

1 Suburban Friendship League

2
3 **Frequently Asked Questions – Reporting Game Results**
4 (September 4, 2009)
5

6 The following are a list of Frequently Asked Questions relating to reporting game scores. While we
7 attempt to keep this information consistent with the rules, sometimes through unintentional oversight,
8 some inconsistencies may occur. In these cases, the rules are used to resolve any inconsistencies.
9

10 **Question:** Which team is required to report game results?

11
12 **Response:** Both teams are required to report game results.
13

14 **Question:** What information is required to be reported?

15
16 **Response:** The preferred method of reporting game results is Email. The Email can be sent to
17 sfl@sflsoccer.org. The game reference number should be shown in the subject line
18 preceded by a # sign with the body of the Email containing the following information:
19

- 20 • Age group
- 21
- 22 • Score for each team
- 23
- 24 • Information on cards issued (for red cards this includes (1) name of player, (2) player's
25 uniform number, (3) reason for red card, and (4) recommended suspension period.)
26
- 27 • Any other information that needs to be reported, e.g., opposing team fails to provide a
28 Team Roster, roster challenge was conducted, etc.
29
- 30 • Team making the game report.
31

32 The following are several examples of game reports.
33

34 Example 1 – Only Scores Need to Be Reported

35
36 Subject: #19111

37
38 Under 19 Boys

39
40 Team 1 (e.g., Reston 1) – 1 goal
41 Team 2 (e.g., Reston 2) – 2 goals
42 No cards
43

44 Team 1(e.g., Reston 1) Reporting
45
46

1 Example 2 – Scores and Cards Need to Be Reported

2
3 Subject: #19111

4
5 Under 19 Boys

6
7 Team 1 (e.g., Reston 1) – 1 goal, Yellow cards to #23, and #25

8 Team 2 (e.g., Reston 2) – 2 goals, No cards

9
10 Red card issued to Joe Smith, #23 for accumulation of 2 yellow cards. The first yellow card
11 was for dangerous play and the second yellow card was for dissent. The recommended
12 suspension period is one game.

13
14 Team 1 (e.g., Reston 1) Reporting

15
16 Example 3 – Scores and Failure to Provide Roster

17
18 Subject: #19111

19
20 Under 19 Boys

21
22 Team 1 (e.g., Reston 1) – 1 goal

23 Team 2 (e.g., Reston 2) – 2 goals

24 No cards

25 Team 2 was unable to provide a roster. However, the game was played anyway.

26
27 Team 1 (e.g., Reston 1) Reporting

28
29 Example 4 – Scores and Roster Challenge Needs to Be Reported

30
31 Subject: #19111

32
33 Under 19 Boys

34
35 Team 1 (e.g., Reston 1) – 1 goal

36 Team 2 (e.g., Reston 1) – 2 goals

37 No cards

38
39 Team 2's roster was challenged since one of the players did not have a uniform number that
40 appeared on the Team Roster provided. The referee questioned the player and was told that
41 the player's name was John Smith and that he had picked up the incorrect jersey at home.
42 John Smith appeared on the Team Roster provided and the birth date provided to the referee
43 agreed with the Team Roster. The game was continued with John Smith being allowed to
44 play with my permission although the coach of Team 2 never approached me to ask
45 permission or notify me of this problem.

46
47 Team 1 (e.g., Reston 1) Reporting

1 **Question:** How do I know that the SFL has received my score report?
2

3 **Response:** The SFL normally responds within 24 hours to the Emails received at sfl@sflsoccer.org
4 during the season unless the home page of the web site states that a delay should be
5 expected. If a reply to the game report is not received and the web site does not reflect the
6 score within 24 hours of submitting a report, just send in another Email. We have noticed
7 that sometimes the replies to game reports are returned as undeliverable.
8

9 **Question:** I Emailed my game report by the 6:00 PM Monday deadline, however, in checking the web
10 site on Tuesday morning, the score has still not been recorded. What should I do and will
11 my team be penalized for reporting a score late?
12

13 **Response:** Simply send another Email on Tuesday providing the game results along with a statement
14 saying that (1) a reply to the original report had not been received (if that is the case) and (2)
15 the score is not shown on the web site. Normally, a team is not penalized when this happens
16 since the team was actively checking to make sure that the report was properly processed by
17 the SFL.
18

19 **Question:** What happens when the teams report different scores?
20

21 **Response:** Two types of differences can occur – significant and insignificant. Examples of significant
22 differences include Team 1 being shown as the winner by one team and Team 2 being
23 shown as the winner by the other team. In these cases we normally ask the second team
24 reporting the score which score is correct. A difference is considered insignificant when it
25 does not materially affect the team standings. An example of an insignificant difference is
26 when the same team is shown as the winner but the reported scores are different. The
27 following are examples of how insignificant differences can be handled.
28

29 Example 1

30
31 We have noticed that in most cases, the difference in scores occur when the winning team
32 has significantly more goals than the losing team. Normally the lower score is used since it
33 makes no difference in the standings, i.e., the winning team would receive the same number
34 of game and bonus points regardless of the score used, i.e., using the lower score still
35 provides the winning team with 4 game points and 3 bonus points.
36

37 Example 2

38
39 In some cases one team reports one score and the other team reports a different score,
40 however, the goal difference is the same. For example, Team 1 reports the game score as 3
41 – 1 while Team 2 reports the score as 4 – 2. In these cases, we normally use the first score
42 reported since it makes no difference, i.e., the winning team still gets 4 game points and 2
43 bonus points regardless of the score used.
44

45 The SFL will normally include in its reply Email that a difference has been reported and the
46 action that was taken. In other cases, since the difference is only detected when the second

1 score report is received, we may make a change based on the second Email since it coming
2 from the affected team. For example Team 1 reports the score as 3 – 1 with Team 2 scoring
3 3 goals. When Team 2 reports the score for this game it shows the score as 2 – 1 with Team
4 2 scoring 2. In this case, since we can clearly see that Team 2 was providing the second
5 report, we would adjust the score to 2 – 1 since (1) it is reasonable to expect that Team 2
6 would know the score of their team and (2) it makes no difference in the standings (Team 2
7 still gets 4 game points). However, if Team 1 sees the adjusted score on the web site and
8 strongly believes that the score should be changed to 3 – 1, we will normally make the
9 change. In some rare cases we may ask the appropriate SFL Club Representative to resolve
10 the scoring difference.

11
12 **Question:** How do I report good or bad officiating?

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14 **Response:** The game report can include comments on the officials. The SFL will review these
15 comments and decide whether they should be sent to the applicable referee coordinator.
16 Regardless of the decision made by the SFL, a formal response to the game report is not (1)
17 provided to the individual providing the report or (2) expected from the referee coordinator
18 if the SFL sends them the report. Such reports are for use by the applicable club in
19 assessing their referee operations.

20
21 **Question:** Does the SFL have a means to protest a game and, if yes, can the game report be used to file
22 the protest? During our game, our goalie picked up a ball that was kicked to him by another
23 player on our team, and the referee awarded a free kick to the other team inside the penalty
24 area. When they took the kick, the ball went into our goal without being touched by anyone
25 else. The referee allowed the goal even though it was supposed to be an indirect kick and
26 we lost the game. How can I protest the outcome of this game?

27
28 **Response:** All game protests must be submitted through the coach’s SFL Club Representative. The
29 protest should include (1) the time and location of the match; (2) the team names and age
30 group; (3) the nature of the complaint or protest (referee judgment is not considered an item
31 for protest); (4) the referee’s name, address, and phone number (if known); and (5) the
32 opposing team coach’s name and other significant witnesses. It is up to the SFL Club
33 Representative to determine whether it will be submitted to the appropriate SFL
34 Commissioner.

35
36 **Question:** Does the SFL ever ask for referee reports based on the game reports?

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38 **Response:** In some cases the SFL will formally ask for a referee report for a game based on one or
39 more of the game reports. These requests are normally associated with red cards or roster
40 problems.

41
42 **Question:** Does the SFL have a rule on removing players from the field when the score gets “out of
43 hand”?

44
45 **Response:** The SFL has discussed the issue of excessive score differences in several meeting with the
46 clubs. Based on those meetings, it was agreed that the SFL should not have a formal rule

1 requiring the removal for players when the score difference exceeds a given margin. Rather,
2 the clubs agreed that the SFL rules should clearly state that coaches are strongly encouraged
3 to reduce the number of players on the field once a team has scored 4 goals more than the
4 other team. For example, if a team is winning the game 5 – 1 and scores another goal, they
5 should reduce the number of players on the field down at least one player. A game score of
6 10 – 0 provides no more benefits than a game score of 3 – 0 since goals scored is not used in
7 any of the ranking factors.
8

9 **Question:** My team only had 8 players while the other team played 11 players. Is this allowed and
10 should it be included in the game report?
11

12 **Response:** The rules contain the number of players that are allowed to play when the other team does
13 not have a sufficient number of players to field a normal team. The following are the
14 requirements when the game format is 11 v 11.
15

- 16 • A team must have seven players to play a game.
- 17
- 18 • If one team has seven players, then the opposing team is required to play no more
19 than nine players.
- 20
- 21 • If one team has eight players, then the opposing team is required to play no more
22 than ten players.
- 23
- 24 • If one team has nine or ten players, the other team may play all eleven players.
- 25

26 The following are the requirements when the game format is 8 v 8.
27

- 28 • A team must have at least 5 players to play a game.
- 29
- 30 • If one team has 5 players, then the opposing team is required to play no more than 7
31 players.
- 32
- 33 • If one team has 6 or 7 players, the other team may play all eight players.
- 34

35 If the opposing coach does not comply with these requirements, then it should be noted in
36 the game report.