

# **NEWPORT BEACH COED SOCCER LEAGUE**

## **OFFICIAL RULE SET**

Mission: To provide an environment for all who respect and promote the core values of soccer - camaraderie, competition and sportsmanship.

### **I. Rosters and Player Eligibility**

A. To be eligible to participate in NBCSL games, all players must:

1. be at least 18 years of age;
2. have a valid NBCSL player card;
3. have turned in a signed NBCSL waiver and release;
4. wear proper soccer attire per Section II.G.;
5. not be subject to disciplinary penalties under Section III;
6. not violate any Probation terms per Section III.C.5.

B. Teams may carry up to 25 players on their roster.

C. No person may appear on more than one roster, regardless of division. Roster requirements, submissions, freeze dates, and add/drop protocol shall conform to this Rule Set and comply with the Roster Procedures adopted by The Board.

D. Any protest regarding player eligibility shall conform to this Rule Set and comply with the Player Card Procedures adopted by The Board. Referees may perform player card and roster checks for any regular season game, and shall perform player card and roster checks for all playoff games, consistent with the Player Card Procedures. The referees on the field shall make the initial determination as to whether the challenged player may participate, to error on the side of eligibility. The Board reserves the right to perform player card checks for any games, to investigate player eligibility, and to impose sanctions on any team using an ineligible player. Further challenges may be made using the Manager Incident Report form.

### **II. Rules of the Game**

A. Timing: Each regular season game shall consist of two 40-minute halves (running time), with a 6-minute halftime. Games shall begin promptly as scheduled, except where a team has less than 7 total players (one of which must be a female). In that instance, the team so affected shall have a grace period of 6 minutes. If, after 6 minutes, the team so

affected still has less than 7 total players (one of which must be a female), that team shall automatically forfeit the game unless the other team elects to waive the forfeit. A forfeit shall be scored 3-0.

B. End of Game: Regulation games may end in a tie score. In the case of a tied score in a playoff game, the teams shall participate in a penalty kick shootout to determine the winner. The shootout shall ensue first as a best of 5, then best of 1, with shooters alternating gender. A coin toss shall determine which team shoots first. Any rostered player may participate in the shootout so long as that player took the field at some point during the game.

C. Player Ratio: No team may have more than six male or six female players on the field at any time during the course of the game (not counting the keeper). There must be at least one female player on the field (which can be the keeper) at all times, unless a team has only one female player and she is unable to continue in the game due to injury.

D. FIFA: Except where specifically indicated otherwise, all games shall adhere to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

E. Slide Tackling: Despite FIFA Laws of the Game, there shall be no slide tackling permitted on the field. Any sideways or forward slide (with one or both feet) performed for the apparent purpose of knocking the ball away from an opponent's immediate control, and which occurs within four feet of an opponent, is presumed to be a slide tackle. Referees shall have the discretion to determine what constitutes a slide tackle, as well as the discretion to award a yellow or red card if the slide tackle is dangerous. Notwithstanding the above, keepers are permitted to slide and to slide tackle while in the penalty area to collect a loose ball or when attempting to stop an offensive attack or shot, provided that the slide is not unnecessarily dangerous.

F. Substitutions: Provided that the referees are so informed and indicate substitutions are being made, teams are permitted to make unlimited substitutions when play is stopped for a throw-in, goal kick, kick-off or where a player has left the field due to injury, regardless of which team has possession of the ball. Substitutions are not permitted by either team on corner kicks, free kicks or penalty kicks, except when substituting a player sent off for a yellow card.

G. Uniforms and gear: Players shall wear matching jerseys with visible permanent numbers on the back as their primary team uniforms. All players shall wear shin guards and appropriate soccer cleats. Penalties shall be imposed for any team/player failing to have a proper uniform and gear.

### **III. Conduct and Infractions**

A. Penalties: Referees on the field during the course of play shall have complete discretion to interpret and enforce the rules pursuant to the FIFA Laws of the Game and the rules set forth herein. Players are discouraged from engaging in excessive commentary with

the referees, and understand that such commentary with the referees may itself subject that player to discipline. Team captains are permitted, within reason and subject to III.B. below, to discuss the interpretation and enforcement of the rules pursuant to the FIFA Laws of the Game and the rules set forth herein with the referees.

B. Sportsmanship: All players are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and reasonably cordial manner on or about the field of play. Excessive taunting, aggression, provocation, delaying of the game, profanity or foul/offensive language may result in yellow or red cards for unsportsmanlike conduct or discipline by The Board.

C. Sanctions: Consistent with the FIFA Laws of the Game and the rules set forth herein, referees on the field during the course of play shall have complete discretion to determine whether rough, unsafe, improper or unsportsmanlike conduct on the field warrants a yellow or red card.

1. Yellow Cards: Any player receiving a yellow card shall serve an immediate suspension from play for 5 minutes. Teams are permitted to substitute another player for the carded player, provided that doing so does not violate the Player Ratio rule herein. Players receiving a second yellow card in a single game shall serve an immediate suspension from play for the remainder of the game (referred to as a “red card equivalent”), shall immediately leave the soccer venue without incident, and shall be suspended from play for the team’s next game. The team shall play down one player for the remainder of the game.

2. Straight Red Cards: Players receiving a straight red card shall serve an immediate suspension from play for the remainder of the game, shall immediately leave the soccer venue without incident, and shall be suspended from play for the team’s next game. The team shall play down one player for each red card for the remainder of the game in which the red card is awarded.

3. Red “Fight” Card: In the judgment of the referees, players receiving a red card for punching or striking another player or for substantially escalating an altercation (referred to as a red “fight” card), shall serve an immediate suspension from play for the remainder of the game, shall immediately leave the soccer venue without incident, shall be suspended from play for the team’s next three games, and shall pay a penalty to The Board of \$50 (payable before the player may resume play). The team shall play down one player for each red card for the remainder of the game in which the red card is awarded. The player so penalized shall immediately surrender his or her player card to the referees or to any Board member present.

4. Manager Responsibility: Managers are personally responsible for insuring that all players are properly registered and eligible, and that suspended players satisfy all disciplinary conditions imposed by the Board, subject to a team fine of \$50 per violation and individual game suspensions (within the Board’s discretion). Managers are also responsible for notifying The Board, through use of the Manager’s Incident Report form, immediately

following a game of all players receiving a red card equivalent, a straight red card or a red “fight” card.

5. Probation: Players receiving a red card equivalent, straight red card or red “fight” card shall automatically be on probation for a period of one month upon their return to active play. The Board may also put on probation any player violating any aspect of this Rule Set. The Board may monitor players on probation and conduct investigations, hearings and other such proceedings to determine that player’s future eligibility to participate in the league, and to impose penalties/sanctions as need be. A “Probation Violation” occurs when a player (1) receives a red card equivalent, straight red card or red “fight” card while on probation, or (2) fails to satisfy in any way disciplinary conditions imposed upon him or her relating to a prior red card equivalent, straight red card or red “fight” card. The penalty for a Probation Violation shall presumptively be a minimum four-game suspension and a fine of \$100, with a maximum penalty to be determined by the Board and/or the City, depending upon the circumstances.

#### D. Board Review

1. Consistent with the NBCSL Review and Hearing Procedures, team managers may petition The Board for review of (1) red “fight” cards, (2) player eligibility, (3) probation violations and/or (3) conduct associated with activities of this soccer league which violate the general rule of sportsmanship or which consist of punching or striking another player or substantially escalating a potential altercation. The Board may, in its sole discretion, deny the request for review and affirm the presumptive penalty outlined in the Rule Set, or grant the request for a review.

2. The Board, on its own, and in its sole discretion, may review “fight” cards, player eligibility issues, probation violations, and conduct associated with activities of this soccer league which violate the general rule of sportsmanship or which consist of punching or striking another player or substantially escalating a potential altercation, and may impose suspensions or fines therewith.

3. Any team manager may apply, with extenuating circumstances and good cause, to The Board for a temporary waiver of any of the rules herein. It shall be within the sole discretion of The Board as to whether to grant such emergency application.

Ratified by a vote of the team managers present for the April 5, 2008, manager’s meeting, and adopted thereafter by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

As modified by the managers on 8/26/08 and 01/28/09.

## **NBCSL Review and Hearing Procedures**

### **I. Reviews**

- Team managers may request review of (1) the issuance of a red “fight” card by a referee during the course of a game, (2) player eligibility, (3) probation violations or (4) conduct associated with activities of this soccer league which violate the general rule of sportsmanship or which consist of punching or striking another player or substantially escalating a potential altercation. To do so, the manager must submit a completed Manager’s Incident Report, along with detailed written statements from all effected players and witnesses (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Petition”), to the Board within five (5) business days from the date of the incident.
- Upon receipt and review of the Petition, the Board may, in its sole discretion, (1) deny the request for review, thereby affirming the presumptive penalty outlined in the Rule Set, or (2) grant the request for a review. The Board’s decision to grant or deny review shall be final and binding, and is not subject to appeal. If the request for a review is granted, the Board shall endeavor to secure a Manager’s Incident Report, along with detailed written statements from all effected players and witnesses, from the opposing team (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Response”) and, where available, a referee’s report of the incident in question.
- Upon receipt and review of the Petition, the Response and any referee’s report, the Board may, in its sole discretion, (1) take the matter under submission and issue a final ruling based upon the written submissions, or (2) in matters exemplifying exceptional circumstances (as determined by the Board), set the matter for a hearing. The Board’s decision to take the matter under submission or set the matter for a hearing shall be final and binding, and is not subject to appeal. For all matters taken under submission, there shall be no right to appeal.

### **II. Hearings**

- No electronic recording of the hearing shall be permitted. The hearing is closed to the general public and members of the Board will take reasonable precautions to ensure that the proceedings remain confidential except as to the extent provided herein for publication of disciplinary impositions. A scribe, secretary or technician appointed by the Board may be present to record the minutes, in the Board’s sole discretion.
- The proceeding is not governed by formal rules of evidence or by trial-like procedures. The procedures are those used by reasonable persons conducting a serious proceeding. The President or in his/her absence the Vice-President or in his/her absence the panel committee leader shall rule on all procedural questions.
- The Board shall appoint a 3-member panel consisting of present members of the Board of Directors to officially rule on the matter. Where possible, the panel shall consist of members who manage teams in different divisions than the division represented by the participants at the hearing. Panel members shall disclose themselves in advance of the hearing and shall confirm to the participants the absence of any bias. The President or in his/her absence the Vice-President or in his/her absence the panel committee leader shall rule upon any objection to a panel member by a participant, and if necessary replace the panel member or continue the hearing. All Board members present shall participate in the hearing and any deliberations thereafter.

- The President or in his/her absence the Vice-President or in his/her absence the panel committee leader shall advise all present of the charges or complaint, and may make reference to any applicable provisions of the Rule Set implicated thereby.
- Each side presents its case, the order of which is to be determined by the President, Vice-President or panel committee leader. Each team or side shall be permitted a single opening statement not to exceed 3 minutes in length, and a single closing statement not to exceed 3 minutes in length. Participants are free to submit evidence in the form of writings, other demonstrative evidence or live witness testimony. Members of the Board, the committee panel and the City have the right to question any of the participants, but the participants shall not have a right to question one another. All writings and other demonstrative evidence offered into evidence shall be disclosed and provided to all sides/teams participating in the hearing, except that witness statements submitted in advance of the hearing may be done so anonymously if the witness so requests and articulates a basis for requesting anonymity. The President or in his/her absence the Vice-President or in his/her absence the panel committee leader shall rule on any objections to evidence, applying the rule of presumptive admission of all competent evidence. Participants shall endeavor to complete the hearing within 30 minutes. Extrinsic character evidence is permitted, but only to the extent it relates to the specific issue at hand and can be presented without undue consumption of time. Additional time may be allowed for the closing statement to a participant having to rebut extrinsic character evidence. Participants may also motion to have private information protected.
- The President, Vice-President or panel committee leader may terminate a participant's right to address the Board or panel if that person becomes abusive or persists in presenting irrelevant evidence or information. The President, Vice-President or panel committee leader may terminate the hearing upon motion and second by any member of the Board or panel.
- If any participant fails to appear, the hearing will continue as if the absent participant were present unless the President, Vice-President or panel committee leader determines that in the interests of all the hearing ought to be continued. Participants may not be represented by, or appear through, legal counsel at the hearing.
- After the hearing and submission of all evidence, the panel assigned to the matter will deliberate in the presence of, and with input from, the entire Board, and will render a decision by simple majority based on a preponderance of the evidence. If the panel decides to impose a penalty different from the presumptive penalty provided for the Rule Set, it will specify the disciplinary action to be imposed, and will provide where feasible a brief explanation for its decision. Participants will notice of the panel's decision. League managers will receive general notice that disciplinary action was taken and the basis therefore.

### **III. Waiver and Acknowledgement**

- There shall be no right to appeal any Board or panel decision. Participants acknowledge that they do not have any inalienable or absolute right (constitutional, state, county, regulatory, local or otherwise) to a review or hearing on any disciplinary matter, and that the structure and procedure for reviews and hearings has been put in place voluntarily by the league as a means of giving disciplined players an opportunity to have their individual incident considered by a voluntary body of their peers. Decisions by the Board or panel are based on equity and fairness, and not by precedent, statute, stare decisis or other rule of law. By participating in any review or hearing process, the participants hereby expressly and indefinitely waive any legal rights associated therewith, include the right to petition or file with any court anywhere any complaint, application, motion, petition or other pleading challenging or taking issue in any way with any aspect of the

NBCSL review or hearing procedure, Board decisions or City of Newport Beach decisions. By participating with The City in soccer activities, participants agree that The City nor The Board nor any of the league's managers, members, players or participants ("First Parties") will be liable for any loss of any kind (physical, mental, economic or otherwise) to you, your spouse, next of kin, heirs, assigns or guests resulting from any action on the part of The Board, the panel or The City, whether or not the result of negligence or misconduct by First Parties. Nothing herein is to be construed as a promise or agreement of any kind that participants will receive any particular type of hearing. By submitting a Petition or Response, participants agree to adhere to and abide by the procedures set forth herein, to the Rule Set, and to the decision of the Board or panel.

# NBCSL

## Player Waiver, Release of Liability and Acknowledgement

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- Playing soccer involves a significant risk of injury or damage to myself and others. By participating with the City of Newport Beach (hereinafter "City") in soccer activities, I understand and voluntarily accept the risk of injury to myself and others, and agree to accept full responsibility for my own injuries/conduct. I agree that neither the City nor the NBCSL Board of Directors ("Board"), nor any team, manager, member, player or participant ("First Parties") will be civilly liable for any injuries/damages of any kind (physical, mental, economic or otherwise) to me, my spouse, next of kin, heirs, assigns or guests resulting from any soccer activities, whether or not the result of negligence or misconduct by First Parties. I agree to release and hold harmless First Parties, and agree to defend and indemnify, with counsel of First Parties' choosing, First Parties from any claim, action or civil lawsuit brought on behalf of another for injuries/damages caused in whole or in part by me or resulting from my participation in soccer activities. I understand that nothing herein is to be construed as a promise or agreement of any kind that I will be able to participate in soccer activities.
- I understand that to assist the City in operating the league, a volunteer Board of Directors has the right and power to handle operational, administrative and disciplinary matters relating to the soccer league. I agree to adhere to and abide by the rules and procedures set forth in the NBCSL Rule Set and Review Procedures (which I have read and for which copies are available from the Board upon request) and to any decision rendered by the Board or City. I agree to release and hold harmless the City and the Board for any injury, loss, harm or damage relating in any way to any decision rendered by the Board or the City relating in any way to soccer activities, and to be forever bound to, and not to challenge, any decision rendered by the Board or City.
- This waiver, release of liability and acknowledgement shall be good indefinitely, and shall never expire and shall remain in full force and effect while I am participating in soccer activities with the City, unless I expressly withdraw this release in writing to the City and NBCSL Board of Directors.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)