

Black Swamp Soccer League

By-Laws and Rules of Operation

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Rule 1 – Definitions

- A. **Youth Player** is a person who has not reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to August 1 immediately preceding the start of a seasoned year. A player who reaches his/her nineteenth (19th) birthday on or after August 1st of the current seasonal year shall be allowed to compete the seasonal year.
- B. **Coach** is a person who has reached his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday prior to August 1st of the current seasonal year and is properly registered and rostered to a team as the individual responsible for the youth players assigned to the team.
- C. **Registration** means the signing of an intent to play the sport of soccer and the paying of fees to become a member of this league. All players must complete the BSSL Liability and Consent form for turn in to league registrar. Form is listed as Attachment 3
- D. **Team** means a recognized entity organized for the purpose of playing the sport of soccer
- E. **Rostering** means assignment of a registered player to a team
- F. **Eligible to Play** means registered and not under suspension
- G. **Suspension** means the temporary withdrawal of rights and privileges such as, but not limited to the right to play, coach or otherwise administer or participate (directly or indirectly) in the game of affiliated soccer. Any person or group (team, club, board, league, etc.) that has been suspended shall be in less than good standing for the entire term of the suspension with all rights and privileges withdrawn unless specifically stated otherwise by the suspending authority.
- H. **Add** means the addition of a player who has not been rostered to a team during the current seasonal year.
- I. **Release** means the withdrawal of a player from a roster during the current seasonal year.
- J. **Transfer** means the movement of a currently or previously registered and/or rostered player onto the roster of another team, or of a player that returns to the same roster during the current seasonal year after having been released.
- K. **Referee** All currently registered USSF Referee, AR, 4th official or other duly appointed to assist in officiating matters.
- L. **Game or Match** means a scheduled competition between two (2) member teams in good standing that is conducted as part of the league's seasonal programs.

Rule 2 – Risk Management

The league is responsible for ensuring all persons as required by the state sanctioning body (OYSAN) complete the Employment/Volunteer Disclosure statement and mail it to the state office. Persons not registered are not permitted contact with players and/or teams. The Risk Management Coordinator will notify leagues of those individuals who have completed the forms. It is the responsibility of the league, club and/or team to not permit any individual to have contact with players in any capacity who does not complete the form, or whose form is not on file at the state office.

Rule 3 – Code of Ethics and Conduct

In ethics, what matters is what one does, not what one thinks or says. An ethic has little value until it is put into practice. For this reason, every player, coach, parent and fan is encouraged to adopt the philosophy of this code of ethics and follow these principles while participating in the programs of the BSSL.

- The most important, fundamental concept that must be taught and learned is what is meant by good play
- Good play is skillful, fair sporting play that does not include foul or abusive language
- The attitude of players, coaches and spectators toward referees is vital. The referee's job is to ensure that fair and skillful soccer prevails. They may make mistakes, but players, coaches and spectators shall accept the referee's decisions without dissent.
- A match played in a fair and sporting manner will be more enjoyable for all concerned
- Nothing is wrong with wanting to win; what is wrong is wanting to win at any cost
- The coach, players and the spectators shall acknowledge good, skillful play; and must allow for mistakes, especially by younger, less skillful players
- The coach, by actions and words, shall encourage a love of the game in all who come into his/her sphere of influence
- The coach must always put the welfare of the players before the results of any game
- A coach should not shout at, nor demean players or officials
- The coach should provide the role model for his/her players. Players can be expected to behave accordingly.

Rule 4 – Programs

- A. The BSSL shall organize and promote a recreational soccer program within its member clubs and encourage said clubs to provide all interested youth within their boundaries, irrespective of sex and skill levels, the opportunity to play soccer, and to encourage good sportsmanship and fair play for all participants therein,

Recreational soccer, as defined by the official administrative rule book of the USSF, is an intra club league in which:

- The use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting or any like process to roster players selectively to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited
- The clubs administering the league accept as participants in the league any and all eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms and registration)
- A system of rostering players is employed for the purpose of creating fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating
- League rules require that each player play at least one-half (1/2) of each game except for reasons of injury, illness or discipline

The BSSL shall sponsor two (2) seasonal recreational soccer programs. A fall program that is held from August 1 thru November 1 of the current seasonal year. And a spring program that is held starting March 1 through May 31 of the current seasonal year.

- B. The BSSL may sponsor at least one referee certification clinic between the fall and spring seasonal programs.
- C. The BSSL may from time to time sponsor coaching classes and certification clinics as demand and interest warrant. These classes and clinics are offered through the OYSAN state coaching program.
- D. (Amendment 1 to By Laws and Rules) The BSSL shall allow the registration and participation of competitive and/or select teams only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Clubs that wish to register a competitive/select team must present a request to the Board of Directors at the first seasonal board meeting. Registration will be for one seasonal year (August 1 through July 31) In the event there is only one competitive/select team, competitive or select teams will be scheduled for league games against recreational teams on a voluntary (recreational director/coach) basis.

Rule 5 – Registration and Fees

- A. All players, coaches or teams wishing to compete in the league's program must register through their respective member club. Member clubs must submit player/coach registrations and team rosters by the league established deadline for such materials to be eligible to participate in the league's seasonal program(s). Failure to meet registration deadlines shall result in the assessment of late fee penalties as described in the Schedule of Fees and Dues for each player, coach, team and club. Fines are listed in Attachment 7.
- B. The player and coach are registered from the moment the registration form is signed by the player, player's agent, or coach and the appropriate fees and dues have been paid.
- C. All players, coaches and teams registered during the fall seasonal program that begins on August 1 of the current year shall be considered registered with the league for the entire seasonal year.
- D. Fees and dues for league registration shall be established by the league's board of directors and published in the leagues schedule of fees and dues.
- E. Player and coach registration information shall be provided to the league's registrar on a timely basis using the prescribed computer registration program.

Rule 6 – Age Limit Definitions and Roster Limitations

- A. Proof of age

Proof of age shall consist of birth certificates, birth registration, board of health records, passport, alien registration card or age certificate issued by an appropriate government agency. Hospital, baptismal or religious certificates will not be accepted.

It is the responsibility of each member club to confirm and attest to the proper age of each member player and coach.

- B. Age Divisions

The league shall provide inter-club competition within predefined age divisions that are based on the player's age before the first day of August on the immediately preceding seasonal year except as noted in section C below

Current age divisions authorized as part of the league's recreational soccer program are:

1. Under 19 years of age (U19)
2. Under 15 years of age (U15)
3. Under 12 years of age (U12)
4. Under 10 years of age (U10)
5. Under 8 years of age (U8)
6. Under 6 years of age (U6)

C. Maximum Roster

1. No team competing at the U15/U19 age division shall be allowed more than eighteen (18) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year
2. No team competing at the U12 age division shall have more than twelve (12) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year
3. No team competing at the U10 age division shall have more than ten (10) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year
4. No team competing at the U8 age division shall have more than eight (8) players on its roster at any given time during the seasonal year
5. Special exemptions to the maximum roster size can be granted by majority vote of the leagues board of directors. A request for exemption must be provided using the Black Swamp Soccer League Oversized Roster form at the start of the seasonal season. (See attachment 1)

D. Minimum roster

1. No U15/U19 team shall be allowed to have less than eleven (11) players on its roster
2. No U12 team shall be allowed to have less than eight (8) players on its roster
3. No U10 team shall be allowed to have less than six (6) players on its roster
4. No U8 team shall be allowed to have less than five (5) players on its roster
5. All teams must have at least one registered coach on its roster at all times during the seasonal year
6. No exemptions to minimum roster size shall be granted

E. Age Group Promotion

1. A player may not move up more than two years without the prior approval of BSSL and OYSAN. (ex: U12 to U15, U15 to U19 or U7 to U10) Age groups for players are defined as U4, U5, U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, etc. Playing up may be an option if there are no other teams available that are age appropriate.

F. Improper Registration

1. Any team playing a player who is over-age, or who is not registered, or who is improperly entered on the teams roster shall forfeit the games in which that player takes part, and may be suspended from further participation in the league's seasonal program.
2. There are exceptions to the rule. If a player has physicians documentation the player is physically undersized and/or mentally underdeveloped, the player may play at a younger age level with BSSL Board Approval.

Rule 7 – Multiple Rostering

- A. No player may roster on more than one team of the same age level of competition during a seasonal program.
- B. A player may roster on multiple teams at different ages or at different levels of competition during a seasonal program. Such a player is defined as being “dual” rostered and must declare a primary team at the time dual registry is established. Obligations of the primary team shall take precedence in the event of scheduling conflicts. The rules for establishing a primary team designation are left to the individual member clubs/teams to determine.

Rule 8 – Rules of Play

- A. Except as provided by this league or its members, the FIFA “Laws of the Game” shall apply to any and all competition sponsored by the BSSL. Players shall play soccer in accordance with the guidelines established by BSSL. These guidelines are listed in Attachments 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
- B. Substitutions: Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee according to the guidelines published by the BSSL.
- C. All players participating in the league's recreational program shall play in at least one half (1/2) of each game except due to injury, illness or for disciplinary reasons. Players not eligible to play one half of a game for disciplinary reasons shall be reported to the referee prior to the start of the game

D. Failure to compete

All teams are expected to compete in the regularly scheduled games of a seasonal program. If a team determines it will be unable to compete at the scheduled time and date, it is the team's responsibility to contact its opponent and attempt to reschedule the game. If the game can not be rescheduled at a time, date and place mutually acceptable, then the team that was unable to appear at the league scheduled time and date shall forfeit the game.

Teams failing to give notice or teams that repeatedly forfeit or fail to compete at the scheduled time and date may be suspended from further competition during the current seasonal program; and could face further sanctions at the discretion of the league's Disciplinary Committee.

E. Game Officials

- a. All games scheduled and played as part of the league's seasonal program shall be played under the control of a certified, neutral soccer referee. Games played at the U19/U15 age level and higher shall be under control of a three (3) man certified, neutral referee team with referees licensed grade 8 or higher.
- b. The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the playing field for all games. In other respects, the duties of the referee and assistant referees are as defined in the "Laws of the Game"
- c. In the event the referee appointed to a game fails to appear, if assistant referees have been appointed, one of the assistants shall take charge. The game shall not be played unless at least one certified, neutral referee is present to officiate the game.
- d. It is the responsibility of the "home" member club to assign certified, neutral referees to league games scheduled to be played during the seasonal program.
- e. The referee shall have the power during the game to deal with players, coaches or spectators guilty of violent conduct or using threatening or abusive language. Spectators and coaches can be sent from the area of play for this type of conduct. Players can be ejected from the game. The referees shall forward to the BSSL's vice president the names of any persons guilty of this type of conduct with a written report full describing the incident. In the case of a player being ejected from a game, the referee shall submit the name of the guilty player along with a detailed game report describing the incident(s) that lead to the player ejection to the league's vice president.
- f. In the event of inclement weather, the referee will make the decision to halt the game. A sighting of lightning will immediately result in the game being halted. The game will not resume until thirty (30) minutes after the last lightning sighting. The referee will make final determination if the game is to be cancelled and the coaches will make the decision to reschedule.

Rule 9 – Suspension Because of Litigation

Any person participating in any BSSL program who becomes involved as a defendant in litigation detrimental to the welfare of youth players, or litigation based on activities detrimental to the welfare of youth players, shall be suspended from all soccer-related activities until completion of the litigation. The status of the person shall be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee at the completion of litigation. Matters detrimental to the welfare of youth players shall include crimes of moral turpitude and felonies. The person has the right to appeal whether the matter which is the substance of the accusation, if true, is detrimental to the welfare of youth players.

Rule 10 – Team and Player Breach of Rules

- A. It is the responsibility of the Vice President and the Disciplinary Committee to investigate any reported violation or infringement of the league's constitution, by-laws and rules of operation. Failure to cooperate in such an investigation shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.
- B. Any player ejected from a league game shall not be allowed to participate in the next immediately following scheduled league game. A player may receive more than a one game suspension based on the severity of the offense or due to repeated offenses. The length of a player's suspension, if more than a single game, shall be determined by the league's Disciplinary Committee and communicated to the player and the player's coach in a timely manner. The director of the players club will also be notified as a courtesy.
- C. Any player found guilty of knowingly submitting falsified birth information shall be suspended from participating in any league program for the remainder of the current and the next seasonal year.
- D. Any team found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player shall not be allowed to compete during the seasonal program.
- E. Any coach, manager, or official found guilty of knowingly using an ineligible player(s) shall be suspended for the remainder of the current and the next seasonal year.
- F. Coaches, other team officials, and spectators shall be subject to all rules pertaining to the games of soccer and misconduct as defined in the "Laws of the Game". These individuals shall be subject to removal and suspension for rule violations.
- G. Any other individual who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team such as relatives of players and other spectators shall also be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of BSSL. The coach(es) or other team officials shall be held responsible for the conduct and actions of any individual(s) at any league sponsored competition that in the opinion of the referee, is a supporter of that team. Failure to control the conduct and actions of such related individuals may result in official sanctions against the associated team.

Rule 11 – Protests

- A. All questions relating to the qualifications of competitors, qualifications of referees, interpretation of rules, or any disputes or protests whatever relating to competition shall be referred to the BSSL's Disciplinary Committee. Decisions of the committee shall be binding on all parties involved.
- B. To be valid and eligible for consideration, each Disciplinary Committee protest:
 - a. Must be verbally lodged with the referee and with the opposing coach at the game site before entering the field of play or leaving the game site except as noted in item D of this rule; and
 - b. Must be filed with the Disciplinary Committee with written copies of any pertinent information
 - c. All protests must be postmarked or received by the Vice President of the BSSL no more than forty-eight (48) hours following the scheduled game from which the protest arises.
 - d. Any protest relating to grounds, goal posts, bars, or other field conditions shall be considered only if written objection has been lodged with the referee and opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
 - e. The league's Vice President shall immediately on receipt of such protest notify the team, club, or individual against which such protest is made and shall send a copy of the protest and all related materials to that entity, which will then have the right to defend its case.
 - f. A lawyer shall not represent either parties at a hearing of a charge or protest unless he/she is a bona fide member of one of the parties concerned.
 - g. A plea of ignorance to rules and violations of this league is not sufficient grounds for appeal or protest. Violators may expect appropriate action by this league.
- C. Appeals of player, coach, team or club sanctions shall be referred to the BSSL's Appeals Committee per the procedures for appeal as defined in the league's constitution.

Amendments

Amendment 1

Rule 4 - Programs

D. The BSSL shall allow the registration and participation of competitive and/or select teams only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Clubs that wish to register a competitive/select team must present a request to the Board of Directors at the first seasonal board meeting. Registration will be for one seasonal year (August 1 through July 31) In the event there is only one competitive/select team, competitive or select teams will be scheduled for league games against recreational teams on a voluntary (recreational director/coach) basis.

Rule 1, para C add "All players must complete the BSSL Liability and Consent form for turn in to league registrar. Form is listed as Attachment 4"

8 Nov 07

Rule 4, para A, change " starting in March thru May" to "starting March 1 through May 31"

8 Nov 07

Rule 5, para A, add "fines listed in Attachment 7

8 Nov 07

Rule 6, para B, add "6. Under 6 years of age (U6)"

8 Nov 07

Rule 6, para E, delete para 2. No more than four (4) players may be promoted early to play on one team

Rule 8, para B(d), Change "after an injury" to "after an injury for injured player only plus one member of opposing team"

8 Nov 07

Rule 8, para B(f), add "Player receiving yellow card must come out of the game"

8 Nov 07

Rule 8, para A(a), change "Games played at the U19/U15 age level and higher shall be under control of a three (3) man certified, neutral referee team" to "Games played at the U19/U15 age level and higher shall be under control of a three (3) man certified, neutral referee team with referees licensed grade 8 or higher"

8 Nov 07

Rule 8, para E(f) change “The referee will make final determination if the game is to be cancelled and rescheduled” to “The referee will make final determination if the game is to be cancelled and the coaches will make the decision to reschedule”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 4, Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines, delete “**Effective Fall 2006 season these modifications will be adhered to by all BSSL Clubs and Teams for U8 games.**”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 4, Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines, change “Flagposts: none” to “Flagposts: optional”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 4, Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines, Law 2, change to size 3

8 Nov 07

Attachment 4, Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines, Law 5, remove “especially” and remove “or parent/coach or assistant coach”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 4, Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines, change ► **Goalie – All goalies when handling the ball MUST throw the ball, not kick it.** ◀ **Goalie shall due throw over if kicked.** “**BSSL Rule – Goalie – All goalies when handling the ball MUST throw the ball, not kick it. If the ball is kicked, the goalie shall reaccomplish with throw.**”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 4, Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines , add “**BSSL Rule – Ball must be kicked outside circle before a goal may be scored**”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 4, Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines, add “**Law 12 - Goalie may not pick up ball on a pass from another player**”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 5, Official Under 10 Playing Guidelines, change ► **Goalie – All goalies when handling the ball MUST throw the ball, not kick it.** ◀ **Goalie shall due throw over if kicked.** “BSSL Rule – Goalie – All goalies when handling the ball MUST throw the ball, not kick it. If the ball is kicked, the goalie shall reaccomplish with throw.”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 5, Official Under 10 Playing Guidelines, add , add “BSSL Rule – Ball must be kicked outside circle before a goal may be scored”

8 Nov 07

Attachment 5, Official Under 10 Playing Guidelines, add “**Law 12 -** Goalie may not pick up ball on a pass from another player”

8 Nov 07

Added fees to Attachment 7

27 July 09

Rule 1, Definitions: K. Referee Reworded description: From “Referee is an individual who has completed the prescribed course of study and obtained a certification from the national soccer referee organization of the USSF. Referees have to retest and recertify each year to keep their credentials current.”

27 July 09

Rule 5-E. Removed the following wording “club’s holding PROVISIONAL membership status will be provided a minimal copy of the registration program at no charge for the length of the provisional status. Upon obtaining FULL MEMBER CLUB status, it becomes the responsibility of the club to purchase a copy of the computer registration program.”

27 July 09

Rule 6-E-1 Reworded description “At the discretion of each member club, players may be promoted no more than one age group division above where they would normally play based on their birth date. For example: a player that by age would play at the U10 level may be promoted to U12, but may not be promoted to U15.”

27 July 09

Rule 6-F-2 Removed “The player must fill out the appropriate paperwork and submit to the league registrar (See attachment 2)” and added and/or mentally underdeveloped” and “with BSSL Board approval”

27 July 09

Rule 8-A-1 Removed “under 12 years of age”

27 July 09

Rule 8-A-2 Removed “Substitutions shall be unlimited except where specified otherwise in the rules and regulations for special competition. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- g. Prior to a throw-in
- h. Prior to a goal kick
- i. After a goal is scored
- j. After an injury after an injury for injured player only plus one member of opposing team.
- k. At half time
- l. Player receiving yellow card must come out of the game

Note: Substitutions will be made regardless of color. Substitutions for both teams will be made at the same time.

27 July 09

Law 6 U12 Guidelines: add “registered referee”

27 July 09

Rule 10-E Changed wording from “for the remainder of the seasonal year” to “of the current and the next seasonal year”

27 July 09

Rule 10-F Added “spectators” and “removal”. Removed “official caution, ejection”

Law 12 U8 Guidelines: Added “This will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent” in regards to the goalie picking up a pass from a teammate.

27 July 09

BSSL Rule U8 Guidelines: Reworded “The ball must be kicked outside of the center circle before a goal may be scored.” With “The ball must leave the center circle before a goal may be scored. Restart shall be a goal kick for the opposing team if the ball enters the goal.”

27 July 09

Law 12 U10 Guidelines Added “**Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at a location approximately where the ball crosses midfield on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts, drop-kicks or throws the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponents half of the field (crossing the midfield line”

27 July 09

Attachment 6 Added U15/U19 Guidelines

27 July 09

BSSL Rule U10 Guidelines Removed “**BSSL Rule** -- Goalie – All goalies when handling the ball **MUST** throw the ball, not kick it. If the ball is kicked, the goalie shall reaccomplish with a throw.”

27 July 09

Attachments

Attachment 1 – BSSL Oversized Roster Form

Black Swamp Soccer League **Oversized Roster Form**

Season: _____

Club Name: _____

Team Name: _____

Age Level: _____ (U8 – U10 etc.)

Max roster players allow: _____ (For age group)

Number of roster layers: _____

_____ is asking that the BSSL will allow
(Club Name)

The above team to play in the league with an oversized
roster.

Team Representative _____

Position _____

Black Swamp Soccer League

Club Name: _____ Team Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

RULES OF THE USYSA

I, the parent/guardian of the registrant, a minor, agree that I and the registrant will abide by the rules of the USYSA, the Black Swamp Soccer League, its affiliated clubs, organizations and sponsors. Recognizing the possibility of physical injury associated with soccer and in consideration for the USUSA & BSSL and its affiliated clubs accepting the registrant for its soccer programs and activities (the "Programs"), I hereby release, discharge and/or otherwise indemnify the USYSA, its affiliated organizations and sponsors (e.g. Ohio Youth Soccer Association North, The Black Swamp Soccer League, Clubs and Soccer Coaches), their employees and associated personnel, including the owners of fields and facilities utilized for the Programs, against any claim by or on behalf of the registrant as a result of the registrant's participation in the Programs and/or being transported to or from the same, which transportation I hereby authorize.

Please sign here to indicate you've read and agree to the above:

Name: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian (please print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Official Under 8 Playing Guidelines

Black Swamp Soccer League/US Youth Soccer modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Updated for Fall 2009 Season

Roster size: Min 5 – Max 8 players

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 yards maximum 35 yards

Width: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of six (6) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line **three (3) yards** from the inside each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of **three (3) yards** and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, **six (6) yards** from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of **six (6) yards** and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area.

Flagposts: optional

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is twenty-one (21) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is seven (7) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size three (3).

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than five players. One of those players being a goalkeeper.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited by both teams at the referee's discretion.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee: Registered referee, especially Grade 9 or parent/coach or assistant coach. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees: None.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty (20) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA, **with the exception** of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside: None.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA **with the exception that all fouls shall result in a direct free kick.** The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct. A goalie may not pick up a deliberately kicked or thrown ball to them by a teammate (conform to FIFA)(**This will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent.**).

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA **with the exceptions that all kicks are direct** and all opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: None.

Law 15 – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an improperly performed **throw-in can be retaken once.**

Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA **with the exception that opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.**

Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA **with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.**

BSSL Rule -- Goalie – All goalies when handling the ball **MUST** throw the ball, not kick it. If the ball is kicked, the goalie shall reaccomplish with a throw.

BSSL Rule – When a start or restart occurs at the center mark, the ball must leave the center circle before a goal may be scored. Restart shall be a goal kick for the opposing team if the ball enters the goal.

Official Under 10 Playing Guidelines

Black Swamp Soccer League/US Youth Soccer modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Updated for Fall 2009 Season

Roster Size: Minimum 6 – Maximum 10

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 45 yards maximum 60 yards

Width: minimum 35 yards maximum 45 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of six (6) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line **five (5) yards** from the inside each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of **five (5) yards** and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, **twelve (12) yards** from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of **twelve (12) yards** and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The maximum distance between the posts is twenty-one (21) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is seven (7) feet.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size four (4).

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than six players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited by both teams at the referee's discretion.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee: Registered referee, especially Grade 9 or parent/coach or assistant coach. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 –The Assistant Referees: Not required. May use club linesmen if desired.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside: None.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at a location approximately where the ball crosses midfield on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts, drop-kicks or throws the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponents half of the field (crossing the midfield line). A goalie may not pick up a deliberately kicked or thrown ball to them by a teammate (conform to FIFA)(**This will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent.**).

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 15 – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

BSSL Rule – When a start or restart occurs at the center mark, at the beginning or the half or after a goal has been scored, the ball must leave the center circle before a goal may be scored. Restart shall be a goal kick for the opposing team if the ball enters the goal.

Official Under 12 Playing Guidelines

Black Swamp Soccer League/US Youth Soccer modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Updated for Fall 2009 Season

Roster Size: Minimum 8 – Maximum 12

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 60 yards maximum 80 yards

Width: minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

The Goal area: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flagposts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is **twenty-one (21) feet** and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is **seven (7) feet**.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size four (4).

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eight players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited by both teams at the referee's discretion.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee: Registered referee.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referee: Registered referee (preferred) or club lineman.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside: Conform to FIFA.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark.

Law 15 – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

Official Under 15 and under 19 Playing Guidelines

Black Swamp Soccer League/US Youth Soccer modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Updated for Fall 2009 Season

Roster Size: Minimum 11 – Maximum 18

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 100 yards maximum 130 yards

Width: minimum 50 yards maximum 100 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of ten (10) yards is marked around it.

The Goal area: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, twenty two (22) yards from the center of each goal. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of eighteen (18) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (12) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of ten (10) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flagposts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Conform to FIFA.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size five (5).

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eleven players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited by both teams at the referee's discretion.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee: Registered referee.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referee: Registered referee.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA. With the exception of the match being divided into two (2) halves of thirty-five (35) minutes each for U15, and forty (40) minutes each for U19. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside: Conform to FIFA.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 15 – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Attachment 7 - Fees, Fine and Late Fee Penalties

FEES:

Players/Coaches to OYSAN (1 st season of calendar year)	\$9.75
Players/Coaches to BSSL (2 nd season of calendar year)	\$1.25
Club fee to OYSAN (annual requirement)	\$25.00
New Club Member Fee	\$125.00

Fines and Late Penalties

Any club that does not turn in all registration paperwork by first meeting of the season will be fined \$15 per team

There will be a \$5 for any player/coach added to a roster after first meeting, regardless of reason.

Team schedules will not be given to clubs until all relevant information is received by the league registrar. This is to include, birth certificates, BSSL liability forms, coach registration and league fees are paid.