



Goulbourn Lanark Soccer League

GLSL Amendments to The Laws of the Game

Version 2024

Summary of Amendments – Version 2024 May 10

1. Change date references to current year.
2. Update Ball size to include 12 and under ball size

Summary of Amendments – Version 2022 May 10

3. Change date references to current year.
4. Change OSA to OS
5. Law 3: update to include divisions playing 7 v 7
6. Law 7: update to include divisions playing 7 v 7
7. Law 11: update to include reference to teams playing on 9 v 9 or 7 v 7 fields

Summary of Amendments – Version 2016

1. Change date references to current year.

Summary of Amendments – Version 2015, May 2015

1. Change date references to current year.

Summary of Amendments – Version 2014, May 2014

1. Remove any reference to U12 as it is now a grassroots age group.

Summary of Amendments – Version 2013, May 2013

1. No rule modifications this season, simply a document version / date change.

Pre-Amble

The Goulbourn Lanark Soccer League (“GLSL” or “League”) exists for the benefit of all soccer players that wish to participate in the sport at a recreational level. In support of recreational soccer, the GLSL has modified several of the FIFA Laws of the Game, and clarified, interpreted or added other laws. To assist in understanding and implementing the modifications, a statement of the intent of each change is provided.

This document is not a substitute for the official Laws of the Game and is to be used in conjunction with the most recent FIFA publication of the Laws of the Game. Where a conflict exists between this document and the official FIFA Laws, this document shall take precedence.

These laws apply to League matches played by U13 and older players. Laws for players U12 and younger are covered in the “GLSL Grassroots Laws of the Game”.

It is the responsibility of each GLSL Member Club (“Club”) to provide all coaches and referees with a copy of this document.

Law 1: The Field

In the absence of a field-specific seating arrangement determined by the local club:

- Both team’s benches are on the same side of the field,
- All spectators are to observe the match from the side of the field opposite the team benches. In particular, spectators are not permitted anywhere along the goal line.

Law 2: The Ball

1. The home team is to provide the ball. Ball sizes to be used in all League matches are:

U12 and under size 4; U13+ size 5.

Law 3: The Number of Players

1. When playing 11 v 11, a maximum of 25 players may dress for a match. When playing 7 v 7 a maximum of 12 players may dress for a match.

Coaches are expected to provide all players with approximately equal playing time, to the extent that each player is able to play an equal amount as other team members.

2. When playing 11 v 11, the minimum number of players required to start a match is 7. When playing 7 v 7, the minimum number of players required to start a match is 5. If a team begins play with less than 11 (for 11 v 11) or 7 (for 7 v 7) players, late-arriving players may request to join the match at any stoppage in play. A team unable to field the minimum number of players within 20 minutes of the scheduled start time shall forfeit the match. If both teams are unable to field sufficient players, both teams shall forfeit. Defaulted matches will not be rescheduled. To prevent default games, teams are allowed to share players in order to have a game and the resulting score will be included in the standings.

3. Substitutions may be requested at the following stoppages:

- **Kick Off:** Either team may request a substitution (after a goal, or at the start of a half),
- **Goal Kick:** Either team may request a substitution,
- **Injury:** When the referee has stopped the match due to possible player injury, either team may request

substitution (see GLSL Law 3.4 regarding mandatory substitution of the injured player),

- **Corner Kick:** The team performing the restart (the attacking team) may request substitution. If the attacking team requests a substitution, the defending team may also request substitution,
- **Throw-in:** The team performing the restart (the attacking team) may request substitution. If the attacking team requests a substitution, the defending team may also request substitution.

All players must be listed on the match report (“game sheet”). The match report is to be given to the referee prior to the start of the match. If a team is using a “playing-up” player then the name of the player is written on match report, and clearly identified as “playing up”.

Any player who has been substituted may re-enter (substitute back into) the match.

If players are not ready to enter the match when the coach requests substitution, the substitutes will be denied entry at this stoppage.

Note: Except when there is an injury, there is no substitution opportunity when the ball does not leave the pitch (no substitution on Penalty Kick, Drop Ball, Indirect Free Kick, or Direct Free Kick).

4. If the referee stops the match due to possible player injury the player must be substituted. This applies to all players, including goalkeepers.

If no substitute is available the player must be removed from the pitch, and the match will resume. The player will be assessed by the coach and may request re-entry when, in the opinion of the coach, the player is ready to play. The referee will signal permission to re-enter upon recognition of the request - the request does not have to wait until the next stoppage.

5. All players wishing to substitute, enter the match, or re-enter the match, must make a request to the referee, and may not enter the field of play until the referee signals the player to enter.

Law 4: The Player’s Equipment

1. Players may not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to him/herself or another player.

Point of emphasis: Placing a properly prepared and safely equipped team on the pitch is a responsibility shared by the player, the parents and the coach. The referee is the last-check, not the first-check, for unsafe equipment.

2. Equipment consists of shorts, socks, footwear, shin-guards and a numbered jersey.

- a) Jerseys are to be tucked into the shorts.
- b) Jersey sleeves are to be worn in their natural position (they are not to be rolled-up).
- c) Shin guards are to be entirely covered by the socks.
- d) Goalkeepers must wear a jersey whose colour is clearly distinguishable from those of other players and that of the referee.
- e) Goalkeepers are permitted to wear soft-brimmed hats (a ball cap is **not** a soft-brimmed hat). No other player is permitted to wear any form of decorative head covering. Bandanas (by OS Clarification Letter) are not permitted.
Exception: Players may be required or may choose to wear a head covering for religious or medical reasons, and the League and the referee will respect this choice. Even though exempted, all equipment must not pose a danger to any individual on the pitch, nor confer a playing advantage.
- f) Goalkeepers may wear gloves and track-suit type (long) pants.

3. Any hard cast or brace on the arm/wrist/hand is deemed to be unsafe equipment, and players who are wearing such a cast or brace will not participate in GLSL matches.

A soft cast may be worn provided it has been well-padded, and provided that, in the opinion of the referee, the cast does not pose an increased risk of injury to the wearer or to any other player.

4. Leg/knee braces are not subject to any specific prohibition. However, in the opinion of the referee, the brace must not present an increased risk of injury to other players. By OS Clarification Letter, it is required that all leg/knee braces be completely covered with a soft material.
5. Players are not permitted to play while wearing jewelry, except for the following specific provisions:
 - a. Medic-alert bracelets are safety items, not jewelry. The medic-alert bracelet must be taped, and must not pose a possible danger to other players.

“Jewelry” includes, but is not limited to, earrings, bracelets, visible piercings, friendship bracelets, watches, necklaces, chains, rings, unsafe or excess items worn for hair control, hair beads, any item worn primarily for adornment.

6. If a player is discovered to be playing with unsafe or illegal equipment, at the next stoppage the referee will direct the player to leave the pitch to correct their equipment. If this stoppage is a substitution opportunity the team may substitute another player. If this is not a team substitution opportunity the team will play short-handed - the player must wait for the next stoppage and request permission of the referee, who will verify that the equipment has been corrected prior to allowing the player to enter the field of play.

Law 5: The Referee

1. In addition to the FIFA “Laws of the Game” the referee will enforce these “GLSL Amendments to the Laws of the Game”.
2. **The referee’s decision on points of fact and/or opinion connected with play is final.**
3. The referee may abandon a match for reasons of dangerous weather or pitch conditions.

NO MATCH SHALL BE PLAYED IN THE PRESENCE OF LIGHTNING.

The referee may abandon a match if they feel their ability to enforce the Laws of the Game are compromised by any circumstance beyond their control.

If a match is abandoned for any reason the referee must submit a written report to the GLSL (a note on the bottom of the match report is sufficient for “routine” reasons such as weather – Special Incident Reports are required for incidents of a significant nature). Games abandoned or terminated for reasons of weather or field conditions before half time shall be rescheduled. If the game is abandoned or terminated after the completion of the first half, the score will be considered final and will be entered by the league (after verification provided on the referee incident report).

4. The referee shall ensure that the well-being and safety of players is given priority over the progress of the match. If there is any doubt about the seriousness of an apparent injury, the referee will immediately stop play and ensure the player receives attention. [See also Law 3.5]
5. If there is no referee for a match, a mutually agreed-upon alternate referee may be chosen by the two coaches. If a mutually agreed upon referee cannot be found, the match will be rescheduled. Alternate referees assume all the responsibilities and authority of official referees.

Law 6: The Assistant Referee

1. If Assistant Referees are not assigned to a match by the home Club, each team will supply one club linesman, whose duty is to signal that the ball has gone out of play. Referees may, if they so desire, request additional assistance from the club linesmen (usually direction indication).
2. Prior to the start of the game the club linesmen will meet with the referee at the centre of the pitch to review roles and responsibilities (see GLSL Procedural Agreements for the full procedure).
3. The club linesmen will run opposite sidelines. The visiting team's club linesman will take the sideline opposite the teams.
4. Club linesmen are impartial, and may not at any time coach from the sideline.

Law 7: The Duration of the Match

1. The duration of League matches shall be:
 - U13 to U15: Two equal halves of 40 minutes each,
 - U16+: Two equal halves of 45 minutes each.
 - The interval between halves shall be not less than 5 minutes.
2. Under certain circumstances (e.g. failing light), the duration of the match may be shortened at the referee's discretion, prior to the start of the match and after first informing the coaches. The length of each half must be equal, and the interval between halves may not be less than 5 minutes.

Note: Only the referee can make this decision.

Law 10: The Method of Scoring

GLSL regular-season matches may end in a tie.

The score of the game is to be recorded on the Match Report. Coaches are expected to take assertive actions to not "run up the score".

Law 11: Offside

When divisions U13+ are playing on a 9 v 9 size field, offsides will be called as usual. When playing on a 7 v 7 size field, offsides will only be called if the referee feels a player is "cherry picking" (player positions themselves away from the main action, near the goal, in hopes of being passed the ball and being able to score easily).

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

An individual who is dismissed from the match shall have no further presence or influence in the match.

- If a youth is dismissed the individual may remain near the field of play for supervision reasons. The individual may If an adult is dismissed, the individual shall be well-removed from field of play.
- not remain near the team bench or technical area. If possible, the individual shall remove their game jersey.

Note: Youths should not remain unsupervised. While the individual must not have any further role in the match, it may not be appropriate to require a youth to be well-removed from the field of play.

Law 18: The Team Bench Area

1. Teams will occupy the same side of the pitch, each team restricting itself to one half. Under no circumstances may one team be coached from both sides of the pitch.
2. All spectators will sit on the opposite side of the pitch. Where one side of the pitch is unusable, the teams and spectators shall share the one side of the pitch.
3. When required for reasons of match control, the referee may define a Technical Area as per the FIFA Laws of the Game, and implement strict usage of this area including requiring all team personnel (e.g. coaches, substitutes) to remain within this area at all times.

Law 19: The Coach

1. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that spectators and substitute players do not interfere with the match.
2. Coaches are to supervise and participate in the post-match handshake.
3. In the event of an unbalanced match, coaches are expected to take assertive action to not run up the score.