

2017 PINELANDS LEAGUE YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Pinelands League shall consist of the following Townships and divisions:

Division 3 (Boys): Medford Lakes Athletic Association (MLAA), Medford Soccer Club (MSC) Tabernacle Athletic Association (TAA)

- Players must be entering the 3rd or 4th grade in the fall
- **Play 8 v 8 Small Sided Field**

Division 3 Modified (Girls): Indian Mills Athletic Association (IMAA), Medford Lakes Athletic Association, (MLAA), Medford Soccer Club (MSC), Tabernacle (TAA)

- Players must be entering the 3rd or 4th or 5th grade in the fall
- **Play 8 v 8 Small Sided Field**

Division 2 (Boys): Medford Lakes Athletic Association (MLAA), Medford Soccer Club (MSC) Tabernacle Athletic Association (TAA)

- Players must be entering the 5th or 6th grade in the fall
- **Play 9 v 9 Small Sided Field**

Division 1 (Boys): Marlton Recreation Council (MRA), Medford Lakes Athletic Association (MLAA), Medford Soccer Club (MSC) Tabernacle Athletic Association (TAA)

- Players must be entering the 7th or 8th grade in the fall
- **Play 11 v 11 Full field**

Division 1 Modified (Girls): Marlton Recreation Council (MRA), Medford Soccer Club (MSC) Tabernacle Athletic Association (TAA)

- Players must be entering the 7th or 8th grade in the fall
- **Play 11 v 11 Full field**

The Pinelands League **REQUIRES** each participant try to register and play in the township of the player's primary residence, if their town offers a program and a team they are able to play on. If one is not available, they can play for any other town of their choosing. (i.e.: Medford Lakes residents MUST register and play for Medford Lakes, not in/for Medford, Tabernacle, etc.)

If a township is short players to make up a team at any division, the league will allow townships to "combine" players from two or more townships, to create a team. Approval from Pinelands League Commissioner will be needed to do so.

The Pinelands League is NOT a member of the **US Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association (U.S. Youth Soccer or USYSA), New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association** or any other federation or association. The Pinelands League is an independent, non-sanctioned, non-profit league. Rules may vary from travel or club leagues.

Each Township above is required to provide their own insurance coverage for all participating players.

PINELANDS LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The **FIFA Laws of the Game of Soccer** shall apply with the following modifications, clarifications and additions.

1. **Field of Play** - Division 2 and 3 shall use a scaled down field, and 6' x 18' goals. Division 1 shall use a regulation size field and goals.

2. Both teams shall be on the same side of the field and the coaches and players must stay on their half of the field in the coaching area during the match. All spectators shall be on the opposite side of the field and no person shall be behind the goals or the goal line.

3. **The Ball** - Divisions 3 and 2 shall use a size 4 ball. Division 1 shall use a size 5 ball.

4. Mandatory Playing Time

Coaches shall ensure that each team member present plays at least half of the match, (i.e. at least two full quarters). If a player is being disciplined and will not play at least half of the match, the opposing coach and the referee must be notified before the start of the match.

Each Township's In-House Rules and Regulations on Discipline shall prevail

Players may never be disciplined for playing errors or lack of playing skills.

Players on the roster must play minimum 50% of scheduled league matches to participate in league tournaments. This will be monitored by each township individually.

Start of the Match / Emergency Move Ups

1. Teams are permitted to start and play a match with 7 players at Division 3 and 2 and with 9 players at Division 1. Players may be added at first available substitution for each team.

2. If either team chooses to begin the match, or falls below the 7 players (at Division 3 and 2) or 9 players (at Division 1) during the course of a match, play shall be terminated by the referee. At that point, the (2) coaches will mutually agree if play shall continue or the match terminated.

3. **Emergency Move Ups** - If a team determines it will have a "player shortage" prior to any league or tournament match (a player shortage is defined as **below 12 players at Division 1 or below 10 players at Division 3 and 2**), for "safety" reasons, a team is permitted at move up players for that single match and the following move up policy applies:

A) The player **must be registered in the township “recreation” program**. Travel players are NOT permitted to be added at ANY time for regular season or tournament games. Any travel player added to team for a regular game will result in forfeit of game. Any travel player added to team for a tournament game will result in team removal from the tournament

B) Borrowing a player from the same division is allowed. This should be done only to assure the game can be played and not for an advantage. Coached should use discretion and this is not to be abused.

C) Call or confer with the opposing coach prior to the match.

D) Division 3 and 2: May add players (under the rules defined above) to allow for substitutions.

E) Division 1: May add players (under the rules defined above) to allow for substitutions

F) Emergency move up players **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to play more minutes than the players already on the team. Any violation of this rule will result in a forfeit of the match.

G) **No player shall play down a division**. Either during the entire season or for a single match

H) If at the start of a match, one team has “a limited amount of players to play a match” or “no substitutes available” (understanding the Emergency Moves call-up provisions above) the coach of the team that is “limited” shall notify the opposing coach of the number of players he/she has available. **In the effort of good sportsmanship**, the opposing coach shall make a determination on the number of players he/she will field against that team.

Age Groups/Max Players-Rosters / Travel Players / Rosters

The age restrictions are determined by **school grades**, not age/birthdate of the child.

Division 3 - Play 8 a side Roster 10-12 players (recommended)

Division 2 - Play 9 a side Roster 10-12 players (recommended)

Division 1 - Play 11 a side Roster 16-18 players (recommended)

All teams MUST have even distribution of TRAVEL players, regardless of the level (“A”, “B” or “C”). i.e.: All “A” team players MUST be split up evenly, all “B” team players MUST be split up evenly, etc.

Each township’s in-house rules and regulations on allowing Travel League players to participate in the Pinelands League is in effect.

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE! Any team that **DOES NOT** adhere to the above rule, will **NOT** be eligible to participate in the Pinelands League.

PLAYING OF THE GAME

Heading- Division 3 shall not be able to intentionally head the ball under any circumstance. Referees can determine intentional at their discretion. An **indirect** free kick will be awarded to the other team from the spot of the foul. Division 2 and 1 are allowed to head the ball.

Number of Coaches – No more than three (3) coaches are authorized for each team and must be listed on the team roster. Only coaches listed may be with the team during a match.

Substitutions - See Below.

Division 1 and 2 and 3 may substitute as follows:

1. At the half.
2. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor or on the opposing teams throw in, if they substitute.
3. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
4. After a goal by either team.
5. For an injured player. Only the injured player may be substituted for. The injured player may return at first opportunity.

A **bleeding player** must come out of the match until the bleeding stops. Also any bloody uniform must be changed before the player may re-enter the match. It is required that coaches have a spare jersey and players may want to carry an extra pair of shorts.

Players Equipment

- Players shall wear a matching team uniform jersey for all matches.
- Each player other than the goalkeeper will have an identification number on their team shirt.
- If a uniform color conflict occurs, the HOME team must change color, or wear pinnies etc. Goalkeepers must wear a contrasting color to stand out from the other players.
- Soccer shoes are recommended and **shin guards are required**.
- Sweatpants are permitted. No hoods are permitted to be outside the uniform.
- Hats and gloves are allowed during cold weather.
- No jewelry, earrings, watches or hard hair pieces are permitted.
- **No Player may play with a hard cast** on any part of the body, unless the cast is properly padded or is legal sports cast, and is not dangerous in the opinion of the referee.

New Jersey Protective Sports Eyewear Law: Sports glasses or sports goggles are recommended; however, not mandatory. Eye Glasses are permitted.

Referees/Linesman

The home team shall provide at least one referee for all matches. Preferably 2 referees per match.

The home team shall provide a referee(s) at a minimum of 4 school grade levels above the match to be officiated. (i.e.: a referee must be at least the 8th grade to referee a Division 3 match, or in HS to referee and Division 1 or 2 match) . If a referee is under 4 school grades, a 2nd Certified referee, that meets the age requirements above, MUST also be used to officiate the match.

A referee may not officiate a match in which any member of his or her immediate family is a team member or a coach, unless both coaches agree to the referee prior to the match.

Coaching from the touchline opposite the team bench is NOT permitted. The referee may prohibit coaching from either touch line if a coach is not coaching in a positive constructive manner.

It is recommended that Division 3 Referees should clarify all calls/fouls, so that players understand the call/foul.

If the referee(s) are a no show, the coaches will mutually determine if they will play or not and who will referee the match. If the match is played, the outcome counts and no change shall be made after the match is played.

Duration of the Match

Division 3 – two (25 minute) halves **NEW FALL 2017**

Division 2 – two (30 minute) halves **NEW FALL 2017**

Division 1 – two (35 minutes) halves

Every match shall have a 5 minutes break at half-time. Each half shall begin with a kickoff, alternating teams. At half-time, teams shall switch goals.

Cancellations – Cancelled matches due to weather conditions/field conditions must be rescheduled as soon as possible. Coaches must notify their respective commissioners of the cancellation and seek help to reschedule, if necessary. All games must be rescheduled prior to the last week of the regular season. Each township shall reschedule their own cancelled matches.

The township Soccer Commissioner is responsible for calling off a match due to weather and/or field conditions. The visiting coach and assigned referees should be notified at least **1 hour prior** to the match start time. After the match has begun, the referee shall have the authority to terminate the match.

Forfeits - If either team fails to field a team within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time that team forfeits the match and a score of 1-0 by reason of forfeit shall be reported. If neither team is able to field a legal team, a double forfeit shall be declared with no winner.

RULES OF THE GAME

Off-Sides: We do not play the US Soccer Offsides rules for younger age levels.

- A. A player is in an off-sides position if he is nearer his opponent's goal than the ball unless:
 - 1. He is in his own half of the field, or
 - 2. Two opponents (including the goalie) are nearer there goal than he is.

- B. A player can be declared offside at the moment that the ball touches or is played by one of his team while he is in an off-side position, if in the opinion of the referee he is:
 - 1. Interfering with play (e.g. passed to him);
 - 2. Interfering with (e.g. obstructs) an opponent;
 - 3. Seeking to gain an advantage by being off-sides.

- C. A player CANNOT BE DECLARED OFF-SIDE merely for being in an off-side position or if he received the ball directly from a goal-kick, corner-kick, or throw-in or when the ball has been dropped by the referee to restart play.

- D. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award the opposing team an indirect free-kick from the place where the off-side occurred.

Fouls and Misconduct - The following FIFA rules shall apply for all divisions, unless otherwise noted.

Goalkeeper Possession - Goalkeepers shall not be touched or approached in a violent manner while in possession of the ball. The Goalkeeper shall be considered in possession if he has maintained control with one hand on the ball or is bouncing or throwing it into the air and catching it. Rolling the ball, but not actually touching it shall not be considered possession. Possession shall resume as soon as the Goalkeeper again touches the ball.

A player cannot deliberately kick the ball back to his own Goalkeeper and the Keeper plays the ball with his hands. The penalty is an indirect free-kick at the place the Keeper touched the ball.

The following intentional fouls will result in the referee awarding a **direct-kick** to the opposing team from the place that the foul occurred:

- 1. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
- 2. Trips an opponent.
- 3. Jumps at an opponent.
- 4. Charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner.
- 5. Charges an opponent from behind (spinal area).

6. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
7. Holds an opponent.
8. Pushes an opponent.
9. Handles the ball (N/A to goalie in own penalty area).
10. Tackles an opponent prior to contact with the ball.

Note: If any of these 10 fouls are committed by a defensive player in his own Penalty Area, a penalty kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.

The following intentional fouls will result in the referee awarding an **indirect-kick** to the opposing team from the place that the foul occurred:

1. Dangerous play (e.g. attempting to kick ball in possession of goalie or kicking too high in proximity to other players).
2. Charging fairly (shoulder block) when ball not within playing distance and players not making play for the ball.
3. Intentionally obstructing opponent when not playing the ball.
4. Charging the Goalie in his Goal-Area (see FIFA rules for details).
5. If Goalie has ball and delays the match.
6. Offside

Throw-Ins

- A. A throw-in shall be directed whenever the whole ball passes entirely outside the Touch (side) Line at the point where it crossed the line. The ball will be thrown in by a player of the team opposite to that who last touched the ball.
- B. The thrower at the moment of the delivery must:
 1. Face the field of play with some part of his body.
 2. Have part of each foot on the ground, on or outside the Touch-Line.
 3. Use both hands to deliver the throw. No flip or tumble throws.
 4. Have delivered the ball from behind and over the head.
- C. A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw-in.
- D. A player in an off side position may fairly receive the throw directly.
- E. If the ball is thrown improperly, the opposing team will be awarded a throw-in from the same position. No "Second Chance" throw-ins permitted. (Exception to this is Division 3, consult with coaches before game begins)
- F. The thrower cannot play the ball a second time before it is touched by another player. If he does, an indirect free-kick will be awarded his opponents.
- G. A throw-in may not go to the goalkeeper.

Slide Tackling is **permitted** at all Divisions (1, 2 and 3) provide the tackle is legal, as determined by the referee: from the front and the side, provided the ball is touched first. Slide Tackling is not permitted from behind.

Advantage Rule The referee need not call a foul during the match if in his opinion, the team against whom the foul is committed acquires the advantage in play immediately after the foul.

Reporting Scores / Protest / Cautions and Ejections

Each coach shall utilize an online scoring reporting system. The WINNING team coach is responsible for inputting the match score within 24 hours of the completion of the match. Any incorrect scores or disputes must be address to the Pinelands Soccer Commissioner.

PINELANDS SOCCER LEAGUE - REPORTING SCORES

Cautions/Ejections If any parent, spectator, coach, bench personnel or player is cautioned (**YELLOW CARD**) or ejected (**RED CARD**), this must he reported in an email to both Township Soccer Commissioners of the teams involved and to the Pinelands Soccer Commissioner, with a description of the incident or misconduct, within 24 hours of the incident.

NO EXCEPTIONS !

A parent, spectator, coach, bench personnel, or player shall be cautioned (**YELLOW CARD**) for:

1. Entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of the official.
2. Persistent infringement of any of the rules of the match.
3. Objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official; (dissent)
4. Displays unsportsmanlike conduct.

A cautioned player (**YELLOW CARD**) **MUST** be substituted for and may reenter at the next legal substitution.

Two (2) (**YELLOW CARD**) for the same player in a match and the player **MUST** leave the match and playing area and may not be substituted for, but may play in the next match.

Two (**YELLOW CARD**) for the same parent , spectator, coach, bench personnel in a match, that individual **MUST** leave the playing area. The coach or bench personnel are allowed to participate in the next match.

A parent, spectator, coach, bench personnel, or player shall be ejected (**RED CARD**) for:

1. Violent conduct or serious foul play.
2. Abusive or foul language.

3. Persistent misconduct after being cautioned.

ANY parent, spectator, coach, bench personnel, or player ejected (**RED CARD**) **MUST** leave the match, and playing area immediately, and may not be substituted for. The player ejected cannot play in the next match and the coach or bench personnel cannot coach or be on the team sideline in the next match.

If the referee stops the match to caution or expel a player, play shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick by the opposing team from the position where the infringement occurred.

Any player or coach ejected (**RED CARD**) from two or more matches will be asked to meet with the Township Soccer Commissioners and the Pinelands Soccer Commissioner for each subsequent offense to determine the seriousness of the offense and additional suspensions to be imposed.

The following rule will be used to manage competitiveness:

No team shall be ahead by more than 5 goals at any time during the match. **NO EXCUSES!**

Examples of how to alleviate an unbalanced game. These steps should be taken in this order. The intent of this rule is to not embarrass the other team. Running up the score is just as embarrassing as having the players yelling out on the field not to score. Common sense needs to prevail.

- Pull your better players off and let the substitutes get some extra playing time.
- Pull your more offensive minded and skilled players from offensive positions.
- Assess how the game is going and if you have a 3 goal lead in the first quarter, back off early and play solid defense. Do not allow it to get to 5 goals.
- Prepare your team ahead of time for such a situation. Have a code word. **DO NOT** have the players run around on the field talking about not scoring.
- You can still play offense and work on passing. Just don't score.
- Don't attack the team in their own zone, let them cross midfield.
- Play 7 players or 6 players. **DO NOT** make a big deal about it and share the rule with your parent so they are not yelling "you only have 6 players on the field"
- If it is really is an uneven game, shorten the game a few minutes each quarter or half. Talk to the referee and opposing coach.

The below discipline will be enforced. There are too many 10-0, 11-1 games, it will not be tolerated.

1. First Violation - Warning from league to head coach.
2. Second Violation - 1 match suspension of the head coach.
3. Third Violation - Suspension for remainder of season, including tournament.

Note - The head coach is responsible for results as it pertains to this rule even if he/she is not present at match(s) in question.

Year- End Tournaments

The following year-end tournaments will be held on November 18th and 19th. All teams should participate for each Township. Commissioners should notify coaches and they should communicate the tournament information early in the season and appropriately to assure full participation. Teams are not permitted to combine for any reason. The roster you play with all year, is the roster you must play with. The tournament is part of the season, send it out with the schedule.

Division 3 Location TBD

Division 2 Location TBD

Division 1 Location TBD

Pinelands League Rule applies to all Tournaments. Each Township hosting the tournament is permitted to determine their extra time/overtime rules.

The cost per team for tournament will be set by the host township. It should not exceed \$300 for a double elimination tournament or single elimination with a guarantee of 2 games.

Revision, August 2017

Dave Curtis, Pinelands Soccer Commissioner