

Elgin Middlesex District Soccer Outdoor League Rules & Regulations

Article 1. CATEGORIES AND DIVISIONS

1. Subject to Ontario Soccer Published Policies, the Elgin Middlesex District Soccer League (EMDSL) may operate a district competition for teams located within the Elgin Middlesex District Soccer Association (EMSA), based on the Terms of League Operations (TOLO) approved by EMSA.

Article 2. GENERAL

2.1 A copy of the current Rules and Regulations shall be posted on the EMDSL website.

2.2 The current Laws of the Game applicable in the Province of Ontario as described by Ontario Soccer will be used, except as noted in the EMDSL Rules Summary as published by the EMDSL.

2.3 The EMDSL Board shall inform Member Clubs of any changes to the Rules and Regulations within seven (7) days of their adoption and a consolidated copy of the amended Rules and Regulations, if any were adopted during the year, shall be provided to Members Clubs at the subsequent Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the EMDSL, or a Special General Meeting (SGM) convened to review League matters.

2.4 All fines resulting from a violation of rules identified in these Rules and Regulations, including those published in the EMDSL Fines Schedule, shall be assessed against the Member Club.

2.5 All matters not included in these Rules and Regulations shall be dealt in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Published Policies.

Article 3. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND FEES

3.1 Club Membership Applications, associated Team Entries and all fees to play in the EMDSL shall be made annually on the EMDSL official application form and received by the League no later than the published application deadline. Late applications may be accepted and will incur a late fee as prescribed in the EMDSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

3.2 Club or Team withdrawals must be made through the EMDSL League Secretary.

3.3 For each team withdrawn after the published withdrawal deadline, the Member Club shall forfeit the full fees paid. For each team withdrawn after the official schedule is published, the EMDSL shall assess an additional fine in accordance with the EMDSL Fine Schedule.

3.4 Any Member Club whose cheque is returned by the bank will be charged an administrative fee in accordance with the EMDSL Fees and Fines Schedule.

3.5 Each Member Club is required to post a \$300.00 performance bond with the EMDSL, prior to the start of the outdoor season. This bond is refundable, less any outstanding fees or fines, once the Club no longer has any teams registered in any outdoor or indoor division for one year.

3.6 When any Member Club has fees or fines posted to its bond, said Club will have 14 days following notification to replenish their bond, or it shall be suspended from all league activities.

Article 4. TEAM ELIGIBILITY RULES

4.1 Subject to section 4.2 to 4.3, all EMDSL Member Clubs approved by the EMSA to operate youth teams, may enter teams in any division of the EMDSL District Soccer League. Member Clubs will self-select into which tiers they wish to enter teams. The League reserves the right to accept or not accept a team in any of its divisions.

4.2 Where the League runs a Tier structure in any age group, Tier 1 is the designated competitive division and Tiers 2 and 3 are designated as recreational divisions. Clubs requesting to register a younger aged team up to a Tier 1 division of a higher age group must obtain approval from the League. For Grassroots age groups, teams are not allowed to play up an age category unless permission has been granted by the District or Ontario Soccer. Tier 2 and Tier 3 divisions do not allow the registration of a younger aged team to a higher age group.

4.3 No Member Club shall enter more than 2 teams in any one division unless approved by the League.

4.4 Where allowed under Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures, Female teams may register in male divisions subject to the approval of the League.

4.5 Clubs with teams that wish to play in the League from outside the EMSA may apply to their home district for playing out permission to play into the EMDSL. The League cannot accept a team as a member until the sending District has approved the Play Out and the receiving District, EMSA, has approved the Play In. Teams from outside of the EMSA are not accepted to play in any Tier 3 Divisions. Tier 3 level teams must play in their home District.

Article 5. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

5.1 All players shall be registered with EMSA, or their respective District Association, through their respective Clubs, in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Policies and Procedures. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure its players are properly registered with their respective District. Any questions of player eligibility are the responsibility of the registering District and not the League. The League can impose fines on Clubs that play ineligible players and suspend membership to any registrant who does not follow the published policies and procedures of Ontario Soccer.

5.2 The deadline for placing a player on a League team roster is July 31st of each year.

5.3 Players may transfer to another team in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Policies and Procedures.

5.4 Over age players may not register to any team in any Division unless permission has been granted by Ontario Soccer or the District.

5.5 Players at U13 and older may play for up to three outdoor teams only one of which may be competitive, however, the League does not allow any player registered to a Tier 1 or Tier 2 team in any competition or League to also register to a Tier 3 Team. A player may register to more than one Tier 3 team if they do not play in the same League Division. Grassroots aged players are subject to the Policies and Procedures of Ontario Soccer.

5.6 A player registered to a Provincial or Regional team may not register on a team playing in the EMDSL.

5.7 A player registered to a team not playing in an Ontario Soccer league are not permitted to register on an EMDSL team.

Article 6. COACHES AND OTHER TEAM OFFICIALS

6.1 Each team must appoint a head coach. All team officials must be fully certified for their team division in accordance with Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures. Questions with respect to required certification should be made to the respective governing district. No dispensation may be made by the league for these requirements.

Only those team officials, who are fully certified for the age division they are associated with, are allowed on the team bench and technical areas for games.

6.2 All coaches and other team officials shall be registered with their respective governing District in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Published Policies and Procedures and shall be registered in the team section of the EMDSL website.

6.3 Team officials are responsible for the complete activation of all required categories for their team in the EMDSL Team Management System on or before the published deadline each season. Failure to do so shall result in a fine as published in the EMDSL Fees and Fines Schedule. Complete activation includes at least one team contact, and team uniform colours. Team Officials are further responsible to ensure that full activation including all player information is in place prior to the team's first scheduled League game. The League can impose fees or fines for teams that are not fully compliant prior to their first scheduled League game.

6.4 All team officials must familiarize themselves with and abide by the EMDSL Code of Conduct. Furthermore, they are to advise all players and parents of this policy.

Article 7. PLAYING FOR A TEAM TO WHICH A PLAYER IS NOT REGISTERED

7.1 A player registered on an Under-13 or older team may play for a team to which they are not registered only under the conditions as outlined in Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures. These include policies for playing as a callup player, playing for a Club to which the player is not registered, and for the playing of a player not currently registered with Ontario Soccer. Any player not playing under one of these policies or procedures will be deemed ineligible to play.

In addition to the Ontario Soccer published Policies and Procedures the League further restricts playing for a Under-13 or older team to which a player is not registered as follows:

- a. the player cannot be registered with another team playing in the same division.
- b. the player is not currently suspended by any league or governing organization affiliated with Ontario Soccer.
- c. playing-up is controlled through the EMDSL Team Management System accessed through the EMDSL website. Once the player is approved by the Club, their name will appear on the game sheet with an indication they are a “call up”. In addition to being printed on the game sheet, a valid Ontario Soccer ID Card, and a copy of the Ontario Soccer Team Roster Report (District approved roster sheet) for the team for which the player is registered shall be presented at the game, for the player to be eligible to play.
- d. a team may not use more than three (3) players, playing as call-ups, in any one League game. Players with a Temporary Eligibility Permit or a Short Term Registration Permit shall be included in the total of three (3) call-up players per game.
- g. a registered player may only be called-up to any team in a higher-tiered division or higher age group than the team for which they are registered. [Example 1: A U14 Tier 2 player could be called up a U14 Tier 1 game or to any team U15 or older.] [Example 2: If a player who is eligible by birth year to play U15 is registered to a U16 Tier 2 team, that player cannot play in a U15 Tier 1 game, but could be called up a U16 Tier 1 game or to any team U17 or older];
- h. a player registered to a Provincial, Regional, OPDL or Academy team may not be called up to play on any team in the EMDSL.
- i. players registered to teams not playing in an Ontario Soccer league may not be called up to play on an EMDSL team.
- j. no U8-U12 call-ups are permitted to an older team as per Ontario Soccer Grassroots policy for a Tier 1 or Tier 2 game.
- k. U12 and younger development teams (Tier 1 and 2) may call up players from a recreational (Tier 3) team from their Club at the same age group as U12 and younger use the open roster format. (Pool Registration). Recreational (Tier 3) teams may call up from a Club recreational (Tier 3) team registered no more than one year below the team being called up to. All teams U12 and younger are expected to adhere to the Grassroots matrix as published and amended by Ontario Soccer.
- l. the age classification of a team for the purposes of call-ups and TEPs is based on their registration with Ontario Soccer. A team playing in a split age division (ex. Girls U15/16) can call-up players who are eligible under their Ontario Soccer team registration age, which may not necessarily be the division maximum age. For example, a team registered with the Ontario Soccer as a U15 team playing in a Girls U15/16 age division cannot call-up a U16 player. A team playing in the same division and registered as a U16 team with the Ontario Soccer can call-up a U16 player, subject to the restrictions outlined in rule 7.1.

Teams may choose to maintain a lower age classification registration with Ontario Soccer when playing in a split age division for the purpose of participation in tournaments or to ensure promotion eligibility to the desired age division for the following season. However, if they maintain the lower age classification, they cannot register older players to the team that plays in a split division. They must register to the age classification of the oldest player on the team.

Article 8. GAME SHEETS

8.1 The names and Ontario Soccer numbers of all players and team officials participating in a game must appear on the official game sheet as generated from the EMDSL Team Management System. All call up or permit players must be identified on the game sheet.

8.2 Only four (4) team officials may be listed on the game sheet, and one team official must sign the team's game sheet; the signature shall certify the eligibility of all players and officials whose names appear on the game sheet, to participate in that game. The names of players and team officials not present at the game should be clearly crossed out on the game sheet. All players, and team officials, including call ups, whose name appears on the game sheet and is not crossed out, shall be deemed to have played, or participated in the game.

The maximum number of players that can appear on any one game sheet are:

U8 and U9: 10 Players

U10 and U11: 12 Players

U12: 16 Players

U13 and older: 18 Players (Tier 1 and Tier 2) 21 Players (Tier 3)

8.3 In the event that a game sheet cannot be printed from the EMDSL Team Management System due to technical difficulties, the team shall inform the League by email that the team was unable to print the game sheet. Notice of the issue must be received prior to the game start time. The team shall create a handwritten game sheet, modify a copy of an old game sheet, or use the Ontario Soccer Team Roster Report (EMSA approved roster sheet) and add the additional game information. Team sheets must be legible and complete. If the notice is received after the game start time, the team's Club will be subject to the fees and fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

8.4 Any team that fails to produce a game sheet will be subject to a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

8.5 Any team that falsifies a game sheet will be subject to a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. Falsification of a game sheet will also result in further disciplinary action by the league and or District.

8.6 Each team U13 and older is required to provide three (3) copies of their game sheet to the Match Official for every game.

- Copy 1 (white) shall be retained by the Match Official and forwarded to the League
- Copy 2 (canary) shall be retained by the Match Official and forwarded to the District in the event of discipline action
- Copy 3 (pink) shall be provided to the submitting team

Each team at U12 and younger is required to provide two (2) copies of their game sheet to the Match Official for each game. One copy will be retained by the Match Official and the second copy is to be provided to the opposing team official for the player verification process. These may be printed on plain paper.

8.7 A team official for U13 and older games is required to retain their copies of all (pink) games sheets for the season, in case they may be required by the League.

Article 9. PLAYER VERIFICATION

9.1 The checking of each player's valid Ontario Soccer ID Card (and District approved roster sheet for the team to which the player is registered), and applicable Temporary Eligibility Permits, or Short Term Registration Permits against the game sheet is compulsory for all games, and shall be performed at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start-time of the game. This procedure must be completed before the Match Official can start the game. Team head coaches are responsible to have each player's valid Ontario Soccer ID Card (and the District approved roster sheet for the team to which the player is registered), and applicable Temporary Eligibility Permits, or Short Term Registration Permits. Players not in possession of a valid Ontario Soccer ID Card (with District approved roster sheet for the team to which the player is registered), and or applicable permits, are considered to be ineligible to play in the game. There are no exceptions to this rule.

9.2 Each team will present its signed game sheet, as well as all valid Ontario Soccer ID Card (and the District approved roster sheet for the team(s) to which the player is registered) and any permits of those players participating in the game to

a representative from the opposing team, who will verify the valid Ontario Soccer ID Cards (and the District approved roster sheet for the team to which the player is registered) and any permits against the names on the game sheet.

9.3 After completion of this procedure, a team official will initial the game sheet in the appropriate box to certify that the player verification procedures were followed, and return the game sheet to the Match Official, who shall retain it.

9.4 The Match Official will note all questions regarding a player's eligibility, or the validity of a player's Ontario Soccer ID Card (and the District approved roster sheet for the team to which the player is registered) and any permits, on the game sheet. Please note that teams that wish to challenge the eligibility of a player must also file a report with the League or District as per the Discipline procedures outlined in these rules and regulations. Further note that once an eligibility concern is noted the applicable report must be filed with the League or District regardless of the outcome of the game. It is the responsibility of all registrants to ensure teams are playing eligible and properly registered players.

9.5 A player arriving after the player verification is completed may play, but first must report to the representative from the opposing team to complete the player verification process. The opposing team representative shall review the player credentials as soon as they are able, and once verified the player can join the team bench.

9.6 In exceptional circumstances, where a team official who is in possession of the valid Ontario Soccer ID Cards (and the District approved roster sheet for the team to which the player is registered) and any permits fails to appear prior to the start of a match a 20 minute grace period will be granted. If the documentation is not available before the grace period has expired, the game shall not be played, and the offending team will be subject to fees and fines as per the League Fees and Fines Schedule. The League will review these cases and will determine if the game will be recorded as a forfeit or if the game will be rescheduled to a later date.

9.7 Any player whose name does not appear on the game sheet, or who does not have their valid Ontario Soccer ID Card, (and the District approved roster sheet for the team to which the player is registered), or applicable permit is ineligible to play. Such players must change out of uniform and leave the players' bench and technical area.

9.8 For Tier 3 Division competitions the requirement for a player ID Card is waived. The player verification process will involve only the district approved rosters, game sheet, and permits if applicable.

9.9 Any Tier 3 player playing as a call up to a higher Tier team is required to have a valid player ID card.

Article 10. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

10.1 No more than the number of players stipulated in Section 8.2 may participate in any game.

10.2 Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player played. If both teams participating the same game play an ineligible player no points will be awarded to either team, and one loss will be added to each team's record. The Club for whose team played an ineligible player will also be subject to any applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. All questions of player eligibility are forwarded to the District who will rule on the eligibility of the player. Once the District has ruled and found a team guilty the applicable forfeits, fines and fees will be assessed. There are significant suspensions and fines for the playing of an ineligible player.

10.3 Any team playing an ineligible player under an assumed identity shall forfeit any games where the ineligible player participated using the assumed identity. Any person aiding or abetting such action shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing and will be forwarded to the District for discipline. The team, its officials or players will be assessed penalties that the Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Rules as well as any applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. The league may also fine or suspend registrants for inappropriate behaviour. These penalties are over and above any discipline received from the District.

Article 11. SUBMISSION OF GAME REPORTS AND SCORES

11.1 Each team shall be responsible for entering the game report, including the score, cards issued by the Match Official, as well as the game feedback on the League website within forty-eight (48) hours of completion of any game at U13 or older age groups. Failure to do so will result in a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. If the game report is not entered within seven (7) days, the League will utilize the game sheet received from the Match Official to complete the game report. Games played at U12 and younger do not require a score to be entered.

11.2 The Match Official must enter the game report electronically on the designated system within twenty-four (24) hours of completion of the game as well as mail, fax, email, or deliver to the League Office the paper copy of all game sheets and permits as well as any player documentation retained in accordance with Article 9 within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game. A Match Official, who fails to submit the required documents and/or complete the game report electronically within 72 hours of the date of the game, shall be reported to the District.

Article 12. EQUIPMENT AND FIELD CONDITIONS

12.1 At each District League game, the home team shall put up two sets of nets and four corner flags whose height above ground must be at least five (5) feet. The home team shall also provide two game balls that are acceptable to the Match Official. The home team shall also ensure that field conditions are adequate for a game. This includes grass cut to a suitable length and complete field markings that are easily visible and compliant with acceptable standards. Failure of the home team to provide the required equipment or field conditions shall result in a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

12.2 The game ball size shall be:

U8 and U9:	size 3 or 4
U10, U11, and U12:	size 4 or 5 light
U13 and older:	size 5

12.3 Team uniform colours must be indicated in the League Team Management System. Where the Match Official determines that the team colours conflict, the away team is required to change to an alternate jersey. The goalkeepers' jersey colour must be different from that of either team. It is the responsibility of the away team officials to have alternate-coloured jerseys (or pinnies) available at each game, and failure to do so shall result in fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

12.4 All players on the same team, except the goalkeeper, shall wear jerseys of the same colour, which must be numbered on the back. Numbers must be at least eight inches in height. No two players may wear the same number. Player's numbers must be recorded on the game sheet and cannot be changed after the start of the game without the Match Official's permission.

12.5 Safety or protective equipment may be worn after being inspected and deemed safe by the Match Official. Jewelry is not permitted to be worn at any age group or division level. Taping of jewelry is also not permitted. Medic Alert type items are allowed if they are fastened in a safe manner as determined by the match official.

12.6 The use of videotaping equipment of any kind, by anyone, is prohibited in the technical areas and player benches.

Article 13. DURATION OF GAMES

13.1 Games shall be of the following duration:

- U8 and U9: 2 x 20-minute halves.
- U10 and U11: 2 x 25-minute halves
- U12: 2 x 35-minute halves
- U13 and U14: 2 x 40-minute halves
- U15 to U18: 2 x 45-minute halves.

13.2 For any divisions comprising two age groups the older age group will determine the game duration for the division.

13.3 Weather and Air Quality Issues

Heat Advisory Policy

If the air temperature rises to above 30 C at game time, the following guidelines shall apply to all games:

- 30 degrees Celsius and below - no action is required.
- between 30 and 35 degrees Celsius – There will be an enforced 2 minute water break at the midway point of each half or the game may be played in 4 equal quarters, with a minimum 2 minute break after each quarter.

- above 35 degrees Celsius – The match official in consultation with both team officials will make final decision as to water breaks, whether to delay the start of the game, to shorten the duration of the game, or to not play the game.

Air Quality Advisory Policy

The League does not have the authority to cancel games. Ontario Soccer will determine if games should be cancelled province wide, the District will determine if games should be cancelled District wide, the local Health Unit of the home field location will determine if games should be cancelled for the respective health unit area, and the Club will determine if games should be cancelled for the home field location.

Thunder and Lightning Policy

The League mandates that Clubs follow the Thunder and Lightning Policy as published by Ontario Soccer available on their website.

In any adverse weather or air quality situation all teams are asked to communicate early and often with their opponent. Clubs and facility providers can deem if unsafe to play. Match Officials should be relied upon to assist in this decision when the determination cannot be made prior to arrival at the game location. Safety of all participants is the primary objective and the League will not punish a Club or Match Official who supports a weather or air quality related decision not to play. The League will however, not support a situation where communication without the opponent does not occur and will review these matters under the Code of Conduct Policy.

Article 14. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND TEAM OFFICIALS

14.1 The home team shall designate the bench or technical areas for each of the teams, which shall be on the same side of the field. The bench or designated technical area shall start at five (5) meters and end (10) metres on either side of the centre line. If the technical area is not painted on the field, each team shall use cones to designate the technical area if required by the match official.

14.2 Only the players and team officials listed on the game sheet are permitted to sit on the team bench or within the designated technical area. All substitute players and team officials shall confine themselves to their designated technical or bench area as defined in Article 14.1 of the Rules and Regulations.

14.3 A club head coach or technical director may sit on the team bench or within designated technical area providing that the limit of four (4) coaches and team officials specified in Article 14.2 of the Rules and Regulations is not exceeded at anytime during the game. The head coach or technical director must introduce themselves as such to the opposing team and match official if they are not listed on the game sheet.

14.4 No coach or team official may enter the field of play at any time without the prior approval of the Match Official.

14.5 No coach or team official has the right to withdraw their team or any of their players from the field of play without the prior approval of the Match Official.

14.6 Each team shall ensure that its spectators sit on the side of the field opposite from the side where the players and team officials are located.

14.7 Clubs and team officials are responsible at all times for the conduct of their players, their team officials, and spectators, at and in the vicinity of any game in which their team participates.

14.8 A player, coach, or other team official who attempts to or impedes, harasses or otherwise intimidates a game official or opposing team officials, shall be subject to disciplinary action under the League Code of Conduct. The team and its officials will be assessed fines that the League Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Policies, as well as any applicable league fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

14.9 In the event of an altercation on the field of play, anyone from the bench entering the field of play during the altercation, for whatever reason, shall be subject to disciplinary action. The players and the team officials will be assessed penalties that the League Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Policies, and any applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. The District may also provide discipline depending on the nature of the infraction over and above any discipline provided by the League.

14.10 Any suspended team official may not be present at or in the vicinity of the field for any league game throughout the period of his/her suspension. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in further disciplinary action and a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

Article 15. LEAGUE STANDINGS (Only Applicable to Divisions with Published Standings)

15.1 In all league games, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie. The team with the most points, in each division, at the end of the regular league schedule for the outdoor season shall be the team that places first and shall be declared the league champion for that division.

15.2 A team forfeiting a game or that is found by the League to have deliberately defaulted or forfeited a game, shall lose the game by a score of 3-0, and shall be subject to any applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

15.3 If two or more teams in an age division are tied in points at the end of the league schedule, then the format to break the tie shall be determined in the following order:

- a) The team with the most points in the games played between the tied teams from head-to-head competition shall be declared the tie-breaker winner.
- b) The team with the highest goal differential (GF minus GA) in games between the tied teams shall be declared the tie-breaker winner.
- c) The team with the highest goal differential (GF minus GA) in all regular season games (against all teams in the division) shall be declared the tie-breaker winner.
- d) If the position is relevant for determining the division champion, and if steps a), b) and c) do not break the tie, a one game playoff shall be required between the tied teams, to be played at a neutral site under the direction of the League. The playoff game will be played in accordance with the League Rules and Regulations. In the event of a tie at the conclusion of regulation time, the result will be decided by penalty kicks in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- e) In cases where there are more than two teams tied with the same number of points the process will follow the same steps indicated above starting at point b).

Article 16. GAME START TIMES AND ABANDONED GAMES

16.1 Teams are required to present themselves at the game field at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and the home team shall ensure that the nets, corner flags and other necessary equipment are installed and ready before the scheduled kick-off.

16.2 Any team that causes a game to be delayed beyond the scheduled kick-off time shall be subject to a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

16.3 Any team that fails to present itself at the game field within 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time or fails to field the minimum seven (7) players within 20 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time shall be considered to have failed to appear for a scheduled game and will be charged with a game forfeit. The team must start the game immediately upon arrival of the minimum number of players if the said players arrive within the prescribed 20-minute grace period.

16.4 At the end of the grace period, the team failing to field the minimum 7 players shall forfeit the game to the opposing team by a score of 3-0 (0-0 Grassroots) and be subject to a fine and costs as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. If the away team is the forfeiting team, the home team will pay the match official fees in total if the match officials appear for the game to be reimbursed by the away team. If the home team is the forfeiting team, the home team will be responsible for payment in full for the match officials.

16.5 If both teams fail to appear for a scheduled game, both teams will be subject to a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. There shall be no points and no score for the game, but each team will have one (1) loss added to its record. If a match official appears for this game, the home team is also responsible for the match official fees in total as if the game were played.

16.6 The League may order a forfeited game rescheduled where in its opinion:

- a) The defaulting team(s) benefits from having forfeited the game, or
- b) A team other than the forfeiting team is adversely affected by the forfeit.

16.7 If in the opinion of the Match Official, a game should be abandoned due to adverse or dangerous weather, such as in the case of electrical storms, unplayable field conditions, or bad visibility, before the completion of 75% of the total regular playing time as specified in Article 13.1 of the Rules and Regulations, the game shall be rescheduled. Games abandoned in this section after 75% of the game has been played shall be deemed as complete. For games U12 or younger the League will require a reschedule if one or both teams request a reschedule.

16.8 If a Match Official decides to abandon a game at any time due to the actions of players, officials or spectators/supporters of a team, the said team shall be deemed to have forfeited the game. The game shall be automatically awarded to the opposing team by the score of 3 -0 (0-0 Grassroots) or the actual score at that time whichever is more advantageous to the non offending team. The Club and team officials of the offending team will be subject to the League disciplinary process and will be assessed penalties that the League Discipline Committee imposes in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Policies, as well as any applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. The District may also impose fines and or suspensions over and above any League Discipline.

16.9 If a game must be abandoned by the Match Official at any time after the game has started because a team is unable to field the minimum number of players, the said team shall be deemed to have forfeited the game. The game shall be automatically awarded to the opposing team by the score of 3-0 (0-0 Grassroots) or the actual score at that time whichever is more advantageous to the opposing team. The Club may also be assessed any applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule after a review of the reasons for the abandonment.

16.10 If a game has to be abandoned by the Match Official at any time because a team removes itself from the field, and said team is found by the League Discipline Committee to have abandoned the game without valid justification, the said team shall be deemed to have forfeited the game. The game shall be automatically awarded to the opposing team by the score of 3-0 (0-0 Grassroots) or the actual score at that time whichever is more advantageous to the opposing team. Any applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule shall also be assessed. The team head coach or the next most senior team official whose name and signature appears on the game may be deemed to have acted in a manner detrimental to the game and the applicable penalties as per the Ontario Soccer Published Policies may apply.

16.11 If a game is abandoned by the Match Official before the completion of two halves for any reasons other than those published in Articles 16.7 to 16.10 of the EMDSL District League Rules and Regulations, the League League Management Board shall rule on the status of the game.

16.12 The home team is responsible for advising the League, in the event a game is not played due to the non-attendance of the Match Official.

Article 17. SCHEDULES

17.1 The season shall begin in May on a date to be determined by the League. Notice of the season start date will be posted on the League website.

17.2 The end of season date for all EMDSL District Divisions shall be 11:59 P.M. of the first Sunday before the Labour Day long weekend. All games must be completed by this date, except where the League extends the season for any/all divisions. The reasons for any such extension, and the period of the extension, will be communicated to affected clubs and teams at the earliest opportunity.

17.3 The rescheduling of games shall be in accordance with the League Reschedule Policy. All authorized game changes made after the game reschedule deadline will be subject to a fee as posted in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. All game reschedule requests must be entered into the League Team Management system after both teams have agreed to the date, time, and location of the change. Any game changes due to weather related issues that cannot be entered into the League Team Management System must be made via email to the League Scheduler email address as published on the website. The email must include the details of the original game and the agreed upon details of the rescheduled game.

17.4 The League reserves the right to move a team to a different division or tier at anytime during the season if deemed necessary to maintain a standard of fair play in that division.

17.5 The League reserves the right to make changes to the schedule at anytime. It is the responsibility of the Club and Teams to monitor the schedules on a regular basis throughout the season.

17.6 The League has the responsibility to create a schedule that works towards a balanced level of play. The League will use articles 17.4 and 17.5 to assist in creating this balance.

17.8. Scheduling, Rescheduling & Cancellation of Games

The League must approve all changes made after the final schedule is published to the League website.

As per 17.3 of the rules and regulations the two affected teams to any reschedule must agree upon a new time, date and location before submitting a Game Change Request to the League. The team which submits the original request must indicate which team is requesting the change or the submitting team will be deemed to be the requesting team. Once the submitting team has entered the request the confirming team will need to confirm the game change request in the League Team Management system. Once both teams have completed these steps the League will either approve or deny the change. The League will automatically deny any game changes in which the scheduling system returns a message that the new game location is already in use by another team or league. Once approved by the League, an email will be processed by the scheduling system to both teams, advising them of the approved change. This entry will also update the League Schedule on the website.

Game change requests for a reschedule to occur within 5 days should also be emailed to the League scheduler at the email address on the League website. This will ensure that the matter is reviewed on a timely basis and that there is a match official available for the proposed game change.

Game cancellations and weather-related abandonments.

The two affected teams must submit entry into the League Team Management System for any game that was cancelled or abandoned due to weather related issues. The two coaches will then reschedule this game in the normal manner. If the system will not allow the submitting team to enter the request, the agreed upon game change must be emailed to the League Scheduler at the email on the League website. The Scheduler will then add this game back into the system and advise the applicable teams. Weather and field related cancellations will not incur a game change fine. Any undue delays in the rescheduling of a game may cause the League to reschedule the game at a date, time and location at their discretion.

Unless twenty-four (24) hours prior notice is given to the visiting team, only the match official can determine if unplayable conditions exist at the field. Should a private club or City Parks & Recreation determine that unplayable conditions exist within less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice the postponed game will be rescheduled in the normal manner. League games scheduled within 48 hours prior to an Ontario Cup game may be rescheduled. It is the responsibility of the Clubs to notify the League and the opposing team of any Ontario Cup conflicts. Failure to notify the League within ten days of the conflict will result in a default of the League game.

Only the League can provide final approval of a game change. Games played without following the proper procedures will be deemed as not played and forfeit fees may be assessed to both teams.

Article 18. PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS

18. Player substitutions are unlimited and shall be permitted at all stoppages of play, with the permission of the Match Official for all games in the Grassroots Divisions. Player substitutions are also permitted on the fly for the U8 and U9 age groups. For all games played in the 11v11 format, substitutions will only be allowed on Kickoffs, Goal Kicks or on a teams own throw in with the permission of the match official. The opposing team may also substitute with the permission of the Match Official on the throw in of the opponent where the opponent has requested a substitution. Injured players may be substituted for if they are required or must leave the field of play.

Article 19. MATCH OFFICIALS

19.1 Match Officials shall be appointed in accordance with the EMDSL Terms of League Operations.

19.2 Match Officials are required to be at the assigned game field a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time to complete the standard field check and other pre-game procedures, including facilitation of the compulsory

checking of valid player Ontario Soccer ID Cards (and the Team Roster Report for the team to which the player is registered) and any applicable permits. Failure to do so will result in the match official being reported to the District for disciplinary action.

19.3 Match officials assigned for League games, shall be paid for their services in accordance with the fee schedule published on the League website. Match Official Fees for U13 and older games are at the direction of Ontario Soccer and may not be reduced by the League.

19.4 If one of the teams raises objections as to field conditions, goalposts, balls or team colours, the Match Official may, at their discretion, require the responsible team to correct the cause of the objection. The Match Official shall be the sole judge as to whether the matters that gave rise to the objection by one of the teams, is sufficient cause to abandon the game or require a stoppage to correct the objection.

19.5 In the event that the appointed Match Official(s) fail to appear by the appointed kick-off time, the home team will make every attempt to contact a Match Official as required for the level of match, or one of the Assistant Match Officials, if applicable, may assume the duties of the Match Official, if they meet the minimum requirements for the level of the match. If an Assistant Match Official assumes the duties of the Match Official, or if an Assistant Match Official does not appear for the game, or if the game is not assigned Assistant Match Officials, then the home team shall appoint an individual to monitor the touch line to flag balls in an out of play. The above is only applicable to games where Assistants are assigned.

19.6 The Match Official shall ensure that the well being of the players is given priority over the progress of the game. Consequently, the Match Official must suspend play or abandon the game, if necessary, where weather conditions, or field conditions place the safety of players or others at risk.

Article 20. GAME PROTESTS and MISCONDUCT

20.1 All matters requiring a hearing shall be dealt with by a committee appointed for that purpose.

20.2 All Clubs and member teams are responsible for the actions of their players, team officials and spectators. Clubs are expected to always adhere to the League and respective Club Codes of Conduct.

20.3 No protests pertaining to the decision of a Match Official shall be entertained. Any concerns regarding the performance of a match official should be directed by email to the League referee assignor. The assignor will then investigate the matter and report to the League any matters of concern. Any disciplinary issues with respect to Match Officials should be directed to the District.

20.4 Field conditions, goalposts, balls or team colour infractions, are not considered as grounds for a protest. Objections of this nature shall be brought to the attention of the Match Official and noted in writing on the game sheet. If in the opinion of the Match Official, the objections do not constitute a valid reason for not starting the competition, no further action will be taken by the League. In any case of games not played due to the above the League may take appropriate action based on the review of the Match Official's report.

Game Protests

20.5 A game protest regarding the playing or outcome of a competition must be made in writing using the League Policy and Procedure Complaint Form found on the League Website outlining the grounds for the protest and delivered or emailed to the League Discipline Contact and League Secretary. The protest must be approved by the respective League Club Representative. Protests without Club approval will not be heard. It is strongly recommended that coaches that wish to file a protest do so through their League Club Representative first to ensure that the deadlines are met and that the prescribed protest fee accompanies the protest. A copy of the protest may be forwarded by the League to the opposing team once it is accepted as complete and the appropriate fee received by the League.

20.6 Protests not meeting all of the above requirements will be returned to the protesting club as invalid and will not be heard. **Note that all protests with respect to the eligibility of a player must be heard at the District level. The league will then act once the findings of the District are provided to the league. The league will forward any player eligibility protests to the district as received so Clubs may report to either the League or District for the protest to**

be considered. Note that the time frame for player eligibility reporting to the District is outlined in the Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures. Protests received outside of these timelines will not be heard or forwarded.

20.7 The League Discipline Contact will send a notice within ten business (10) days, notifying the parties of the date, time, and location of a hearing if a hearing is required. A hearing may not be required where both clubs accept the protest as valid as written. The League may also use the Discipline by Review system where allowed under Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures.

20.8 All valid protests shall be heard within 21 business days of being received by the League Discipline Contact unless there are extenuating circumstances that require an extension of this time frame. The League Discipline Contact will inform the respective Clubs if this deadline cannot be met.

20.9 In the event a protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned in full. In the event the protest is denied, the discipline committee will decide whether to return the protest fee in full, or in part, or to declare that the protest fee be forfeited. Game points may be adjusted based on the decision of the committee on the said protest. Fines may be assessed in accordance with the EMDSL Fines Schedule or Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures.

Code of Conduct Misconduct

Note that matters of Match Official Abuse or Assault are not heard under misconduct. In such instances, the Match Official in question files a referee assault form to Ontario Soccer, the District, and the League.

20.10 The League takes matters of misconduct directed toward or against any participant of any competition seriously. It has a zero-tolerance policy for abuse, or harassment of any kind, as outlined in League and Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures. The League Code of Conduct is posted on the League website. Each member Club must also have a Code of Conduct in place.

20.11 All Misconduct allegations must be fully detailed on the League Code of Conduct Complaint Form available on the League website and provided in writing to the League Secretary and League Discipline Contact, within 14 days of the date of the alleged misconduct incident, Saturdays, Sundays, and Ontario Public Holidays included.

20.12 Any person may make a misconduct complaint. There are no fees required for submission of a League Code of Conduct Complaint Form.

20.13 A copy of the League Code of Conduct Complaint Form, once accepted by the League, will be forwarded to the League Club Representative of the Club that the allegation is being made against, for their reply to the alleged incident. If the matter can be resolved between the two parties a hearing may not be required. If a hearing is required, one will be scheduled within 21 business days of the incident, unless there are extenuating circumstances which require an extension to this deadline. The League is governed in these matters by its Code of Conduct Policy posted on the League website.

20.14 The League may assess penalties or sanctions in accordance with League or Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures for misconduct.

20.15 Matters related to in Club conduct will be forwarded to the applicable Club to be heard.

Article 21. DISCIPLINE

21.1 Disciplinary action shall be taken in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Published Rules and the EMDSL Discipline Procedures.

- In cases where Ontario Soccer Published Policies provide for Discipline by Review (DBR), the accused player or team/club official does not have to appear for a hearing. If the accused person does not request a hearing or does not file an appeal within seventy-two (72) hours of the game where the offence occurred, not including

weekends or statutory holidays, he/she may be found guilty and the applicable penalties and/or fines, established by the Ontario Soccer, or the EMDSL, for the offence for which he/she has been charged shall apply.

- In cases of Discipline By Hearing (DBH), all players attending a disciplinary hearing must be accompanied by an adult who shall act as an advisor, failing which, the hearing will not proceed, and the player shall be suspended until the hearing is held.

21.2 Clubs shall ensure that accused players and team/club officials appear for their disciplinary hearing. Failure to attend a scheduled hearing will result in the application of the appropriate fine in accordance with the League Fees and Fines Schedule. Nonattendance will also result in the suspension of the right to play in the League until the hearing is heard.

Article 22. APPEALS

22. Appeals of any decisions by the League or a Disciplinary Committee of the League shall be handled by EMSA in accordance with its Published Rules. Information concerning appeals can be found on the EMSA website

Article 23. CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

23. A Club that is accepted into membership shall designate up to three individuals as its Club Representative(s). The Club Representative(s) shall be the official point of contact in dealings with the League and will be available for duties in the operation of the league that may be assigned from time to time by the League Management Board.

Article 24. COMMUNICATIONS

24.1 The EMDSL shall use its web-based league management system and email for all communications with its Member Clubs, and their team officials unless another form of communication is mandated elsewhere in the League or Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures. Member Clubs shall ensure they always have valid email addresses in the league management system for the following positions, as a minimum:

- Club President;
- Club Representative;

24.2 Unless specified otherwise in these Rules and Regulations (e.g. rescheduling of games, code of conduct complaints), communication with the League by players, parents, or team officials is not permitted. Questions, complaints, concerns, and other matters must be communicated to the appropriate Club Representative. If, in the opinion of the Club, the matter should be addressed by the League, then the Club shall forward the communication to the League, requesting League action. Failure to follow this process may result in the communication being discarded by the League without further notice to the originator and may result in a fine to the Club as specified in the published League Fees and Fines Schedule.

24.3 All teams shall ensure they have a valid email address in the league management system from April 30 until October 1 of each season for at least one team official who is assigned to the team by the respective Club. Clubs without a team official listed with a valid email address will be subject to fees and fines as outlined in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

24.4 The Club President and Club Representative shall be notified by email, of all new general notices or notices that pertain to their Club teams, that are posted from time to time on the League website. The Club also is responsible to monitor the League website over the season for schedules and news items.

24.5 Team Officials are responsible to monitor the League website over the season for changes to their team schedules, news items and other postings.

24.6 Notices of suspensions, penalties or fines levied on a Club, Club administrator, team staff, or player as a result of discipline or misconduct shall be communicated to the Club Representative.

Article 25. PRE-SEASON MEETINGS

25.1 In April of each season there will be a mandatory pre-season meeting for a minimum of one (1) team official from each

team. Member Clubs failing to send one (1) representative per team to the Team Pre-Season Meeting shall be assessed a fine as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. To ensure that the pre-season meeting is made available to as many team officials as possible, the same team official can only represent a maximum of two League teams at the Pre-Season Meeting. Tier 3 team officials are only required to attend the Pre-Season Meeting if so communicated by the League. A separate meeting may also be held by the League from time to time with Tier 3 Clubs only.

Article 26. CUPS AND TOURNAMENTS (Not applicable to Grassroots Teams)

26.1 All League Cup and Ontario Cup games take precedence over EMDSL regular league games.

26.2 The League will hold an annual Cup Competition known as the District Cup for all teams registered to the U13 and older League Divisions.

26.3 The League Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations apply to all District Cup Games. Rules and Regulations specific to the League Cup Competition are available on the League website, Elgin Middlesex District Soccer League District Cup Rules & Regulations.

26.4 All Teams in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 Division must participate in the District Cup. Failure to do so will result in the Member Club being assessed applicable fines as published in the League Fees and Fines Schedule. The only exception will be for overriding Ontario Soccer games, (IE: Ontario Cup or Ontario Soccer player situation Provincial Team games)

26.5 Teams playing in a Tier 3 Division may opt out of the Cup Competition if the request to opt out is received in writing to the Tier 3 Director at least 45 days prior to the playing of the respective team’s first Cup game. Once a Cup game has been played the team must play the remainder of its Cup Competition games or they will be deemed to have forfeited the game and a game forfeit fee applied to the Club.

26.6 The schedule will be determined by random draw, prior to the start of the season. All Member Clubs are welcome to attend the draw. The date and location of the draw will be posted on the League website.

26.7 The EMDSL will accept applications from any Member Club wishing to host all, or part of the Outdoor Cup Competition. The League has the final authority to decide which host application will be accepted if any. If there is no acceptable host identified, the League will host the Cup Competition based on the published rules and regulations.

26.8 The schedules and host venues will be posted on the League website.

26.9 The same guidelines shall apply to Indoor District Cup competitions. The League will host the Indoor Cup.

Article 27. FEES AND FINES

Member Clubs are expected to pay outstanding fees by the posted League deadlines. Fines that are assessed to the Club are due within 21 days of notification of the fine.. Clubs that fail to pay within this time frame, without seeking and obtaining an extension from the League, will be deemed “members not in good standing” and this information will be forwarded to EMSA. Clubs deemed “not in good standing” may be fined, censured, suspended, or have all their teams expelled from the League, pursuant to Article 4.3 of the EMDSL By-Laws. In addition, Member Clubs that fail to pay fines, or fees, within the required time frame are subject to an additional fines as prescribed in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

Payment of fees or fines can be made by cash, cheque, or money order. Any Club which issues a cheque that is returned as NSF will be assessed an additional administrative fee of \$75 and the offending Club may be put on a certified cheque, cash or money order basis only for all League payments.

League Fees and Fines Schedule

Outdoor Team Registration Fees

Team Registration fee (Tier 1 and Tier 2)	\$300.00 per team
Team Registration fee (Tier 3)	\$200.00
Late Registration fee	\$100.00 plus the original team registration fee

Indoor Team Registration Fees

The Team Registration fee and late surcharges will be posted to the League website each season.

Club Fees

Club bond	\$300.00
Protest fee	\$100.00
Returned cheque service charge	\$75.00
Code of Conduct Complaint	no fee

Club Fines

Outdoor Team withdrawal	
After the League published deadline:	The team registration fee is forfeited for each team withdrawn.
After the League schedule is published:	\$225.00 plus the team registration fee for each team withdrawn.
Failure to have a representative to attend a League Annual or Special Members Meeting:	\$250.00
Failure to pay a fine by the deadline	\$100.00 surcharge every 21 days.
Team Rep not present at pre-season meeting:	\$150.00 per occurrence.

Indoor Team withdrawal	
Prior to October 1st	The team registration fee is forfeited for each team withdrawn.
October 1st to posting the schedule	Team registration fee plus \$250.00 fine.
After schedule is posted	Team registration fee plus \$500.00 fine.

Team Level Fines assessed to the Club

Forfeit of a League game	
1st Game forfeited	\$200.00
2nd Game forfeited	\$450.00
3rd Game forfeited	\$750.00

Game Change Requests entered into the League Team Management System: Assessed to the requesting Club.

Game Change entered prior to July 1 st :	no fee.
Game Change entered prior to August 1 st :	\$50.00 per request.
Game Change entered after July 31 st :	\$100.00 per request.

Game results not reported by the deadline	\$25.00 per occurrence.
Failure to follow rescheduling procedures	\$50.00 per occurrence.
Failure to activate a team in the League Team Management System by the posted deadline	\$50.00 per occurrence.
Failure to have complete game sheets and or Player Verification documentation at a game	\$50.00 per occurrence.
Unsuitable field conditions or improper Equipment at a League game	\$150.00 per occurrence.

Set Discipline or Misconduct Fines

A Member Engages in serious misconduct:	\$500.00
Member missing a League Discipline Hearing:	\$250.00
Falsifying a game sheet:	\$500.00
Failure to exercise adequate control over spectators or team officials at a game:	\$150.00

The League will assess fines and or suspensions in accordance with Ontario Soccer Policies and Procedures for any Discipline or Misconduct not expressly listed above. These fines will be in addition to any fines assessed by the District or Ontario Soccer.

Match Official Fees:

Match official fees will be posted annually to the league website.

Article 28. AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND REGULATIONS

28.1 Amendments to the EMDSL Rules and Regulations can be proposed by member clubs and will be accepted with a

majority vote at an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting held for that purpose.

28.2 Amendments to the EMDSL Rules and Regulations may be made by the League Board of Directors at any time. A fourteen (14) day notice must be provided to the membership before the application of a rule change that has been made at a Board Meeting.

Article 29. OTHER MATTERS

29. All matters not included in these Rules and Regulations shall be dealt in accordance with the Ontario Soccer Published Policies and Procedures.

29.1 The League may assess fees or fines to a Club for nonadherence to the Policies and Procedures of the League by any of their members. The League will assess the fee or fine to recover any cost incurred to the League due to the nonadherence by the respective Club or its members.

Article 30. TIER 3 DIVISIONS

Notwithstanding the League Rules and Regulations in Section 1 to 29 inclusive, the following rules and regulations are in effect for Tier 3 Level Teams and Players.

30.1 The League will operate a Tier 3 Division to provide local level soccer (house league) for Clubs that are not able to provide an in-house local league for their teams.

30.2 No players registered to a Tier 1, Tier 2, competitive, or higher-level division may register, or be called up, or permitted to play on any Tier 3 team. Tier 3 is for Tier 3 ability level players only.

30.3 Tier 3 players may be called up a maximum of one age division to play on another Tier 3 team in the same Club. A maximum of 4 call up players per game are allowed.

30.4 Tier 3 Grassroots

Grassroots divisions will be offered at U8, U9, U10, U11 and U12.

Where a Club does not have a sufficient number of players to register at a Grassroots Age Division, the Club may register a dual age group in any of the U9, or U11 age groups. Teams must register based on the oldest player in the dual aged group.

Where Clubs have more than one team at any age group, the players are pool based and can be utilized by any team from the respective pool. The Ontario Soccer Matrix must be followed with respect to number of competitions allowed per week. (Open roster system)

For any division where there are not sufficient teams to allow for local level play within 30 minutes of each other, teams will be allowed to withdraw without penalty when such a situation is communicated to the affected teams by the League. If the team still wishes to participate, they are expected to show for all games regardless of distance and will be subject to fines for forfeited games as per the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

30.4 Tier 3 Full Field

Full Field divisions will be offered at U14, U16 and U18 only.

Teams may register as single age teams if they wish to maintain an age level for tournaments or other competitions, but they will play in their respective League division indicated above.

A player may not register or play for more than one team in any age division. There are no call up provisions to Club teams playing in the same age division.

For any division where there are not sufficient teams to allow for local level play within 30 minutes of each other, teams will be allowed to withdraw without penalty when such a situation is communicated to the affected teams by the League. If the team still wishes to participate, they are expected to show for all games regardless of distance and will be subject to fines for forfeited games as per the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

(Revised September 2023)