

**Sherwood Park District Soccer Association
Rules and Regulations
Approved February 2016**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sherwood Park District Soccer Association is committed to providing its members the opportunity to participate in recreational and competitive soccer leagues by teaching and demonstrating soccer skills, sportsmanship, honesty, respect, and fair play. The SPDSA promotes the game of soccer in a safe environment where our members can not only excel in their soccer skills but may also learn the importance of physical fitness in their lives.

PHILOSOPHY

The Philosophy of community league soccer simply put is "fair play". Each community league player regardless of skill level is guaranteed the right to play equal time. (Including those players who are mentally or physically challenged.

There is a basic formula for success in community league soccer and that is fair play, good sportsmanship, a positive attitude and encouragement. As volunteers, coaches, assistants, managers; et al, we are responsible for making sure that our programs work. The players must have fun and they must have the opportunity to develop within the program.

Winning cannot be the main criteria in community league soccer. If we adhere to the basic formula, they will have fun; they will develop and then – everyone wins.

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SECTION I - DEFINITIONS

ASA:	Alberta Soccer Association
CSA:	Canadian Soccer Association
Trialists:	A player picked up to play on a team. A Trialists is usually a player from a younger age group whose skills are being evaluated
Player Release	Document from a District association allowing a player to play in another District
Team Official	Team official refers to any person formally associated with a team, such as coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer first aide attendant, bench parents.

SECTION II — GENERAL REGULATIONS

201 The Association

The Sherwood Park District Soccer Association, hereinafter referred to as the SPDSA, is an autonomous body dedicated to the promotion and improvement of soccer among the youth of Sherwood Park.

202 Affiliation

The SPDSA is affiliated, through the Alberta Soccer Association, with the Canadian Soccer Association. In general, the SPDSA concurs with the rules and regulations of these Associations.

All affiliates of SPDSA are expected to obey the SPDSA constitution and rules and regulations. Any organization affiliated with SPDSA in contravention of SPDSA, ASA or CSA bylaws, or rules or regulation may face disciplinary action.

203 Organization

Under the terms of the bylaws, the board of directors, selected annually at the Annual General Meeting, governs SPDSA.

204 Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive and Board Members

The duties and responsibilities of the SPDSA executive and the Board of directors are specified in the SPDSA bylaws.

205 Co-operation

SPDSA co-operates closely with Strathcona County Recreation and Parks Department.

206 SPDSA Territorial Limits

As established in the 1984 agreement with the ASA, the Boundaries for the SPDSA are as follows:

Northern Boundary: Hwy 16
Eastern Boundary: Hwy 21
Southern Boundary: Ellerslie Road, TWP514
Western Boundary: Edmonton City Limits

207 Objectives

The programs operated by SPDSA for youth soccer are to foster and encourage the game for the enjoyment of youth and to help form good character in the participants. Every effort will be made to ensure that the welfare of youth will be held paramount.

208 Behavior

Emphasis is placed on an attitude of sportsmanship and good conduct from all those who participate. SPDSA has a code of conduct for all members of the association. Any individual that displays behavior that in the opinion of the SPDSA board of directors is offensive or brings harm to the association or its members will be subject to discipline *as* noted in section V.

209 Membership

Membership for SPDSA is specified in the SPDSA bylaws.

210 Player Registration

The SPDSA will set Player registration dates annually. Every player must be registered with the SPDSA and the official SPDSA registration form must be used.

Registration for programs are completed online, through the SPDSA's online registration system.

211 Programs Formats

Program competition formats will be finalized after Registration has been completed. The SPDSA staff will organize and specify the competition formats for Tier Tier IV programs. This will include the format leading to Provincial level competition.

SPDSA currently recognizes two seasons, Indoor and Outdoor.

212 Tier I (Phoenix) Programs

SPDSA encourages players with superior skills in the competitive age groups to participate in programs leading to Provincial Tier I-level competition. All SPDSA teams playing in Tier **I** leagues are expected to compete for the Tier I Provincial berth, upon approval of the SPDSA staff. Tier 1 teams are made up of 2nd year players in their age group unless under extenuating circumstances.

213 Tier II (Phoenix) Programs

SPDSA encourages players with better than average skills in the competitive age groups to participate in programs leading to Provincial Tier II-level competition. All SPDSA teams playing in Tier II leagues are expected to compete for the Tier II Provincial berth, upon approval of the SPDSA staff. Tier II teams are made up of 1st year players in their age group unless under extenuating circumstances.

214 Tier III (Phoenix) Programs

SPDSA encourages players with better than average skills in the competitive age groups to participate in programs leading to Provincial Tier III-level competition. All SPDSA teams playing in Tier **III** leagues are expected to compete for the Tier III Provincial berth, upon approval of the SPDSA staff. Tier III teams may be made up of 1st or 2nd year players in their age group.

215 Tier IV (Community) Programs

The Tier IV programs are arranged to accommodate those players who do not wish to compete at the higher levels. These teams are eligible to compete at Tier IV level Provincial competition. There is no coach player selection process in this program and all boys and girls are eligible to play. This program is the largest program of the SPDSA and is the main focus of the SPDSA.

216 Adult Programs

The SPDSA offers two programs for its adult players, Recreational and Competitive. The SPDSA recreational program is open to Men's and Womens (16 years and older) and Masters and Classics (35 years and older), as well as a coed league. Players of all skill levels are welcome. The leagues focus on equal participation and fun. The SPDSA competitive

program offers Phoenix players a place to play after their youth career concludes and other Adults players a competitive atmosphere in which to play soccer. The teams will carry the Phoenix brand and compete in the Edmonton Adult Program. Teams will commit to doing their best to reach the highest division attainable.

217 Special Programs

All programs not mentioned above can be considered to be special programs. SPDSA will from time to time offer special programs. These programs may **be offered by** affiliate organizations or SPDSA. The Alberta Summer Games is an example of a program supported and offered within the SPDSA district from time to time. Coaches are encouraged to support these programs. The organizing body will specify the rules of each program.

SPDSA special programs will be offered under the direction of SPDSA board and the relevant SPDSA Staff. These special programs may **be** offered to enhance the skill and or enjoyment of the game for players. All SPDSA special programs, formats and fees are at the discretion of SPDSA. U4, U6, U8, U 10 and development programs and clinics are considered special programs. These programs may use modified rules.

218 Trophies

Any trophies awarded to teams (rather than individuals) by SPDSA will remain the property of SPDSA. An officer of SPDSA will record the signature, name and address of the team representative accepting the trophy for future reference. Trophies will be returned upon request by the SPDSA.

219 Sponsors

Any person, business or organization may apply to sponsor a team. SPDSA encourages sponsorship; but reserves the right to reject advertising using any reference to the SPDSA on the grounds of taste, wording or product. All inquiries on Sponsorship should be directed to SPDSA staff. SPDSA has the right to establish fees for sponsorship.

220 Publicity

Any member of the SPDSA may make an announcement regarding statistics and activities. Announcements regarding policy or board decisions may only be made by the President or appointed representative of SPDSA only. The SPDSA Board of Directors who has the option of initiating legal action and will challenge individuals making false or slanderous statements to the media.

221 Injury, Liability, Insurance

SPDSA is not liable for any injury to individuals, players, team officials, game officials or spectators. All registered players and team officials will have limited insurance coverage, through the Alberta Soccer Association, for all SPDSA sanctioned events.

222 Player Recruitment

Infractions of these rules are considered an offense and will be dealt with under the provisions of Section V, below.

- a. SPDSA recognizes the address of permanent residence as a condition of registration.
- b. When there are insufficient players at any age group to form a team or league, SPDSA will attempt to arrange their participation in other leagues or organizations.
- c. Teams are permitted to recruit players from a lower division or age group within SPDSA on a trial basis (Trialists). Recruited players must have written permission of the coach they are currently playing for and comply with the conditions and limitations See Section III, Paragraphs 306 and 307 below.
- d. All registered players have the right to be considered for positions on SPDSA representative teams.
- g. Players over the age of sixteen may play unlimited games for a registered ASA Senior team, with prior written permission from the SPDSA. ASA rules regarding the conditions under which a minor player may play for a senior team will apply.

223 Fundraising

Teams and Team officials may engage in fundraising activities only with the written permission of SPDSA. All requests to participate in fundraising activities must clearly state the type of fundraising activity to be undertaken and how the proceeds from the fundraising activity will be used. SPDSA has the right to limit or deny any fundraising activities. Any individual, player, team official or fundraising without the written permission of SPDSA is subject to discipline. All teams must follow the SPDSA Fundraising policy.

SPDSA has the right as an association to fund raise for the betterment of the association as a whole.

224 Rule & Regulation Changes

As per the SPDSA bylaws, the SPDSA Board of Directors has the ability to modify or add new rules or regulations as required.

SECTION III — REGISTRATION

301 Registration Fees

- a. Registration fees are set annually by the Board of Directors, are due and payable on or before the final registration date set by the SPDSA. No player may play or practice with a SPDSA team prior to payment of fees.
- b. In the case where the payment of fees would cause financial hardship, or the inability to pay result in a player not participating, The SPDSA will offer funding programs and payment options.
- c. Non-payment of fees will be dealt with as per Section V — Discipline
- d. All teams domiciled in the SPDSA will pay their ASA fees to the district as per ASA rules and regulations.

302 Player Registration

- a. Each player playing for a SPDSA team must be registered with SPDSA and the registration fee paid in full.
- b. In league play, any player playing for a SPDSA team or in a SPDSA league must be registered twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of any game.
- c. In cup competition (typically the fall season), any player playing for a SPDSA team or in a SPDSA tournament must be registered seven days prior to the game. No Trialists (picked up players) may be added to a team for SPDSA cup competition.
- d. The SPDSA is required to complete an ASA team/player registration form. Signed copies will be returned to the team officers and must be produced for inspection upon the request of a game official. Teams that do not provide ASA team/player registration forms may be subject to discipline as described in Section V — Discipline
- e. Any change of team officers must be communicated to the SPDSA Registrar.
- f. Players' birth certificates or other proof of age must be made available to the SPDSA upon registration.
- g. It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that all players are eligible to play.
- h. Team officials of SPDSA teams playing in other leagues must ensure that the team and player registration is completed according to the rules and regulations of the host league. In the case of roster changes, Team officials must ensure that all transfer/release forms have been completed.

303 Age Groups

- a. The age group categories for SPDSA are as follows:
Adult 16 and above, Under 18, Under **16**, Under 14, Under 12, Under 10, Under 8, Under 7, Under 6, Under 5 and Under 4.
- b. Categories are comprised of teams of players who have not reached the limiting age before December 31 of the year for which they have registered.
- c. Any team which included an over age player will forfeit the game with the result to show three goals and three points to the advantage of the opposing team. Team officials in violation of this rule are subject to disciplinary action as per Section V — Discipline
- d. The above age limitations may be waived for handicapped players at the discretion of the SPDSA, provided written documentation is received for a physician that documents the disability. Players who are playing at a lower age group may be disqualified from playing games outside SPDSA community leagues.

304 Team Roster

- a. No more than twenty (20) players may be dressed for a game.
- b. Each team will consist of no more than twenty players during a single season, unless under extenuating circumstances and approval from ASA.
- c. This applies from U6 to U18 Inclusive. Roster sizes are determined by the SPDSA to ensure proper development for all age groups.
- d. Up to four players may be replaced during a single season for age groups U-6 to U-16, inclusive.
- e. U-18 teams may have twenty players registered at any one time, but may not register more than thirty players in a single season.
- f. No Trialists or guest player may be added to a roster for any league games where sixteen or more of the registered players are dressed. Trialists may be used to bring the number of dressed players to sixteen for league games only. For tournaments, the sponsoring organization's team roster rules apply, provided that every effort is made for all players to play equal time.
- g. Trialists may not be used to replace registered player for tournament play unless those registered players are not available to play (due to injury or other circumstance).
- h. No player may play or register for more than one SPDSA team during one season unless duly transferred by formal notification to the Registrar, and in the case of teams playing in other leagues, required transfer/release forms are completed.

305 Player Playing in Older Group than in the One Registered

Any registered player may play games for an older age group team within the parent organization, providing that the following conditions are met:

1. Prior written permission of the SPDSA and team officer of the team with which he is registered is obtained by using the online trialists form.
2. Not more than four such players may play for the team at one time.
3. It is recorded on the game sheet that the player is a Trialist and noting in which league and age group the player is registered.
4. Where an SPDSA team is playing in a league, which requires player's cards, the Trialists card must be in the possession of a team officer during the game.
5. All trialists are subject to the rules and regulations of the specific leagues they are playing for.

Infractions of these rules will be dealt with as per Section V — Discipline

306 Player Playing for Higher Division Team in Same Age Group

All the provisions of 306, above, apply with the exception that the number of games are limited to three. Should a player wish to play more than five games, then a formal transfer must be processed and the player must remain with the higher level as per 309 (b), below.

307 Transfers to a Lower Tier within the Same Age Group

The transfer of players to lower tier within the same age group is not permitted, unless transfer is completed prior to the player completing the 5th game of the higher tier.

308 Players Transferred to another Parent Organization

At annual Registration, players commit themselves to the Parent Organization with whom they initially register for that season. During the season they may apply for transfer under the following conditions:

1. Players and teams playing in leagues outside SPDSA may be subject to the rules and regulations of the host league. In the case of roster changes, the SPDSA must ensure that all transfer/release forms have been completed.
2. Players requesting transfers must do so by the published date of the current year for the respective season (outdoor season or indoor season).
3. Players that play more than five games at a higher tier level are required to transfer to that tier level and remain with that level.

Infractions of these rules will be dealt with as per Section V — Discipline.

309 Registered Team Colors

Non District Teams playing in SPDSA competitions must register their team colors with the SPDSA.

310 Tampering with Team Rosters

The tampering with Team Rosters is forbidden. Team officials who have altered team rosters will be subject to Section V — Discipline.

311 Playing Time

It is the policy of SPDSA that all players on teams playing in SPDSA competition from U4 to U18 Community and U10 to U12 Phoenix, are given equal opportunity to play. Teams in U14 to U18 Phoenix will be fair playing time.

312 Player Releases

SPDSA will provide signed releases to players wishing to play outside of the district. SPDSA has the right to charge an administration fee for Player releases. SPDSA Player release is not to be used for the purpose of forming teams outside of the SPDSA district.

313 Non-District Team Registration

Teams from outside the SPDSA may register to play in SPDSA leagues only with the written permission of their District of domicile and their respective soccer organization. The written request must be addressed to the SPDSA for acceptance. The following conditions shall apply:

1. The SPDSA will apply and set fees to Non-District Team registering to play in SPDSA leagues. The fees are payable upon registration and are not subject to refund.
2. All teams (Players, Team Officials, Parents/Guardians, Spectators) registering to play in SPDSA leagues must agree to adhere to all SPDSA bylaws, rules and regulations, decisions of the board of directors and agree by their participation to be subject to discipline as described in Section V. All violations may be reported

to their respective soccer Organization, District of Domicile and the ASA if required.
3. All Non-District Teams must register to play at a tier level that is representative of their team's skill level. Teams of a higher tier may not register to play at lower tier level for league or tournament play within SPDSA.
4. All teams registering to play as a team must have their players properly registered with the ASA, and must provide a copy of their ASA roster to SPDSA when requested.

314 Non-District Players (Imports)

SPDSA allows for Non-District Players (Imports) to play on SPDSA teams or with SPDSA affiliates provided that the following conditions are met:

1. All Imports must have signed releases from their District of Domicile provided to the SPDSA.
2. Import Player playing with affiliates of SPDSA must adhere **to** the Import rules of the affiliate teams and Leagues in which they play.
3. SPDSA teams (Tier IV) will not allow for more **than** six import players from any one District of Domicile to be on any one team as per ASA regulations.
4. All Import players agree to adhere to all SPDSA bylaws, rules and regulations, decisions of the board of directors and agree by their participation to be subject to discipline as described in Section V. All violations may be reported to their respective soccer organization, District of Domicile and the ASA if required.

315 Player and Team Equipment

SPDSA will provide team equipment for both the indoor and outdoor seasons. Team officials will be required to provide a deposit on all equipment, which shall be refunded on the return of the equipment in reasonable condition. The amount of the deposit is set by SPDSA. Team equipment may include:

A complete set of team jerseys with a distinct goalie jersey

A set of practice soccer balls per team, including a game ball (ball size is determined by age category). Not all age groups will have a ball per player. Outdoor equipment will also include:

Flag Markers, cones and a first aid kit

Specific Goal Nets based on Age Group.

Failure to return equipment or the return of equipment that has been abused may result in the forfeit of the deposit and other possible discipline.

Each player is required to provide the following equipment for their own use: soccer style shoes, (Note that Indoor soccer shoes or runners are required at indoor facilities) all players must wear soccer style shin pads, which are to be covered by soccer socks, All players are required to wear soccer shorts.

All players must be aware that jewelry of any kind is not permitted.

Approved A.S.A. referees shall have the final say as to what constitutes dangerous equipment, all dangerous equipment must be removed, this includes jewelry, and failure to comply with the game official may result in a disciplinary action.

SECTION IV — REGULATIONS

401 Laws of the Game

The laws of the game of soccer, except where modified by SPDSA, are laws of the game as per FIFA and most recently approved by the Alberta Soccer Association. Changes or modifications to laws for play in SPDSA leagues will be documented as follows:

- Discipline: APPENDIX I
- Indoor/Outdoor rule modifications: APPENDIX II
- Mini soccer game: APPENDIX III

Complete copies of the Laws of the game can be obtained from the Alberta Soccer Association, SPDSA or FIFA Websites.

402 Game Official

The SPDSA Referee assigner or designate will assign game officials. If an official is not in attendance, both teams may agree on the alternate official for the game. U4, U5, U6, U7 and U8 Mini-Soccer does not use referees and each coach will take turn refereeing a half. All assigned game officials will be certified for the current season.

403 Game Schedules

- a) Teams must adhere to the schedule as issued by the SPDSA. Only the SPDSA staff can make or approve changes to the schedule. In the event games are cancelled due to weather or other unforeseen event the SPDSA staff will attempt to reschedule games prior to the end of the season. Teams rescheduling games without the approval of the SPDSA will forfeit the game with both teams losing two points. All league games must be completed by the date established by the initial schedule created for each age division to accommodate Provincial Tournaments.
- b) The SPDSA staff is responsible for notifying the Referee Assignor of rescheduled games.
- c) SPDSA is not responsible for weather or other unforeseen event that may shorten league play during the indoor or outdoor season. SPDSA will make reasonable efforts to reschedule cancelled games. SPDSA will not issue refunds due to cancelled games.

- d) Should a team wish to reschedule a league game to attend a tournament (for outdoor only), both coaches involved in the league game must agree to reschedule the game and follow the guidelines below:
- The coaches involved must find a date that both coaches agree on, and contact the SPDSA staff who will book an appropriate field for the rescheduled game. The SPDSA staff will ensure a referee can be scheduled for the game (Indoor games are not rescheduled due to lack of facility space).
 - If the originally rented field cannot be utilized by another SPDSA team or cancelled by the SPDSA, the coaches requesting the change must pay for the alternate field rental.
 - If the team does not follow these regulations, they will forfeit the points for this game and may be assessed an Administration fee.

404 Team Officials

SPDSA requires that all team officials obtain security clearances (CRC). All SPDSA teams comprised of female players must have an adult (18 years old) female attendant present at all times during games and practices. For the Indoor game the attendant must be present: on the bench during the game, before and after the game in the dressing room. During the outdoor season the attendant must be present during the game in the technical area. Teams that comprise of all male players must have an adult male attendant at all times in accordance with the above.

For Tier IV Indoor play in SPDSA, Teams may have up to four (4) non-playing Team officials on the bench. One must be of the same gender as the players, all must be on the game sheet, and all must have a security clearance. Only registered team officials may be on the field during practices, bench during games or dressing rooms.

SPDSA teams must adhere to the rules for: Provincial Competition, tournaments or play in other leagues for number of Team officials allowed on the bench or technical area when playing in those competitions.

405 Postponed Games

- a. The referee is the sole judge for deciding if a game should be played or postponed. Postponements will be reported to the Referee Coordinator or designate by the referee and to the SPDSA staff by the home team coach. For U4 to U8 games, the two coaches may agree to postpone a game due to poor weather..
- b. If the referee cancels a game, the reason must be clearly stated on the game sheet.

406 Late or Non-Arrivals

- a. A team not arriving within fifteen minutes of the scheduled kick off time will forfeit the game. The opposing team will be awarded three points and three goals. The team in attendance may choose to reschedule the game; this will be done by

the SPDSA Staff as per 403 (a), however, the forfeit will stand and the game will be played as an exhibition only.

- b. The referee will mark on the game sheet that a team was a no show' and mark down the score as in 406 (a). If the coach in attendance wishes to reschedule the game, it should be marked clearly on the game sheet. The SPDSA Staff will then proceed as per 403 (a).
- c. Teams arriving late must start as soon as they can field seven players for an 11 v 11 games (6 players for 7 v 7 (U10) / 8 v 8 (U12) games. For Indoor Soccer, a minimum of 4 players are required to start a game. The resulting game may be cut short if there is a scheduled game to take place after the delayed game. Teams playing after a late start game will not be penalized and will play a full game.
- d. Where both teams fail to show, and a referee is scheduled, the cost of the referee's fees, and facility costs will be borne by both teams. The referee must forward a report to the Referee Coordinator who will inform the SPDSA. Both teams will forfeit the game with a result of no goals for and three goals against. The game may be rescheduled at the SPDSA's discretion if time permits and will be played as an exhibition game only.

407 Incomplete Games

- a. If players, coaches or fans cannot complete a game due to misconduct, the violations committee will determine the result. The facts will be reported by the referee to the Referee Assignor and the SPDSA staff.
- b. If a game is abandoned due to weather or other uncontrollable reasons, the game will be rescheduled, if possible and time permits, or declared a draw. The game will have a bearing on who will proceed to provincial competition, every effort will be made to try and reschedule the game.
- c. A game shall be declared valid if, in the referee's estimation, at least 75% of the scheduled game time has elapsed for both Indoor and Outdoor games. If less than 75% of the game is completed the game will be declared abandoned and rescheduled if possible and time permits or declared a draw and each team receiving 1 point and a 0 – 0 tie.

408 Game Sheets

- e) Each player's name must be on the game sheet against the number corresponding to the jersey number. Only twenty players are allowed on the gamesheet as per ASA rules.
- f) Both the home team and visitor team are to provide the game sheet. The game will only start when the sheet is complete and in the possession of the referee.
- g) The referee will sign the sheet at the end of the game including the final score and any remarks as required.

- h) The referee is responsible for delivering the game sheet to the SPDSA office within 48 hours. Each team is required to keep a copy of their game sheet to ensure scores are correct and have it available encase a game sheet is missing.

It is the home teams responsibility to enter the scores online for all league games. Points are awarded as follows: 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss.

i) 409 Player Identification Cards

- a. Teams playing in leagues with the SPDSA and outside of SPDSA may require player cards to be on the game sheet.
- b. Player cards where required by competition rules must be made available to game officials upon request.
- c. In the event that a player is ejected from a game, the game official may require the player card and this must be available upon request.
- d. Players who have had their cards confiscated may not play any further games until the card is returned to them.
- e. The violations committee will handle discipline of a player who has been ejected, therefore the referee cannot comment on possible discipline after the ejection.
- f. Trialists cards/forms may be required for teams playing in other leagues. Cards/forms will be in accordance with the said leagues rules and regulations.
- g. When required, the SPDSA will provide player cards to teams that will be attending TIV Provincials.
- h. Replacement player cards issued by the SPDSA are subject to a replacement fee.

410 Substitutions

- a. In the outdoor community league, any number of substitutions may be made, however they must be made at a stoppage in play and then only with the permission of the referee. If in the opinion of the referee the game is being held up due to excessive substitutions, he may inform the coaches and deny the request for substitution.
- b. No substitution is allowed for an ejected player.
- c. All substitutes when not playing must remain three feet from the touchline and may not shout directions or otherwise coach their teammates.
- d. No team member, team official or parent is permitted behind the goal line during play.
- e. SPDSA teams playing in competitions in non-SPDSA leagues are reminded that their rules of substitution may vary from those of SPDSA.
- f. In Mini-Soccer, substitutions may be made at throw-ins and corner-kicks, provided the team in possession makes the initial request.
- g. Substitutions may be made on throw-ins at the discretion of the referee, provided the team making the request is the one taking the throw-in.

- h. Substitutes are subject to the laws of the game exactly as if they were on the field of play and are subject to the same discipline.

411 Tie-Breaking Rules

The following Tie-Breaking rules will be applied to SPDSA league play. When 3 or more teams are tied, once one team is determined to be placed higher than the rest, the tie breaking procedure then returns back to A for the remaining tied teams, this procedure will continue until all placings are determined

- a) Results of previous matches - the most points gained in all the games between the teams concerned shall be used to determine final standings.
- b) Goal Difference (For any teams still tied) — determine the goal difference by deducting goals against from goals for, for only league games between the teams still tied, the highest goal difference shall be used to determine the final standing.
- c) Goals against in games between only the teams still tied, the least goals against only in league games between the teams tied shall be used to determine the final standing.
- d) Goal difference (entire league) — For any teams still tied, determining the goal difference by deducting goals against from goals for, for all league games. The highest goal difference shall be used to determine the final standing.
- e) Goals against (entire league) – for any teams still tied,
- f) Shut-outs – The team with the most shut-outs will determine the higher placing team in the final standings, for any teams still tied
- g) Penalty kicks - For any teams still tied, kicks from the penalty mark (per FIFA Rules) shall be used to determine final standing.

SPDSA teams playing in other leagues will use the leagues Tie-Breaking rules. Teams playing in Leagues on an exhibition bases will follow the Tie-Breaking procedures as prescribed by the SPDSA. Once a team's place is determined, any teams still tied will revert back to the first tie-breaking procedure.

412 Provincial Berths — Tier IV

Tier IV teams qualify for provincial berths in the appropriate age groups (U14 to U18). To provide a basis of standardization for playoffs, the following is generally the format:

- a) The season begins with a round robin format. After the round robin is completed, teams may be placed into groupings to provide balance of competition: weaker teams playing weaker teams and stronger teams playing stronger teams.
- b) Depending on the number of teams within an age group, the number of groupings will vary. All groupings/teams complete the season with the ability to win a medal within their group. There may be play-offs but this will be determined by the SPDSA staff.
- c) The highest ranking teams (Group A) will qualify for the provincial berth and a format will be established by the SPDSA to determine the placings. The highest

ranking Sherwood Park team in Group A or play-off champion, will be chosen to represent SPDSA at the appropriate provincial level.

- d) The SPDSA will be cognizant of the date of the provincial tournament and ensure that the SPDSA league and/or playoff is completed prior to that date.
- e) When a playoff cannot be completed due to unforeseen circumstances, the SPDSA will determine the Tier IV Provincial teams based on the balance of the outcome of the season as he has seen it.

The determination of play format is different in every season and is ultimately the responsibility of the SPDSA.

413 Playoffs/Provincial Berths — Tiers I, II, and III

All SPDSA teams that are deemed eligible as per SPDSA rules and regulations to compete for the appropriate District 16 provincial berths, may be subject to a playoff process as specified by SPDSA. Where more than one Phoenix team is represented in a Tier, the team finishing highest in the standings will represent SPDSA. If two teams are playing in different leagues, but the same Tier, a playoff may be required. The format of this play-off will be determined by the SPDSA staff.

414 Request to Re-Tier

A team may apply the SPDSA to compete for the provincial berth at a tier other than the league tier in which that team participated during the season. The team can only apply to play at a higher tier and subject to ASA Rules and Regulations.

415 Statistics

SPDSA **will** only record or post a maximum difference of five (5) goals in any league game. All game results posted on the SPDSA web site and scoreboards during league play will reflect a 5 goal maximum differential. Teams will receive 3 points for a win, point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. The maximum 5 goal differential will be used to determine league standings and tie breaking procedure, if the game ended in a differential of more than 5. Only the goals for up to the 5 goal differential will be counted, any above the 5 will not be counted towards the standings.

SECTION V — DISCIPLINE

500 General Responsibilities

All coaches, players, team officials, parents/guardians and spectators may only take part in: SPDSA games, events, practices, tournaments or other SPDSA sanctioned activities on the condition that they comply with the Bylaws, rules and regulations or decisions of the SPDSA board of directors. Violations may as per the SPDSA constitution result in: Suspension, fine, bond, and revocation of membership, forfeit of registration fees or any combination thereof. Appendix I lists discipline that may be applied under this section.

Any person ejected by a referee shall immediately leave the field or building of play. This person shall not return to the field, building or locker room of the game until at least 45 minutes after the end of said game. Leaving the field means being no closer than 250 meters from the nearest point of the field or building.

Anyone under suspension shall not attend any SPDSA games until all suspensions are fully served.

501 Registration Violations

For the use of over age players, non-registered players or players from a higher division, the penalties set to be enforced by the SPDSA are as follows:

- a) 1st Occurrence: All games played under these infringements shall count as a loss for the violating team. The opposing team will be awarded a win and three points. In the event the game was played and the final score was a tie or a victory for the violating team, the score recorded in the standings will read 3-0 for the opposing team.
- b) 2nd Occurrence: Penalty A will occur plus the violations committee will suspend the team and team officers pending a hearing and discipline.

502 Violation of Game Regulations

- a.** If a team refuses to complete a game, they will forfeit three points and have all goals deducted. The remaining team will be awarded three goals and three points. The team that refuses to complete a game, will be subject to discipline.
- b.** Where members of both teams engage in a brawl or fight, the violations committee will suspend both teams pending a hearing and discipline.

503 Acts of Misconduct by Players

The referee may issue a warning in a form of an explanation of the offense committed. If the behavior is repeated or persistent, action under the laws of the game will occur, including ejection.

Red Card Offenses

Any Player that receives a Red Card before, during or after **a** game will be ejected from the game and is automatically suspended.

Yellow Card, Cautionary Offenses

Two Yellow Card offenses in a game will result in ejection **from** the game and one game suspension to be served at the player's next game.

All suspensions are automatic and Team Officials shall be responsible for ensuring that player suspension are carried out, whether or not they have been officially informed by the SPDSA or the Violations committee. Team Officials that play suspended players will be required to appear before the violations committee and may face suspension.

504 Acts of Misconduct by Team Officials, Players and Spectators

Any team official, player, parents/guardians or spectator involved in the following acts of misconduct will be immediately suspended and the matter referred to the violations committee and if warranted to the ASA for further discipline. In addition, the full force of the law of the land may be requested and applied.

- I. Intentional physical contact with a game official before, during or after a game. Threatening or harassing a game official at any time.
 2. Refusing the services of an assigned game official.
 3. Intentional altercations or harassing behavior toward any player, team official, referee assistant referee, spectator, SPDSA board members or staff of SPDSA
 4. The use of abusive or foul language, threats, obscene gestures, demeaning comments, insults, racial or sexual comments toward any player, team official, referee assistant, referee, spectator, SPDSA board members or staff of SPDSA
- a. Any act of misconduct occurring during any SPDSA sanctioned activity is subject to Discipline, including games, indoor and outdoor facilities, practices, clinics, Tournaments, and any other venue associated with game. In addition any misconduct before or after sanctioned activities where in the opinion of the violations committee the misconduct was intend upon bringing harm to the association or its members will be subject to discipline as noted in this section V.
 - b. Team officials warned by and reported to the SPDSA by the game official will receive one game suspension for the first offense, a two game suspension for the second

offense, a third offense results with suspension until the matter is resolved by the violations committee.

- c. Team officials refusing to assist the game official with maintaining discipline before, during and after the game, both on the field and at the sidelines will receive a two game suspension.
- d. Any violation of the stated rules, regulations, by-laws or decisions of the board or its officers may result in suspension or other discipline as prescribed by the violations committee.

505 Suspensions

All of the suspension must be served for games scheduled by the SPDSA and played by the team. Suspended players or team officers may not participate in any game with any team during the term of their suspension. Suspensions not fully served in one season will be carried over to the next season and/or upcoming tournaments, at the discretion of the Violations Committee.

506 Discipline Procedures

- a. Violations are recorded by the game official on the game sheet, which goes to the Referee Assignor, and the SPDSA,. The SPDSA Office will inform the concerned team official immediately when a game sheet is received with an infraction recorded on it.
- b. The SPDSA staff shall apply all of the discipline in paragraphs 501 through 504 according to Appendix I: Discipline, inclusive. The penalties are mandatory.
- c. All penalties assessed are to be communicated to the team officer and player in writing.
- d. Where the penalties are to be referred to the SPDSA or ASA, the SPDSA staff will notify those bodies in writing.

507 Appeal Procedures

Appeals to the SPDSA must be made in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 cheque within 72 hours of the infraction. \$50.00 is refundable if, the appeal is upheld, otherwise it is forfeited.

508 Game Protests

The use of ineligible players must be protested within 24 hours in writing to the SPDSA. A cheque for \$100.00 must accompany the appeal, which is refundable if the appeal is upheld.

509 Violations Committee

The violations committee shall consist of the following members of SPDSA: an elected director from the Board, and any other three (3) members of the Board of Directors or members, as outlined in the SPDSA bylaws.

The violations committee as specified in the SPDSA bylaws under section XX 5.

Code of Conduct — any member, parent(s) or legal guardian, team official or registered player, may be required to appear at a disciplinary hearing, if charged for good and sufficient cause, for violation of SPDSA by-laws, rules and regulations or a decision of the Board. Decisions at the hearing may include suspension, fine, bond, revocation of membership, forfeit of registration fees, or any combination thereof.

The decisions of the violations committee are final. The violations committee meets as required throughout the Indoor and Outdoor season. The decisions of the violations committee will be kept on record with SPDSA for a period of no less than five years.

510 Suspensions

All suspensions shall be documented in a Suspension File which is to be kept in a secure area within the SPDSA office. The number of games or time frame that the player or team official has been suspended will be indicated. The suspension files are considered confidential and are to be accessible only to SPDSA board members and SPDSA staff. Suspensions will be kept on record with SPDSA for a period of no less than five years.

All suspensions will be automatic from the time of receiving the red card. The SPDSA staff will communicate the length of suspension to the Team Officials and player. Once the suspension is served, the player is eligible to appear on the game sheet and participate in games.

APPENDIX I : DISCIPLINE

SPDSA strives to provide an environment that promotes the development and enjoyment of the game of soccer for all Players, Team officials, Spectators and Referees. SPDSA will attempt to educate participants on the laws of soccer and the proper and safe conduct on and away from the field. SPDSA will apply the rules and necessary discipline to ensure that all participants enjoy the game. The disciplines noted below are minimum and the SPDSA has the authority to increase the length of suspension as they determine by the officials report.

- **Yellow Card** Cautionary Offenses can include but are not limited to the following:

Entering or leaving the field of play without the referee's permission,
Persistent infringement of the laws of the game,
Encroachment of free kicks,
Dissent directed towards the referee,
Or any unsportsmanlike conduct,

A player receiving Two Yellow Card Cautionary Offenses during a game will be ejected from the game and receives an automatic one game suspension. The suspension must be served at the next regularly scheduled game.

- **Red Card Offense**, can include but are not limited to the following:
- Three Red Card offences in the season results in a hearing and indefinite suspension until the hearing and discipline has been determined. The SPDSA tracks Red and Yellow cards, season to season and if the SPDSA determines that a member has been receiving numerous cards year after year, the SPDSA has the authority to suspend the member indefinitely and provide a hearing with member to determine the course of action.

A. Serious Foul Play.

Offence	1 st Offence (Minimum)	2 nd Offence (Minimum)
FIFA Hand Ball	1 Game Suspension	3 Game Suspension
FIFA Cynical (i.e. Diving)	1 Game Suspension	3 Game Suspension
Denying a Goal Scoring Opportunity	1 Game Suspension	3 Game Suspension
Dangerous Tackle / Tackle from Behind	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Charging	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Pushing	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Gesture or attempt to hit or kick	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Throw an object in the direction of opponent	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Boarding (Indoor)	1 Game Suspension	3 Game Suspension

Players ejected from games for violent conduct (biting, striking, punching, elbowing, kicking, throwing an object at any person, attempt to strike a person, spitting or any attempt to cause

bodily harm) against other players or team officials, will be immediately suspended and required to appear before the violation committee.

Abusive conduct including spitting at, threatening, attempting to make physical contact or making physical contact with any game official(s), prior to, during or after the game, will result in the immediate and indefinite suspension of the person(s) involved and referral of the matter to the Alberta Soccer Association.

B. Penalties for ejections for actions against Game Officials.

Offence	1st Offence	2nd Offence
Foul, Abusive, Offensive &/or Insulting Remarks	3 Game Suspension	Hearing
Offensive &/or Insulting Gestures	3 Game Suspension	Hearing
Racial Remarks	6 Game Suspension	Hearing

C. Penalties for ejections for actions against other players or team officials.

Offence	1st Offence	2nd Offence
Foul, Abusive, Offensive &/or Insulting Remarks	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Offensive &/or Insulting Gestures	2 Game Suspension	4 Game Suspension
Racial Remarks	6 Game Suspension	Hearing

D. Penalties for ejections for actions against other players or team officials for Violent Conduct.

Offence	1st Offence	2nd Offence
Push with intent to injure	2 Game Suspension	Hearing
Biting/Scratch/Gouge	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Striking	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Punching	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Elbowing	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Kneeing	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Kicking	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Throwing an object that contacts an opponent	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Fighting	6 Game Suspension	Hearing
Spitting	6 Game Suspension	Hearing
Head butt	8 Game Suspension	Hearing
Other Extenuating Circumstances	Hearing	Hearing

E. Coaching/Team Official(s) Offences

Offence	1 Offence	2' Offence
Dissent leading to a match ejection	1 Game Suspension	3 Game Suspension
Playing an ineligible/illegal trialist and/or player	1 Game Suspension	Hearing
Returning to the field of play following an ejection	2 Game Suspension	Hearing
Willfully abandoning a match	3 Game Suspension	Hearing
Entering the field of play without the referee's consent	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Team players &/or officials entering the field of play without the referee's consent	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Playing a suspended player	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Foul, Abusive, Offensive &/or Insulting Remarks	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Offensive &/or Insulting Gestures	4 Game Suspension	Hearing
Racial Remarks	Hearing	Hearing
Fighting	Hearing	Hearing

APPENDIX II —INDOOR/OUTDOOR SOCCER RULES MODIFICATIONS

A complete set of the Indoor/outdoor rules is available from the Alberta Soccer Association at the [WWW. Albertasoccer.com](http://WWW.Albertasoccer.com)

The rules for mini-soccer are posted on SPDSA web site or are available from SPDSA. SPDSA will post any modifications to these rules in this appendix as required.