

THE VOORHEES SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RULES & REGULATIONS

UPDATED 10/5/2015

THE VOORHEES SOCCER ASSOCIATION

VSA RULES AND REGULATIONS

These rules and regulations are designed to promote the purpose of the Voorhees Soccer Association (VSA). That purpose is: to promote, foster and perpetuate the game of soccer at the junior level in Voorhees Township and to provide competition for its participating youth in accordance with high standards to good sportsmanship and fair instruction and fun for its players. The intramural league is open to Voorhees residents as well as all other communities in the vicinity of Voorhees Township.

1.0 PLAYERS

1.1 A season runs from June 1 to May 31

1.2 League age is the player's age on July 31 of any given season:

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>7/31 AGE</u>	<u>9/30 GRADE</u>
Instructional	5	K
VI	6	1
V	7-8	2-3
IV	9-10	4-5
III	11-13	6-8
II	14-17	high school

1.3 All division's team size will be determined by the VSA Board of Commissioners.

1.4 Each team's official player roster will be maintained by VSA. Only players so listed are eligible to compete.

1.5 Opposing teams have the right to challenge a player's eligibility.

1.6 The player challenged, at the discretion of the coach of his team, may play. If upon investigation this player is found ineligible, the game will be forfeited.

1.7 A player may register for one intramural and one VSA travel team simultaneously, subject to full registration fees and full fund raising participation for each team. A player selected for a VSA "A" travel team, high school Varsity team, or any non-VSA travel player may not play for an intramural team. In this case, the registration

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fee for the intramural team shall be reimbursed unless the player has already participated in intramural games prior to the selection to the travel team. The exception to this rule is if a player who was not selected for a VSA "A" team opts to play for a different organization's travel team, that player may generally play in the VSA intramural league.

- 1.8** New players may only be added to a team by VSA. All players to be added to a team will be placed on a designated team in the order of their registration date from the approved waiting list kept by VSA. A coach may not add players.
- 1.9** Player selection for all intramural teams shall be accomplished each year without tryouts. The manner of selection shall be through a draft (for Divisions II-V) or as prescribed by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with the objectives of promoting balanced competition within the divisions. In order to attempt to obtain balanced competition, once players are drafted to a team, they cannot change to another team unless there are extenuating circumstances and the change is approved by the President of the VSA Board.

Note: "I played for the coach the last five years" and "all my friends are on a different team" are not considered extenuating circumstances.

1.10 Drafts (Divisions II-VI) shall be conducted as follows:

- A. Coaches may designate one assistant prior to the draft.
- B. Identify best skilled ("Blue Chip") players and divide equally amongst the teams to the maximum extent practical.
- C. Establish draft order randomly.
- D. Coaches' (and the assistant's) children are assigned starting in the 1st round (Blue Chip players) or 5th round (others) and may not be drafted by others.
- E. Draft Proceeds first to last then last to first, etc. (e.g. 1,...8, 8,...1,1,...).

- 1.11** Rules governing players may be modified for the non-competitive spring season at the Board's discretion.

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2.0 VSA COMPETITION

- 2.1** The day and time of games will be as specified on the VSA game schedule issued by VSA.
- 2.2** The VSA Board of Commissioners is responsible for canceling the league's games in cases where fields are, in the opinion of the Board or Board Representative, unplayable. (Once game is started, it is the referee who is responsible).
- 2.3** In the case of games cancelled due to unplayable conditions, the Commissioner of Referees and Commissioner of Scheduling shall select a date and time for the game to be rescheduled.
- 2.4** Any changes in the schedule of games must be approved by the Commissioner of Referees and Commissioner of Scheduling. Games will only be rescheduled with the approval of the Commissioners if both teams cannot field valid teams (as per rule 4.3) and the schedule permits.
- 2.5** The standings of the teams shall be determined by points as follows:
- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Win | - | Three (3) points for winning team |
| Tie | - | One (1) point for each team |
| Loss | - | No points for losing team |

If more than one team has the same number of points at the end of the playing season, they will be declared co-champs.

Note: In Division V, VI and the Instructional program, no standings are kept.

- 2.6** Regular season games ending in a tie, the games shall remain a tie with no overtime.
- 2.7** League competition in Divisions II-IV shall be structured to allow for a Season Champion and a Tournament/Cup Champion within each Division. Pairings during seasonal competition shall allow for a balanced schedule for teams within a Division.
- 2.8** Playoffs: At the completion of the regular season, a playoff tournament will be held. The playoff tournament will either be a single or double elimination tournament or shall be a round robin tournament. The type of tournament as

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well as the bracketing shall be determined by the VSA Board. Pairings or bracketing during Tournament play shall be determined by final season standings. If teams are tied at the end of the regular season, tie breakers are first, head to head competition; and second, a coin flip.

For single or double elimination tournaments, the following rules shall apply:

- a) Games ending in a tie at the end of regulation time will be completed as follows

Two (2) - five minute overtime periods (regular soccer) (overtime to start two minutes after the end of regulation). A two-minute rest between periods. Teams to switch goals between periods. Both overtime periods must be played in full regardless of whether any goals are scored;

If still a tie after the two overtime periods,

Shootout - Referee chooses the goal where all the kicks will be taken. The ten players on the field for each team at the end of the overtime (excluding goalie) will each be given one penalty kick. Coaches from each team shall notify the referee before the shootout which five (5) player's attempts will count. Coin flip determines which team shoots first. Teams alternate taking kicks from the penalty-mark until all players (designated and un-designated) have shot. Referee keeps score. Team with the most designated players scoring wins. If a tie still exists at the end of the shootout, then repeat the format using five (5) players from each team with (3) from each team counting as designated by the coach prior to starting the next shootout round. Repeat process as necessary.

- b) For the Championship game only, if the final game of the championship ends in a tie after the two 5 minute overtime periods, the teams will be declared Co-champions. No shootout will be performed in this case.

For round robin tournaments, points are awarded as noted in 2.5. There are no overtimes or shootouts if games are tied at the end of regulation. Tournament bracket winners are decided based on the most points after all games are completed. Tiebreakers are as follows- 1) head to head; 2) goals against during tournament. If teams are still tied then they will be declared co-champions.

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3.0 GENERAL

- 3.1** Complaints regarding referees must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner for Referees. Complaints may only be generated by VSA coaches and should be documented and issued to the Commissioner of Referees via an e-mail or other means no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the game.
- 3.2** Any team using an ineligible player automatically forfeits the game.
- 3.3** Each team is required to be represented at each regular league coaches' meeting.
- 3.4** The referees will turn in conduct reports to the Commissioner of Referees on the day of the game (and no less than 24 hours after occurrence) in the event a player or coach has been carded (yellow or red).
- 3.5** Violation of the rules of the VSA may result in a player, coach, team staff member, team or parent being disciplined by the VSA.
- 3.6** If a coach or Board member deliberately performs acts counter to VSA policy or VSA Board Policy or these Rules and Regulations, that person will be notified that he or she is subject to VSA censure. This could result in suspension or removal of any coach or board member who violates policy.
- 3.7** **Grievance Procedure:**

All referees will turn in all game conduct reports to the Commissioner of Referees within twenty-four (24) hours of the game's completion. Reports are required when a player or coach has been carded (yellow or red) or when other serious issues occur before, during or after the game that warrant such a report. (Failure by referee to advise the Commissioner of Referees verbally within twenty-four (24) hours and to turn in proper reports may result in a suspension.) All head coaches that have coached in a game where a red card was issued must file a coach's report with the Commissioner of Grievances immediately following the game (which may be left at the snack bar) but no later than 24 hours after completion of the game. The Commissioner of Referees will turn over game reports involving grievances to the Commissioner for Grievances.

The Commissioner for Grievances shall evaluate each red card and other

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complaints as applicable. Suspensions for red cards shall be as defined in Section 6.0 unless extenuating circumstances apply. Investigation and determination of any penalties for non-red card events shall be performed by the Commissioner of Grievances in conjunction with a minimum of two other Board members (excluding Commissioner of Referees or President). The Commissioner of Grievances will be responsible to notify any individual who is being suspended or otherwise penalized and shall notify the remainder of the VSA Board.

If there is a penalty assessed, there will be a right of appeal. If appealed, a hearing will be heard by a Grievance Committee composed of The Commissioner of Grievances and at least three (3) coaches from the Association (who cannot be a Coach in Division of Hearing, or have children playing in that Division). The Committee will review all data and will make a non-binding recommendation to the full VSA Board. The VSA Board then will make a final decision; there is no additional appeal, except as provided in the By-Laws of the VSA. The above procedure will hold for all grievances. All grievances must be presented in writing.

4.0 VSA PLAYING RULES

- 4.1** Every player in the intramural program shall be entitled to play at least one-half (1/2) of each game.
- 4.2** FIFA Laws of the game apply except where modified in these Rules and Regulations. Special attention is directed to Law 5 (Referees) and Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct) of the FIFA Laws of Soccer and the Referees authority in these areas.
- 4.3** A valid team consists of a coach or assistant coach of record, and;
 - A. Instructional - four (4) players.
 - B. Division VI, V- five (5) players
 - C. Division IV - six (6) players.
 - D. Division II, III - eight (8) players.

Division II, III and IV teams not able to meet the above criteria will forfeit the game.

The maximum number of players from each team allowed on the field during the game are as follows:

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Instructional: 4 players

Division VI: 5 players plus a goalie (based on the size of the teams, the VSA Board Member Division Commissioner can modify this to 6 players and a goalie).

Division V: 6 players plus a goalie (based on the size of the teams, the VSA Board Member Division Commissioner can modify this to 7 players and a goalie).

Division IV: 7 players plus a goalie

Division II and III: 10 players plus a goalie

These numbers can be exceeded by authorization of the Commissioner of each division if team sizes exceed reasonable numbers.

4.4 Ball size:

Divisions - Instructional, VI, V, IV, and III - #4;

Divisions - II - #5.

4.5 Game duration:

Division- Instructional:

Four 10 minute quarters- 3 minutes between quarters, 5 minutes between halves.

Division – VI and V:

Four 12 minute quarters - 3 minutes between quarters, 5 minutes between halves.

Division - IV:

Four 14 minute quarters - 3 minutes between quarters, 5 minutes between halves.

Division - III, II:

Thirty minute halves, 5 minutes between halves.

4.6 Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions are permitted in Division II and III

Substitutions may be as follows:

Prior to a throw-in in your favor

Prior to a goal kick by either team

After a goal by either team

At quarters and halves

After an injury (the injured player only and any one opposing player)

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In Division VI and V there will be a substitution whistle as close as possible to the six (6) minute mark as the game dictates at which point every player on the bench must be put into the game. Substitutions in Divisions IV shall follow the same guidelines for Divisions VI and V, except, the substitution whistle will occur as close as possible to the 7 minute mark. Goalies should only be changed at the end of a period in order to expedite the substitution process. The only other substitutions allowed are for injuries.

- 4.7** When a player is sent off the field by the referee, due to a red card or two yellow cards, the referee shall not allow a substitution in Divisions II, III and IV.
- 4.8** All teams are responsible for having numbered uniforms. Any exceptions must get league approval.
- 4.9** Forfeit time will be fifteen minutes after scheduled starting time of game.
- 4.10** A player may wear long johns or sweat pants with soccer shorts over them. The legs of sweats with zippers must be tucked into socks or otherwise secured to avoid hazards to player or other players.
- 4.11** If injury occurs in the penalty box and the referee has stopped play before ball has been cleared from penalty area, a drop ball for restart shall take place outside the closest penalty box line from injury.
- 4.12** To protect the goalie, goalie shall wear a different colored shirt from own team and opponents. Goalie may wear long pants or sweat pants for protection. Goalie may also wear a crushable hat. Goalie is untouchable when in control of ball. Fingertip possession shall constitute control of ball.
- 4.13** No more than three players per game may be designated as team captains.
- 4.14** The winning team coach is responsible for calling (or e-mailing) game results to the VSA office. If the game is a tie, both teams shall contact the VSA office. If no communication is made within 7 days of completion of the game, the game shall be recorded as a 0-0 tie. This requirement only applies to Divisions II, III and IV.
- 4.15** A mouthpiece is recommended for any player with dental braces or a retainer.

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- 4.16 Baseball spikes of metal, belts of any kind, jewelry including but not limited to watches, necklaces, earrings (including starter earrings) and rings are not permitted to be worn during a game.

Note: It is not acceptable to play with jewelry that is taped over. As an example taping the ears to cover up the earring is not permitted.

- 4.17 Hooded shirts are not allowed unless hood is tucked down inside shirt.
- 4.18 A player cannot compete in a game wearing finger splints, casts, or metal braces on limbs unless, at the discretion of the referee, the item is sufficiently padded to prevent potential injury to another player. Players with splints, casts or similar play at their own risk.
- 4.19 Coordinating uniforms must be worn by the complete team.
- 4.20 Both teams shall be on the same sideline. All players and coaches shall be on the opposite side of the field from parents, relatives and any other fans.
- 4.21 Under the mercy rule, no team at Division II, III or IV shall exceed 6 goals differential with the opposing team. For each goal in excess of the 6 goals limit, a point shall be deducted from the winning team's overall point total for league play.
- 4.22 No penalty kicks or off sides will be called for Division VI and V.

5.0 TRAVEL TEAMS

- 5.1 All players who express interest at registration must be contacted and be given a chance to tryout.
- 5.2 Players not residing in Gibbsboro, Berlin Borough, West Berlin, or Voorhees shall be considered "outside players." Once an outside player is so classified, their status shall not change unless they physically move into Gibbsboro, Berlin, West Berlin, or Voorhees. An "A" Travel Team may have the following number of outside players ***unless otherwise permitted by the VSA Board:***

Under 10 & younger - Upon Approval of the VSA Board
Under 11 - up to 50%

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Under 12	-	up to 50%
Under 13	-	up to 50%
Under 14	-	up to 50%
Under 15	-	Unlimited
Under 16	-	Unlimited

No "B" Travel Team is permitted to have any out-of-town players, unless approved by the VSA Board.

A player not residing in Gibbsboro, Berlin Borough, West Berlin, or Voorhees may be considered as an "in town player" under the following circumstances:

- a) Has not previously been designated as an "outside player";
- b) Has actively participated in the VSA intramural program for one calendar year (Fall and Spring season). A calendar year for VSA begins with the Fall season and ends after the Spring season.

Note: If a Spring season is not offered for the applicable age group, the individual still cannot participate as an "in town player" until the calendar year requirement is met.

5.3 All players selected must have attended at least one tryout.

5.4 All players who tryout must be personally notified in writing by the travel team coaches if they made the team or not.

5.5 No travel team practice is allowed until July 15.

5.6 Eligibility: Age or Grade Appropriate.

Players are eligible to play if they are age or grade appropriate. League age is the player's age on July 31 of any given season and league grade is the grade a player is in when the Fall Season begins:

<u>Travel Team</u>	<u>7/31 Age</u>	<u>9/30 Grade</u>
U-8	7	2
U-9	8	3
U-10	9	4
U-11	10	5

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U-12	11	6
U-13	12	7
U-14	13	8
U-15	14	9
U-16	15	10

5.7 Roster Size

Travel team rosters may not exceed 18 players for 11 versus 11 teams and 14 players for 8 versus 8 teams.

5.8 A Head Coach and all Assistant Coaches must possess at least an F-license to be eligible to be appointed as a VSA Coach. The VSA Board shall appoint all head coaches on a yearly basis.

5.9 Tryouts

A. With the exception of U-8, the Head Coach and at least three other VSA coaches (or other USSF F- Licensed individuals, or VSA Board members) will make up the evaluation team. Unless otherwise approved by the VSA Board, a VSA Board member must attend all tryouts either as an active evaluator or independent observer. The Director of Coaching shall schedule all tryout dates. Parents of other candidates may not be part of the evaluation team.

U-8 travel team tryouts will be run by the VSA Board. The Board will appoint a trainer who will also be the head coach. The trainer will attend all practices and games, making all soccer decisions and a parent administrator will be selected after tryouts have been completed and the team has been determined.

B. All registered players meeting the eligibility and attendance requirements may participate (even if not invited) and must be evaluated. **Players may not tryout for more than one team.**

C. Separate daily evaluations will be done by each evaluation team member on a form designated by the Travel Team Representative. The evaluation will have the following general weights:

U-12 and under: 20% Individual Skills
 80% Field Play (Scrimmages)

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U-13 and above: 100% Field Play (Scrimmages)

D. Scoring will be from 1 to 8, with 1 being the lowest score and 8 the highest. An overall score for each player will be determined by each evaluator using the general category weights above. The tryout score for a player will be the average of the overall scores across all evaluators.

E. If the Director of Coaching or Travel Representative is notified in writing that an otherwise eligible player is unable to attend tryouts due to injury or illness, (1) A special or secondary tryout shall be conducted for that player or those players only. If a player cannot attend a special tryout within a reasonable time due to physical/medical reasons, then the evaluation team may consider the player for selection and rank the player with the other candidates.

F. Players will be offered positions on the team in the order of their tryout scores until the roster is full. If a player declines a position on an A team, they are considered unselected and are not eligible for a B team without board approval. If a player declines a position on a B team, they are considered unselected and are not eligible for a travel team. All unselected players will be placed in the intramural draft if desired by the player.

G. For U-11 teams and above, an individual trying out as a goal keeper does not have to be rated within the group designated for a specific team in order to make the team as a goal keeper. A coach may select one goal keeper based on a separate goal keeper evaluation. However, if this individual is not rated within the group that makes the designated team, this individual should play the majority of time as a goal keeper as opposed to a field player.

H. Unless otherwise approved by the Board, tryouts must be performed over a minimum of two days (three is recommended).

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5.10 "B" Travel Teams

A "B" Travel Team may be formed as follows with the approval of the VSA Board:

A. Sufficient players express interest at registration to field two teams in an age group.

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- B. A board member is assigned to attend the tryouts for that age group.
- C. The board member determines sufficient talent exists to field two competitive teams.
- D. The "A" team roster is filled.
- E. The "B" team is picked.
- F. At least one parent of a "B" team player volunteers to be head coach.
- G. When the Board has previously approved a "B" team, the "B" team coach shall be permitted to participate in evaluating the tryouts in subsequent years, so long as the "B" team is in existence. However, if the "B" team coach has a child trying out for that particular group's "A" team, the following shall apply:
 - 1. The "B" team coach shall view the tryouts and grade the players. Once it is determined by the "A" team coach that the "B" team coach's child will not make the "A" team but will make the "B" team, then the "B" team coach. Evaluation forms will be incorporated into the scores for all remaining players. Players will be offered positions on the team in the order of their tryout scores until the roster is full.

5.11 TRAVEL TEAM PRACTICE "ABSENCE" POLICY

It is recognized that one of the goals of the Travel Program is to foster greater competition. This typically includes more frequent practice sessions than typically is experienced in the Intramural Program. Also, greater importance is placed on attendance at games. It is further recognized that Travel Coaches may utilize their discretion, to limit playing time, of certain team members for repeated poor attendances at practices, or missed games, without justification. Such a limitation should be clearly communicated to all travel team parents as part of each team's policy.

However, no VSA Coach may limit playing time or otherwise penalize any player when a practice or game is missed as a result of a religious function-service and/or a personal-family related function. Such absences, upon advanced notification to the Coach, shall be treated as an excused absence and no

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adverse action shall be taken against any player that is unable to attend a travel practice or travel game based upon such circumstances.

If a player will miss a game for any reason deemed excusable, notification to the coach, in writing by a parent or guardian, must be no less than 14 days before a scheduled or make-up game.

5.12 Travel Team Roster Changes

If a travel coach wishes to add a player at any time after his initial roster has been approved, the coach must contact the appropriate Travel Representative. The Travel Rep. will determine the appropriateness of such an addition, and if deemed appropriate, will organize a try out. The Travel rep. or another board member must attend the try out. All additions or other mid-season roster changes must be approved by the Travel Rep. and the Director of coaching and subsequently reported to the Board.

6.0 PENALTIES, SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

6.1 A player, parent or team official that has been ordered from the field of play or from the sidelines by the referee for violent conduct, serious foul play, the use of foul or abusive language, or for persistent misconduct shall incur a penalty or penalties as outlined under these rules.

6.2 An individual under suspension shall not, during the period of suspension, participate or attend any game under the jurisdiction of the VSA, nor in any other soccer game sanctioned by the USSF or any of its affiliated associations. Participation shall result in an additional suspension, or, in the discretion of the VSA Executive Board, expulsion from the VSA.

6.3 A team which knowingly fields a suspended player shall suffer forfeiture of the game (unless such suspension is under appeal) and an additional suspension. Whenever a coach or parent attends a game while under suspension, such team affiliated with the suspended coach or parent shall suffer forfeiture of the game (unless such suspension is under appeal) and an additional suspension.

6.4 Any coach who removes his or her team from the playing field during game competition, while opposing team remains on the field, and does not return after warning from the referee within two (2) minutes shall forfeit the game and may be

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subject to disciplinary action by the VSA. Exception to this rule is only when health or safety of the team removed is threatened as a result of thunderstorms, lightning, hail, high winds or other acts of God.

- 6.5 These Rules and Regulations provide certain minimum penalties.
- 6.6 The Referee has authority over conduct of players, parents and coaches before, during and after any VSA sponsored game.
- 6.7 Yellow cards accumulate from game to game. Obtaining a second yellow card in a season does not result in ejection from that particular game (unless it is the second yellow card of the game). However, the player or coach must sit out the next game. The third yellow card and all subsequent yellow cards will be treated the same as the second. For the purposes of calculating, a red card will be treated as two yellows, i.e.; if a player or coach gets one red card, the next yellow will result in an additional suspension. Yellow cards do not accumulate from season to season but at the last game their penalties do, i.e. a second yellow card at the last game of the season results in a suspension for the first game of the next season.

7.0 CONDUCT OF COACHES, PARENTS, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS

- 7.1 The VSA Rules are applicable to all persons who participate as a player, spectator, coach or otherwise.
- 7.2 Misconduct by a person not a player or coach, such as a parent or spectator, can cause suspension of privileges for a related player and/or a team coach.
- 7.3 Should a red card be issued to a parent, sibling or other relative of a player, the team coach and the related player shall be suspended under Rule 3.7.
- 7.4 Should a grievance be filed against a parent, sibling or other relative of a player, any penalty resulting from the Grievance process can be enforced against the player and such parent, sibling or other relative of a player.
- 7.5 Violations of VSA Rules and Regulations and/or the FIFA Laws of the game by any person will subject that person, the coach and the player to sanction pursuant to

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these Rules and Regulations. In the event a player, coach, parent, sibling or other relative commits an offense not otherwise specifically covered herein, the Grievance Committee of the VSA shall have the right to impose any penalty determined to be reasonable and just.

- 7.6** The concepts of sportsmanship, courtesy and respect are all applicable to conduct on the sidelines and elsewhere, where the VSA and its members are involved.
- 7.7** No parent, sibling or other relative of a player shall direct any comments which are negative in tone or insulting to the referee, coaches, players or any other person. Such conduct shall subject such parent, sibling or other relative of a player to immediate removal from the soccer complex and possible further disciplinary actions as determined by the VSA Board.

PLAYERS	OFFENSE	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
P-1	Fighting (with an opponent or spectator mutually exchanging blows)	3 games
P-2	Aggression or fighting against as opponent or official in which the other party does not return blows.	4 games
P-3	Striking an opponent, spectator, or official with any object which could cause injury or striking any official for any reason.	1 year
P-4	Deliberate pushing, striking or kicking of a referee or linesman.	1 year
P-5	The throwing of objects at an opponent or spectator.	2 games
P-6	The throwing of object at a referee or linesman.	1 year
P-7	Spitting at a player or spectator.	3 games
P-8	Spitting at a referee or linesman.	1 year

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P-9	Verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage to an opponent or spectator.	2 games
P-10	Verbal threat of bodily harm or property damage to a referee or lineman.	4 games
P-11	Deliberate and repeated fouling of an opposing player.	2 games
P-12	Participation while suspended.	3 games
P-13	Trying to deceive the other team in an unsportsmanlike manner.	1 game
P-14	Red card for any reason not specifically referenced here.	1 game
P-15	Cursing directed at an individual or individuals	1 game
P-16	Misconduct of any other type not specifically referenced here	1 game

The VSA Board reserves the right to reduce the defined minimum suspensions if extenuating circumstances are determined to exist.

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COACH/PARENT/RELATIVE/SPECTATOR OFFENSE		MINIMUM SUSPENSION
CP-1	Use of foul or abusive language.	2 games
CP-2	Screaming at, threatening, or otherwise intimidating players of other team.	2 games
CP-3	Screaming at, threatening, or otherwise intimidating referee, linesman, other coaches, or spectators.	3 games
CP-4	Encouraging or instructing players in any way to deliberately trip or otherwise foul players of opposing team.	1 game
CP-5	Striking a player, coach, referee, or spectator other than in self-defense.	Life
CP-6	Threatening or threatening to strike or touch, whether by language, or bodily movement, a player, coach, referee or spectator.	1 year
CP-7	Bribing a referee or other official for the purpose of gaining an advantage.	Life
CP-8	Deliberate and serious misrepresentation of facts to referee, league official or VSA Board for the purpose of gaining an advantage.	1 year
CP-9	Deliberate and intentional limitation of playing time for a player to less than two quarters or equivalent of a game (except for disciplinary reasons).	2 games
CP-10	Participation while suspended or knowingly allowing participation of a suspended player or coach.	2 games
CP-11	Allowing a player to play who is not specifically on the roster (except in the spring with the other coaches permission).	2 games

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CP-12	Trying to gain an unfair advantage by deception.	2 games
CP-13	Red card for any reason not specifically referenced here.	1 game
CP-14	Misconduct of any other type not specifically referenced Here.	1 game

The VSA Board reserves the right to reduce the defined minimum suspensions if extenuating circumstances are determined to exist.

8.0 COACHES' DUTIES

8.1 COACHES' DUTIES (INTRAMURALS)

1. Coaches shall be responsible for assuring that players clean the field area of oranges, boxes, cups, etc. Put all trash in the cans found near the fields.
2. The home team coach provides the game ball.
3. Coaches are responsible for contacting the league Commissioner of Referees and Commissioner of Schedules for rescheduling make up games.
4. A coach shall wait for **all** children to leave either practice or game field. **Do not** leave children waiting alone for parents.
5. All coaches must adhere to the lightning / thunder policy outlined in section 9.0.
6. If an accident occurs where emergency medical attention is needed a coach must fill out an accident report which is available at the snack bar. Leave completed form at snack bar. Take an extra form in case an injury occurs at practice. Forms may also be mailed to the VSA office.
7. Coaches should notify all drafted players of their team assignment within two (2) weeks of completion of draft. Give players the approximate date for the start of practices so that vacations can be planned
8. Each team must send at least one representative to all coaches meetings.

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9. Coaches must keep their parents on the opposite side of the field from the teams. The purpose of this rule is to minimize problems between spectators and the opposing team.
10. All coaches and assistant coaches must have taken the Rutgers Certification Course in order to coach in any league game. Note: No practice can be held unless there is a certified coach in attendance.
11. No Intramural Team may begin practice before August 1. VSA recommends a minimum of six (6) practices before the first game.
12. It is the Coaches responsibility to advise parents, etc., of their obligation to abide by these rules and regulations. Parents shall also be advised that red cards issued against a parent or spectator shall result in suspension of the coach, pursuant to these rules. The head coach (or assistant coach if the head coach is not present) is responsible for the conduct of the players, coaches and spectators of his team.
13. Coaches, by word, deed and example shall foster competition, good sportsmanship, soccer fundamentals and enjoyment of the sport.

8.2 COACHES' DUTIES (TRAVEL)

Coaches are not guaranteed their position as head coach once they are originally approved by the VSA Board. The VSA Board reserves the right to remove any coaches who does not follow applicable rules and regulations of the VSA or soccer league or acts in a manner that is detrimental to the players or the VSA. The coaching duties for a travel coach include, but are not limited to:

1. Meeting the specific rules and regulations of VSA and the travel league.
2. Assuring that at least one coach attends every practice and game. Having a trainer at practice with no coaches is not acceptable. A coach shall wait for **all** children to leave either practice or game field. **Do not** leave children waiting alone for parents.
3. It is the Coaches responsibility to advise parents, etc., of their obligation to abide by these rules and regulations as well as those of the travel league. Parents shall also be advised that red cards issued against a parent or spectator shall result in suspension of the coach, pursuant to these rules. The head coach (or assistant coach if the head coach is not present) is responsible for the conduct of the players, coaches and spectators of his team.

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4. Coaches shall be responsible for assuring that players clean the field area of oranges, boxes, cups, etc. Put all trash in the cans found near the fields.
5. All coaches must adhere to the lightning / thunder policy outlined in section 9.0.
6. If an accident occurs where emergency medical attention is needed a coach must fill out an accident report which is available at the snack bar. Leave completed form at snack bar. Take an extra form in case an injury occurs at practice. Forms may also be mailed to the VSA office.
7. Each team shall send a representative (coach or assistant) to any travel or tournament meeting.

8.3 OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. All **official** coaches and assistant coaches are covered under the league's liability insurance policy.
2. Head coaches are approved by the Board. A change in a coach must be approved by the board. A written request should be sent to the board via its mailing address.
3. Each team may have a total of three coaches on the sidelines during a game.
4. **First Aid Kit** and **Ice Packs** are available in the snack bar.

8.4 ADDITIONAL RULES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

1. No goalie will be used.
2. Only 4 players on the field for each team.
3. A maximum of one coach from each team will be on the field with the children.
4. The requirement for players and spectators to be on opposite sides of the field is at the discretion of the coaches.
5. There will be no referees.
6. Coaches on the field will act as referees and any disputes shall be decided

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by the home coach.

7. The purpose of this league is to instruct and no scores or standings shall be kept.

8.5 ADDITIONAL RULES FOR DIVISION VI

1. One coach from each team shall be permitted on the field during actual play.
2. The VSA Board reserves the right to reduce the defined minimum suspensions if extenuating circumstances are determined to exist.

9.0 LIGHTNING / THUNDER POLICY

- 9.1. In accordance with USSF and NJYS guidelines, in the event that lightning/ thunder is observed in the area:
 - A. All league sanctioned games in the area will be stopped by the officially assigned game referee.
 - B. The game clock will be stopped.
 - C. Players, coaches and spectators will be directed to leave the field and proceed to the cars in the parking lot.
 - D. The game will not be permitted to resume for thirty (30) minutes after the last observed event.
- 9.2. If an additional lightning/thunder event is observed during the stoppage period, the thirty (30) minute clock will be restarted. In no case should a game be restarted less than 30 minutes after the last observed lightning/thunder event.
- 9.3. The maximum stoppage period per game cannot exceed forty-five (45) minutes. In the event that the required stoppage period has reached or will reach forty-five (45) minutes, the game will be terminated.

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10.0 FUNDRAISING

- 10.1 All team fundraisers must be approved by the board. Travel coaches shall contact the Travel Representative, who will present the proposed fundraising event to the board.
- 10.2 Door-to-door sales by coaches, parents, or players is expressly prohibited.

11.0 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP POLICY

11.1 The VSA Board of Directors has the right to establish and maintain policies allowing teams participating in the VSA travel program to pursue corporate sponsorships with entities to promote, fund and support such teams. For purposes of this section, the terms “entity”, “entities” or “corporate sponsors” refer to a corporation, unincorporated association, limited liability company, partnership, trust, foundation or other legal entity (whether organized for profit or not) that is engaged in commercial activity and not an individual or Governmental entity.

11.2 Head and assistant coaches of teams participating in the VSA travel program are authorized to enter into negotiations with prospective corporate sponsors to attempt to secure sponsorships for their teams so long as: (1) the nature of the entity’s services are consistent with the values and purposes of the VSA and its soccer programs; (2) the entity provides a service that relates, in some manner, to the sport of soccer or services which may be provided to the VSA, the teams or the players; and (3) the entity agrees that any sponsorships must be in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the VSA.

11.3 Corporate sponsorships shall be granted on an individual basis, as determined by the majority vote of the VSA Board of Directors. No team participating in the VSA travel program shall have the right to enter into a contract or business relationship with any sponsor.

11.4 Sponsorship recognition may identify the entity. The following content is ordinarily deemed appropriate: (1) the legally recognized name, trade name, or trademark of the entity; or (2) the entity’s organizational slogan. The VSA Board of Directors maintains full control over the placement, content, appearance and wording reflecting a sponsorship of a travel team. It is the intent of this policy to provide entities with visibility and recognition for their sponsorship. However, nothing will be permitted to be added to any part of the uniforms issued by the VSA to the players and/or

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coaches participating in the VSA travel program. The design, layout and content of any advertising messages must be commercially reasonable under the circumstances and approved by the VSA Board prior to placement.

11.5 Sponsorship agreements may be terminated at will by the VSA Board of Directors under appropriate circumstances determined at the sole discretion of the VSA Board. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) the entity becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy; (2) the entity is determined to have engaged in activities involving moral turpitude; or (3) a court or administrative tribunal finds the entity has violated a law or regulation pertaining to business or employment practices.

11.6 Any entity permitted to sponsor a team participating in the VSA travel program shall not imply, suggest or publicize any inference to indicate that the VSA, the VSA Board, the teams participating in the VSA travel program or the players/coaches on such teams endorse the entity or any product, service, or activity of such entity. No entity shall have the right to use the seal, emblem, badge, descriptive and designative marks, or words or phrases associated with or referring to VSA unless duly approved by the VSA Board of Directors.

11.7 Each agreement granting a sponsorship benefit must specify an appropriate term. Unless otherwise agreed by the VSA Board, the terms of any sponsorship shall be for one fall and one spring season for such team. At the end of the term, any entity seeking to again sponsor a team participating in the VSA travel program will have to submit a new request to the VSA Board of Directors for approval.

11.8 Any team who secures a sponsorship opportunity has the right to retain all funds for the benefit of that team. In the event that all sponsorship funds are not utilized during the duration of the sponsorship, any excess funds will be retained by the team for team-related activities following the term of the sponsorship.