

Suburban Friendship League
Proposed Rule and Process Changes for Fall 2011 Season
(July 10, 2011)

Note: Minor editorial changes are not shown.

SUGGESTIONS ADOPTED

Process Changes

1. **Sunday start times** – It was agreed that Sunday start times for the tournament games and games automatically rescheduled by the SFL could be as early as 10:30 AM. Sunday start times for regular season games will remain at 12:30 PM or later. (Procedures and Processes – Rescheduling Regular Season Games (footnote 1 on page 5), July 10, 2011, Procedures and Processes – Tournament Scheduling (page 11), July 10, 2011, and Procedures and Processes – Team Registration (page 6), July 10, 2011)
2. **Coaches with two teams (Regular Season)** – It was agreed that clubs would be required to provide a regular season Sunday time slot for at least one of the teams associated with an individual who is coaching 2 teams with both teams assigned Sunday home games as the preferred option. The teams will be assigned alternate home/away schedules which makes the elimination of conflicts much easier and “automatic” when both teams are assigned Sunday home game time slots. If a club does not want to provide the slots or the coach does not want to play Sunday games, then no effort will be made to eliminate the conflicts and the club and team will have to find some other way to manage the teams when a conflict arises. (Procedures and Processes – Tournament Scheduling (page 11), July 10, 2011, and Procedures and Processes – Team Registration (page 6), July 10, 2011)
3. **Coaches with two teams (Tournament)** – It was agreed that clubs will be required to determine whether a coach with 2 teams has someone who can handle conflicting games. If the coach does not have someone, then the club will tell us which team should be dropped. The SFL will take very limited actions to eliminate schedule conflicts. (Procedures and Processes – Tournament Scheduling (page 11), July 10, 2011)
4. **Changes to game fields** – Clubs will be required to use a standard Email to submit game schedule request that includes the standard requirements, e.g., teams have been notified, both teams have agreed to the change were applicable, etc. In addition, clubs will be required to use a standard spread sheet to submit rescheduling requests. (Procedures and Processes – Team Registration (page 1), July 10, 2011)
5. **Sideline positioning** – The season letter will change the wording for sideline positioning to state that where conditions allow, (1) teams shall be placed on one side of the field and spectators shall be on the opposite side the field if the SFL Club Representatives approve this change. If the current position is maintained – it is up the club to decide the sideline

positioning for their home games – then the season letter will maintain the current wording and state that the SFL recommends that the teams be placed on one side of the field while the spectators be placed on the other side of the field where possible.

6. **Last tournament game in a single elimination tournament division is cancelled before completion due to weather** – Modified the tournament cancellation policy to state that trophies will be awarded if a tournament game played in the single elimination division format (1) has started but is terminated due to weather, (2) would have directly resulted in the awarding of trophies, and (3) is tied when it is terminated.¹ The process makes adjustments when the teams may have played a different number of tournament games to ensure that the same number of tournament games are used when ranking the teams. (Procedures and Processes – Tournament Scheduling (pages 7 - 9), July 10, 2011)

Rule Changes

1. Current material in IV.J.1. Moved to a new section IV.K. This section discusses removing players from the field and holding down the game scores. Also, added section IV.K.1. which implements a “mercy rule”.
2. Section VIII.B.1. – Tournament ranking process changed to the following: (1) tournament game points, (2) head to head competition during the tournament, (3) tournament bonus points, (4) least goals allowed during the tournament, (5) whether the team received a regular season award (if applicable), (6) head to head competition during the regular season games if they have played each other, (7) least average goals allowed during the regular season, and (8) shoot out. A 3 or 4-way tie is broken in the following order: (1) tournament bonus points, (2) least goals allowed during the tournament, (3) whether the team received a regular season award (if applicable), (4) least average goals per game allowed during the regular season, (4) regular season game point percentage, and (5) coin flip. After one team is eliminated, then the remaining teams will be ranked by starting at the top of the appropriate tie breakers. Note: Normally head to head results are not used in breaking 3 or 4-way ties since one team will not have defeated all the other teams during the tournament. However, if one team has beaten all the other teams that are tied in the tournament, then that team will be placed ahead of all the other teams that it is tied with based on game points.

¹ The ranking factors are the same ranking factors as used for round robin divisions with the exception of tournament game points. Tournament game points are not used since both teams should have the same number of game points if this process is required.

3. Section IX – Discipline has undergone significant changes. The following highlights these changes.
 - The term “Team Red Card Points” has been changed to “Team Demerits” since this eliminates any confusion that a penalty is being assessed even when red cards are not shown. Although the term is being changed, the rules have retained the penalty that if a team averages one Team Demerit per regular season game, then that team is (1) suspended from all tournament games and (2) all remaining regular season games. For example, if the regular season is 8 games and a team accumulates eight Team Demerits in week 2, then it would be suspended from the remaining six regular season games and the tournament. On the other hand, if it accumulates the eight Team Demerits in week 8, it would be suspended from the tournament. In addition, as currently called for in the rules, that team would be placed on probation.
 - An automatic 2 game suspension is being implemented to any non player (coach or spectator) who is asked to leave the field by the official regardless of whether a red card is shown. Two Team Demerits will also be assessed to the team for each individual asked to leave. For example, if the coach and a spectator are asked to leave, then four Team Demerits will be awarded to the team.
 - Two Team Demerits are assessed to a team anytime a referee report includes a reference to the referee being harassed during or after the game by players, coaches or spectators. Examples include, verbal threats, being followed to the parking lot in an inappropriate manner, or other actions that would make a referee fear for his/her safety. This penalty would also apply to referee assault incidents, but additional disciplinary actions would also be required to be taken by the offending club in those cases.

Suggestions Not Adopted

1. **Requiring roster checks for all Under 16 and Under 19 Boys games** – It was decided not to implement this proposal since the tournament games must be completed within a 90 minute period and having a roster check for each game would probably prevent full games from being played.