

Suburban Friendship League
2416 Rosedown Drive
Reston, VA 20191-1620
July 15, 2020

Dear Club Representative:

First, thank you for all of your hard work in providing a safe, enjoyable soccer environment for our players. Last season was a real challenge for the clubs and this season does not promise much relief with all the uncertainties. Please remind everyone involved that this is a recreation league and no one gets a college scholarship or a shoe contract based on these games. Play on!

This is the package that was discussed in our July 15, 2020, Email. Currently, the preseason meeting will be held at the North County Governmental Center in Reston on Friday, August 7, from 7 to 9 PM. We are currently evaluating whether that event will still be held or whether we will have a virtual session. Assuming it is held in person, someone will be at the Center starting around 6:30 P.M. to answer any questions you may have on the electronic registration process or other SFL matters and we look forward to having another good meeting. Although much of the material we go over is normally repetitive, it is amazing how many times we are questioned during the season on material that is discussed at the meeting.

If you need directions to the meeting site, please give me a call or check our Web Site (www.sflsoccer.org/meetdir.htm).

Enclosed in your package are the following items along with this letter:

- Proposed rules for the Fall 2020 season – These are the same rules as those adopted for the Spring 2020 season.
- Proposed Club and Coach Guide for the Fall 2020 season – This is the same guide that was adopted for the Spring 2020 season.
- Proposed budget for the Fall 2020 season
- Financial statements as of June 30, 2020

We have also adopted the following agenda for our meeting:

- Opening statements by SFL Commissioner
- Election of SFL Commissioners
- Approval of weekend game dates (September 19, 26, October 3, 17, 24, 31, and November 7)
- Approval of tournament weekend (November 14/15)
- Establishment of registration and tournament fees
- Discussion of rules to be used for the upcoming season
- Acceptance of rules, and registration fees to be used for the upcoming season
- Other matters

SFL COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

We are accepting nominations for the SFL Commissioner and SFL Age Group Commissioners for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 seasons. Greg Giovanis has announced that he is moving out of the area. He currently handles 2 age groups (Under 16 Boys and Under 19 Girls) and he has stated that while he is willing continue this remotely, long term we need others to handle these age groups. If you would like to become an SFL Commissioner please let us know.

SEASON STATUS

There are a number of uncertainties relating to the Fall 2020 season. In consultation with the clubs, the SFL has adopted an iterative approach that allows for changing conditions. Assuming that games are allowed to be played, the Fall 2020 season will consist of 7 regular season games and the end of season tournament. The first regular season game weekend will be September 19. At this time, for example, the Ivy League has cancelled all sports games for the Fall 2020 season and the ACC has deferred a decision on whether games will be played until September 1.

While we understand that VYSA has stated that games can be played based on some information they received from the Governor's office, there are still a number of uncertainties. For example, the VYSA guidance states "our members must follow local jurisdiction authorities if they issue orders that are in conflict with the Commonwealth's. VYSA's position is to follow the Commonwealth's orders and to offer additional voluntary guidelines for our 160,000 members." As noted in an earlier Email, the Governor's Phase 3 guidance for soccer game can be found on page 23 of the following document.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Virginia-Forward-Phase-Three-Guidelines.pdf>

These requirements include the following.

- "Conduct daily screening of coaches, officials, staff, and players for COVID-19 symptoms prior to admission to the venue/facility. Children should be screened per the CDC guidance for screening children. Adults should be asked if they are currently experiencing fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) or a sense of having a fever, a new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition, a new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition, or new muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise). Anyone experiencing symptoms should not be permitted in the venue/establishment. Screenings should be conducted in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations."
- "All shared items must be disinfected between each use to the extent practicable."

While pages 23 and 24 discuss the specific requirements for indoor and outdoor recreational sports activities, it is important to remember that these are in addition to the "Guidelines for All Business Sectors" section which is contained on pages 1 - 4 of the document contained in the web site document referenced above.

We have also been provided an Email sent out by Loudoun County which included the following statements.

- “I know there are many questions about fall and winter youth sports moving forward due to COVID-19. We are currently in Phase 3 of the Governor’s Forward Virginia plan and this phase does require social distancing of 10 feet for all athletic activities. I have no doubt that most sports will be able to return for some form of practice or skill development, if a league chooses to do so but I have concerns for games as long as social distancing is mandated. I do not know what future phases will require as we have not seen any guidance beyond phase 3 but if they require social distancing returning to games may be challenging if not impossible.”
- “As you start planning your upcoming season please be aware that in order to utilize PRCS fields or gyms for games leagues must submit a “Return to Play” plan to Taacha Brown Drummond at taacha.browndrummond@loudoun.gov for approval by the Director of PRCS before your league can hold a game. These plans should address all restrictions set out by the CDC, VA Department of Health, the Governor’s Office and PRCS. You will need to best insure the safety of players, coaches, officials and spectators based on what we currently know about the spread of COVID-19. How will you play games and maintain 10 feet of physical distancing of players? You will need to include plans to address if someone in your league tests positive for COVID-19? These plans need to be detailed and complete in order to receive consideration. Many state and national governing bodies have templates that you can use to help you develop your plans.”

We have not been provided information provided by other counties. The SFL Commissioners would like to know the following as soon as possible.

- What have counties, other than Loudoun, been telling their clubs relating to playing games.
- Club plans for addressing the Governor’s Phase 3 requirements and those imposed by field permitting requirements relating to Covid – 19 much like Loudoun has done for their fields.
- The best estimate of when the clubs believe that they will know whether they are able to meet all the requirements placed on them for playing games.

Once we have a definitive answer from the clubs on how they plan on meeting the various requirements so that games can be played, we will make a final decision on the Fall 2020 games. We would like the information requested above so that we can make a final decision on the Fall 2020 season games by August 22. If we do play games, then each club will be required to provide the SFL a document that can be included in the season package and web site of the requirements that pertain to their fields for the visiting teams.

KEY DATES

In our registration Email we provided the club, team, and field information from the previous season for your use as a starting point as discussed below. **PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CHECK THE ADDRESSES OF YOUR FIELDS (www.sflsoccer.org/field-directions).** We have a link to Google Maps for each field so the correct address is more important than ever. If at all possible, please provide us the updated field information as soon as possible by Email (sfl@sflsoccer.org) and **DO NOT** wait until August 15. Waiting until the last minute does not allow any time to correct mistakes that may be made by your club or the SFL. Also, pay particular attention to a team's age group and division information. Each season we have several clubs make mistakes in this area. The division structure is discussed below. Please note the requirements to provide the Master Player Roster (**without uniform numbers**) for all your players by August 22. The following are the key dates for team registrations, scheduling, and rosters:

Date	Event
August 1	Initial date for providing team information to better understand the expected size of the Fall 2020 program. No penalties are assessed for the addition or deletion of teams associated with these submissions. Accurate team contact information is not required at this time.
August 7	Preseason meeting. Whether this is an in person or virtual meeting will be determined later.
August 8	Deadline to provide club contacts, field information, and team numbers (including age group and division) and fields that should be used by each team. Accurate team contact information is not required at this time. If a team is dropped after this date, then the club will be assessed the registration fee for this team.
August 22	Master Player Roster that contains all registered players and team assignments for all the teams registered with the SFL. Accurate uniform numbers are not required for this submission.
September 10	Expected deadline for changes to team contact information. The SFL Club Representatives will be notified of the actual date when the actual date for the team contact information is better known.
September 15	Game schedules finalized and the package sent to the contractor for mailing. SFL Team Rosters provided by the SFL to the SFL Club Representatives for distribution to their teams.
September 16	Deadline for providing the Master Player Roster that will be used by the SFL to generate the SFL Team Rosters.
September 19	First game weekend.

October 7 Last day to submit changes on the Master Player Roster – SFL Team Rosters considered final.

PROCESS AND RULE CHANGES

No changes to the process and rule documents that were approved for the Spring 2020 were proposed.

AGE GROUPS AND DIVISION ASSIGNMENTS

In the registration Email, the club and team registration form contained the teams registered for the Spring 2020 season. The following is what we did with these teams.

- **Division Changes** – No division changes were made from those proposed by the clubs for the Spring 2020 season, i.e., if the club placed Team A in Division 1 and Team B in Division 2, then we left those unchanged.
- **Age Groups** – For the U11/14 age groups, we simply moved those teams up one age group, e.g., U11 teams were moved to U12. The Under 16 and Under 19 teams were left in their respective age groups. Accordingly, the age group for the teams that have “aged up” will need to be changed.
- **Team Names** – Because of the number of changes made, we were unable to retain some of the team names from the Spring season since they would have resulted in duplications. We realize that this will cause some confusion. You are free to change any of the team names to what you would like to use.

Each season we have complaints on the proposed division assignments. This is especially true for the teams moving into the U16 and U19 age groups. Please remember that for the teams moved up to the 14 and younger age groups are essentially the same teams in that age group during the Spring 2020 season. For those teams moved to 16 and 19 age groups, the teams with the older players are also moved up and are no longer playing in that age group. For example, the Spring 2020 teams with a majority of 16s will be 19 teams. However, the club is free to assign any of its teams to any division they desire.

ELECTRONIC CLUB AND TEAM REGISTRATION

As noted in the registration Emails that were sent to the SFL Club Representatives, Field Coordinators with Email, and Referees Coordinators with Email, we are using an electronic process to obtain our registration information. Attached to that Email were several Excel spread sheets and files. As noted in the Email, these Excel files have been changed from prior seasons and are the only ones that should be used.

- **CLUB TEAM REGISTRATION.XLSX** (e.g., LM CLUB TEAM REGISTRATION.XLSX) – This Excel file is used to provide the SFL with club and team information. It is designed to (1) capture all the required contact information in one file along with the teams that should be

registered, (2) eliminate the need to provide duplicate contact information except when an individual coaches more than one team and/or is the SFL Club Representative, and (3) provide error checking on the data entered to eliminate common errors such as using duplicate team names in the same age group which results in teams not being registered, assigning more than one person to the same non coaching role, and imputing data that does not conform to certain business rules. **PLEASE REVIEW THE ERROR MESSAGES SHOWN ON THE FORM AND MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES PRIOR TO SUBMITTING THE FORM TO THE SFL.** Only the teams contained on this list that are received by the registration dead line will be considered registered. Any additions made after this date will be put on a waiting list and (1) may not be scheduled or (2) scheduled with other teams on the waiting list which means that they may be playing with teams that are not in their geographical location. **It is not important to have accurate team contact information by the registration dead line. Therefore, you may use the existing team contact information as a place holder for that team even if you know that a change will be made but have not yet identified the new contact. The team contact information can be changed at a later date as discussed elsewhere in this letter. Failure to provide accurate information by the deadline subjects your club at best to a penalty. It may also result in none of your teams being registered.**

- **CLUB TEAM REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS** – This document provides detailed instructions on how to complete the CLUB TEAM REGISTRATION Excel file and how to perform actions, such as sorting data, that may be desired but not directly supported by the spread sheet.
- **MASTER PLAYER ROSTER.XLSX** – This spread sheet is used to show all the players that have been assigned to a team. If you would like a copy of what we used last season, please let us know. We have also posted a blank form on the web site on the SFL Forms page (<http://www.sflsoccer.org/sfl4e.xlsx>) that can be used for this season. Please use the updated form on the web site or the form that we sent with the Email since it contains some updated features that were designed to address problems experienced by some in the past.
- **MASTER PLAYER ROSTER INSTRUCTIONS** – Detailed instructions on how to complete the Master Player Roster.
- **FIELD SLOTS.XLS (e.g., LMFIELD.XLS)** – **This spread sheet is used to provide the field information that should be used for three purposes – scheduling teams, rescheduling games, and possible tournament fields.** The fields shown in this listing were the fields used in previous seasons. **Only fields that are going to be used for scheduling regular season games need to have Columns D – U completed.** In other words, if the field is only going to be used for possible makeup games or the tournament, all you need to complete is Columns A – C which is the club name and field name. **PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO PUT IN THE FIELD NAMES THAT MAY BE USED FOR RESCHEDULING GAMES OR USED IN THE TOURNAMENT.** It will save you and the SFL time later when games need to be rescheduled or added to support your teams for the tournament. **IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT CHANGE OR DELETE THE FIELD NAME INFORMATION SHOWN. You**

may change the location, e.g., “1” to “Turf 1”. The new data base we are using keeps old games in it and needs to keep this information for its use.

- **TOURNAMENT FIELDS.XLS** – This spread sheet is used to obtain tournament fields that can be supported by the club. This spread sheet is due on September 1.

We have included explanations on each of the spread sheets to help clarify the data that is needed and welcome any suggestions that would improve their usefulness to you. These Excel files contain the information from last season and you may change the data to reflect your changes. However, **PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE COLUMNS IN THESE SPREAD SHEETS.**

If you would like a blank form, then send us an Email. Additional information on each of these Excel files is provided below.

Special Note: If you are an AOL user, you may need to save your changes under a different file name before you send them back to us. In the past, for some reason, AOL did not pick up the revised file.

Club and Team Contact Information

We realize that if an individual is both an SFL Club Representative and a coach or coaches two or more teams their name will appear on the CLUB TEAM REGISTRATION spread sheet more than once. This is okay. When the data base is loaded with this information, it eliminates the duplicates. However, it is critical, that the name, address, phone number, and Email addresses are identical each time it is used. (The last time the name is used in the file is the one that is used for all the other names when the data base is updated.) Another item that helps to avoid confusions involves coaches with 2 or more teams. If a person is coaching more than one team in different age groups, then make sure that the same standard team name is used for both teams. For example, if a person in McLean is coaching an Under 14 Boys team and an Under 16 Girls team, then the standard team name for both teams should be the same, e.g., McLean 1. Please note that we may have made some changes that affect coaches with two teams.

Each club is required to provide/confirm the name, address, and phone information for the Club, SFL Club Representative, Referee Coordinator, and Field Coordinator for the club. Only one name may be shown for each of these roles. If a club desires to send information to other individuals who may assist with these roles or desires that other individuals, such as club age group commissioners, receive SFL mailings, then these individuals should be shown as “Club Other.” For example, some clubs have more than one person who handles field assignments. The primary person should be shown under the “Field” role and a secondary person should be shown under “Club Other.” An easy way to ensure that all the field people get any Emails relating to fields, is to include their Email address with the one provided to the individual shown as the Field Coordinator (the same applies to the Referee Coordinator). SFL Club Representatives automatically get a copy of these Emails.

Field Spread Sheets

The field spread sheet, FIELD SLOTS.XLS contains (1) the field information that is used to schedule the regular season games and (2) the fields that may be used to reschedule games or support tournament games. We realize that it is somewhat complicated. Hopefully, the following will make it a little easier to understand.

- **Field Name and Location** – The name of the game field, e.g., Baron Cameron 1, Baron Cameron 2, etc. – This is required for all fields that may be used for any purpose. The listing shows the fields used in previous seasons. **When in doubt, put in a name.** It will save the club and SFL time later in the season when games need to be rescheduled or the tournament is scheduled.
- **First Time Slot (Saturday)** – Only required if the field is going to be used for regular season games. The first game time available on that field when that field is normally used for Saturday games, e.g., 8:30, 1:00 PM, etc. Games will not be scheduled before 8:30 AM and the first time slot should normally be 9:00 or later.
- **Games Must End By (Saturday)** – Only required if the field is going to be used for regular season games. If the field is not available the entire day, then the time that the last game must end, e.g., 3:00 PM. If the game field is available the entire day, then enter 6:00 PM. (Do not worry, we will not schedule games after dark.)
- **First Time Slot (Sunday)** – Only required if the field is going to be used for regular season games. The first game time available on that field when that field is normally used for Sunday games, e.g., 1:00 PM, etc. Games will not be scheduled before 12:30 PM and the first time slot should normally be 1:00 PM or later. If the field is not normally used for regular season Sunday games, i.e., only used for makeups, then leave the times blank, i.e., if your club normally plays its regular season home games on Saturday, then leave the fields blank.
- **Games Must End By (Sunday)** – Only required if the field is going to be used for regular season games. If the field is not available the entire day, then the time that the last game must end, e.g., 3:00 PM. If the game field is available the entire day, then enter 6:00 PM. (Do not worry, we will not schedule games after dark.)
- **Time slot minutes** – Only required if the field is going to be used for regular season games. The minimum time allowed is 90 minutes.
- **Game Schedule Order** – Only required if the field is going to be used for regular season games. The order that should be used to schedule games on a field, e.g., 19 Boys, then 14 Boys, then 14 Girls, etc. A value is only required to be entered if a given age group plays on the field. For example, if only 12s play on the field, then add the appropriate values for the 12 Boys and 12 Girls. The other columns may be left blank. **When in doubt, put in a value** since if the field is used for a given age group and no value is shown, it will be scheduled in the first available slot which may not be the desired order and require the club to make significant changes when the

draft schedules are prepared. For example, assume that Field A (1) is used for 14 Boys, (2) is used on some weeks by a 16 Boys team, and (3) has the first time slot starting at 8:30. If only a value for the Under 14 Boys is shown and a game for 16 Boys is scheduled on that field, then the 16 Boys team will be scheduled at 8:30 rather than the last game of the day although the club would rather the 16 Boys team play the last game on the day when it ends up on that field. Although these games can be changed after the draft schedules are prepared, it will save the club and SFL a great deal of time and effort to do it correctly at the start. Do not worry if an age group does not end up using that field. The system schedules the first team available in the first slot. Using the example above, if the club stated that 16 Boys should be scheduled first and 14 Boys second and no 16 Boys teams ended up scheduled on the field, then the 14 Boys games would always start at 8:30.

Finally, the tournament spread sheet, TOURNAMENT FIELDS.XLS is used to capture the tournament fields that can be supported by your club. The Procedures and Processes – Tournament Scheduling document provides additional information concerning this spread sheet and can also be obtained from the web site. This spread sheet is due on September 1.

MASTER PLAYER ROSTER AND SFL TEAM ROSTERS

The SFL Club Representative must submit a preliminary Master Player Roster (SFL Form 4E) to the SFL (sfl@sflsoccer.org) by August 22. This roster is not required to contain the uniform numbers of the players. The attached Club and Coach Guide discusses the requirements for the Master Player Roster and the related Master Player Roster Summary that are generated by the SFL based on the Master Player Roster submission. A blank Master Player Roster form was included in the Email for your use. Each of these spread sheets has an Instructions work sheet that describes how to complete the form and the steps that should be taken to check the data before submission and correct errors. A PDF version of these instructions has been posted to the web site under SFL Forms. The data contained on the Master Player Roster is used to generate the SFL Team Rosters. The Club and Coach Guide discusses the requirements related to SFL Team Rosters. The Club and Coach Guide can also be found on the web site on the SFL Documents page.

SFL TOURNAMENT

The proposed per game tournament reimbursement rates for the current season are as follows:

- Under 11/12 (9 v 9) – \$75
- Under 13/14 – \$95
- Under 16/19 – \$125

These are the same fees that were used during the last few seasons. We want to establish rates that fairly compensate the officials for their time and attract the quality and number of officials that we need. If

these rates are inadequate to reimburse your club for their officiating costs, please let us know the amounts that are adequate to cover your costs.

PROPOSED BUDGET

The SFL designs its budget to recover its costs and this season the SFL has maintained the registration fee structure that was adopted in the last few seasons along with the \$40 per Spring 2020 team surcharge that was announced last season to recover the fixed costs for the Spring 2020 season. This budget also assumes no increase in the referee reimbursement. Should the discussion on tournament referee reimbursement rates increase then those registration fees will also increase.

MAILING PROCESS

We perform three mailings each season – preseason mailing (this package), season package, and a tournament package. All the mailings are handled by our contractor. An electronic version of this package is also distributed to the SFL Club Representatives by Email.

PRIVACY STATEMENT AND PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESSES

The SFL Club Representatives decided several seasons ago that Email addresses should be provided to improve communication between the team contacts when those individuals agreed to have their Email addresses published. This is commonly referred to as an “opt in” policy. The procedures adopted to implement this policy were for the SFL Club Representatives to contact each of their teams and provide the Email address(es) that the team contacts desired the SFL to publish in the enclosed listing. We do not provide this information on the web site. Because of this change, the SFL updated its privacy policy and developed the process that would be used to manage it. Both of these documents are available on the web site on the SFL Documents page (<http://www.sflsoccer.org/sfldocs.htm>) and we suggest you take some time to review these documents. Please remember that you must have the team contact’s explicit permission to publish their Email address before you place that address in the public Email column of the spread sheet. This permission must be obtained each season.

FIELD DIRECTIONS

Field directions for all fields used for SFL games during the last 3 seasons have been posted to the web site (www.sflsoccer.org/field.htm). Please review the field address and field directions on the web site and make sure that they are still current and the phone numbers for game cancellations (www.sflsoccer.org/weather.htm) are correct. The field address is used by the web site to provide a link to Google Maps. The field directions presented also need to be reviewed since sometimes stop lights have been added or exit numbers changed. As you will note, some of these fields were not used last season, however, we leave them in our data base since fields change from season to season and sometimes makeup games are scheduled on these fields. Therefore, when the Web Site is updated, the current field directions are available to be posted. In addition, if the field that you will be using this season is not on this list, then you will need to provide field directions. The phone numbers for field closings are also posted on the web site (<http://www.sflsoccer.org/weather.htm>) and should also be reviewed.

The SFL is expecting over 500 teams this season based on the Spring 2020 team registrations. We appreciate the confidence in our program and look forward to working with you this season. In developing the registration procedures, we attempted to maximize the flexibility in the registration and scheduling process that we have enjoyed in past seasons while reducing the impact of late additions and deletions.

If you have any questions or comments, you may call either Chris Martin (703-476-6611) or myself (703-471-7407). You may also Email us at sfl@sflsoccer.org.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you at the meeting.

John Paladino
SFL Commissioner