

Sault Football Club(SFC) Rules

All games are played in accordance with the FIFA laws of the game and OSA rules and regulations. The outlined rules 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 in order 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.
- 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 as per the same rules as the 40+. Players from SWSC or SYSL or NHSC may also be called up as per the same rules as long as 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.

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 particular division.

2.4 Teams must have a minimum of 7 players available in order to play in an Outdoor game and 4 players available in order 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 particular game and receive a 5-0 loss automatically.

2.5 Teams must fill 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 persons on a team's bench and only registered persons 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 particular 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 stoppage that is trying to substitute their goalie, in which case the Match Official has to be notified. Players entering the field of play must wait until the player coming off actually is 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 the same jersey and the jersey must have a number on the back of it.

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 as long as the Match Official is able to adequately check under to ensure there is shin pads and socks worn.

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 still 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. They then must drop off paper copies at the GNSA office for storage within 30 days.

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.

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 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).

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. No Slide tackling permitted. This applies to Goal Keepers as well. A GK may slide parallel to the play in an attempt to make a save, but cannot lead with the feet. Caution will be shown if this rule is violated.

G. No jewelry of any kind can be worn; Match Officials are allowed to caution a player for wearing jewelry.

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 to 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.

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

11.3 SFC is fortunate to have exceptional facilities for games to be played at, and in order 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 as per rule 10.1.

11.4 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 – Mason Merz