

Sault Football Club(SFC) Rules

All games are played in accordance with the FIFA laws of the game and OSA rules and regulations. The rules outlined are specific to SFC and may be an exception to the FIFA laws of the game:

RULE 1 – Player Registration and Movement

- 1.1** All players must be registered in the Ontario Soccer Association database to be an eligible player. Players become registered by having their name and date of birth provided to SFC executive by their designated Team Representative in abundance with deadlines for registration outlined each season by SFC. SFC requires a minimum 24-hour notice in advance of a player's first game to register them in time for kickoff.
- 1.2** A maximum of 25 players may be registered by a team in any Outdoor or Indoor Season. There is no limit on the amount that can be dressed for an individual game.
- 1.3** Player Registration after the commencement of the season will be accepted by SFC until July 31 for Outdoor seasons and January 31 for Indoor seasons.
- 1.4** The minimum age to be eligible to play in SFC is 15.
- 1.5** Guest players are permitted if they are registered in accordance with rules 1.1, and 1.3. They can play for 1 team only and for a maximum of 2 weeks or 3 games, whichever comes first. There is no cost to the player or associated team to do this. Upon commencement of the 2 week or 3 game period, the player will either be removed from the applicable roster or permanently registered, as desired by the applicable team. A guest player cannot be used in the playoffs. To register a guest player who is not registered anywhere else in Canada, a Short-Term Registration Permit (STRP) must be filled out by the team using the guest and provide it to SFC executive at minimum 24 hours prior to kickoff. To register a guest player who is registered to another club in Canada, a Temporary eligibility Permit (TEP) must be filled out by the team using the guest, have the temporary release section filled out and signed by by the player's home club, then provide it to SFC executive at minimum 24 hours prior to kickoff for approval. A copy of the fillable forms are available on the SFC website. It is the team representative's responsibility to let their opponents know about guests being used, although not mandated by SFC, it is strongly encouraged for good sportsmanship. If it is found that a team used guest player without following these protocols, an automatic forfeit will be enforced to the guilty team for that game and a fine equal to the OSA fine for a club using ineligible players will be charged to the team and will be payable to SFC before playing their next game.

1.6 Ineligible players are players who are playing without being registered in accordance with rules 1.1 and 1.3, playing for another team in the same division or another division if not acting in correspondence with rule 1.7. Any team that plays an ineligible player will be subject to a fine equaling the cost of the game and a forfeit of the game/games in which the ineligible player played.

1.7 In seasons where there are multiple divisions, a player registered in the 40+ division may be called up to play for a team in any open (D2 or D1) division for a maximum of 5 times per team during regular season play only. Any player registered in D2 may play in D1 with the same rules as the 40+. Players from SWSC or SYSL or NHSC may also be called up as per the same rules if they meet rule 1.4 and it has been verified by the team that an affiliation agreement has been signed with the other clubs involved in the call-up. Teams cannot use more than 3 call-ups in any given game.

1.8 Dual Rostered Players – In seasons where there is a D1 and D2, players can register on both a D1 and D2 roster, teams are limited to a maximum of 2 dual rostered players and must be registered by the roster movement deadline set out for that season.

Rule 2 - Teams

2.1 All teams must register with SFC by the deadline outlined by SFC each season by following instructions provided by SFC in the registration process.

2.2 All teams must be in good financial standing with SFC prior to participating in their first game in each applicable season. Good financial means no outstanding money owing to SFC.

2.3 All teams will play in the division that SFC assigns them to play in and no team has the right to play in any division.

2.4 Teams must have a minimum of 7 players available to play in an Outdoor game and 4 players available to play an Indoor game. If a team shows up to a game without the minimum amount of players, they will be fined the cost of that game and receive a 5-0 loss automatically.

2.5 Teams must fill in a game sheet and provide it to the Match Official before the start of each game when requested by the Match Official. Game sheets must include all people on a team's bench and only registered people are permitted on a team's bench, including any coaches or managers.

2.6 The home team must provide a game ball to the Match Official, and the Match Official has the right to request one from the away team as a backup.

Rule 3 - Schedule and Games

3.1 The schedule for a season will be created by SFC and provided to all teams via email and website publication by no later than 1 week prior to the start of the season. Scheduling changes are not permitted unless of an exception granted by SFC executive. Game reschedules once the season has started must be approved by both teams involved in the game and the new time must be approved by both teams and SFC executive.

3.2 Outdoor regular season games will consist of 2 (45) minute halves and a halftime of up to 10 minutes. Indoor regular season games will consist of 2 (25) minute halves and a halftime of up to 5 minutes. Match Officials can add extra time as they require but this is the sole discretion of the Match Official.

Rule 4 – Substitutions

4.1 In outdoor, substitutions can be made after a goal has been scored, at a goal kick, during halftime, for an injured player when play is stopped, on a throw-in if it is the team throwing in the ball, on the opposing team's throw-in if the team throwing in the ball is also making a substitution. In indoor, substitutions can be made at any time, except for a goalkeeper, which can only be done when it is the team's ball at a restart that is trying to substitute their goalie, in which case the Match Official must be notified. Players entering the field of play must wait until the player coming off is fully off the field prior to entering. Substitutions must be made from the team's own bench area (within 1 metre). There is no limit to how many substitutions can be made in any indoor or outdoor game.

Rule 5 – Player Equipment

5.1 All players on a team must wear jerseys of the same colour and the jersey must have a number on it. This matter is the match officials discretion at all times.

5.2 The goalkeepers must wear a jersey colour that distinguishes themselves from the colour of both teams and the Match Officials.

5.3 Players and goalies can wear pants instead of shorts if the Match Official is able to adequately check under to ensure there are shin pads and socks worn.

5.4 All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted. If a player is wearing or using unauthorised or dangerous equipment or jewelry, the referee will order the player to: a) remove the item; b) leave the field of play at the next stoppage if the player is unable or unwilling to comply. A player who refuses to comply or wears the item again will be cautioned.

5.5 Shin guards-these must be made of a suitable material and be of an appropriate size to provide reasonable protection and be covered by the socks. Players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shin guards.

Rule 6 – Match Officials

6.1 The Match Official has the right to abandon a match at any given time.

6.2 If a Match Official does not show up or shows up more than 10 minutes past the scheduled kickoff time, they will not be paid by SFC. In the event of this occurrence, the game may continue without a Match Official, or with a designated guest Match Official as mutually agreed upon by both team representatives. Game sheets must still be sent to SFC executive by one of the team representatives if this happens.

6.3 Match Officials are required to submit copies of game sheets and any game reports to SFC executive within 48 hours of the game's kickoff time.

6.4 Match Officials are not required to start a game until game sheets have been provided to them by both teams.

6.5 Match Officials will be paid by e-transfer only and must have auto-deposit set up with their bank account to receive their payment.

6.6 Match Officials have the right to tell a player they cannot play if they are not following the FIFA laws of the game to any extent or any of SFC's rules.

6.7 The Match Official decides when a game starts and ends. The Match Official also has the final say on all decisions during a game and cannot be disputed by any player, coach, manager or spectator.

6.8 Pay in certain situations; In the event a match official shows up for a game and is unable to start the match due to lightning/thunder, field conditions or other related situations, they will be paid 50% of their entitled fees. If SFC notifies the officials at least 3 hours prior to kickoff of a match cancellation for any reason, they will not be paid, if less than 3 hours, 50% will be paid. If the game was started and then called off at any point for any reason, full fees will be paid.

Rule 7 – Discipline

7.1 SFC reserves the right to remove the registration of a player in any of its divisions if it is felt like that player is jeopardizing the safety of other SFC members.

7.2 SFC can upgrade a caution shown by an official to a dismissal if deemed necessary based on the severity reported incident, as determined appropriate by SFC.

7.3 Any red card or yellow cards will be handled by the SFC discipline panel in DBR(discipline by review) format unless they meet the category of a “range” suspension as per the OSA and in those cases it will be brought forward to the GNSA for further action.

7.4 SFC reserves the right to refuse registration to any person at any time for any reason deemed suitable by SFC.

7.5 Indoor Specific Disciplinary Rules

A. Any player Cautioned during the match, on the field of play, shall serve a two (2) minute penalty, and their team shall play down a player for the duration, or until a goal is scored by the opposing team(including a PK resulting from the yellow). If a goalkeeper gets a caution, they can remain in the game if the cautioned team wishes, however someone else must serve a two (2) minute penalty and the team must play down a player for the duration.

B. Any player Cautioned during the match, NOT on the field of play, shall serve a two (2) minute penalty, and their team WILL NOT play down a player

C. Any player Sent Off during the match, on the field of play, shall be expelled from the match and the facility, and their team shall play down for a period of five (5) minutes, in its entirety, regardless of how many goals their opponent scores.

D. Any player Sent Off during the match, NOT on the field of play, shall be expelled from the match and the facility, and their team WILL NOT play down a player

E. All yellow cards will result in a \$5 fine and all red cards will result in a \$10 fine payable to SFC following a deadline outlined by SFC. Fines will be charged to the team that the player is registered to.

F. Sliding -There will be no sliding permitted at any time. Sliding is considered to occur when a player leaves their feet, in an attempt to play the ball with one or both feet. If a player slides, then the restart will be an indirect free kick from where the sliding offence occurred. If the slide is in the penalty area, play will be stopped and will be restarted by an indirect free kick to be taken by the non-offending team, from the penalty area line, that runs parallel to the goal line, nearest to where the offence was committed. However, if the slide prevents an obvious goal scoring opportunity (a player slides to stop the ball from going toward their own goal), play will be stopped, the offending player cautioned, and the game will be restarted by a penalty kick to be taken by a member of the non-offending team.

G. Slide Tackling - Slide tackling occurs when a player leaves their feet, in an attempt to play the ball with one or both feet, when an opponent is within playing distance. If a player commits a slide-tackling offence, play will be stopped, the offending player cautioned, and play will be restarted with an indirect free kick to be taken by the non-offending team from the place the slide tackle occurred. If the slide tackle is committed by a defending player within his own penalty

area, the offending player will be cautioned, and play will be restarted by a penalty kick to be taken by the non-offending team.

7.4 Discipline by Hearing (DBH)

A. On an exception basis, as OSA rules permit, players can request to be disciplined by a DBH panel if they are suspended by getting a red card, the fee is set by the GNSA and the request must come formally to SFC then once approved, sent in writing to the GNSA with their applicable fee.

Rule 8 – Finances

8.1 All players are required to pay a specific player fee each season that includes fees to the CSA, OSA, GNSA and SFC. Once a player has played one game, there are no refunds for that player fee. SFC will advise teams of this player fee each season.

8.2 All teams are required to submit a deposit payment to SFC prior to the commencement of each season, the amount and deadline are set by SFC each season and are subject to change. If a team decides to drop out of SFC after this deadline, they will not be refunded the payment.

8.3 All teams will be required to make their payment in full each season by a deadline set by SFC, and risk forfeiting their games after the deadline if not paid in full, SFC also reserves the right to remove the team completely from the league if they are not fully paid by the deadline.

Rule 9 – Tiebreakers and Standings

9.1 All indoor and outdoor regular season games can end in a draw.

9.2 All indoor and outdoor playoff games will proceed with penalty kicks as per FIFA laws of the game if tied at the end of regulation.

9.3 Standings will be maintained and regularly posted for open divisions to the SFC website. 3 points will be awarded for a win, and 1 point will be awarded for a tie.

9.4 In order to break a tie in the standings at the end of the regular season, the criteria followed will be in the following order;

- A. Winner of the head-to-head matchups between the tied teams
- B. Best goal differential
- C. Least goals against
- D. Coin Flip

Rule 10 – Indoor Specific Rules as per OSA indoor regulations (re-stated for clarity)

10.1 All place kicks except for penalty kicks are indirect, including corner kicks, goal kicks, corner kicks, free kicks, and kick-ins. Goals cannot be scored directly from kick-off.

10.2 If a ball hits the ceiling, the restart is an indirect free kick from where the ball left the ground for the team opposite to who touched it last.

10.3 Defending players must be 3 yards away from the ball on all free kicks, corner kicks, kick-ins, and may not be in the opposing team's box during a goal kick until the ball is kicked and clearly moves.

10.4 Penalty kicks are to be taken from the top of the half circle and play is dead after the kick regardless of the outcome.

Rule 11 – Other Items

11.1 SFC reserves the right to discipline a team for actions deemed to be unsafe, abusive or anything constituting a conflict that could be avoided by respectable behaviour. Discipline is not limited to but can include individual player dismissal from SFC, team dismissal from SFC, game forfeits, or monetary discipline.

11.2 Any team that is deemed to be at fault for a game abandonment by a match official because of their actions is automatically disciplined by way of a fine equal to the amount of the fine from the OSA to the club for this behaviour. The guilty team would be required to pay this in advance of their next game, or games will be forfeited until paid.

11.3 Teams are responsible for the actions of their players, coaches, managers or spectators.

11.4 SFC is fortunate to have exceptional facilities for games to be played at, and to maintain that exceptional status, it is expected that all players will respect the property of the facilities and follow all rules outlined by the individual facilities where games are held. Teams found not respecting these facilities can be disciplined.

11.5 Reminder that any other rules not stated in this document are as per the FIFA Laws of the game in correspondence with the OSA playing rules.

SFC Executive:

President – Mike Pucci

Vice President – Dan Sdao

Treasurer – Chris Siegman

Secretary – Vacant