



Lakeland Rules

April 7, 2024

Introduction

All rules and “Laws of the Game” from FIFA will be adhered to except as set out in the following Competition Rules. The main exceptions to FIFA rules are as follows:

- Changes to the number of substitutions; at the referee’s discretion.
- Changes to the number of players allowed to dress per game; maximum 20 players dressed per game.

1. Provisional Rules

- 1.1.** These rules will apply to all Lakeland League Play & Lakeland Cup Championships.
- 1.2.** The Lakeland Soccer Executive Committee is responsible for the management and control of Lakeland League Play and Lakeland Cup.
- 1.3.** These rules are subject to Lakeland Soccer Bylaws and the Alberta Soccer General Rules and Regulations.
- 1.4.** Within the constraints for Rule 1.3, the Lakeland Soccer Executive Committee may make temporary rules to govern specific situations not otherwise provided for within this rule book and in the interest of fair play.
- 1.5.** The Executive Committee will be empowered to move any event to a location more suitable to the contesting teams or combine locations for certain age groups of the same level where an insufficient number of teams are competing.

2. League Play & Lakeland Cup Declarations

- 2.1.** The final deadline for Communities to declare their teams for Lakeland League Play and Lakeland Cup will be set at the Lakeland Spring Planning Meeting for outdoor and the Fall Planning Meeting for indoor.
 - 2.1.1.** The community will be assessed a \$250 administrative fee per declaration for late declarations and the Executive Committee will determine whether the late entry is to be accepted or denied.
 - 2.2.** Communities will submit their fees and declarations according to the dates set at the Lakeland Spring Planning Meeting for outdoor and the Fall Planning Meeting for indoor. There will be no refund for a team that withdraws after the declaration date.
 - 2.3.** League games where travel over 175 km between communities should take place at a neutral location, where possible.

3. Team Eligibility

- 3.1.** Any team affiliated with a Community Association within Lakeland District parameters and in good standing will be eligible to participate in any competition under the jurisdiction of Lakeland Soccer, subject to declaration limits set out in this rule book.
- 3.2.** All community teams must participate in and fulfill their league play set out by the Executive Director.
- 3.3.** No registered Youth team or player will be eligible to compete in more than one (1) Lakeland Cup Competition in any one (1) season. There are no trialist players permitted at Lakeland Cup.
- 3.4.** All teams will be charged an entry fee set by the Executive Committee, based on a minimum two game playdown.
- 3.5.** All teams must compete in the Lakeland Cup at the same level at which they compete throughout the playing season.
- 3.7.** No Lakeland Soccer registered team assembled by an unsanctioned academy by its own name or under any other guise will be permitted to participate in any Lakeland League, club, or participate in any Lakeland Cup Championship.
- 3.8.** The Community will provide a certified team roster for each team participating in a Lakeland Cup in the manner prescribed by Lakeland Soccer by the roster submission deadline. (7 days prior to Lakeland Cup)
- 3.9.** A representative from each team participating in a Lakeland Cup will check in with the Lakeland Rep at tournament headquarters prior to their first game.

4. Player Eligibility

- 4.1.** Players must be registered with Lakeland Soccer by the registration deadline set by the Executive Committee. All players and teams are subject to Lakeland Soccer’s roster and transfer deadlines.
- 4.2.** Players in age categories who reach the limiting age after the first day of January will continue to be eligible to play in that age category for the remainder of the playing season.
 - 4.2.1.** U19: Players under nineteen (19) years of age before January 1st of the current year
 - 4.2.2.** U17: Players under seventeen (17) years of age before January 1st of the current year
 - 4.2.3.** U15: Players under fifteen (15) years of age before January 1st of the current year
 - 4.2.4.** U13: Players under thirteen (13) years of age before January 1st of the current year
- 4.3.** Any team that includes a player who is over the age limit as defined in 4.2 will forfeit all games concerned and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 4.4.** Any player/parent who has knowingly falsified birth dates in their registration will be subject to a suspension from participating in the Lakeland District for the remainder of the current season.
- 4.5.** Only players listed on the District certified roster will be considered eligible to participate in the Lakeland Cup and/or Lakeland League Play.
- 4.6.** A Youth player (age 16 or older) may register with and play for both a Youth team and a Senior team and maintain their eligibility to compete in both Youth and Senior Provincials.

4.7. A registered Youth player will not be considered cup tied for Provincial purposes to any team they have participated with as a trialist as long as the trialist rules have been followed (no more than 2 league games)

4.8. Eligible players properly registered with both a Youth and a Senior team may compete in one Youth Provincial Championship and one Senior Provincial Championship.

4.9. No player can compete in more than one (1) Youth Provincial Championship, except as outlined below:

4.9.1. Rural players who compete in a Tier IV Rural Provincial Championship will not be considered cup tied if their District wishes to form a legally declared Tier I, II or III team. Such players will be considered eligible to compete in Tier I, II or III Provincials, but not more than one (1).

5. Transfer of Players

5.1. All player transfer must take place no less than 1 week prior to Lakeland Cup, subject to the usual Alberta Soccer cup tied rules and transfer deadlines.

5.1.2. Once transferred that player is considered cup tied.

5.2. All players competing in Lakeland Cup leading to the Provincial Championships shall be considered cup tied for that age and tier, regardless of when the regional play down or tournament occurs.

6. Guest/Trialist Players

6.1. Youth: For regular league play, any registered player may play in a higher tier or higher age category provided that the movement occurs with prior written approval of the coach or designate of the team for which the player is registered. Exceptions:

- a) U11 - any registered player may play at the same age category to assist another team in fielding a team with an appropriate number of players. Below rules to be followed and completed guest player forms are required.
- b) At any age category - if at game time, or during a match, should both teams agree, one team may send players from their team to the other to even out playing time should one team be short players. Completed guest player forms will not be required.
- c) For out of district tournaments, a team may obtain a guest player from the same age category. All other rules to be followed and completed guest player forms are required (tournament provided guest forms acceptable).
- d) Any other exceptions must have prior written District approval.

6.1.2. No more than a total of 3 such players can be recruited for any 1 game.

6.1.3. The player(s) will be noted as "Trialist or Guest" on the game sheet.

6.1.4. Any player can be brought up for a maximum of two (2) League Play games per season at which time the player needs to make decision to play on this team or return to their original team.

6.1.5. Higher Tiered Players are ineligible as "trialists" on any lower tiered team. Example: A player that is rostered on a U15 Tier II team cannot play as a trialist at the U15 Tier IV level but can play as a Trialist at the U17 Tier IV Level.

6.1.6. A registered Youth player may participate for a Senior league team and will not be considered cup-tied for a Provincial Championships to any team if they have participated on as a trialist prior to having registered with a Senior team. All other LDSA Trialist/Guest player rules should be followed.

6.1.7. There are no trialist players permitted at Lakeland Cup.

6.2. Senior: See current General Rules for Senior/Adult House League Rules.

7. Team Staff

7.1. All players, team staff and other persons involved in Lakeland Cup are required to conduct themselves in a manner which will bring credit to themselves, their teams, the Host Association, the Lakeland District Soccer Association, the Alberta Soccer Association, and the sport of soccer.

7.2. At all official and civic functions associated with the competition, participants must be present and dressed appropriately.

7.3. A maximum of four (4) non-playing personnel may be on listed on the team's official roster and are the only team personnel allowed on the team bench during the competition.

7.3.1. In accordance with the Rule of Two, all teams with Youth female members must have an adult female on the official roster and bench at all games. All teams with Youth male members must have an adult male on the official roster and on the bench at all games.

7.3.2. Teams may name one alternate team staff member who may only replace the initial four in the case of an absence.

7.4. All Coaches and Staff listed on a Lakeland Cup roster are required to be certified according to the LDSA Coaching Education Minimum Standards.

8. Tier II-III Programs

8.1. All tier II-III tryouts must go through Lakeland District Executive Committee for approval.

8.1.2. All tryouts must be open to any player registered with Lakeland District Soccer Association and advertised throughout the district.

8.1.3. All tryouts are open to a player registered in a different district, but still within the Alberta Soccer Association.

8.1.4. Any out of district players that make the Lakeland Team must receive a full release from their district.

8.2. Coach Selection will be made by resume (coaching application) review by the Lakeland Executive and/or District Head Coach(es).

8.2.1. All coaches and team staff chosen must be certified according to the LDSA Coaching Education Minimum Standards.

8.3. All players that try out for a Tier II-III team must first register and participate in the Lakeland Tier IV League Play program in order to be eligible for Tier II-III.

8.3.1. If there is not a team in the players home community at the corresponding age group, then Lakeland will assist with finding a team in a different community.

8.4. Tier II-III programming such as practices and tournaments will not interrupt the Lakeland League Play or Lakeland Cup program.

8.5. Successful players to be selected by the coaching staff for that team with final approval required from District Head Coach(es) or Lakeland Executive/Board approved designate.

9. Rescheduling of League Games

9.1. Blackout dates must be provided prior to the deadline set by the Executive Director. Indoor-Fall Planning Meeting Outdoor-Spring Planning Meeting

9.2. Indoor Season: All game rescheduling for the indoor schedule must go through the Executive Director to ensure field availability and referee scheduling.

9.3. Outdoor Season: The team needing a game changed is to contact the coach of the team they are scheduled to play. Together they come up with a suitable date that does not conflict with any other Lakeland games already scheduled. Once the date is set, the home team must contact their referee director to inform them of the change and to ensure a referee will be booked for the new game and cancelled for the game that was moved. Next the Executive Director must be informed of the change, make sure you include all game details: original date of game, new date of game, location of new game, age group and community the teams are from, which team is home vs away, and confirmation that a referee is booked for the new game. At that point the Executive Director will adjust the website to reflect the changes.

9.4. Game Cancellations due to Severe Weather: Club presidents (or designate) contact each other to discuss cancelling due to weather, once confirmed they turn it over to the coaches to try and find an alternate date to reschedule. Next the Executive Director must be informed of the change, and all game details: original date of game, new date of game, location of new game, age group and community the teams are from, which team is home vs away, and confirmation that a referee is booked for the new game. At that point the Executive Director will adjust the website to reflect the changes.

9.5. Every attempt to reschedule league games should be made. Cancellations will only be accepted should there be no alternate options and approved by LDSA executive.

10. Lakeland Jerseys

10.1. Lakeland District issued jerseys will be reserved for a Single Team within an age group/gender per district, and/or a Single Mixed team within an age group per district.

10.2. Deposits are required on jerseys purchased by Lakeland District Soccer Association and are to be returned to LDSA, in field presentable condition, by the end of the season.

11. Referees

11.1. Refer to current LDSA Referee Payment and Mileage Chart.

11.2. Mileage for travel will be paid for referees travelling to other communities, except for referees who are also team staff, players, parents of players, or siblings of players (under the age of 16) who will already be at the game/event.

11.3. Referee mileage pay is indexed to the Government of Canada's automobile allowance rates, updated to the most recent rate at the AGM.

12. Provincial Declarations

12.1. Where The Alberta Soccer Provincials Tournament is hosted outside the Lakeland District, eligible teams will be determined by the first-place standings at that season's Lakeland Cup Tournament.

12.2. Where there is no Lakeland Cup Competition in a division due to only one (1) team declared, the one (1) team in the division will automatically attend the Alberta Soccer Provincial Tournament.

12.3. Where LDSA is granted hosting privileges for the Alberta Soccer Provincials Tournament, the host community club will be granted one automatic entry to the Provincials Tournament in divisions for which they have registered youth teams.

12.3.1 The additional declaration will be determined by the first place standing at that season's Lakeland Cup.

12.3.2. Where the host community obtains first place at Lakeland Cup, the second-place team will attend for the second declaration.

12.3.3. Should Alberta Soccer offer a third declaration to LDSA. The third-place team will attend – and so on.