

# Pacific Grove Eight-a-Side Over-30 Soccer League Competition Rules

## Introduction

The Pacific Grove High School soccer coaches have engaged the Monterey Peninsula Soccer League to assist them with the Pacific Grove Over-30 League for several reasons:

- To raise money to support Pacific Grove High School soccer and other high school sports programs;
- To provide a positive role model for students at the high school; and
- To give you an opportunity to play soccer with your peers.

Your enthusiastic cooperation, participation, and especially patience will be greatly appreciated with this competition. Its success is a pre-condition for future offerings of the league. Please cooperate with the Pacific Grove High School soccer coaches, MPSL managers and the referees throughout the competition, as they are very interested in seeing this league continue in the future.

## Player Eligibility

- Male players over 30 years old (goalkeepers may be 25 years old, but, if under 30, they may not play as a field player).
- Female players 18 years old and older (no other special rules are made regarding female players).

## Rules of Play

We will use the current FIFA Laws of the Game as published by the United States Soccer Federation (<http://www.fifa.com/en/game/laws.html>), with the following modifications:

1. Length of Games: Two 45-minute halves with 10-minute halftime (except during certain times of the year when games must be shortened to accommodate stadium limitations and rules).
2. Number of Players: only 8 players are allowed on the field for each team, including the goalkeeper. Team rosters must have a minimum of ten and a maximum of 16 players. **A minimum of six players are required on the field for a team to continue a game.**
3. Substitutions: may be made when the following two conditions are met: the ball is out of play and the referee gives his consent. The departing player must be off the field of play before the entering player steps on and **the entering player must enter at the midfield line.** (This means by the post for the American football goal.)
4. Offsides: **no offsides will be called.**
5. Uniforms: **shinguards are required** for all players. Numbered jerseys are required for all players except the goalkeeper. Tape may not be used to create a number. The goalkeeper must wear a jersey different from all other players. **Jerseys must be identical** for all field players (except for the jersey number). **Shorts and socks must be substantially similar in color.** Players may not wear any jewelry except for players having a medical condition requiring a medic alert bracelet or medic alert necklace. Medic alert items must be taped to the body.
6. Goals: standard size goals and nets will be used.
7. Field Markings: The field will be one half of the soccer field at Pacific Grove High School (played sideways). A reduced size penalty area will be indicated by blue tape stuck to the field.

8. Goalkeeping: After the goalkeeper uses hands to control the ball, an indirect free kick (IFK) will be awarded by the referee to the opposing team if the goalkeeper throws or kicks the ball beyond the mid-field line without the ball first touching a player or the ground. The IFK will be taken from the mid-field line where the ball passed over the line. This rule applies to drop-kicks by the goal keeper. The goal keeper may completely release the ball from his hands to the ground and then play it as any field player may do so (once he does so, he may be challenged as an opponent might challenge any opposing field player).

9. Slide Tackles: slide tackles are prohibited. The goalkeeper may slide within his own penalty area. As punishment for an illegal slide tackle, the referee will award a direct free kick (DFK) to be taken from the spot of the slide tackle.

10. Goal Kicks: Goal kicks must be taken from anywhere on the goal line within the penalty area. Goal kicks may not pass over the halfway line in the air unless first touched by a player other than the player taking the goal kick. The ball must leave the penalty area in order to be in play. Opposing players may stand anywhere outside the penalty area on a goal kick.

11. Opposing players must be at least 7 yards (as opposed to 10 yards) on free kicks and kickoffs.

12. Kickoffs: The ball may be kicked backwards on a kickoff. A goal may NOT be scored directly from a kickoff.

13. Penalty Kicks: The penalty spot from which the penalty kick is taken is at the point of the white triangle next to the "20" marked on the field. This is centered on the goal and 12 yards from the goal line.

14. Referees: One USSF certified referee shall be used. Players are expected to honestly assist the referees with regard to balls out of play over the touchlines and the goal lines.

## **Schedules**

The schedule will be provided to team captains and also posted at <http://www.montereysoccer.org>. Schedule changes and updates will be posted at that website, so ask your players to periodically check the website.

Games will not be postponed or rescheduled due to leave, illness, injuries or because your best players aren't available to play. If you request a postponement, be prepared to justify why your team cannot play on that date. Requests for schedule changes must be submitted to Tom Moore, Joe Opitz and Ernesto Pacleb at least 9 days before the day of the scheduled game, so that we can determine whether or not the opponent will agree to the change and to have time to reschedule the referee.

## **Team Performance Measures**

League Champion: The League winner is the team that wins the final game of the playoffs. During the round robins, three points are awarded for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss. Total points during the round robins will be used to seed the playoffs.

Teams Tied on Total Points for the Season: Should two or more teams be tied for a place based on total points for the season, then the points earned by each tied team in just the games between the tied teams shall be calculated. The winner shall be the team with the highest such total. If the top two teams are still tied, next tie breaker will be the goal differential from the game(s) between the tied teams. If still tied at that point, the tie will be broken by choosing the team with the highest overall total season goal difference. (Goal difference = goals for - goals against.) If still tied at that point a coin toss will be used.

Playoff games: If a playoff game is tied at the end of regular time, two five-minute sudden death overtimes will be played. If a tie still exists at that point, FIFA penalty kicks will be taken.

## **Game Administrative Procedures**

Team managers must have their game roster form ready to give to the referee ten minutes before game time. The referee will check in all players by verifying their **player pass** against the roster during the player equipment inspection. After the game, the referee will turn in these completed rosters, with final scores and cards issued, to Tom Moore.

Game time is forfeit time. A team must have at least six players present and ready to play on the field at game time to avoid a forfeit. The score that will be shown for a forfeit is 3:0. If a team forfeits two games in a row or three during the season, the team manager will meet with the Over 30 Competition Committee to have the team's status determined.

Once we are within three weeks of the start of the playoffs, no roster changes (additions, deletions or transfers) are allowed.

## **Disciplinary Procedures**

Accumulated Cautions: A player who accumulates a single caution in three different games will be suspended for the next game actually played by his or her team. If this player then repeats a sequence of two cautions in two more games, he or she will be suspended for the next two games actually played by his or her team.

Ejections Due to Two Cautions in One Game: A player who receives two cautions in a game is ejected from that game and will be suspended from the next game played by his or her team. The two cautions received under these circumstances don't count as accumulated cautions mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Direct Ejections: Regardless of whether he or she was previously cautioned during the game, a player who is ejected from a game for a direct red card offense must serve the punishment determined by the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will award at least a one game suspension and a \$10 fine. The Committee may give a longer suspension and/or higher fine, depending on the severity of the incident. Actual physical assault or verbal threats directed toward the referee or other players will incur expulsion for the rest of the season and possible legal action under state law.

Players who are ejected from a game have five minutes to leave the stadium. Failure to do so will result in an forfeit by that player's team.

Disciplinary Committee: The disciplinary committee consists of the following members:

1. Dr. Thomas P. Moore, President, MPSL
2. Mr. Les Willis
3. Mr. Frank Kalauch
4. Mr. Joe Opitz
5. Mr. Clay Berling.
6. Mr. Ernesto Pacleb.

The Disciplinary Committee will meet in person and/or via email, and as necessary to deal with ejections. At least three members of the Disciplinary Committee are required to make a decision on any disciplinary action.

## **General Provisions**

Please obey the stadium rules. Those who violate them, for example by bringing food or drink onto the field, will be asked to sit in the stands or leave the stadium. **Please do not leave your children unsupervised at the field during games.**