

# **Elgin Middlesex District Soccer Indoor 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 Members 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 or designate.

3.3 For each team withdrawn after the published withdrawal deadline, the Member Club shall forfeit the full fees paid. For each team withdrawn after the official schedule is published, the EMDSL shall assess an additional fine in accordance with the EMDSL Fine Schedule.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. Permission to play in or out must be obtained for each indoor and each outdoor season.

## **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 new player on an Indoor League team roster is February 15th of each year.

5.3 Players may transfer to another team in accordance with Ontario Soccer Published Policies and Procedures. The transfer deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year for the Indoor League.

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 indoor teams subject to approval by the District if they do not play in the same division. Grassroots aged players are subject to the Policies and Procedures of Ontario Soccer.

## **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.
- e. 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];
- f. no underage (U8-U12) call-ups are permitted to any higher age category as per Ontario Soccer Grassroots policy.
- g. U12 and younger teams use an open pooled roster format. They can play in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 competitions for the same age group for the Club to which they are registered. All teams U12 and younger are expected to adhere to the Grassroots matrix as published and amended by Ontario Soccer.
- h. 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. 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 The number of players that may be listed on the game sheet and are eligible to play in league games are listed below. 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: 12 Players

U13 and older: 18 Players (Tier 1 and Tier 2 and 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 is required to provide two (2) copies of their game sheet for any indoor game.

- Copy 1 (white) shall be retained by the Match Official and forwarded to the League
- Copy 2 shall be provided to the opposing team official for the player verification process.

## **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 a 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 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.

## **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.

10.4 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. DURATION OF GAMES**

13.1 Games shall be of the following duration:

- U8/U9 Games: 2x 20-minute halves with a 1-minute half time break
- U10 and older Games: 2x25 minute halves with a 1-minute half time break

13.2 the time clock will remain running unless the Match Official calls for at time stoppage.

## **Article 14. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

14.1 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.

14.2 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.

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

14.4 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.

14.5 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.

14.6 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.

14.7 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.

14.8 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 a 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 All games must start promptly. There is a grace period of 5 minutes. If after the grace period, a team does not have the minimum number of players they will forfeit the game. If both teams have less than the minimum number of players, then both teams will forfeit the game. Offending teams will be subject to a fine as detailed in the League Fees and Fines Schedule.

16.2 The visiting team kicks off to start the game. The ball may be kicked in any direction for all kickoffs. The home team will kick off to start the second half.

16.3 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.

16.4 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.

16.5 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.

16.6 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.

16.7 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 Management Board shall rule on the status of the game.

16.8 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 will begin on the first Sunday after Thanksgiving unless otherwise posted by the League.

17.2 The League policy is to adhere to the schedule as published. Team officials are not permitted to postpone or reschedule any game under the jurisdiction of the League. Games that cannot be played will only be rescheduled at the discretion of the League.

17.3 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.

17.4 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 17.3 and 17.4 to assist in creating this balance.

## **Article 18. PLAYER NUMBERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

18.1 Player substitutions are unlimited and shall be permitted on the fly at any time during the game. The Match Official must be notified for any goalkeeper substitutions.

18.2 Players substituting must be near the touch line nearest to their bench area. Failing to do so will result in a "too many players on the field" violation and a two minute minor penalty will be given to the incoming player.

18.3 The maximum number of players allowed on the field during a game are:

U8 and U9:	5 players
U10-U18:	7 players

18.4 The minimum required number of players on the field during a game are:

U8 and U9: 3 players

U10-U18: 5 players

## **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 five (5) 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.

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 fails 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.

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 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.

### **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 Polices 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. 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 October 1st until April 30th 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. The League can change these dates at their discretion.

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. INDOOR RULES OF THE GAME**

25.1 Ball Out of Play: All balls that go out of play will result in a kick in.

25.2 All kicks including kick ins are indirect. Opposing players must be a minimum of five meters from the ball for any kicks. Penalty kicks are direct. A goal cannot be scored directly from any kick other than a penalty kick.

25.3 If the ball hits the roof of the building an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team closest to where the ball hit.

25.4 Fouls and Misconduct are the same as for outdoor competitions. No slide tackles are allowed in indoor games.

25.5 If a player receives two yellow cards in the same game, the second yellow becomes a red card, and they will be ejected from the game and will need to immediately leave the field area. The District will apply discipline for any red cards issued as well as continuous yellow cards over the course of the season as per standard Ontario Soccer discipline procedures. Any player receiving a red card will cause their team to play down one player for a duration of five minutes regardless if a goal is scored or not during the five-minute period.

25.6 An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the penalty area of the opponent will be taken from any point on the top line of the penalty area.

25.7 Match Officials may issue a two minute penalty for an offence, a caution(yellow card) or both. The offending team will play down a player for the full two-minute duration.

25.8 Match Officials may award a five-minute penalty for a serious infraction occurring in the penalty area.

#### **Article 26: PENALTIES**

Match Official discretion on any foul or misconduct regardless of whether a card is issued: Two-minute penalty.

Issuance of a yellow card: Two-minute penalty

Issuance of a red card: Five-minute penalty

26.1 Only two players from each team can be serving penalties at the any one time. If another player on the same team receives a penalty, that player must go to the penalty area. The team must substitute a non penalized player to take their place on the field to maintain the minimum team number. The penalty for the third and subsequent players will not start until one of the first penalized players time has elapsed.

26.2 In the case of an ejection or multiple penalties that causes a team to have less than the minimum number of players on the field, the penalized team will be assessed a game forfeit and the opposing team will be awarded a 3-0 win.

26.3 Offsetting penalties will cause both teams to play down. There is no offset rules that allow a penalty not to be served.

26.4 Any two-minute penalty assessed to a goalkeeper may be served by a player of their own team on the field at the time of the infraction. If the goalkeeper is ejected from the game, they must leave the field of play immediately and be replaced by another player. If the goalkeeper receives a five-minute penalty without an ejection, they must serve the penalty and be replaced by another player. The offending team will play down a player for the duration of the penalty.

26.5 Any player ejected from a game will cause their team to play down a player for five-minutes.

#### **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 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 schedules will be posted on the League website.

## 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

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

Game Change entered prior to July 1 <sup>st</sup> :	no fee.
Game Change entered prior to August 1 <sup>st</sup> :	\$50.00 per request.
Game Change entered after July 31 <sup>st</sup> :	\$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.
<b>Set Discipline or Misconduct Fines</b>	
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.