



St. Albert Men's Soccer League (SAMSL)



By-Laws, General Rules and Regulations

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Vocabulary and Abbreviations

ASA	Alberta Soccer Association
Association/SASA	St. Albert Soccer Association; governing association of SAMSL
CSA	Canadian Soccer Association
PIC	Player Identification Card
League/SAMSL	St. Albert Men's Soccer League

1. General Responsibilities

1.1 General

Managers, coaches, players, team officials, and spectators may only take part in or attend games on the condition that they observe and comply with the Rules and Regulations and Bylaws of the St. Albert Men's Soccer League (SAMSL or League).

Each player, coach, manager and/or team official is responsible:

- 1.1.1* To be properly registered with St. Albert Soccer Association (SASA or Association).
- 1.1.2* Have knowledge of and comply with "Rules and Regulations" of the Association.
- 1.1.3* Have knowledge of and comply with the FIFA "Laws of the Game".
- 1.1.4* Respect the referee's decisions during play.
- 1.1.5* No association, league, club or team referee, assistant referee, player or official shall bet on any soccer match, and they are also required to prevent betting.
- 1.1.6* Any club or team, referee, assistant referee, player, official, or spectator may be asked to leave the field area for continued usage of objectionable language or signs.

1.2 Team Responsibilities

Each club or team is responsible for:

- 1.2.1* The actions and conduct of its team officials, managers, coaches, players, and spectators.
- 1.2.2* Taking all reasonable precautions necessary to prevent its team officials, managers, coaches, players and/or spectators from threatening and/or assaulting anyone present at games.
- 1.2.3* Maintaining knowledge regarding the current eligibility status of all their team officials, managers, coaches, and players.
- 1.2.4* Ensuring that ineligible team officials, managers, coaches and players do not enter the playing field or player bench area and do not participate in the competition.
- 1.2.5* Ensuring each manager, coach and player have a valid SAMSL recognized identification card.
- 1.2.6* Ensuring that the team officials, managers, coaches, and players' identification cards (PIC) are presented to the game officials prior to their participation in any competition and all team officials, managers and coaches must be on the team's game sheet. Four (4) is the maximum number of team officials allowed to be registered with a team, and therefore present on any game sheet.
 - 1.2.6.1 SAMSL registered managers, coaches and players may provide the referee with a digital picture of their valid league PIC (ex. photo of the card on a cellphone)
 - 1.2.6.2 Trialists must have their valid PIC from the league they are registered in when they play a game in the SAMSL. A digital picture of their valid PIC is an acceptable form of identification. Refer to Sections 8, 11 and 12 for more details.
 - 1.2.6.3 Providing and putting up one (1) goal net, as well as, supply three (3) corner flags. Flags and nets must meet FIFA minimum standards (refer to Section 6.5).
 - 1.2.6.4 The home team shall supply two (2) game balls, with minimum standard of ball being set by the League at the beginning of the season (refer to Section 6.5).
 - 1.2.6.5 The visiting team shall wear their primary color uniform as registered with the league. The home team shall change uniforms in the event of their uniforms not being

distinguishable from the visiting team. Training “bibs” or “pinnies” are NOT allowed in any SAMSL game (refer to Section 6.5).

- 1.3 All games shall be played in St. Albert unless otherwise approved by the League Director.

2. Team Registration

- 2.1 The team registration fee, set annually by the SAMSL in conjunction with SASA, is required to be paid in the following way:
 - 2.1.1 An initial non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 is to be paid in advance of the season, normally mid-April, at a date set by the League Director or SASA.
 - 2.1.2 The remaining balance is to be paid prior to the commencement of the season on a date determined by the League Director or SASA.
 - 2.1.3 Fees must be paid to the SASA office using an acceptable method as prescribed by the Association. Any team failing to meet the above timetable may be subject to a \$50 at the discretion of the League Director. They may also be subject to suspension as described in Section 16.1 below.
- 2.2 All team officials are required to pay disciplinary fines as described in the rules and regulations, to the SASA office.
 - 2.2.1 If a team (includes players and/or team officials) receives a cumulative total of 10, 15 or 20 yellow cards during the Regular Season, that team will be fined \$100, \$150 and \$200, respectively.
 - 2.2.2 Within this card total, straight red cards account for two (2) yellow cards.
 - 2.2.3 The fines must be paid to the Association within one (1) week of the time in which the League Director, Association and/or the Disciplinary Chairman/Committee informs the team of the total being reached. If the fines are not paid within this time period, a game forfeit will be handed to the team for every game that takes place until the fine is paid.
- 2.3 A team shall not be eligible for any participation in the program unless all outstanding debts owed to SASA, the Alberta Soccer Association (ASA) or the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) has been paid.
- 2.4 Team officers(s) of teams attending outside competitions, including Provincials, are required to complete the required ASA registration form(s).

3. Player Registration

- 3.1 Each team may have a maximum of 25 players registered on their roster at any one time. If a team wishes to add a player or players to a full roster, then the team must remove the required number of players first. Such that, they may not exceed 25 players on their roster at any one time.
- 3.2 Each player must be registered with the team for which he will play. No player shall register or play for more than one registered team during one season unless he has been duly transferred from one team to another.
- 3.3 Players must register with the Association in accordance with the methods prescribed by the Association.

- 3.4 Players must have an active SAMSL Player Identification Card (PIC), issued by the Association or the SAMSL.
- 3.5 A player shall not be eligible for any participation in the program unless all outstanding debts owed to SASA, ASA, or CSA have been paid.
- 3.6 All player registrations for league games must be made and player identification card received at least 60 hours prior to participation. Similarly, all player registrations for Provincial Cup games must be made at least seven (7) days prior to participation.
- 3.7 The registration deadline for the season is midnight of July 31st. No players may be registered after that date for the remainder of the season.
- 3.8 A roster cap for each team will be imposed based on the number of players currently registered for that team at midnight on July 1st. If a team wishes to add players to their roster after July 1st, they must first release players to bring them under their required roster cap.

4. Transfer of Players

- 4.1 A player who has signed a registration form for a club or team affiliated with the SAMSL during a current season shall be allowed to transfer his registration to any other club or team. Such notice shall be made on the form provided by the SAMSL for this purpose. Once this form has been completed, signed and copied, by the player, to the League Director and date stamped by the League Director, the player ceases to be part of his/her former team, and may play immediately for his/her new team.
- 4.2 A player may only transfer once in a thirty (30)-calendar day period.
- 4.3 The club or team granting the transfer shall have the transfer form signed by their coach or manager and returned to the player who shall then take it to his/her new club or team for signing. The fully completed original must then be submitted to the SAMSL.
- 4.4 The transfer shall be complete when the original transfer form has been completed, date stamped and received by the League Director.
- 4.5 A player shall not play for more than one (1) team in any one (1) Playoff Cup competition, even though he has since been legally transferred.
- 4.6 A registered player can only be deemed a "Free Agent" if the Provincial Association has deliberated the case in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Canadian Soccer Association.
- 4.7 There shall be no application for transfer of players within the territorial limits of the Association received after business hours on July 31st.
- 4.8 Transfer Deadline will be as per ASA Guidelines for the current season.

5. Referees and Assistant Referees

- 5.1 All referees and assistant referees (Game Officials) shall be under the jurisdiction of SASA through the Head Referee and through them to SASA and the SAMSL Executive.
- 5.2 The Game Officials for each game shall be appointed by the SASA official or staff member designated for such duties. If no previous arrangements have been made, and through unforeseen circumstances a referee or linesman is unable to act, then the team officials or captains shall agree on some other person to officiate.
- 5.3 All referees shall, within 24 hours following the completion of a game in which they officiated, forward a written misconduct report to the League Director detailing any incidents which may have taken place before, during, or after the game (e.g. player sending-off, team officer warnings or ejections, match abandoned etc.). If a player is sent-off, the Game Official will make note of that player's identification card (PIC) and include the PIC information with the written

- misconduct report (i.e. name and card number). The written report must follow the standard set out by the ASA's misconduct report.
- 5.4 Players who have their identification card associated with a discipline/misconduct report are ineligible to play again pending notification of action of the League Director and League Disciplinary Chairman/Committee or Association. The League Director shall communicate with the team officials as soon as possible.
 - 5.5 The referee shall decide if the ground is fit to play on.
 - 5.6 The Head Referee, or anyone appointed by the Men's League to be responsible for disciplinary matters shall reserve the right to summon any Game Official before a specified meeting to clarify his or her reports or answer for his or her misconduct within the jurisdiction of SASA.

6. Games and Competitions

- 6.1 All games played by the clubs and teams affiliated with the Men's League shall be controlled by the League Director with such authority so as to determine schedules for all games.
- 6.2 The League Director shall distribute schedules to the club and team officials and such a schedule shall be considered sufficient notice for proper participation.
- 6.3 The League Director or designate shall inform the club and team officials as well as the game officials of any change in the schedule.
- 6.4 The season is divided into two stages: the Regular Season and the Playoff Cup.
 - 6.4.1 At the end of the regular season, the top team is awarded the League Pennant.
 - 6.4.2 The top team(s) (1 when provincials are in Calgary and 2 when provincials are in the Edmonton area) is/are offered the opportunity to represent SAMSL at the ASA Men's provincial tournament.
 - 6.4.3 The Playoff Cup is defined based on the final rankings of each team at the end of the Regular Season. The top team at the end of the competition is awarded the Playoff Cup.
- 6.5 For all games, all teams must provide the following equipment (refer to Section 1.2.6.3-1.2.6.5):
 - 6.5.1 A regulation goal net appropriately secured to the goals and in good state of repair.
 - 6.5.2 Three (3) regulation corner flags at the field.
 - 6.5.3 Two (2) regulation game balls of the correct shape, size and pressure and in a good state of repair (Home team). The balls must meet minimum standard of ball being set by the League at the beginning of the season.
 - 6.5.4 A change of uniform if the referee determines there is a color clash between the two first choice uniforms (Home team).
- 6.6 Any games (Regular Season or Playoff Cup) that are postponed due to ground or weather conditions shall be rescheduled by the League Director or SASA.
- 6.7 Any club or team requesting a change of a scheduled game for whatever reason, shall do so in writing to the League Director 10 days in advance of game day. The decision of the League Director shall be final.
- 6.8 Any club or team having to forfeit a game for any reason must do so within 12 hours of the game. The League Director, opposing team manager and the SASA office needs this amount of notice in order to contact the Game Officials. If notice inside of 12 hours is given, the forfeiting team will have to cover the cost of the Game Officials.
- 6.9 All shirts of players in a game must be clearly numbered on the back.

- 6.10 A team playing an ineligible player will forfeit the game unless in the League Director's view there are mitigating circumstances (see more in Section 16.1).
- 6.11 The process employed to determine which team(s) will represent the SAMSL in the ASA Provincial Competitions will be determined based on top positioning (refer to Section 6.4.2).

7. League Standings and Promotion and Relegation

- 7.1 League format and any promotion or relegation issues shall be determined by the League Director prior to the start of the season. If there was more than one division the previous season, promotion and relegation will be determined as follows:
 - 7.1.1 The team which finished first in a division shall be promoted to the next highest division for the next applicable season.
 - 7.1.2 The team which finished last in a division shall be relegated to the next lower division for the next applicable season.
- 7.2 The criteria used to break point ties in the standings for either league or cup-trophy competition is as follows:
 - 7.2.1 Goal difference (goals for minus goals against).
 - 7.2.2 Goals for (i.e. goals scored by the team).
 - 7.2.3 Results of games between tied teams.
 - 7.2.4 Goal difference in games between tied teams.
 - 7.2.5 Goals scored for in games between tied teams.
 - 7.2.6 Penalty kicks

8. Game Sheets and Player Identification Cards (PICs)

- 8.1 Official game sheets must be used for all Regular Season and Playoff Cup games. These game sheets are to be completed, signed by all team officials, and given to the Game Officials 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time together with the PICs for all players and team officials (i.e. managers, coaches to a maximum of four {4} as per Section 1.2.6) identified on the game sheet. The game sheet may contain up to 20 players. Players unable to show their PIC are ineligible to play.
- 8.2 The game sheets (white copies) from both participating teams must be returned to the SASA office within 24 hours of the completion of the game. It is the Home Team's, responsibility to ensure this happens. Failure to comply may result in a \$20 fine.
- 8.3 If an ineligible player's name appears on the game sheet, it will be deemed that the player has actually played and will be dealt with in accordance with Section 6.1 and 16.10.

9. Duration of Games

- 9.1 Games shall be divided into two equal halves of 45 minutes each, with a half-time not exceeding five minutes except by consent of the referee. Because of local conditions, the 90-minute game may be shortened under the following rules:
 - 9.1.1 If, before the start of the game, the referee feels that weather or light conditions may make it impossible to play a full 90-minute game, they shall call the captains together and ask them to agree on a shortened game. Should the captains fail to agree on the shortened time to be

played, the referee shall set the time to be played, and their decision shall be binding and final.

9.1.2 When a game is started under normal conditions, or as under Section 9.1.1 above, and the referee later believes that early darkness or adverse conditions may lead to player injuries, they shall then call the game, and the score in the game at this time shall stand provided that a minimum of 60 minutes has been played. If this minimum time (i.e. 60 minutes) has not been reached, the League Director will work with SASA to reschedule the game.

9.2 Games abandoned by the referee because of player or spectator demonstrations and/or violence, must be reported directly to the League Director or committee appointed for such purpose who shall decide if the score at the time of abandonment shall stand, or whether the game should be replayed.

9.3 There shall be no extra time played in league matches. For Playoff Cup games that require a result, if the score is tied after 90 minutes, two 15-minute halves of extra-time shall be played if weather and light conditions permit. If the game is still tied after extra-time, and weather and light conditions permit, then penalty kicks shall be used (format as in FIFA Laws of the Game) to determine the winning team.

9.4 Should weather or light conditions not permit the 30 minutes of extra-time then the result of the game shall be determined by penalty kicks.

9.5 In all games, the referee shall be the only official time-keeper, and he shall be in complete charge on the field in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

10. Substitutes

10.1 Substitutes shall be permitted in all games (regular season and cup) as follows:

10.1.1 Unlimited substituting shall be allowed whether in regular or extra-time. Substitutions are at the discretion of the referee.

10.1.2 A player replaced by a substitute can himself be later allowed to return to the game as a substitute.

10.1.3 All substitutes must wait for the signal from the referee before entering the field of play. Substitutions take place at the centre-line.

10.2 No substitution shall be permitted for a player sent-off from the field of play after play has started.

10.3 A substitute shall be subject to the authority of the referee whether he is called upon to play or not.

10.4 A team using more than the players listed on the game sheet shall forfeit the game as outlined in the Recommended Punishment section (Section 16.1).

10.5 A maximum of three (3) substitutes can be used per substitution.

11. Minor Players with Men's Teams (Minimum age of 16 years)

11.1 A minor player shall be entitled to play an unlimited amount of regular season games for a registered team provided that prior written permission has been granted by a team officer of the team with whom the player is currently registered. Playing for a registered team shall not offend the player's minor status.

11.2 The Executive of the Association reserves the right, in cases of conflict in schedules, to rule that minor player shall play minor soccer first and men's soccer second.

11.3 No more than five (5) such minor players may play for any one team in one game.

- 11.4 It shall be recorded on the game sheet that the player is a trialist. Additionally, a trialist form must be completed by the player and the manager of the team in which they are registered. No more than five (5) trialists (Minor or Senior) may appear on a Team's game-sheet.
- 11.5 The PIC of the minor player(s) shall be in the possession of the team officer of the men's team for which the minor player is playing. PIC's from other jurisdictions will be allowable. A digital picture of their valid PIC is an acceptable form of identification.
- 11.6 A minor player cannot play for a men's team in any Playoff Cup game or any qualifying tournament for any ASA or CSA competition. The punishment for improper use of a minor player is as if he were an unregistered player.

12. Senior Players with Men's Teams (Over 35)

- 12.1 A senior player, currently registered with a Masters Team (across Alberta), shall be entitled to play an unlimited number of regular season games for a registered team
- 12.2 No more than five (5) such senior players may play for any one team in one game.
- 12.3 It shall be recorded on the game sheet that the player is a trialist. Additionally, a trialist form must be completed by the player and the manager of the team in which they are registered. No more than five (5) trialists (Senior or Minor) may appear on a Team's game-sheet.
- 12.4 The PIC of the senior player(s) shall be in the possession of the team officer of the men's team for which the senior player is playing. PIC's from other jurisdictions will be allowable. A digital picture of their valid PIC is an acceptable form of identification.
- 12.5 A senior player cannot play for a men's team in any play-off game or any qualifying tournament for any ASA or CSA competition. The punishment for improper use of a senior player is as if he were an unregistered player.

13. Appeals, Disputes and Protests

- 13.1 Game protests with respect to game regulation violations must be made in writing to the League Director within 24 hours of the incident, and must be accompanied by the protest fee of \$50, which will be refunded only if the protest is upheld.
- 13.2 Any appeal of a decision made by the League Director with regard to games must be made in writing to the Disciplinary Chairman within 48 hours of the decision, and must be accompanied by the appeal, dispute, or protest fee of \$50, which will be refunded only if the appeal, protest, or dispute is upheld. No written document can be considered an appeal, dispute or protest unless it is accompanied by the stated fee and is received within the proper time limit (all fees as previously noted to be certified cheque or e-transfer to the League). The Disciplinary Committee shall then deal with the matter and their decision shall stand.
- 13.3 Any appeal, dispute or protest of a decision made by the Disciplinary Chairman may be made in writing to the Executive of the Association within 72 hours of the decision and must be accompanied by an appeal, dispute, or protest fee of \$75 which shall be returned only if the appeal, dispute, or protest is upheld. No written document can be considered as an appeal, dispute, or protest unless it is received within the proper time limit. The Association Executive shall then deal with the matter and their decision shall stand. The operation of the Disciplinary Committee shall not be suspended pending the hearing unless so ordered by the Executive.
- 13.4 An appeal, dispute, or protest of a decision of the Executive of the Association may be made in writing to the Secretary of the ASA within 72 hours of the decision, and must be accompanied by an appeal, dispute, or protest fee (determine by ASA) which shall be returned only if the appeal, dispute, or protest is upheld. No written document can be considered as an appeal,

dispute, or protest unless it is accompanied by the correct fee and is received within the proper time limit. Appeals to the CSA will only be accepted if they relate to constitutional matters.

14. Disciplinary Procedures

- 14.1 Field violations are to be recorded on a misconduct report by the Game Officials and sent to the League Director together with a note of the player identification cards (PICs).
- 14.2 The League Director and/or the Disciplinary Chairman may apply any or all of the prescribed disciplinary measures contained in this document as may be changed from time to time. At their discretion they may amend the penalties if in their opinion the offence committed warrants such an amendment.
- 14.3 The League Director and/or the Disciplinary Chairman shall inform the affected team officials of any suspensions to their players or other team officials. This shall be done as soon as possible after receiving the misconduct report from the Game Official. In addition, the League Director (or a representative), will inform the league of any suspensions that have been handed out ahead of the next scheduled league games.
- 14.4 Where reference is made to the Disciplinary Chairman or to the ASA, then the League Director must refer the violation to the specified person or Association in writing.
- 14.5 Players sent-off the field of play for misconducts shall not play again in the same game or be substituted for in that game and shall miss the next one game (one game being the minimum punishment for a sending-off). In addition, the player shall serve such greater suspension as may be applicable for the offence committed and as contained in the recommended punishments of this document.
- 14.6 There shall be no disciplinary hearing unless so stated in the recommended punishments, or unless an official appeal is submitted.
- 14.7 Where punishments refer to the first offence, then this shall mean the first occasion that the player was sent-off for that offence.
- 14.8 Where punishments refer to the second offence then this shall mean the second occasion that a player has been sent-off for that offence. If a player is sent-off in another game for a different type of offence then the League Director, in consultation with the Disciplinary Chairman, will decide the suspension based on the specifics of the offences.
- 14.9 Suspensions that have not been served prior to the end of the season in which the suspension was imposed shall be carried over to the next season in which the player is registered. All of the suspensions shall be served.
- 14.10 All suspensions must be served for games scheduled by the SAMSL and played by the team. Suspended players shall not play games for any other team, or in any other game during suspension.

15. Misconduct Hearings

- 15.1 Any players sent-off for misconducts, or any team officials reported for misconducts and required to be dealt with by a Disciplinary hearing shall be dealt with as soon as possible after the incident on consideration of the reports at hand, and the decision, given to those involved as soon as possible, shall be binding and shall not be suspended pending any other appeal, dispute or protest of the decision.
- 15.2 When a Disciplinary hearing is called, the players or other team members or team officials required in attendance shall be informed of the time, date, and place of such hearing by a notice from the League Director to the club or team representative concerned, or other officer of the club or team, and it shall be their duty to inform the member(s) of the hearing and have him

(them) present thereat. The representative shall speak on behalf of the players(s) or member(s) if he so desires at the hearing. Others also required to be present shall be given notice by the League Director.

- 15.3 At the hearing the report outlining the misconduct shall be read, together with earlier decisions on the matter, if any, and the case dealt with, or adjourned if further evidence is found to be necessary, and the decision eventually arrived at shall be binding, and shall not be suspended pending any other appeal, dispute, or protest of the decision.
- 15.4 Players sent-off for misconducts shall not play again in the same game or be substituted for a minimum of one game until a decision is given on the misconduct for which they were sent-off, either by the League Director, or because of a Disciplinary hearing.
- 15.5 Any team member or player shall be automatically suspended until he presents himself before such a body.
- 15.6 An appeal with regard to the decision of the Executive or Disciplinary Chairman may be made in a like manner to that outlined under “Appeals, Protests, and Disputes.”
- 15.7 The Discipline Committee required for such misconduct hearings can consist of the following people: the League Director, the league’s Disciplinary Chairman, SASA’s Head Referee and SASA’s Executive Director. For each hearing, three (3) of the four (4) people listed will be selected for the Committee depending on the involvement of certain SAMSL players or team officials, as well as the availability of the individuals. If it is required, the people listed above can approve an outside designate to represent them.

16. Team Offences and Suspensions

- 16.1 *Registration Violations* – Use of underage players, players without a PIC, minor players without written permission, more than five (5) minor and/or senior players, or non-registered, suspended or illegally registered players.

Punishment

First Occurrence	All games played shall count as a loss and three (3) goals against and three (3) points shall be awarded against the offending team. The team officials shall be reprimanded
Second Occurrence	In addition to the above, the team officials shall be suspended pending a Disciplinary hearing. A \$50 fine will be levied.
Subsequent Occurrences	In addition to all the above the team and team officials shall be suspended pending Disciplinary hearing. A \$100 fine will be levied.

- 16.2 *Teams failing to arrive on time* – No show or late show by either team where a late show is defined as a team not being on the field of play ready to kick-off within 15 minutes of the assigned kick-off time with a minimum of seven (7) players together with the required equipment (see Section 6.5). If, after starting the game a team falls below the minimum seven players, then the game will end.

Punishment

First Occurrence	The non-offending team may claim the game or consider it postponed. If the game is claimed it will be recorded as a 3-goal loss against the offending team. The team officials shall be reprimanded and the offending team will pay of the Game Officials (see Section 6.8)
Second Occurrence	In addition to the above, the team officials shall be suspended pending a hearing and disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Chairman.
Subsequent Occurrences	In addition to all the above, the team and team officials shall be suspended pending a hearing and disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Chairman.
Note:	In the case of a late arrival of a team, the waiting coach may elect to play the game, subject to the discretion of the referee. The waiting coach and/or referee are not required to wait beyond the 15-minute grace period.

- 16.3 *Misconduct by Teams* – Leaving the field in protest or refusing to continue the game.

Punishment

First Occurrence	The game shall be forfeited and shall count as a 3-0 loss to the offending team. The team officials shall be suspended pending a Disciplinary hearing.
Second Occurrence	In addition to all of the above, the team and team officials shall be immediately suspended pending a Disciplinary hearing

- 16.4 *Misconduct by Teams* – Members of both teams engage in a fight or brawl resulting in the game being abandoned.

Punishment

First and Subsequent Occurrences	Immediate suspension of the teams and team officials pending a Disciplinary hearing.
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- 16.5 *Misconduct by Teams* – Team officials refusing to assist Game Officials prior, during, or after the game, failing to maintain sideline control and discipline or controlling identifiable team supporters when requested by the Game Officials, warned for entering the field of play without permission, dissent by word or actions to the Game Officials, or ungentlemanly conduct.

Punishment

First Occurrence	One (1) game suspension
Second Occurrence	Two (2) game suspension
Third and Subsequent Occurrences	Disciplinary hearing

- 16.6 *Misconduct by Teams* – Team officials ejected for striking or attempting to strike an opponent or spectator, spitting at an opponent or spectator, threatening or harassing an opponent or spectator or foul or abusive language directed at opponents, spectators, or Game Officials.

Punishment

First Occurrence	Five (5) game suspension
Second Occurrence	Disciplinary hearing

17. Player and Team Official Offences and Suspensions

- 17.1 *Player Cautions* – Cautions are yellow cards and are issued in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by FIFA. They are distinct from red cards. If a player is sent-off for a second cautionable offence, then the cautions are nullified and the player is suspended as shown below. If a player is cautioned and then sent-off for a serious foul play, violent conduct or any of the sending off offences, then the caution will be added to his record. The following suspensions are for yellow card accumulations during the season.

Punishment

After three (3) cautions recorded	One (1) game suspension
After five (5) cautions recorded (i.e. 2 additional cautions)	One (1) game suspension
For every recorded caution above five (5) (i.e. for every additional caution)	Two (2) game suspension

- 17.2 *Player Cautions, Two Offences* – Players or team officials sent-off for two cautionable offences in a single game (including but not limited to Unsporting Behavior, Dissent by word or action, Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language, Persistent Infringement, Entering, Re-entering or Leaving the field of play without permission, 3rd minor misconduct, Delaying Restart of Play etc.). Note that the player or team official receiving an ejection during the course of the game must leave the field of play immediately.

Punishment

	Players	Team Officials
First Offence	One (1) game suspension	Two (2) game suspension
Second Offence	Two (2) game suspension	Three (3) game suspension
Subsequent Offences	Disciplinary hearing	Disciplinary hearing

- 17.3 *Language and Gestures* – Players or team officials sent-off for Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language, dissent or gestures directed at players, team officials, spectators and/or are loud enough, in the opinion of the Game Officials, to be audible to others on the field. This also includes failure to conduct in a responsible manner towards anyone in the field of play.

Punishment

	Players	Team Officials
First Offence	One (1) game suspension	Two (2) game suspension
Second Offence	Two (2) game suspension	Three (3) game suspension
Subsequent Offences	Four (4) game suspension and disciplinary hearing	Four (4) game suspension and disciplinary hearing

- 17.4 *Serious Foul Play* – Players sent-off for serious foul play (including but not limited to dangerous tackle, charging, push from behind, indiscriminately kicking opponent, elbowing or other extenuating circumstances).

Punishment

First Offence	Three (3) game suspension
Second and Subsequent Offences	Disciplinary hearing

- 17.5 *Violent Conduct* – Players or team officials sent-off for violent conduct, striking a player, team officials or spectator (including but not limited to kicking, punching, elbowing, scratching or gouging, head butting and spitting) or threatening an opponent or spectator.

Punishment

	Players	Team Officials
First Offence	Five (5) game suspension	Disciplinary hearing
Second Offence	Ten (10) game suspension, \$100 fine and disciplinary hearing	\$200 fine and Disciplinary hearing
Subsequent Offences	\$200 fine and Disciplinary hearing	\$200 fine and Disciplinary hearing
Note	All player fines, regardless of offence, to be paid by the player before any further participation in soccer.	All team official fines, regardless of offence, to be paid by the team official before any further participation in soccer.

- 17.6 *Language and Gestures against Game Officials* – Players or team officials sent-off for Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language, dissent or gestures directed at the Game Officials.

Punishment

	Player	Team Officials
First Offence	Two (2) game suspension	Four (4) game suspension
Subsequent Offences	Disciplinary hearing	Disciplinary hearing

17.7 *Offences against Game Officials* – Players or team officials sent-off for:

- 17.7.1 Intentional physical contact with the Game Officials (e.g. pushing, spitting) prior to, during or after the game (this will go to the ASA for disciplinary action).
- 17.7.2 Threatening or harassing the Game Officials or League Officials when acting on behalf of the league at any time.
- 17.7.3 Striking, spitting, kicking or any form of violent conduct or attempted violent conduct on the Game Official or League Officials.

Punishment

	Players	Team Officials
First Offence	Ten (10) game suspension	Disciplinary hearing
Subsequent Offences	Disciplinary hearing	Disciplinary hearing

- 17.8 Player or team official cautions reset to zero after completion of the Regular Season and do not carry over to the Playoff Cup competition (associated with Section 17.1).
- 17.9 All red cards, suspensions and offences associated with Sections 17.4 through 17.7 carry forward into the Playoff Cup competition and do not get nullified at the completion of the Regular Season.
- 17.10 Punishments imposed during the Playoff Cup because of offences described in Sections 17.1 through 17.3 will be considered as fully served at the end of the outdoor season (i.e. any remaining suspension will not carry over to the following season). Any remaining suspensions from punishments imposed because of offences described in Sections 17.4 through 17.7 will be carried forward to the following season. Note that if players or team officials have suspensions associated with Section 17.4 through 17.7 and do not return to the SAMSL league the following year, the league or association that they go to play with will be informed of their suspension so that the punishment is still applied. At the same time, the suspension will be noted if the player returns to the SAMSL after a one (1) or more year break.
- 17.11 Refer to Section 2.3, which highlights in detail the tiered fine structure associated with team discipline in the SAMSL.