is required for a team to be formed and registered in the Men's Over 30, Men's Open and Women's Open leagues. When players are submitted on a roster for team registration in a league, each player listed on the roster must be registered and paid in full or they are ineligible. Refer to the Adult League website home page for dates and timing for team roster and player registration dates by league.

E. Disciplinary Ruling and Minimum Sanctions:

1. Cases brought to the attention of the Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs Committee (through a referee's report or through written communication) in which any player engages in striking or spitting against other players, referees, spectators or any league official before, during or after a game, shall receive a minimum four game suspension. If a player commits a second similar offense within two seasonal years, he/she will appear before the Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs Committee and could be suspended from all Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs for at least 12 months.
2. When a red card ejection is issued, it is the referee's discretion whether that player will be allowed to remain on the field or must exit the fence line for the duration of the game. All red cards will be referenced to the Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs Committee for review. Cases brought to the attention of this committee (through a referee's report) in which a player is accused of inappropriate behavior above and beyond a cardable offense before, during or after a game will be referred to the Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs Committee for review. If such action is addressed toward a referee and fits the MSA's description of Referee Abuse, the matter will be referred to the MSA for review.
3. Points will be assigned as follows:

Offense	Points
Yellow Card without Red Card in same game	2
Red Card without Yellow Card in same game	6
Yellow Card and ejection due to second Yellow Card in same game	6
Stand-alone Red Card offense following a Yellow Card in same game	8

When a player accumulates 6 points in a given season, he/she will be suspended for one game. If a referee designates that a red card is issued for violent conduct or serious foul play, then a two game suspension is issued for that player. When a player receives 12 points in a given season, he/she will be suspended for 4 games. If a player receives 16 or more points during a given season, he/she will be suspended for 12 months. At any point during the season, the Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs Committee may suspend a player above and beyond the

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number of games outlined above. Additionally, the Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs Committee may suspend a player from all Adult Programs.

4. Red card suspensions will be carried over to the future seasons.

F. League Playoffs

1. The top teams for playoffs will be determined based on points accumulated during the season per the following system:

Win = 3 point
Tie = 1 point
Loss = 0 points
Forfeit = -3 points

2. Tie breaker for entry into the playoffs: A tie breaker procedure will be used to determine the seeding of teams whenever two or more teams have the same number of total game points as described above. The tiebreaker cases will be applied in order, eliminating teams until one team emerges from this process and is seeded.

- a. Greatest total game points accumulated in head-to-head competition between the teams tied. ** If more than 2 teams are tied, and the teams did not play each other the same number of times, go to rule #3.*
- b. Greatest goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed) in head-to-head competition between the teams tied. ** If more than 2 teams are tied, and the teams did not play each other the same number of times, go to rule #3.*
- c. Greatest goal ratio (goals scored divided by goals allowed) for all games played by each team.
- d. Greatest goal differential (goals scored minus goals allowed) for all games played by each team.
- e. Winner of a coin toss.

3. Tie breaker for playoff games: A winner of each playoff game must be decided. If after the regulation 90 minutes of play the two teams are tied then two extra 15-minute overtime periods will be played at the end of normal time. If after the two 15-minute overtime periods, the two teams are still tied then the winner will be decided by FIFA penalty kicks.

- G. The outcome of any terminated or suspended game as well as all final league issue shall be decided by the Midland Soccer Club Adult Programs Committee.