

BPAA Adult Soccer Philosophy and Rules 2013

BPAA Adult Soccer Committee
Revision 5- May 15, 2013

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1. Philosophy of BPAA Soccer

1.1. Good sportsmanship is our number one goal

This document states the philosophy of the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee, and the BPAA in general. The BPAA Adult Soccer Committee believes good sportsmanship is the number one goal of our activities. Winning and losing are secondary to the development of good character and love for the game of soccer. Players should be conscious of setting good examples for other players and spectators. All participants should show respect to all players, committee members and referees.

1.2. Vision/foundation of BPAA Adult Soccer

BPAA Adult soccer was established by alumni youth players and the commitment of BPAA soccer volunteers through their experience from BPAA's Youth Soccer program. Alumni youth players yearned to continue playing in the BPAA soccer program after their last year. The vision of the BPAA Adult Soccer program is to provide a fun, fair and safe co-recreational experience for 18+ year olds of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center and its surrounding areas.

2. BPAA Adult Soccer Committee

2.1. Construction of committee

The BPAA Adult Soccer Committee composes of volunteers from the community that meet to plan for the current and upcoming season of the adult soccer program. Membership on the committee is open to anyone who is interested in planning and becoming involved with the BPAA Adult Soccer league. The committee consists of a:

- a) Chairman
- b) Secretary
- c) Registration/Finance Coordinator
- d) Referee Coordinator
- e) Team Coordinator
- f) Tournament Coordinator
- g) Advertising Coordinator

2.2. Committee roles and responsibilities

Each committee member is responsible for one or more of the committee roles which have their own duties within the committee and during the season.

- a) Chairman represents the committee and league to the community
- b) Secretary organizes the committee and league
- c) Registration/Finance Coordinator handles the registration and finances of the league
- d) Referee Coordinator communicates with and schedules the referees of the league
- e) Team Coordinator communicates with the participating teams in the league
- f) Tournament Coordinator organized the tournament for the league
- g) Advertising Coordinator sets up advertisements for the league

3. BPAA Adult Soccer Teams

3.1. Team rosters and formation

All participating soccer players must be registered with BPAA Soccer to play in this league. If a team uses any unregistered players, the games played using those players will be forfeited. Teams will be self formed, i.e. individuals will get together to form a team, but a team captain/representative must be designated for committee communication purposes. Each team must have a minimum of 16 players. The maximum number of players on a team is 22 people. Each team must have at least 6 women and 6 men registered before the season begins. Team rosters are FINAL when registration ends. Team rosters cannot change unless special circumstances arise that require committee approval. Committee members and referees will have finalized copies of rosters throughout the season.

3.2. Team captain/representative and coaching

Each team will have one team captain/representative who is responsible to inform their players of the rules and of game cancellations or changes. They are the communicator between the committee to their team. They are responsible to attend meetings organized by the committee or the Team Coordinator. Teams will be responsible for their own coaching. Coaching must come from registered players on the team.

3.3. Team name and color

Upon registration, team names will be the team captain's last name. Once the team decides on a team name and color they must notify the Team Coordinator to set up the team name on the season schedule. BPAA will only accept appropriate names and images on jerseys.

3.4. Registration

Individuals must register by either calling or walking in to the Brooklyn Park Community Center to sign up for the league. Registration is also available online. Please see the BPAA Adult Soccer website for more information.

Individuals must indicate which team they are signing up for to ensure that they are placed on the correct team, i.e. Team Smith to be placed on Joe Smith's team. Individuals that are not affiliated with a team are encouraged to register and will be placed in the open pool. Open Pool players will be placed on teams that have available room.

Cancellations and refunds will only be issued before the season begins. Registrants must contact the Brooklyn Park Community Center and ask for a cancellation or refund. The Center will only issue one before the season begins and it must be approved by the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee

3.5. Unregistered and guest players

Unregistered players are not permitted in this league. If a team uses any unregistered players, the games played using said player will be forfeited. Registered players are only allowed to play on the team they are registered for.

4. BPAA Soccer Fields, Time Periods, Score Keeping/Points, Field Rules

4.1. Soccer fields

BPAA Adult Soccer will occupy the large fields at Noble Sports Park, Zane Sport Park and Northwoods Park when they are online by Brooklyn Park's Park and Recreation Department. Evergreen Park may also be an option through Brooklyn Center. See game schedules when available.

4.2. Time period

The length of all games will be two 35-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime.

4.3. Game reports and points

Each team captain/representative is encouraged to report game scores at the end of each game but it is not necessary if a committee member is present to obtain scores from the center referee. A committee member will upload scores on the website after each game. Points are awarded as follows:

- 6 points are awarded for a win
- 3 points are awarded for a tie
- 1 point is awarded for each goal, up to 3 goals per game
- 1 point is awarded for a shutout (except for 0-0 ties)
- All points earned during a game by an offending team will be lost (See Section 5.8)

During the regular season, tie games at the end regulation play will remain a tie.

In case of ties in the standings at the end of the season, final standings are determined by which tied teams have:

1. The most wins
2. The most wins against each other
3. The most wins against common opponents played 2 or more games during the season
4. The most wins against common opponents played once during the season
5. By a coin flip

4.4. Field rules

The City of Brooklyn Park does not permit the use, possession or sale of any drug or alcoholic beverage on park grounds. Smoking is not allowed. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in fighting or exhibit threatening, violent, disorderly or indecent behavior on park grounds. All parks in Brooklyn Park ban guns or any type of firearm. All participants of BPAA Adult Soccer must be fully clothed at all times while on the field. If undergarments or private areas are displayed, participants will be asked to leave. The above acts and behaviors are in violation of the Park Ordinances established by the City of Brooklyn Park

5. BPAA Adult Soccer Playing Rules

5.1. BPAA Adult Soccer rules and FIFA rules

All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA rules, except as modified herein by BPAA

5.2. Soccer equipment

All players on an associated team will wear the same color. Teams are expected to also bring an alternate colored jersey/shirt if the opposing team color is similar to theirs. Away teams will be the ones who need to wear the alternate jersey/shirt. Only soccer shoes with molded rubber/plastic cleats are to be worn without a toe cleat. Each player must wear hard plastic shin guards covered by socks. No jewelry, watches, hats/visors or other accessories that the referee deems as unsafe can be worn during play. Medical bracelets and necklaces are exceptions that must be taped. Earrings that cannot be removed must be taped and approved by the referee.

The home team must provide a size 5 soccer ball. Spare balls can be placed at both nets in case balls go over the fences.

5.3. Male to female ratio/number of players on the field

There is a minimum of 2 of any gender and a maximum of 5 of any gender on the field at all times **not** including the goal keeper. The goal keeper can be of any gender. Teams must field at least 7 players for each game and may play up to 11 players. If additional players arrive late, they must check in with a Committee member or referee before stepping on the field. There is no restriction as to where players are positioned.

5.4. Slide tackles/rough play

Slide tackles are illegal in all levels of BPAA Soccer, including Adult Soccer. A slide tackle is defined as a maneuver in which one or both feet slide on the ground in an attempt to tackle the ball that is in **possession of an opponent**. Slide tackles result in a direct free kick. Persistent slide tackles by a player or team can and may result in yellow cards to the offending player(s). Malicious slide tackles will result in an immediate red card to the offending player.

Goal keepers are able to slide inside the goal box but not in a malicious intent (eg with cleats up)

5.5. Calling a game off/shortening a game's playing time

Games will be called or shortened due to unsafe or disrespectful behavior by participants including spectators. Called games are only to be made by the discretion of the center referee or a present committee member. Called games will not be rescheduled. The points earned up to the moment of the call will be awarded to each team with discretion of the BPAA Adult committee members and referees.

5.6. Weather

Games will be played rain or shine unless dangerous or extremely severe weather exists, as determined by the committee or the City of Brooklyn Park. BPAA Soccer uses the following heat index rules concerning play during hot weather:

Heat Index	Recommended Guidelines
Up to 89 degrees Fahrenheit	Normal play
90-99 degrees Fahrenheit	Mandatory 2 minute water breaks per half with running time
100-105 degrees Fahrenheit	Mandatory 2 minute water breaks per half with running time. Each half shortened by 5 minutes
105+ degrees Fahrenheit	Suspend play

If there is a National Weather Service Heat Advisory for a particular day, all soccer games will be canceled for that day. The committee will try to reschedule games that are cancelled by weather as time and field availability permits. The BPAA Adult Soccer committee will notify team captains/representative via email or phone of cancelled games. It is team captains' responsibility to notify their players.

Severe Weather guidelines are:

Storms	Recommended Guidelines
Lightning seen by referee or committee member	Suspend play
Tornado watch	Referee or committee member to monitor weather situation
Tornado warning	Suspend play
Heavy rain	Suspend play if field may be damaged

5.7. Substitution during the game

Substitution in this league is done by an "on the fly" system. Players may come on and off the field whenever they would like. There is no need to alert the referee or wait for a stoppage point to sub. On field players must completely be off the field before a sub can step on. On field players and substitutes must exit and enter the field at the midfield line. When subbing teams must keep in mind the gender ratio (See Section 5.3)

5.8. Forfeiting games

A forfeit will be declared if a team is not ready to begin play within ten minutes of the scheduled game time. A team cannot play a game with less than 7 players.

The committee or referees may declare a forfeit during or after a game if it has been discovered that ineligible player(s) participated in that game.

A referee may, at their discretion, declare a forfeit during a game for disciplinary reasons.

Forfeits result in a 3-0 game. The offending team will be given 0 points and the unoffending team 10 points.

5.9. Referees per game

The BPAA Adult Committee will provide at least one referee per game. It will try its best to provide one center referee and two associate referees. The center referee will supervise the associate referees. Referees will make calls during the game. Participants are not allowed to continuously argue with the referee(s). Doing so will result in removal from the park.

5.10. Rules of conduct

- Before the start of each game players will need to line up for check in with the referees. Team captains/representatives are responsible to gather all present players on the sideline for check in. Players must present some form of photo identification to the referees or they will not be allowed to play. The ID can be a driver's license, school ID, etc. As long as it has the player's name and picture, it will be accepted. We encourage players to arrive 10-15 minutes early for check in
- Referees and committee members will not be subject to abuse, criticism, disrespect or baiting by participants and spectators. It is the individuals' and team's responsibility to control the comments and attitudes of themselves, their teammates and spectators. The referee may stop the game and remove the offending participant or spectator from the park. The referee may terminate the game if he/she decides the situation is out of control. The referee's decision is **final**.
- Protests relative to a referee's decision will not alter the result of the game
- No one can step on the field to argue with the referee or anyone else on the field during the game
- A red card constitutes a dismissal from the game in which the violation occurred plus suspension from the next scheduled game. A red carded player can't be replaced on the field during the game in which the dismissal occurred. The team will play short for the rest of the game
- Any problems or comments about the league or season should be reported to the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee

5.11. Team and spectator position on the field

- Team and spectator positions off the field are dependent on which field the game is played at:
 - Noble & Zane Sports Park- Teams must take the side between fields. Spectators must take the side closest to the fence (ie the opposite side)
 - Northwoods- Teams and spectators can be on the same side of the field but spectators **MUST** be at least 5 feet away from the teams
 - Evergreen- Teams are on the east side of the field in the fenced area. Spectators must watch from stands or any where outside of the fenced area
- Teams choose a field half for their base on a first come basis. During the game team members are restricted to an area 10-20 yards from the center line
- Players, spectators and equipment must be at least 5 feet from the sidelines.
- Because the two opposing teams will be on either side of the midfield line during the game, players should remain on their own areas during the game. Any one team should not cross over the midfield line to interact with the opposing team during game time.

6. Injuries

6.1. Serious injury situations

If a player is knocked unconscious or seriously injured, do the following:

- Remember to keep calm and use your best judgment on what to do
- Notify the police at 911
- Do not move injured player
- Do not try to straighten a possible fracture
- Cover the player to maintain body heat in the event of shock
- Keep crowd away from injured player

6.2. Bleeding player

Any injured player who is bleeding must be removed from the game. The player cannot return to the game until the bleeding is controlled. Any bloodstains on a jersey must be removed or the jersey replaced.

First Aid kits will be provided to all teams. Please notify the committee if replacement materials are needed. First Aid kits must be returned at the end of the season.

7. Racial and Sexual Harassment Policy

7.1. Racial policy

Because the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee is concerned that everyone in our community feels welcome to participate in our community sport program, the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee has instituted a policy concerning racial intolerance. BPAA Soccer will not tolerate inappropriate racially motivated behavior in either speech or in action. First, we expect the referee to maintain order on the playing field, and the referee has the discretion to give a red card to anyone who exhibits unwanted speech or behavior with regard to someone's race. Second, the BPAA Soccer committee has instituted a policy whereby the BPAA Soccer Committee will remove anyone from our program who continues to engage in behavior that is considered racist toward any particular person, team, or group of people.

7.2. Sexual policy

Because the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee is concerned that everyone in our community feels welcome to participate in our community sport program, the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee has instituted a policy concerning sexual harassment. First, we expect the referee to maintain order on the playing field, and the referee has the discretion to hand out a red card to anyone who exhibits unwanted sexual speech or behavior to anyone else during a game. Second, the BPAA Soccer committee has instituted a policy whereby the BPAA Soccer Committee will remove anyone from our program who continues to engage in unwanted behavior that is considered to be sexual harassment by the BPAA Soccer Committee.

7.3. Implementation of policy

Because this is such a serious offense, and has serious consequences for both sides, the BPAA Adult Soccer Committee needs to substantiate the behavior. The committee will also hold a hearing with the accused, and the accuser before a final judgment is made. However, if a BPAA Adult Soccer Committee member witnesses this behavior while it is taking place, that committee member can take immediate action to prevent any further harassment from taking place. This action could be a reprimand, or removal of the offending person(s) from the game, and the area.