

Suburban Friendship League  
2416 Rosedown Drive  
Reston, VA 20191-1620  
March 28, 2019

Dear Coaches and Club Officials:

This season the SFL has more than 515 youth teams and we would like to extend a special welcome to those who are new to the SFL and hope that you have an enjoyable season. We would also like to welcome back the returning teams.

It is the SFL's goal to provide timely and accurate information to the clubs and teams playing in this league. Our Web Site ([www.sflsoccer.org](http://www.sflsoccer.org)) helps us accomplish this objective. Our Email address is [sfl@sflsoccer.org](mailto:sfl@sflsoccer.org). The Web Site contains most of the information in your package and we will try to keep it updated. We would appreciate any comments you may have on how the league operations can be improved. Additional information about the season's operations and our web site is discussed below.

This is considered the season mailing and contains the following:

- Season letter
- Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on concussions.
- Information from US Soccer on concussions.
- Information concerning lighting safety.
- Overview of SFL Processes and Procedures for Coaches and SFL Club Representatives
- SFL Club and Coach Guide
- SFL Administrative Rules for The Laws of the Game
- Listing of team contacts, Email addresses (see discussion below), and phone numbers. This listing also provides the contact information for the SFL Commissioner and SFL Age Group Commissioners. (This information is not published on the web site version).
- Listing of SFL Club Representatives. **You should contact your SFL Club Representative concerning questions that arise during the season. Also, if you have problems contacting another team during the season, you should contact that team's SFL Club Representative. The SFL Age Group Commissioners will formally respond only to matters referred to them by the appropriate SFL Club Representative.** (This information is not published on the web site version.)

We have also develop a Guide for Game Officials that extracts the key material from the above documents that relates to the game officials in one easy to use document. In addition to posting this document to the SFL web site on the SFL Documents page, the SFL will be sending this guide to SFL Club Referee Coordinators for their use.

Since many of you have been with the SFL during previous seasons, we would like to call your attention to the significant changes to the SFL's "document set" that is used govern its operations from previous seasons. While many of the rules are unchanged or only slightly modified, the presentation and organization is very different and are designed to eliminate duplications, consolidate material, and reduce confusion. The following are the 3 key documents of new document set and these are included in this package.

- Overview of SFL Processes and Procedures for Coaches and SFL Club Representatives
- SFL Administrative Rules for the Laws of the Game
- SFL Club and Coach Guide

For all practicable purposes, the last two documents now govern the SFL operations rather than the numerous documents used in the past. Even if you have been with the SFL a long time, we encourage you to take some time to review the attached documents.

We would also like you to take some time and review the Overview of SFL Processes and Procedures for Coaches and SFL Club Representatives document. This is new and is designed to provide (1) a one page summary of the key SFL Club Representative duties and dead lines, (2) a one page summary for each of the seven (7) SFL processes, and (3) a glossary of terms commonly used in the process charts and by the SFL, e.g., proper red card report, scheduling forfeit, game rescheduling, etc. Reviewing pages 3, 4, and 5 of this document should help the vast majority of the coaches (1) understand what they must do and (2) how their actions (or inactions) impact their team, club, and the SFL. Spending a few more minutes reading the glossary of terms, will also provide a better understanding of the specific requirements discussed in the process charts. We welcome suggestions on how to make this summary guide more useful.

## **KEY DATES**

The following are some of the key dates:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
April 3	Deadline for providing the Master Player Roster that will be used by the SFL to generate the SFL Team Rosters (see discussion below).
April 4	SFL Team Rosters provided to SFL Club Representatives
April 5	Coaches provided approved rosters by SFL Club Representative.

- April 6                    First game weekend.
- April 20/May 25    Holiday – No games
- May 1                    Last day to submit uniform number changes to SFL Team Rosters – SFL Team Rosters are considered final for the season.
- June 8/9                Tournament weekend. **If your team is unable to play this weekend, please let us know as soon as possible.**

### **INCOMPLETE GAME AND FIELD INFORMATION**

We did not receive all the game field and time information for some of the games scheduled since some clubs are waiting for the travel schedules to set these games to maximize the referees and field slots. Once we are provided with this information, we will update the web site. In addition, several clubs did not confirm that the field slots submitted were still correct prior to the publication of the game schedules. Accordingly, please check the web site before your game is played to make sure that most current information is being used. As noted earlier, the web site highlights game changes and Google Maps is available to assist in getting field directions.

## **SIGNIFICANT RULE CHANGES**

The rules for this season are fairly consistent with those used in the fall. However, we would like to highlight the following rule changes and rules.

### **SFL Administrative Rules for the Laws of the Game**

- Section III.B. has several significant changes. These include the following.
  - ▶ Defining and clarifying the difference between ineligible and illegal players. This was needed since the penalties for ineligible players are different than those for illegal players.
  - ▶ Eliminating the ability of the opposing coach to waive roster issues for tournament games.
  - ▶ Requiring both teams to have a representative (does not have to be the coach) present when player validations are performed during tournament games.
  - ▶ Defining when player validations may be performed for tournament games. Specifically, (1) players arriving at tournament games after the initial player validation has been completed must wait until the second half to be validated before they can participate in the game and (2) players arriving after the second half validation has been performed may not participate in the game.
- Section IV.B. discusses how color clashes must be resolved. The key point is that the alternate color uniform must have a number that is consistent with SFL Team Roster or (for regular season games only) be shown as one of the acceptable uniform number changes on the SFL Team Roster.
- Section X.A. has changed the mercy rule to (1) require a reduction in players starting at a 4 goal differential and (2) automatic game termination when the goal differential reaches 8 goals for 11 v 11 games and 7 goals for 9 v 9 games. Should the goal differential be more than these limits, the team with the most goals is assessed a forfeit.

### **SFL Club and Coach Guide**

- Section III. discusses how the names shown on the SFL Team Roster must be displayed when (1) a club allows player names on the uniform and (2) a player has a nickname that is not common to the name shown on the Master Player Roster. For example, assume the player goes by his/her middle name but the Master Player Roster only shows the first and last name of the player. The middle name should be shown on the Master Player Roster. In addition, final SFL Team Rosters will be generated after Wednesday following the week 3 games are played rather than the Wednesday following the week 4 games used in previous seasons.
- Section IV requires the individual acting as the coach for the game to sign a certification statement contained on the SFL Team Roster prior to it being given to the opposing coach. In

addition, (1) no alterations may be made to the SFL Team Roster, except for leading zeros, used for tournament games and (2) opposing coaches may not waive roster issues for tournament games.

- Section V. requires both teams to report game misconduct issues involving red cards and individuals being ask to leave the field on the day of the game or forfeits may be assessed. Game scores for games not involving disciplinary issues may still be made by Monday at 6 PM without penalty.
- Section VI. revises the game cancellation process for regular season games and discusses how games are rescheduled. The game cancellation process has been changed slightly, e.g., the SFL must be notified by the club on the day a game is cancelled and clubs are encouraged to decide on the day prior to the game day for games starting prior to 10 AM for regular season games . Although the rescheduling process requirements were not changed, this section has clarified several issues that have caused confusion in the past. Importantly, this section clarifies (1) when clubs are allowed to make changes in games for the convenience of the club and (2) when opposing coaches are required to agree to such changes.

## WEB SITE AND PRIVACY POLICY

Each team has an individual team schedule with field directions. These pages can be found by selecting **Team Information/ Schedules** and then selecting the **Individual team schedules with game results and field directions** for a given age group, e.g., Under 12 Boys, from the home page. **You may not add any team specific information to this page and the page cannot be customized for a given team.** A privacy policy has also been developed and we encourage you to take a few minutes to read it. The privacy policy link can be found on the left side of our home page.

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Please review the information that pertains to you and your team(s) and **notify your SFL Club Representative immediately of any errors.** If you have questions on any of these materials, please call Chris Martin at (703) 476-6611 or by Email at [sfl@sflsoccer.org](mailto:sfl@sflsoccer.org) or check the information on the Web Site ([www.sflsoccer.org](http://www.sflsoccer.org)). Please familiarize yourself with the information contained in this package and carry out your administrative responsibilities as soon as possible.

Good luck and we hope you have a successful and fulfilling season.

John Paladino  
SFL Commissioner