

Suburban Friendship League
703 Brethour Court
Sterling, VA 20164-1430
December 8, 2006

Dear Club Representative:

During the Fall 2006 tournament, the majority of the tournament games scheduled for Sunday could not be played as scheduled because of the weather. The SFL, using the rules in effect for the Fall 2006 season, calculated the trophy awards for the tournament divisions that could not be played as scheduled. A number of complaints were received on the process used and the SFL was requested to form a group to review the tournament process. The Braddock Road SFL Club Representative agreed to chair this panel and the SFL Commissioners agreed that an independent review of the tournament process was desirable. The SFL Commissioners also agreed with a suggestion that the SFL should develop a document that explains (1) the rationale used to develop the Fall 2006 tournament process and (2) the alternatives that have been considered and the reasons for not adopting those alternatives. This is commonly referred to as the Fall 2006 Tournament Methodology.

On December 2, 2006, the SFL Commissioners held a meeting to discuss (1) the structure and contents of the Fall 2006 Tournament Methodology, (2) any tournament rules changes that the SFL Commissioners believed necessary for the Spring 2007 season, (3) the structure and responsibilities of the Tournament Scheduling and Ranking Review Group (Review Group), (4) scope of the Review Group's activities, and (5) the expected product of the Review Group's efforts. The SFL Commissioners agreed on a final version of the Fall 2006 Tournament Methodology and proposed tournament rules for the Spring 2007 season on December 7, 2006.

Attached are the following documents for your review:

- Fall 2006 Tournament Methodology
- Structure and responsibilities of the tournament review group
- Proposed tournament rules for the Spring 2007 season (Section VIII. of the current rules)
- A document that compares the Fall 2007 tournament rules and the proposed Spring 2007 tournament rules

Over the years a number of situations and complaints have resulted in the development of the current cumbersome tournament rules that were adopted for Fall 2006 season. In each case, the

rules adopted were based on the specific complaints on the rules in effect at that time. The SFL attempted to address these concerns by adopting increasingly complex rules.

The decision made to change the proposed rules for the Spring 2007 season was made after a great deal of discussion of the problems and alternatives. Several SFL Commissioners had been either SFL Commissioners or SFL Club Representatives in prior seasons when the tournament could not be played as scheduled. Therefore, we discussed the prior complaints and the proposed solutions that resulted in another round of complaints when another tournament could not be played as scheduled. The common theme in all of these complaints was that the SFL used something other than tournament results to decide either (1) the teams that would be scheduled for the “trophy round”, (2) trophy awards when the “trophy” round could not be played. Therefore, it was clear that when the weather or other reasons prevented the tournament from being played as scheduled for a given tournament division, the remaining games for the affected tournament division should be cancelled and no trophies awarded for the vast majority of cases.

While the SFL Commissioners believe that the concept of having a review group to review the tournament process is desirable, it will only be beneficial if the SFL Club Representatives provide the support necessary. Accordingly, as noted in the attached document, at least 3 voting members (less than 10 percent of the clubs) must actively participant in the Review Group. The SFL Commissioners also agreed that any review of the tournament process should be comprehensive rather than simply examining a given section of the tournament rules. We also realize that expecting the group to complete its work by January 31, 2007, puts high demands on your time during this busy holiday season. However, as noted in the attached document, the Spring 2007 season registration process begins on February 15, 2007, therefore, the SFL Commissioners need some time to consider the Review Group’s report and incorporate any needed changes in the Spring 2007 registration packages. Hopefully, the Tournament Methodology documents and proposed rules will help facilitate this process. If you would like to participate in the group, please provide the Email address you would like us to provide to the Braddock Road SFL Club Representative.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your tireless efforts to improve the SFL’s operations and help make the SFL a quality program for our youth. On behalf of the SFL Commissioners and SFL Administrator, we would like to wish you the best for the holiday season and a happy new year.

Wayne Gilbert
SFL Commissioner