

Freestate AISL Indoor Soccer League

Winter 2009 - 2010

(Last Updated October 2009)

I. GENERAL RULES

1. Team rosters are due prior to the first game of the session. Players may be added up to the fifth game of the session. Players not listed on their team's roster or signed by a parent/guardian will be considered illegal players. Coaches should obtain a copy of the player's birth certificate as proof of age.
2. The AISL Athletic Association (AISL) league may permit younger players to move UP an age group. No one is permitted to play DOWN an age group.
3. No one is permitted to play for more than one team. **This includes other divisions and age groups.** The team with the illegal player must immediately remove the player and the team will forfeit all games played. Playing a player on two teams with the intent to forfeit games for the one team is not an option. If the illegal player continues to play, then the offending team will be removed from the league and no monies refunded. The Director reserves the right to impose further penalties on the team and participating program, which may include being permanently banned from future participation.
4. Teams and players actively participating in the Fall outdoor soccer programs under the Archdiocese of Baltimore Soccer Program (ABSP) or recognized Recreation leagues are eligible. The Director of the league may only grant exceptions to this rule in advance of your first game.
5. Acceptance to participate in this league is not guaranteed. The Director reserves the exclusive right to accept or turn down any team or organization's registration form(s).
6. Every effort will be made to form competitive leagues based on the information provided on your registration form and outdoor records. To form complete leagues and groupings, the Director reserves the right to combine teams based on submitted strength levels.
7. Female players (within the age group restrictions) may play on a boy's team. Boys are not permitted to play on girl's teams at any age group.
8. The AISL will honor the 14 year old age rule under exclusive use by the ABSP.
9. EARLY TERMINATION: If due to a facility problem, weather related interruption or circumstance beyond our control, a game is considered a "complete" game if at least one half has been played. If less than 1/2 half has been played, the Director will determine if the score will stand or if the game should be resumed at some future date and time.

If a game is terminated early by the referee due to unruly fan, coach, or player behavior, or if a team cannot field the minimum number of players required to continue, the following steps will be used to determine the outcome:

- a. If offending team is behind or tied with opponent: the offending team gets the loss, the opponent (non-offending team) is awarded a win.
- b. If offending team is ahead of the opponent: the offending team gets the loss, the opponent (non-offending team) is awarded the win.

- c. If the referee ends the match based on the unruly or offensive behavior of both teams, then both teams will receive a loss.
13. The Director of the AISL reserves the right to add, delete or change the rules.
 14. Every attempt will be made to provide advance notice for games canceled due to **INCLEMENT WEATHER**. The Director will render a decision 2 hours prior to the scheduled games. For the first game of the day (8:00 AM), every attempt will be made to determine the status as soon as possible. Visit the freesatatesports.com weather box for updates.
 15. For the purpose of scheduling and matching teams as evenly as possible, any coach or coordinator who submits a team registration must do so by the required deadline. All applications must be filled out completely. Incomplete applications will be returned to the coach and will not be logged in as received until all information is submitted and deemed acceptable by the Director of the AISL. The Director of the AISL will make every effort to include each team in the league play.
 16. **PLAYOFF SCHEDULING REQUESTS:** Must be received by the end of the previous weeks last game (10pm game). Requests must be sent to rob@freestatesports.com.
 17. If a team decides to withdraw their team's registration they must notify an AISL Board member immediately.
 18. The following penalties will apply for teams that withdraw after registering their team:
 - If notice is received 3 weeks prior to the start of the season and a replacement team is available, then no penalties will be assessed. If a replacement team is not available, only a partial refund will be provided.
 - If notice is received anytime afterwards, all registration fees are considered non-refundable. The Director may assess additional fines to the offending team or organization and/or suspension from future participation in the league. The decision of the Director is final.
 19. The league will play up to an eight (8) week season unless otherwise noted. For U10, U12, U14, and Seniors leagues, the first six (6) weeks determine your position for the playoff rounds during weeks 7 and 8. In the case of leagues, which have 6 teams, the top four teams (based on points) will play for the championship. The first place team plays the fourth, second place plays the third. The remaining teams play each other during week 7. On week 8, consolation matches will be scheduled with the non-winners from week 7's top four team semi-final round. The Director reserves the right to modify the season's schedule to accommodate facility and team availability.
 20. No score is kept for the U8 division. The U8 division is a mixture of boys and girls teams and there is no requirement to have a certain number of boys or girls on a team.
 21. When the score has an 8 goal differential, the referee will cease putting the score on the scoreboard. The actual score will be recorded on the scoresheet.
 22. Senior league players must be eligible to be enrolled in High School.
 23. Each team's coach will be responsible for the conduct of their players AND spectators.
 24. No coach, assistant, or player shall use abusive or profane language towards any official, other player, other coach or spectator at any time. Any coach, assistant or player who violates this rule will be suspended for no more than four (4) games or the team(s) in violation could be removed from the league and all moneys forfeited. The

League Director will review all infractions and render a decision prior to the next scheduled game.

25. Freestate Indoor Sports Arena follows the USISA rules with certain exceptions. Whenever there is a conflict with the USISA rules, the AISL rules will take precedence followed by the Freestate Indoor house rules.
26. Absolutely no ball playing or the bouncing of soccer balls is allowed off the field. No running is allowed off the field. All children must be supervised.
27. Noisemakers (e.g., air horns, cowbells, whistles, etc.) are not permitted at the Freestate facility.
28. Alcoholic beverages of any kind are strictly prohibited.
29. Team trophies will be awarded to the champions and finalists.

II. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. All players must wear the same uniform design and color(s), (jerseys and shorts). Goalkeeper must wear a different color jersey that distinguishes them from the players of both teams.
2. No jewelry, watches, rings, etc., will be allowed to be worn by any player participating in any league game. Any player wearing any type of cast, brace, or splint made of hard substance must be padded to the satisfaction of the referee.
3. Shoes must be flat soled or other footwear designed for artificial surfaces. Indoor shoes with the soft "spikes" are not permitted for use in the Freestate Soccer Arena.
4. Shin guards are required for all players and must be worn INSIDE the socks. Players not wearing shin guards will not be allowed to play.

III. RULES OF PLAY

(The rules listed here are not the complete set of rules governing indoor soccer. They do represent those that may be particular to this league.)

1. Each game will consist of two teams. Each team must have a minimum number of players to start and finish.

Teams U12 and below shall have no fewer than 5 or more than 7 players on the field at a time, including a goalkeeper. For U14 and above, no fewer than 4 or more than 6 are allowed.

Any team, which cannot field the required minimum number of players by the start of the game or to finish the game, will forfeit.
2. Each team may carry a roster of up to 20 players. Additional players may be added to the roster with explicit approval from the Directors.
3. The scoresheet will list the home and away teams. In the event that two teams have similar colors, the home team must be prepared to wear an optional color. If the home team does not have an alternate color, then the visiting team will be asked to change. If neither team has an alternate jersey, Freestate may supply contrasting pinnies to be worn by the home team. Home team must supply a game ball.
4. Both teams are required to pay the referee. A team that forfeits must pay referee fees for both teams. Forfeit fees not paid at the field must be dropped off in the office at Freestate within one week from the forfeited game's date. Failure to do so may result in suspension from future participation in the league.

5. All restarts (fouls, side out, ceiling violations, restarts from a goal) result in **direct** kicks, with one EXCEPTION. **Field #3:** All restarts from fouls, side outs, ceiling violations and kickoffs (start of game, or after a goal is scored) will be **INDIRECT**.
6. There is no offside in indoor soccer.
7. Controlled substitutions may be called on side outs, goal kicks, and ceiling violations. Substitutions "on the fly" can occur at any time as long as it does not result with too many players on the field at one time.
8. Each game will consist of two (2) 24-minute halves, with a break between halves (half time). Each team will be allowed 1 time out per game. To request a time out, the keeper must be possession of the ball (keeper request) or when there is a stoppage in play where your team has ownership of the ball (coach request).
9. There will be no overtime periods in the event of a tie for all non-playoff games.
Overtime for playoff games will consist of one (1) five (5) minute "sudden death" period. The first overtime period will be restarted with a coin flip. The team winning the coin flip gets the ball, the loser of the coin flip decides what goal they will defend. Subsequent overtime periods will then alternate the restart and goal defended.
 If either team fails to score, then a second five (5) minute "sudden death" period is started **BUT both goalies are removed**.
 If either team fails to score again, then a third five (5) minute "sudden death" period is started, **BUT one field player from each team must be removed** (e.g., if you have 6 field players, you now play with 5 field players and still no goalie). Play will continue with 5-minute periods until someone scores. Free substitutions are permitted as normally allowed by the rules, but there are NO time outs.
10. Unless otherwise noted, all current rules of the AISL / Freestate and USISA will apply, in that order.
11. The three-line rule is in effect for all fields except Field 3.
12. The goalkeeper **cannot** use their **hands** on **any** pass-back that is delivered by their teammate's feet from anywhere on the field. The goalie may use their hands on balls which their teammates either chest or head back. (Much like outdoor soccer) If the goalie uses his/her hands, a handball violation will be called from the spot of the foul.
13. Goalkeeper may not punt the ball in U14 divisions and above.
14. The **over and back rule** will not be used in this league.
15. No slide tackling will be permitted for all ages.
16. No more than two (2) coaches will be allowed in the player's box at one time during any game. No one other than the coaches and uniformed players are permitted in the player's box. All others must be seated or standing in the spectator's area.
17. Female players may protect their chest with their arms only when in a stationary position as part of a "wall" in defense of a restart after a penalty or other restart, but must not bring the arms away from the chest in such a manner as to control the direction of the ball.
18. On most free kicks, the official will blow the whistle, place the ball and blow a second whistle to restart play. (No second whistle will be blown for personal fouls). Play will resume on the referee's hand signal.

19. Referee issuance of cards to players based on the seriousness of the violation will be as follows:
 - A "blue" card is a two-minute releasable penalty. The team plays down while the player serves his/her penalty.
 - A "yellow" card is a 5-minute releasable penalty. The team plays down while the player serves his/her penalty. If this is a player's second yellow card of the match (two yellow cards equal a red card), then this player is ejected from the game and must adhere to the "red" card game suspension directive. Under this condition (second yellow card) a team may substitute another player when the penalty time has expired.
 - A straight "red" card for a serious foul or misconduct will require the removal of the player from the field and the team must play down a player for the remainder of that game. The player receiving the "red" card will receive a minimum one game suspension to be served starting at the next scheduled game. Additional penalties may be applied based on review of the incident by the Director.
20. The Harford Soccer Officials Association (HARSOA) will be providing the referees. Feedback on referees is welcomed and can be submitted via email to "harsoa57@comcast.net"
21. Ejections from the game or the building will result in a minimum one game suspension. Additional penalties may be applied based on review of the incident by the Director:

Any player or coach involved in any pre-game, game time, or post-game altercations or implied act(s) of violence will be suspended from participating in future games. The AISL maintains a zero-tolerance policy with regard to acts of violence. No player or coach will be allowed to return until an investigation is completed and decision rendered by the Director. All decisions of the Director is final.

22. Standings will be determined by the following point system:

Win	3 points
Tie	1 point
Loss	0 points

The team with the most points at the end of the season wins the league or determines the seed in playoffs. If a tie record (wins, ties and losses) exists, the tiebreaker will be as follows:

- Head to Head competition - wins/losses
- Goals Against - overall
- Goal Differential - overall
- Coin Toss

IV. PROTESTS

1. No protest will be considered on judgment calls. Protests can only address rules violations or actions resulting from a scheduled game against an opposing team. The protesting team must clearly establish that the outcome of the game was affected, except in cases of player eligibility. All protests must be in writing.
2. If you are going to file a protest, you must notify the official(s) at the next normal stoppage of the game.
3. Questions regarding the eligibility of a player should be brought to the attention of the referee. The Director or a Freestate Manager will need to be made aware of the protest by the protesting team at the time of the protest. Upon securing a \$50 protest fee, a copy of the player's ID will be matched against the roster at the conclusion of the game. A game may be played under protest until a final decision is rendered by the Director of the AISL.
4. Upon the event that any team files a protest based on the leagues rules, the Director of the AISL after receiving the protest will:
 - a) Acknowledge receipt of the written protest from the protesting coach;
 - b) Secure a \$50 protest fee from the protesting coach;
 - c) Notify the coach from the team who the protest is against;
 - d) Investigate the allegations and render a decision within 7 days;
 - e) Return the protest fee if the decision was in favor of the protesting coach.
5. Due to the playoff format utilized for this league, if a player is determined to be ineligible, by formal protest, during the first six weeks of the season (playoff positioning round), **all games** to that point in the season may be forfeited. If the offense occurs during week 7 or 8 (1st round / championship round of playoffs) only **that game** will be forfeited. The League reserves the right to apply other penalties against the offending team and/or organization.
6. The Director reserves the right, based on the severity of the rules infraction, to expel a team from further competition in the league. The action could result in a forfeiture of all team registration fees and being barred from competing in future sessions of the AISL.
7. The decision of the Director of the AISL will be final.