

SHERWOOD PARK
DISTRICT SOCCER
ASSOCIATION
YOUTH RULES AND
REGULATIONS

Building great people through the world's game.

Updated and Approved
December 2019

1.0	ASSOCIATION INFORMATION	4
1.1	THE ASSOCIATION	4
1.2	VISION.....	4
1.3	MISSION STATEMENT	4
1.4	AFFILIATION.....	4
1.5	ORGANIZATION	4
1.6	DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND BOARD MEMBERS	4
1.7	CO-OPERATION	4
1.8	SPDSA TERRITORIAL LIMITS	4
1.9	MEMBERSHIP.....	5
1.10	PUBLICITY.....	5
1.11	FUNDRAISING.....	5
1.12	SPONSORS.....	5
2.0	GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS	5
2.1	LAWS OF THE GAME	5
2.2	MODIFICATION.....	6
3.0	RESPONSIBILITIES	6
3.1	GENERAL.....	6
3.2	TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES	6
3.3	PARENT OR GUARDIAN PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES.....	6
4.0	REGISTRATION	7
4.1	GENERAL.....	7
4.2	REGISTRATION FEES	7
4.3	REGISTRATION PERIODS	7
4.4	REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.....	7
4.5	SPECIAL REQUESTS.....	7
4.6	NON-DISTRICT PLAYERS (IMPORTS).....	9
4.7	NON-DISTRICT TEAM REGISTRATION	9
4.8	PLAYER RELEASES	10
5.0	TEAM OFFICIALS	10
5.1	GENERAL.....	10
5.2	CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS.....	10
5.3	TEAM OFFICIAL CARDS.....	10
5.4	TEAM INFORMATION SHEETS	11
6.0	YOUTH PROGRAMS	12
6.1	GENERAL INFORMATION	12
6.2	PROGRAM FORMATS	12
6.3	AGE GROUPS	12
6.4	TEAM ROSTER.....	13

6.5	PLAYER CARDS	13
6.6	U4 – U7 (COMMUNITY) PROGRAMS	13
6.7	U9 – U19 COMMUNITY (TIER IV) PROGRAMS.....	13
6.8	U9 – U17 PHOENIX (TIER I, II, III) PROGRAMS	14
6.9	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	14
7.0	PLAYER EQUIPMENT.....	14
7.1	GENERAL.....	14
7.2	COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	14
7.3	PHOENIX PROGRAMS.....	14
8.0	TEAM EQUIPMENT	15
8.1	GENERAL.....	15
8.2	COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	15
8.3	PHOENIX PROGRAMS.....	15
9.0	LEAGUE STANDINGS	15
9.1	GENERAL.....	15
9.2	TIE-BREAKING RULES – TWO (2) TEAMS	15
9.3	TIE-BREAKING RULES – THREE (3) OR MORE TEAMS.....	16
9.4	COMMUNITY (TIER IV) PROVINCIAL BERTHS	17
9.5	PHOENIX (TIER I, II, III) PROVINCIALS BERTHS	17
9.6	TROPHIES.....	17
10.0	TRANSFER OF PLAYERS	18
10.1	GENERAL.....	18
10.2	TRANSFER WITHIN SHERWOOD PARK LEAGUES	18
10.3	TRANSFER TO ANOTHER PARENT ORGANIZATION	18
10.4	TRANSFER TO A LOWER TIER	18
10.5	TRANSFER DEADLINE DATES.....	18
11.0	TRIALIST REGULATIONS	19
11.1	GENERAL.....	19
11.2	U4 – U7 AGE GROUPS.....	19
11.3	U9 – U11 AGE GROUPS.....	20
11.4	U13 – U19 AGE GROUPS.....	20
11.5	TRIALIST LIMITS.....	20
11.6	REGULATIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS AND PROVINCIALS.....	21
12.0	GAMES AND COMPETITIONS	21
12.1	GENERAL.....	21
12.2	SCHEDULES.....	21
12.3	STATISTICS AND STANDINGS.....	21
12.4	TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES	22
12.5	TEAM OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES	22
12.6	GAME SHEETS.....	22
12.7	NUMBER OF PLAYERS	23
12.8	PLAYER EQUIPMENT.....	24
12.9	SUBSTITUTIONS	25

12.10	DURATION OF GAMES	25
13.0	MATCH OFFICIAL	26
13.1	GENERAL.....	26
13.2	TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES	27
13.3	MATCH OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES	27
14.0	DISCIPLINE.....	27
14.1	GENERAL.....	27
14.2	REGISTRATION VIOLATIONS.....	27
14.3	VIOLATIONS OF GAME REGULATIONS.....	27
14.4	ACTS OF MISCONDUCT BY PLAYERS	28
14.5	ACTS OF MISCONDUCT BY TEAM OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS	29
14.6	SUSPENSIONS.....	29
14.7	DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES	30
14.8	DISCIPLINE APPEAL HEARINGS.....	30
14.9	GAME PROTESTS	31
14.10	PROCEDURES	31
14.11	DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE	31
14.12	RECORD KEEPING.....	31
15.0	DISCIPLINE OFFENCES AND SUSPENSIONS	32
15.1	DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE DISCRETION	32
15.2	YELLOW CARD OFFENCES	32
15.3	RED CARD OFFENCES OR EJECTIONS.....	32
15.4	OFFENCES AGAINST PLAYERS, TEAM OFFICIALS OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS	32
15.5	OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS.....	33
15.6	OTHER OFFENCES	34
15.7	COACHING / TEAM OFFICIAL(S) OFFENCES	34
15.8	BONDS	34
15.9	FINES	35

1.0 Association Information

1.1 The Association

- 1.1.1 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.

1.2 Vision

- 1.2.1 Building great people through the worlds game.

1.3 Mission Statement

- 1.3.1 The SPDSA 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.

1.4 Affiliation

- 1.4.1 The SPDSA, through the Alberta Soccer Association (ASA), with the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA). In general, the SPDSA concurs with the rules and regulations of these Associations.
- 1.4.2 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.

1.5 Organization

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

1.6 Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive and Board Members

- 1.6.1 The duties and responsibilities of the SPDSA executive and the board of directors are specified in the SPDSA bylaws.

1.7 Co-operation

- 1.7.1 SPDSA co-operates closely with Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture.

1.8 SPDSA Territorial Limits

- 1.8.1 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

1.9 Membership

1.9.1 Membership for SPDSA is specified in the SPDSA bylaws.

1.10 Publicity

1.10.1 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 the SPDSA. The SPDSA Board of Directors has the option of initiating legal action and will challenge individuals making false or slanderous statements to the media.

1.11 Fundraising

1.11.1 Teams and team officials may engage in fundraising activities only with the written permission of the 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. The SPDSA has the right to limit or deny any fundraising activities. Any individual, player, team official or fundraising without the written permission of the SPDSA is subject to discipline. All teams must follow the SPDSA Fundraising policy.

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

1.12 Sponsors

1.12.1 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.

2.0 General Rules and Regulations

2.1 Laws of the Game

2.1.1 SPDSA Outdoor Youth programs follow the FIFA Laws of the Game, unless differentiated in the specific rules and regulations below.

2.1.1.1 SPDSA Outdoor Youth teams playing in external leagues (EMSA, EIYSA) will follow the external leagues specific rules and regulations.

2.1.2 SPDSA Indoor Youth programs follow the Alberta Soccer Rules of Indoor Soccer, unless differentiated in the specific rules and regulations below.

2.1.2.1 SPDSA Indoor Youth teams playing in external leagues (EMSA, EIYSA) will follow the external leagues specific rules and regulations.

2.1.3 Complete copies of the Laws of the Game can be obtained from the ASA, SPDSA or FIFA websites.

2.1.4 The SPDSA follows the direction of the CSA and ASA. This will include modifications to the programs offered by the SPDSA to follow the Long-Term Player Development model. This includes: game formats, number of players, length of session, etc.

2.2 Modification

- 2.2.1 As per the SPDSA bylaws, the SPDSA board of directors can modify or add new rules or regulations as required.

3.0 Responsibilities

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Players, team officials, match officials, and spectators may only take part in or attend games on the condition that they observe the published Rules and Regulations and Bylaws of the SPDSA.
- 3.1.2 Each player and team official is responsible for:
- 3.1.2.1 Being properly registered with the SPDSA;
 - 3.1.2.2 Complying with the SPDSA Rules and Regulations;
 - 3.1.2.3 Respecting the match official's decisions during play;
 - 3.1.2.4 Adhering to the SPDSA Code of Conducts for Players, Coaches and Parents.

3.2 Team Responsibilities

- 3.2.1 Each team is responsible for:
- 3.2.1.1 The actions and conduct of its team officials, players and spectators;
 - 3.2.1.2 Taking all reasonable precautions necessary to prevent its team officials, players and/or spectators from committing or engaging in any acts of misconduct as set out in section 12.5;
 - 3.2.1.3 Ensuring any individual participating in a game (manager, coach, player) is currently eligible (properly registered, not suspended).

3.3 Parent or Guardian Player Responsibilities

- 3.3.1 Parents or Guardians of the player are responsible for the following regarding registration:
- 3.3.1.1 Ensuring that the registration information, including personal contact information, is accurate.
 - 3.3.1.2 Ensuring that the registration information regarding past soccer experience, ability and other related information, is accurate.
- 3.3.2 Parents or Guardians of the player are responsible for the following regarding behaviour at SPDSA and team scheduled games, practices and events:
- 3.3.2.1 Acting and conducting themselves in a responsible manner that upholds to the values of the SPDSA;
 - 3.3.2.2 Following the guidelines as set in the SPDSA Parent Code of Conduct.

4.0 Registration

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 All youth players under the jurisdiction of the SPDSA shall be registered via the approved online registration forms.
- 4.1.2 Online registration is possible during the specified registration periods; however, no player shall be deemed registered for any league competition nor shall he/she compete in league competition unless his/her registration is completed not less than twenty-four (24) hours before participation.
- 4.1.3 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 ASA, for all SPDSA sanctioned events.

4.2 Registration Fees

- 4.2.1 Registration fees are set annually, are due and payable at the time of registration. No player may play or practice with an SPDSA team prior to payment of fees.
- 4.2.2 In the case where payment of fees would cause financial hardship, or the inability to pay result in a player not participating, the SPDSA may offer funding programs and payment options.
- 4.2.3 All teams domiciled in the SPDSA will pay their ASA fees to the district as per ASA rules and regulations.

4.3 Registration Periods

- 4.3.1 The SPDSA will post on their website registration dates for both seasons offered by the association: Outdoor and Indoor.
- 4.3.2 Players must be registered at least seven (7) days before the start of any Provincial Competition.

4.4 Required Documents

- 4.4.1 Each participant will be required to provide the following documents with their registration: Birth Certificate and Head Shot Photo.
- 4.4.2 Birth Certificate – or another approved document, must be uploaded to the athlete's profile as the SPDSA requires proof of age for all athletes.
- 4.4.3 Head Shot Photos are required for athletes in U9 and older. Players participating in the U9-U19 programs with the SPDSA are required to have official SPDSA player cards.

4.5 Special Requests

- 4.5.1 One reciprocal friend request per player may be submitted upon registration.
 - The SPDSA will do its best to accommodate player requests, but they are not guaranteed. The top priority will be to try and create balanced teams for each age group.
 - Any players that has played at a level higher than Tier IV, and requests to play with another player that has played higher than Tier IV, may not be eligible to request each other to be on the same Tier IV team.

- If more than one friend is requested, the request will be considered void.
- Friend requests submitted after the Regular Registration deadline will not be accepted.
- The SPDSA reserves the right to charge a fee for friend requests.

4.5.2 The SPDSA does not allow players to request coaches. So as to prevent the attempt to stack and/or register full or partial teams within the SPDSA programs.

4.5.3 Players requesting to play up an age group must submit to the SPDSA in writing the reasoning for the request. Approval will be decided by the SPDSA on a player by player basis.

4.6 Non-District Players (Imports)

- 4.6.1 The SPDSA allows for Non-District players (Imports) to play on SPDSA teams or with SPDSA affiliates provided that the following conditions are met:
- 4.6.1.1 Import player playing with affiliates of SPDSA must adhere to the import rules of the affiliate teams and leagues in which they play;
 - 4.6.1.2 SPDSA teams (Community Tier IV and Lower) will not allow for more than six (6) import players from any one district of domicile to be on any one team as per ASA Regulations;
 - 4.6.1.3 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 16.0. All violations may be reported to their respective soccer organization, district of domicile and the ASA if required.

4.7 Non-District Team Registration

- 4.7.1 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:
- 4.7.1.1 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.
 - 4.7.1.2 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 15.0. All violations may be reported to their respective soccer organization, district of domicile and the ASA if required.
 - 4.7.1.3 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.
 - 4.7.1.4 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.
 - 4.7.1.5 Non-District teams playing in SPDSA competitions must register their team colours with the SPDSA.

4.8 Player Releases

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

5.0 Team Officials

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 All SPDSA teams require volunteers to take on various roles for the programs offered by the SPDSA to operate successfully.
 - 5.1.1.1 Roles include: Head Coach, Co-Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Bench Attendant, and other additional roles.
- 5.1.2 Volunteer Coaches must be at least 16 years of age.
- 5.1.3 Non-Parent volunteer coaches are welcomed and encouraged for both Community and Phoenix programs.
- 5.1.4 All SPDSA teams are always required to have a same gender team official present during games and practices.

5.2 Criminal Record Checks

- 5.2.1 All SPDSA Team Officials are required to supply the SPDSA a completed Criminal Record Check (CRC), including the Vulnerable Sector Check.

5.3 Team Official Cards

- 5.3.1 U9 – U19 Volunteer Coaches, Managers and Bench Attendants for both Community and Phoenix programs will be required to submit a head shot photo to the SPDSA.
 - 5.3.1.1 Team officials will present their Team Official cards to the referee before each game.
 - 5.3.1.2 If by the start of the game, a Team Official does not have their Team Official ID Card, that Team Official MUST leave the technical area. If the Team Official ID Card arrives anytime prior to the start of the second half, the Team Official may show the Referee their card and will be allowed to participate for the remainder of the game (photo copies or pictures from electronic devices will not be accepted).
- 5.3.2 SPDSA Community program Team Officials will be supplied with an SPDSA Team Official Card.
 - 5.3.2.1 Team Official cards will expire on the date that the Coaches CRC expires.
- 5.3.3 SPDSA Phoenix program Team Officials will be supplied with a Team Official Card that is accepted by the external league.
 - 5.3.3.1 Team Official cards issued by the SPDSA will expire on the date that the Coaches CRC expires.
 - 5.3.3.2 Team Officials cards issued by an external league will follow that leagues procedures.

5.4 Team Information Sheets

- 5.4.1 Each team will be responsible for submitting to the SPDSA a Team Information Sheet by the communicated deadline for all Team Officials.
- 5.4.2 Any change to Team Officials and contact information after submission of the Team Information Sheet must be communicated to the SPDSA in writing.

6.0 Youth Programs

6.1 General Information

- 6.1.1 The SPDSA youth programs are open to players of all skill levels and anyone is welcomed and encouraged to register.
- 6.1.2 All programs are structured following the Canada Soccer Associations Long Term Player Development Model.
 - 6.1.2.1 Modifications made to the rules, including but not limited to: number of players, pitch size, ball size, duration, etc. will be associated with different age groups.
- 6.1.3 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.

6.2 Program Formats

- 6.2.1 Program competition formats will be finalized after registration has been completed. The SPDSA staff will organize and specify the competition formats for community programs taking place in Sherwood Park. This will include the format leading to provincial level competition.
 - 6.2.1.1 Teams competing in leagues outside of SPDSA will follow the program competition formats as set by the external league and association.

6.3 Age Groups

- 6.3.1 The SPDSA follows the guidelines as set out by the ASA.
- 6.3.2 Age group categories range from Under 4 to Under 19 and may be:
 - 6.3.2.1 Categorized as a single birth year age group or as a double birth year age group;
 - 6.3.2.2 Categorized as a co-ed or gender specific age group.
- 6.3.3 The SPDSA will post program outlines with preferred age group categories but reserves the right to alter the age group categories to secondary age group categories for the following reasons:
 - 6.3.3.1 A preferred single birth year age-group does not have the required registrations to form the minimum number of teams. In this instance the SPDSA may create a double birth year age group or combine the single birth year age group of male and female registrations.
 - 6.3.3.2 Facility availability requires the altering of SPDSA age group categories.
- 6.3.4 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.
 - 6.3.4.1 The above age limitations may be waived for players with disabilities, at the discretion of the SPDSA, provided written documentation is received from 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.
 - 6.3.4.2 The lower age limitations may be waived in special circumstances at the discretion of the SPDSA, provided written documentation is received stating the reasoning that a player is requesting to register in an older age group than they are eligible for.

6.4 Team Roster

- 6.4.1 Roster sizes are determined by the SPDSA to ensure proper development for all age groups.
- 6.4.2 Each team will consist of no more than twenty (20) players with the following exceptions:
 - 6.4.2.1 Under extenuating circumstances and approval from ASA
- 6.4.3 Up to four (4) players may be replaced during a single season for age groups U4 to U19.
- 6.4.4 U9 and U19 teams may have twenty (20) players registered at one time but may not register more than thirty (30) players in a single season.
- 6.4.5 The tampering of Team Rosters is prohibited. Team officials who have altered team rosters will be subject to discipline.

6.5 Player Cards

- 6.5.1 All players listed on a U9 to U19 team roster, will be required to obtain a SPDSA Photo ID card prior to their first game. Note: Player(s) will not be allowed to participate in any SPDSA game or remain within the technical area if they cannot produce their SPDSA ID card (photo copies or pictures from electronic devices will not be accepted).
 - 6.5.1.1 Players by default shall use SPDSA specific player cards, however may be required to adhere to player card specifications by external leagues.
- 6.5.2 If by the start of the game, a player does not have their Player ID Card, that player will not be allowed to participate in the game and MUST leave the technical area. If the Player ID Card arrives anytime prior to the start of the second half, that player may show the Referee their card and will be allowed to participate for the remainder of the game.
- 6.5.3 Players cards are the property of the individual and shall be returned to the player at the end of each season. Replacement player cards issued by the SPDSA are subject to a replacement fee.

6.6 U4 – U7 (Community) Programs

- 6.6.1 All players registered with the SPDSA in U4 – U7 programs will be placed as determined by the SPDSA.
- 6.6.2 Volunteer coaches are responsible for leading practices and games under the curriculum and guidance of the SPDSA Technical Staff.
 - 6.6.2.1 Technical Staff may be in attendance during the scheduled program for assistance.
- 6.6.3 Mini games are instituted at these levels and are managed by the coaches who follow the program outline and guidelines as determined by the SPDSA Community Director.

6.7 U9 – U19 Community (Tier IV) Programs

- 6.7.1 SPDSA Community programs are arranged for those players who wish to play soccer at a recreational level.
- 6.7.2 The SPDSA, based on registrations will form to the best of its ability, balanced teams which are led by volunteer coaches.
- 6.7.3 Teams playing in U13 and higher age categories may be eligible to qualify for Tier IV level Provincial competition.

6.8 U9 – U17 Phoenix (Tier I, II, III) Programs

- 6.8.1 SPDSA offers a competitive program in the U9 – U17 age groups and encourages any players displaying above average skills and a passion for the game to enroll.
- 6.8.2 All players shall attend an assessment process before being accepted into the program.
- 6.8.3 Teams playing in U13 and higher age categories may be eligible to qualify for Tier I, II or III level Provincial competition.

6.9 Special Programs

- 6.9.1 All programs not mentioned above will be special programs. The SPDSA will from time to time offer special programs.
- 6.9.2 The SPDSA special programs will be offered under the direction of the 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.
- 6.9.3 All formats and fees for the special programs are at the discretion of the SPDSA and may be modified or cancelled at any time.
- 6.9.4 Special programs may be offered by affiliate organizations or the SPDSA.
 - 6.9.4.1 The Alberta Summer Games is an example of a program supported and offered within the SPDSA district from time to time.
 - 6.9.4.2 Coaches are encouraged to support these programs.
 - 6.9.4.3 The organizing body will specify the rules of each program.

7.0 Player Equipment

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The SPDSA based on program alterations, reserves the right to amend the equipment provided to players.

7.2 Community Programs

- 7.2.1 Players registered in the SPDSA Community program may be provided a jersey, shorts and socks each season.
 - 7.2.1.1 Each team is assigned a set of jerseys, shorts and socks sized to an average of what the age group would require.
 - 7.2.1.2 Children that require special sizing must contact the SPDSA office far in advance to ensure a special size for the age group can be ordered.

7.3 Phoenix Programs

- 7.3.1 Players will be responsible for purchasing Phoenix shorts and socks.
 - 7.3.1.1 Shorts and socks are not required to be purchased each season unless directed by the SPDSA.
 - 7.3.1.2 The SPDSA may provide, if feasible, vouchers or by another means, specific player equipment prior to a season.

8.0 Team Equipment

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The SPDSA based on program alterations, reserves the right to amend the equipment provided to teams.

8.2 Community Programs

- 8.2.1 Teams shall receive equipment as determined by the SPDSA for both the Indoor and Outdoor seasons. Team officials shall be responsible for the equipment and shall return the equipment in reasonable condition. Charges may apply for equipment not returned or returned damaged.

8.3 Phoenix Programs

- 8.3.1 Teams shall receive equipment as determined by the SPDSA for both the Indoor and Outdoor seasons. Team officials shall be responsible for the equipment and shall return the equipment in reasonable condition. Charges may apply for equipment not returned or returned damaged.

9.0 League Standings

9.1 General

- 9.1.1 Teams competing in external leagues will follow the rules and regulations of the external league for league standings and tie-breaking procedures.
- 9.1.2 Official league standings shall be kept for U13 – U19 age groups playing in the SPDSA and published on the website within a reasonable time after receipt of game sheets.
- 9.1.2.1 U4 – U7 programs consist of mini games and no scores or standings are kept
- 9.1.2.2 U9 – U11 programs consist of scheduled games with referees, however under the CSA Long Term Player Development model, no stats or standings are published.
- 9.1.3 Points are awarded as follows:
- 9.1.3.1 Three points for a WIN;
- 9.1.3.2 One point for a TIE; and
- 9.1.3.3 Zero points for a LOSS.
- 9.1.4 Games considered ‘Exhibition’ will not count toward to final standings.
- 9.1.5 There will be a five (5) goal maximum in all SPDSA Youth league games.

9.2 Tie-Breaking Rules – Two (2) Teams

- 9.2.1 If two (2) teams are tied on points in the standings the team with the best head-to-head record during the regular season will be awarded the higher placing in the standings.
- 9.2.2 If the two (2) teams share identical records against each other in the regular season, the team with the better goal difference in games between the tied teams will be awarded the higher placing in the standings.
- 9.2.3 If the two (2) teams remain tied, the higher of the two teams will be the team that has the best goal differential in league play.

- 9.2.4 If the two (2) teams share identical goal differential in league play, the team with the least goals against shall be placed higher.
- 9.2.5 If a tie exists after the above tie-breaking procedure, a one-game playoff will take place between the teams tied, with the winner of the game being awarded the higher placing in the standings.
 - 9.2.5.1 No trialists may participate in this playoff game.
 - 9.2.5.2 If it is not feasible to hold a playoff game, the placing of the teams will be determined by another means as determined by the SPDSA.

9.3 Tie-Breaking Rules – Three (3) or more Teams

- 9.3.1 If Three (3) or more teams are tied on points in the regular season standings, the team with the highest point total, based on games among the tied teams only, will be awarded the highest placing in the standings.
- 9.3.2 If teams remain tied, the team with the highest goal difference in games between the tied teams will be awarded the highest placing in the standings.
- 9.3.3 If teams remain tied, the team with the best goal difference for the regular season will be awarded the highest placing in the standings.
- 9.3.4 If teams remain tied, the team with the least goals against for the regular season will be awarded the highest placing in the standings.
- 9.3.5 If teams remain tied, the team with the most wins during the season will be awarded the highest placing in the standings.
 - 9.3.5.1 No trialists may participate in this playoff game.
 - 9.3.5.2 If it is not feasible to hold a playoff game, the placing of the teams will be determined by another means as determined by the SPDSA.
- 9.3.6 If at any point in the above, one or more teams are separated, and other teams remained tied, the tied teams will continue down the tie-breaking procedure.

9.4 Community (Tier IV) Provincial Berths

- 9.4.1 SPDSA Community (Tier IV) teams may qualify for Provincials berths in the appropriate age groups (U13 to U19).
- 9.4.2 Teams will be given the opportunity to declare an intent to attend ASA Provincials by a deadline set by the SPDSA.
 - 9.4.2.1 At the end of the season, within SPDSA run leagues, the team that finishes with the most points and has declared intent will represent the SPDSA at the ASA Tier IV Provincials.
 - 9.4.2.2 Age groups in which teams are participating in external leagues will be required to compete in a Provincial Play-off format if more than one (1) team has declared intent to attend Provincials. The play-off format will be determined and communicated by the SPDSA.
 - 9.4.2.3 Teams participating in external leagues may be grouped in divisions lower than Tier IV, however may still be eligible to attend Tier IV Provincials.
- 9.4.3 Teams must meet the standards as set within the SPDSA Provincial Policy.

9.5 Phoenix (Tier I, II, III) Provincials Berths

- 9.5.1 SPDSA Phoenix (Tier I, II and III) teams may qualify for Provincial berths in the appropriate age groups (U13 to U19).
- 9.5.2 Teams will be given the opportunity to declare an intent to attend ASA Provincials by a deadline set by the SPDSA.
- 9.5.3 Any team declaring to attend ASA Provincials must meet the standards as set within the SPDSA Provincial Policy.
- 9.5.4 Teams may be required to meet the standards as set within the external leagues they are participating in.
- 9.5.5 Where more than one Phoenix team is represented in a Tier, the team finishing highest in the standings will represent the SPDSA. If two teams are playing in different leagues, but the same tier, a playoff may be required. The format of this playoff will be determined by the SPDSA Staff.

9.6 Trophies

- 9.6.1 Any trophies awarded to teams (rather than individuals) by the SPDSA will remain the property of the SPDSA. An officer of the 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.
- 9.6.2 Any trophies awarded to teams (rather than individuals) to the SPDSA teams by external leagues or competitions will remain the property of the external league or competition and will follow the protocols as set out by the issuing league or association.
- 9.6.3 Trophies may be displayed at the SPDSA Office.

10.0 Transfer of Players

10.1 General

- 10.1.1 At annual Registration, players commit themselves to the Parent Organization with whom they initially register for that season. No player may play or register for more than one SPDSA team during one season unless a properly completed transfer is completed.
- 10.1.2 A player wishing to transfer to another team during the season may apply for a transfer under the following guidelines.

10.2 Transfer within Sherwood Park Leagues

- 10.2.1 A player who has registered for a team affiliated with the SPDSA Community program during a current season shall be allowed to transfer their registration to another SPDSA Community team within the same age group if:
 - 10.2.1.1 The player submits, in writing, reasoning that sufficiently satisfies the SPDSA that a transfer should be granted;
 - 10.2.1.2 The SPDSA can move them to another eligible team, and;
 - 10.2.1.3 The player accepts that they are not able to request a team to be transferred to.

10.3 Transfer to another Parent Organization

- 10.3.1 Any player wishing to transfer to the SPDSA from another organization or from the SPDSA to another organization must complete the required transfer and release paperwork for the transfer to be completed.
- 10.3.2 Any transfer must meet the requirements as dictated by both the rules and regulations as set forth by the SPDSA and the external Parent Organization.

10.4 Transfer to a Lower Tier

- 10.4.1 The transfer of a player to a lower tier within the same age group is not permitted, unless the transfer is completed prior to the player completing the third (3rd) game of the higher tier.
- 10.4.2 Any transfer must meet the requirements as dictated above and the transfer rules and regulations by the external league the player is currently registered with.

10.5 Transfer Deadline Dates

- 10.5.1 To be processed, an application for transfer of players within the SPDSA must be processed before the close of business on the following dates:
 - 10.5.1.1 Outdoor Tier IV Rural (Community programs) – June 15;
 - 10.5.1.2 Outdoor Tier I, II, III (Phoenix programs) – June 15;
 - 10.5.1.3 Indoor Tier IV City (Community programs) – January 31;
 - 10.5.1.4 Indoor Tier I, II, III (Phoenix programs) – January 31;
 - 10.5.1.5 If the above dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the official transfer deadline will be the last business day before the 15th or 31st;
 - 10.5.1.6 If a team is playing in a league other than the SPDSA, the Transfer deadline will be followed as per the league designates.

11.0 Trialist Regulations

11.1 General

- 11.1.1 There will be no trialists permitted in any Provincial play down games, or league playoff games.
- 11.1.2 Any team caught using ineligible trialists will face disciplinary action from the SPDSA in the form of suspension, forfeit of games, or other disciplinary manner that the SPDSA deems appropriate.
- 11.1.3 Any SPDSA team playing in EMSA or EIYSA shall abide by the SPDSA rules and the external league trialist regulations.
- 11.1.4 All trialists regardless of the tier of the team, shall follow the Trialist Matrix as provided by the SPDSA.

11.2 U4 – U7 Age Groups

- 11.2.1 If teams arrive at the field short on players, players from other teams may be added to ensure enough numbers for the session or game.

11.3 U9 – U11 Age Groups

- 11.3.1 A team may utilize properly registered SPDSA players from the same age group if the team is short players.
 - 11.3.1.1 U9-U11 teams may only use trialists if the team drops below twelve (12) players for a scheduled game
- 11.3.2 U11 teams may utilize a properly registered second year player in U9 as a trialist.
- 11.3.3 SPDSA Youth Tier IV teams cannot use as trialists any player participating in a Tier I, II or III league, regardless of age.
- 11.3.4 The player must have their valid SPDSA player card to participate in the game.
- 11.3.5 The coach must submit the online trialist form on the SPDSA website, and clearly mark on the game sheet that the player is a trialist.

11.4 U13 – U19 Age Groups

- 11.4.1 A team may utilize properly registered SPDSA players from the next lower age group if the team is short players.
 - 11.4.1.1 U13-U19 teams may only use trialists to bring their roster up to a maximum of fifteen (15) players. An exception can be made if the trialist required is a goalkeeper.
- 11.4.2 SPDSA Youth Tier IV teams cannot use as trialists any player participating in a Tier I, II or III league, regardless of age.
- 11.4.3 The player must have their valid SPDSA player card to participate in the game.
- 11.4.4 The coach must submit the online trialist form on the SPDSA website, and clearly mark on the game sheet that the player is a trialist.

11.5 Trialist Limits

- 11.5.1 A SPDSA youth team, U9-U19, playing in the Indoor and Outdoor Season shall not have more than four (4) players on the game sheet who are listed as trialists.
- 11.5.2 A player may only play a total of five (5) league games at a higher division, age group or Tier during the season.

11.6 Regulations for Tournaments and Provincials

- 11.6.1 Teams wishing to use trialists for a tournament must follow the rules and regulations as set out by the tournament for trialist or guest players.
- 11.6.2 Teams wishing to use trialists for a provincial competition must follow the competition rules and regulations set out by the ASA for “Replacement Players”.
- 11.6.3 Trialists may not be used to replace a registered player for tournament or provincial play unless those registered players are not available to play due to injury, illness or other suitable circumstance.

12.0 Games and Competitions

12.1 General

- 12.1.1 Games and Competitions at various age groups may look different based on the program formats as determined by the SPDSA.
- 12.1.2 All teams playing in competitions in non-SPDSA leagues will be subject to the external association’s rules and regulations regarding Games and Competitions which may vary from what is outlined below.

12.2 Schedules

- 12.2.1 The SPDSA is responsible for setting schedules for SPDSA games including dates, times and venues. The SPDSA will assign match officials for the appropriate age groups.
- 12.2.2 The SPDSA will use reasonable efforts to post schedules on their website a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours prior to the first game of that season.
- 12.2.3 The SPDSA shall inform the team contact of any change of location, time or date of a scheduled game. A minimum of three (3) business days’ notice may be given, except under extenuating circumstances.
- 12.2.4 Any league or playoff games cancelled or postponed because of bad weather or poor field conditions, or other circumstances that are to be replayed, shall be played with a minimum of three (3) business days’ notice.
- 12.2.5 Teams must adhere to the schedule as issued by the SPDSA. Only SPDSA Staff can make or approve changes to the schedule.
- 12.2.6 All SPDSA teams participating in external leagues, tournaments or provincial competitions will be required to adhere to the rules and regulations as set out by the competition.

12.3 Statistics and Standings

- 12.3.1 Statistics and Standings are only published on the SPDSA website for SPDSA leagues U13 and older.
- 12.3.2 The SPDSA may keep on record statistics and standings at the U9 – U11 age groups for re-grouping team’s part way through the season, however, as per CSA LTPD, statistics and standings will not be published.

12.4 Team Responsibilities

- 12.4.1 In U9-U19 SPDSA divisions, each team will be responsible to provide and put up one goal net, as well as supply a minimum of two (2) corner flags. A team may supply one (1) midfield flag if they have.
- 12.4.2 The home team shall be responsible to provide game balls. Should the home team not have adequate balls the away team will be asked to provide game balls.
- 12.4.3 The home team shall change uniforms in the event of their uniforms not being distinguishable from the visiting team. Training “bibs” or “pinnies” are permitted for SPDSA games.
- 12.4.4 In the event a team forfeits a game due to lack of players, the team that forfeits will receive a 3-0 loss, if the teams are U13 or higher.

12.5 Team Official Responsibilities

- 12.5.1 It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that all players are eligible to play.
 - 12.5.1.1 Players must be properly registered and assigned to the team, or;
 - 12.5.1.2 Eligible to play based on the trialist regulations as set out by the SPDSA
- 12.5.2 It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure they are following the rules and regulations of the league in which their team is playing regarding trialist rules and regulations
- 12.5.3 It is the responsibility of team officials to ensure they are knowledgeable of the rules and regulations of the league in which their team is playing regarding:
 - 12.5.3.1 Trialist regulations;
 - 12.5.3.2 Discipline regulations and tracking discipline accumulated by players. This includes yellow card accumulation (see section 15.4) which may lead to suspension.
- 12.5.4 The SPDSA is available to assist team officials with information and clarity on player eligibility regarding registration, discipline and trialist regulations.

12.6 Game Sheets

- 12.6.1 Game sheets are only required for U9 and older age groups.
- 12.6.2 Both teams shall fill out a game sheet and present it to the match official before the game starts.
- 12.6.3 The team official that completes the game sheet must fill it out entirely and must verify that all information is correct and sign the game sheet.
- 12.6.4 For SPDSA Community leagues, team may have up to four (4) non-playing Team officials listed on the game sheet and on the bench. One must be of the same gender as the players and all must have an up to date criminal record check.
- 12.6.5 Additions may be made to game sheet up to the start of the second half. No additions shall be permitted after the start of the second half.
- 12.6.6 All trialists must be identified on the game sheet.
- 12.6.7 Any player listed on the game sheet will be deemed to have participated in that game.
 - 12.6.7.1 Players crossed off the game sheet will not be deemed to have participated in that game.
- 12.6.8 A team listing an ineligible individual on the game sheet shall forfeit the game in which the ineligible individual was either playing or registered on the game sheet.

12.7 Number of Players

12.7.1 U4 – U7 Age Groups (Outdoor and Indoor)

- 12.7.1.1 A U4 team arriving with numbers that are too short to complete the session shall either; add players from another team(s) that have enough numbers or players from the team that is short shall join with another team(s).
- 12.7.1.2 A U5 or U6 team arriving with numbers that are too short to play in the mini games scheduled shall add players from the other team to play the mini games or only one mini game will be played.
- 12.7.1.3 A U7 team arriving with numbers that are too short to play shall add players from the other team to play.

12.7.2 U9 and U11 (Outdoor)

- 12.7.2.1 **U9 - 7v7 games** will be played with each team consisting of seven (7) players, one (1) of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Teams must dress a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum that follows the guidelines of the SPDSA.
- 12.7.2.2 **U11 - 8v8 games** will be played with each team consisting of eight (8) players, one (1) of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Teams must dress a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum that follows the guidelines of the SPDSA.
- 12.7.2.3 It is encouraged that a game involving a team that has less than minimum number of players, that the two teams blend to ensure players in attendance are able to play a game.

12.7.3 U13 – U19 (Outdoor)

- 12.7.3.1 **U13 – U19 – 11v11 games** will be played with each team consisting of eleven (11) players, one (1) of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Teams must dress a minimum of seven (7) players and a maximum of twenty (20) players.
- 12.7.3.2 A team with less than minimum number of players has a fifteen (15) minute grace period commencing from the time that the game was scheduled to start. After the grace period, a team with less than seven (7) players ready to play will be considered a forfeit. The opposing team will be awarded three points and a 3-0 win. In circumstances where neither team has seven (7) players within the allotted time the game shall be considered a double-forfeit with both teams receiving zero (0) points.
- 12.7.3.3 Teams may blend together after the grace period to play a friendly game; however, the forfeit will stand, and the game will be played as an exhibition only.

12.7.4 **U9 and U11 (Indoor Boarded)**

- 12.7.4.1 Games will be played with each team consisting of six (6) players, one (1) of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- 12.7.4.2 A team with a minimum of four (4) players is required to start the game and must begin promptly.
- 12.7.4.3 It is encouraged that a game involving a team that has less than minimum number of players, that the two teams blend to ensure players in attendance are able to play a game.
- 12.7.4.4 If players from the team that is short arrive after kickoff and the teams have blended, players may return to their original team for the duration of the game.

12.7.5 **U13 – U19 (Indoor Boarded)**

- 12.7.5.1 Games will be played with each team consisting of six (6) players, one (1) of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- 12.7.5.2 A team with a minimum of four (4) players is required to start the game and must begin promptly.
- 12.7.5.3 A team with less than four (4) players has a ten (10) minute grace period commencing from the time that the game was scheduled to start. After the ten (10) minute grace period, any team with less than four (4) players ready to play will be considered a forfeit and the opposing team will be awarded a 3-0 win. In circumstances where neither team has four (4) players within the allotted time the game shall be considered a double-forfeit with both teams receiving zero (0) points.

12.8 **Player Equipment**

- 12.8.1 All player equipment must meet standards as per the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 12.8.2 All uniforms are required to have clearly marked numbers. If teams are using pinnies as a second set, numbers will not be required.
- 12.8.3 Additional clothing (toques, leggings, undershirts, etc) may be permitted if they are deemed safe by the match official.
- 12.8.4 Approved ASA referees shall have the final decision 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 disciplinary action.
- 12.8.5 Players with hard casts will not be permitted to play.
- 12.8.6 Players with orthotic braces will be permitted to play at the discretion of match official.

12.9 Substitutions

- 12.9.1 Unlimited Substitutions shall be permitted in all indoor and outdoor programs.
- 12.9.2 In the outdoor season, all substitutions will be made at the discretion of the Match Official and must occur at a stoppage in play.
- 12.9.3 In the indoor season, substitutions can be made during game play, without a stoppage, but are subject to the following regulations.
 - 12.9.3.1 No player shall enter the field by jumping over the boards.
 - 12.9.3.2 Substitutions can only be made when the exiting player has left the field. A player is considered to have left the field when they are inside the restart line between the ends of their team's bench area and if they are not interfering with play.
- 12.9.4 In programs without a Match Official, the two coaches will decide together when substitutions will occur.

12.10 Duration of Games

- 12.10.1 In U9 – U19 games, the Match official(s) shall be the official timekeeper and he/she shall be in complete charge on the field in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Games that do not have a Match Official, the coaches and team officials shall be the official timekeepers.
- 12.10.2 Outdoor games shall be played according to the guidelines set out by the SPDSA prior to each season.
- 12.10.3 Conditions may dictate that the Match official may need to shorten the game under the following rules:
 - 12.10.3.1 If, before the start of the game, the Match official feels that it might not be possible to play a full game because of daylight, he/she shall inform both teams of the shortened time to be played. The Match official shall set the time to be played and his decision shall be final.
 - 12.10.3.2 When a game is started under normal conditions and adverse weather conditions cause a delay in the game the Match official may restart the game after it is safe to do so with a shortened game time if necessary.
 - 12.10.3.3 When a game is started under normal conditions and adverse weather conditions cause the game to be called off by the match official, he/she shall note the amount of time played on the game sheet. The SPDSA will consider the game played providing that seventy-five (75%) percent of the scheduled game time has elapsed.
- 12.10.4 If a serious injury to a player or to the match official results in the suspension or abandonment of a game, a minimum of seventy-five (75%) percent of the scheduled game time must be played for the game to be considered official and complete.
- 12.10.5 If a game is called with less than seventy-five (75%) percent of the scheduled game time having been played, the game shall be considered incomplete and shall be rescheduled by the SPDSA.

- 12.10.5.1 Due to time constraints, facility availability and other circumstances, the SPDSA may not be able to reschedule games that have been cancelled. SPDSA will not issue refunds due to cancelled games.
- 12.10.5.2 If the SPDSA is unable to reschedule a game that has been abandoned due to weather, injury or other unforeseen circumstance, the game will be declared a draw and each team will receive one (1) point and a 0-0 draw.
- 12.10.6 All regular season games ending in a tie shall be considered complete. Any playoff game at the end of regular time that is tied shall follow the below:
- 12.10.6.1 If weather or daylight conditions permit, two (2) ten (10) minute extra time periods shall commence without delay. Should the score still be tied at the end of this extra time, the game shall be decided by penalty kicks.
- 12.10.6.2 If the Match official feels that weather or daylight conditions may not allow for two (2), (10) minute extra time periods, then he/she shall have the right to shorten the extra time periods or go straight to penalty kicks.
- 12.10.7 Indoor games U9-U19 will be played in two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes. The periods may be shortened at the discretion of the Match official due to booking times being a maximum of fifty-five (55) minutes. The maximum half time shall be three (3) minutes. The minimum time to be played shall be seventy-five (75%) percent for the game to be considered complete.
- 12.10.7.1 If a game is called with less than seventy-five (75%) percent played, the game shall be considered incomplete and may be rescheduled by the SPDSA dependent on facility availability.
- 12.10.8 If the final score of an indoor playoff game is tied at the end of regular time, the game shall be decided by penalty kicks.
- 12.10.9 Games suspended by the Match official because of player, bench personnel or spectator demonstrations must be reported to the SPDSA. The SPDSA Discipline Committee shall decide what the appropriate action of the game shall be based on the circumstances provided by the Match official.
- 12.10.10 All discipline issued in a game that is forfeited, suspended or abandoned will be binding.

13.0 Match official

13.1 General

- 13.1.1 Match officials shall be registered and certified to officiate the level of games that they are assigned to.
- 13.1.2 Match officials will be assigned to SPDSA age groups U9 – U19. The U4 – U7 age groups do not use referees.
- 13.1.3 The Match official for each game shall be appointed by the SPDSA match official coordinator or a member of the SPDSA and such appointments shall be made from the official list of SPDSA match officials.
- 13.1.4 If through unforeseen circumstances a Match official assigned to a game is absent, the team managers/coaches may agree (by signing the game sheets before the game) on another certified and registered Match official. The two teams may also agree on a volunteer to officiate the game.

- 13.1.4.1 If the two teams cannot agree on an alternate certified match official or volunteer, the teams must notify the SPDSA and the game may be rescheduled.

13.2 Team Responsibilities

- 13.2.1 Each team is responsible to provide an assistant match official for any SPDSA game if the Match official requests.

13.3 Match official Responsibilities

- 13.3.1 The official uniform for SPDSA Match official shall be as per current FIFA Laws.
- 13.3.2 The Match official has the authority to determine the condition of the ground in all games and his/her decision shall be final.
 - 13.3.2.1 The Match official may cancel a game if he/she feels the field markings or condition of the field deem the game unplayable. The match official will be responsible for contacting the SPDSA if such a scenario occurs. The SPDSA will reschedule the game.
- 13.3.3 Match official Shall:
 - 13.3.3.1 Within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of a game in which they have officiated, forward any misconduct reports to the SPDSA, either via drop-off, or electronic form.
- 13.3.4 Complaints against a Match official will only be considered if made in writing to the SPDSA. Verbal complaints will result in no further action.

14.0 Discipline

14.1 General

- 14.1.1 All coaches, players, team officials, 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. Violations may as per the SPDSA constitution result in: Suspension, Fine, Bond and revocation of membership, forfeit of registration fees or any combination thereof. Section 15.0 lists discipline that may be applied under this section.

14.2 Registration Violations

- 14.2.1 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 as set out in section 15.7.

14.3 Violations of Game Regulations

- 14.3.1 If a team refuses to complete a game, they will forfeit three (3) points and have all goals deducted. The remaining team will be awarded a 3-0 win and three (3) points. The team refusing to complete the game will be subject to discipline as set out in section 15.7 - 3.
- 14.3.2 Where members of one or both teams cause the abandonment of a game, the discipline committee will suspend the team or team's pending a disciplinary hearing.
- 14.3.3 Where teams do not provide the necessary equipment for a game (section 8.2) the team will be issued a warning by the SPDSA on the first occurrence and will forfeit the game in subsequent occurrences with a 3-0 loss.

- 14.3.4 Any team which included an ineligible player will forfeit the game with the result to show five 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 15.0 — Discipline
- 14.3.4.1 Ineligible players may include: non-registered players, players ineligible to play as trialists, over age players.

14.4 Acts of Misconduct by Players

- 14.4.1 Actions of misconduct as per the laws of the game by a player will be handled by the Match official.
- 14.4.2 **Yellow Card, Cautionary Offenses**
- 14.4.2.1 The following suspensions for yellow card accumulation during a season shall be automatic:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 3 yellow cards | 1 Game Suspension |
| 5 th yellow card | 1 Game Suspension |
| 6 th yellow card | 2 Game Suspension |
| 7 or more yellow cards | Suspended until a disciplinary hearing |
- 14.4.2.2 The player incurring the yellow cards must sit out the game immediately following the game in which they received the last caution.
- 14.4.2.3 Two cautions (yellow cards) received by a player in a single game will not be calculated in the above but will be dealt with as an ejection which will merit an automatic one game suspension.
- 14.4.2.4 It is the responsibility of the Team Officials to keep track of all players' accumulated cards and penalties during each soccer season.
- 14.4.2.5 Every player may start each soccer season with a clean record. Accumulated yellow cards will be removed from his record at the start of the new season. Players currently suspended will have their suspension carried over to the new season.
- 14.4.2.6 Players serving a suspension resulting from the accumulation of yellow cards are prohibited from playing with any team(s) until the suspension has been served with games of the team that the player was registered to at the time of the last yellow card.
- 14.4.3 **Red Card, Ejection Offences**
- 14.4.3.1 Any player receiving an ejection during a game must leave the field of play immediately and may not re-enter or return to the field of play.
- 14.4.3.2 A player issued an ejection shall be considered suspended immediately. The game in which the incident occurred does not count towards the suspension.
- 14.4.3.3 The Manager or Coach of the player shall be sent notification by the SPDSA the terms of the suspension.
- 14.4.3.4 The player may choose to accept the terms of the suspension as outlined, or, the player may have his manager or coach request a Discipline Hearing as outlined in section 14.8.
- 14.4.3.5 Team officials ejected from a game shall be dealt with in the same manner as a player.

14.5 Acts of Misconduct by Team Officials, Players and Spectators

- 14.5.1 Any team official, player or spectator involved in the following acts of misconduct will be immediately suspended and the matter referred to the discipline 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.
- 14.5.1.1 Intentional physical contact with a match official before, during or after a game.
Threatening or harassing a match official at any time.
- 14.5.1.2 Refusing the services of an assigned match official.
- 14.5.1.3 Intentional altercations or harassing behaviour toward any player, team official, match official, assistant match official, spectator, SPDSA board members or staff of the SPDSA.
- 14.5.1.4 The use of abusive or foul language, threats, obscene gestures, demeaning comments, insults, racial or sexual comments toward any player, team official, match official, assistant match official, spectator, SPDSA board member or staff of the SPDSA.
- 14.5.2 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 the game. In addition, any misconduct before or after sanctioned activities where in the opinion of the discipline committee the misconduct was intended upon bring harm to the association or its members will be subject to discipline as noted in this section.
- 14.5.3 Team officials warned by and reported to the SPDSA by the game official will receive discipline as set out in section 15.7.
- 14.5.4 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.
- 14.5.5 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 discipline committee.

14.6 Suspensions

- 14.6.1 All suspensions are automatic, and Team Officials shall be responsible for ensuring that player suspension is carried out.

- 14.6.1.1 If in the unlikelihood the SPDSA has not officially informed Team Officials of a suspension, team officials should contact the SPDSA to inquire before playing a player who was issued a red card.
- 14.6.1.2 Team Officials that play suspended players will be subject to discipline as listed in section 15.7.
- 14.6.2 The suspension must be served in games scheduled by the SPDSA and played by the team in which the player was registered with when he received the ejection. Suspended players or team officials may not participate in any Youth SPDSA game with any Youth team during the term of their suspension. Suspensions not fully served in one season will be carried over to the next season.
- 14.6.3 Coaches suspended in the SPDSA Youth program, will be permitted to play in SPDSA Adult and coach in the SPDSA Phoenix programs, unless determined by the SPDSA or ASA.
- 14.6.4 Suspensions will not be carried to tournaments or ASA provincials unless the discipline committee deems the offence appropriate.

14.7 Discipline Procedures

- 14.7.1 Violations are recorded by the match official on the game sheet, which is submitted to the SPDSA.
- 14.7.2 All yellow cards noted on the game sheet will be recorded into a database for the season. Once a yellow card is received indicating a suspension for the player, the team will be informed about the suspension.
- 14.7.3 All red cards noted on the game sheet will be accompanied by a misconduct report submitted by the match official detailing the events that led to the ejection of the player.
- 14.7.4 The SPDSA staff shall apply all discipline based on this report and utilizing section 15 as guidance in determining the appropriate discipline.
- 14.7.5 All penalties assessed are to be communicated to the team official in writing.
- 14.7.6 The team official or player may request a discipline appeal hearing if they do not agree with the discipline given. Please see section 14.8 for discipline hearing details.
- 14.7.7 Where the penalties are to be referred to the ASA, the SPDSA staff will notify these bodies in writing.

14.8 Discipline Appeal Hearings

- 14.8.1 Any player or team official that has received a Discipline Report, may request a Discipline Hearing, within seventy-two (72) hours of notification of the Discipline Report. This request must be accompanied by a \$150.00 administrative hearing fee (credit card or money order only).
- 14.8.2 If the decision of the SPDSA Discipline Committee is to decrease the suspension from the original decision, the \$150.00 hearing fee will be refunded in full. If the decision of SPDSA Discipline Committee decides not to change the original suspension, or increases the suspension following the hearing, the \$150.00 hearing fee will be non-refundable.
- 14.8.3 A discipline appeal hearing committee shall have no less than three (3) members, none of which may have a conflict of interest in the case at hand.
- 14.8.4 One (1) of the committee members shall act as the recording secretary or a non-voting secretary shall be appointed to be present for the hearing.
- 14.8.5 Failure to appear at a discipline appeal hearing when due process has been given, will result in the original suspension, which shall be final and binding.
- 14.8.6 The SPDSA will not accept video as evidence for any onfield offense.

14.9 Game Protests

- 14.9.1 Any protest regarding games must be made in writing to the SPDSA within twenty-four (24) hours of the game in protest.
- 14.9.2 All parties involved in a protest hearing shall be notified of the protest and have the option to attend the proceeding.
- 14.9.3 The Discipline Committee shall review the circumstances as required, make a ruling, and notify SPDSA of the decision, who will then communicate to the involved parties.

14.10 Procedures

- 14.10.1 With all required persons present, the hearing shall proceed as follows:
 - 12.10.1.1 The Discipline Committee shall read the report and state the offence.
 - 12.10.1.2 The person(s) writing the report(s), if present will be given the opportunity to expand or qualify the report(s).
 - 12.10.1.3 The accused shall be allowed to ask relevant questions of the author of the report if he is present or make submissions on the report and testify on his own.
 - 12.10.1.4 The accused will have the opportunity to call witnesses (limited in number) or present witness reports to the committee. These witnesses may be questioned by the Discipline Committee.
 - 12.10.1.5 After questioning from the Discipline Committee, the accused shall be allowed to make any final statements before withdrawing.
 - 12.10.1.6 The Discipline Committee shall consider the report and presented evidence and shall either decide on the case or adjourn the hearing.
 - 12.10.1.7 The Discipline Committee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the accused in writing of the result of the hearing within forty-eight (48) hours of the hearing. All decisions made by the Discipline Committee are final.

14.11 Discipline Committee

- 14.11.1 The Discipline committee shall be formed as outlined in the SPDSA Bylaws.

14.12 Record Keeping

- 14.12.1 All suspensions shall be documented in a Suspension File which is to be kept in a secure area within the SPDSA. The number of games or time frame that the player or team official has been suspended will be indicated. The suspensions files are considered confidential and are to be accessible only to SPDSA board members and SPDSA staff. Suspensions will be kept on record with the SPDSA for a period of no less than five (5) years.
- 14.12.2 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.

15.0 Discipline Offences and Suspensions

15.1 Discipline Committee Discretion

- 15.1.1 The Discipline Committee shall have the right to increase or decrease the suspension according to the circumstances and severity of the incident.
- 15.1.2 In absence of a discipline committee, SPDSA staff will issue the suspension length, based on the offence as listed in the referee report.

15.2 Yellow Card Offences

- 15.2.1 Yellow card – Cautionary offences are given out at the discretion of the match official under the guidance of the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 15.2.2 A single yellow card in a game will go toward the accumulation of yellow cards as noted in Section 14.4.
- 15.2.3 A player receiving two (2) yellow card cautionary offenses during a game will be ejected from that game and receive a one game suspension.

15.3 Red Card Offences or Ejections

- 15.3.1 Team Officials and Players are all subject to the discipline laid out below.
- 15.3.2 The Suspensions laid out below are the minimum and may be increased by the SPDSA based on the report received.
- 15.3.3 If any player gets three (3) red cards in one (1) year, they can be brought in front of a Discipline Committee with potential additional suspensions beyond the scope of their standard Discipline.

15.4 Offences against Players, Team Officials or other Individuals

- 1. Serious Foul Play (SFP) or Denying an obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity
 - a. 1st Offence 1 – 2 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence 3 – 4 game suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence To be determined by Discipline Committee
- 2. Violent Conduct (VC) or spitting at an individual (excluding Match Officials)
 - a. 1st Offence 3 – 4 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence 6 – 8 game suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence or more To be determined by Discipline Committee
- 3. Boarding
 - a. 1st Offence SFP 1 – 2 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence SFP 4 game suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence SFP To be determined by Discipline Committee
 - d. 1st Offence VC 3 – 4 game suspension
 - e. 2nd Offence VC 8 game suspension
 - f. 3rd Offence VC To be determined by Discipline Committee

15.5 Offences against Match Officials

1. Persistent Criticism or disputing of decision
 - a. 1st Offence 1 – 2 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence 3 – 4 game suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence 8 – 12 game suspension
 - d. 4th Offence or more To be determined by Discipline Committee
2. Use of Offensive, insulting, abusive language in disputing decisions
 - a. 1st Offence 2 – 4 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence 5 – 8 game suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence 9 – 16 game suspension
 - d. 4th Offence or more To be determined by Discipline Committee
3. Unsportsmanlike Conduct, stealing game sheets, removal of jersey to prevent identification, refusal to provide name to a Match Official;
 - a. 1st Offence 3 – 6 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence 7 – 12 game suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence SFP To be determined by Discipline Committee
4. Threatening, attempting to intimidate or intimidating a Match Official or people close to a Match Official (i.e. – spouse / partner, family, colleague, relatives) on the field;
 - a. 1st Offence 12 – 16 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence 24 – 32 game suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence or More To be determined by Discipline Committee
5. Threatening, attempting to intimidate or intimidating a Match Official or people close to a Match Official (ie – spouse / partner, family, colleague, relatives) on the field and continuing off the field after the game;
 - a. 1st Offence 24 – 32 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence 2 – 5 year suspension
 - c. 3rd Offence or More To be determined by Discipline Committee
6. Physical Contact with Match Officials Penalties
 - a. Incidental
 - i. 1st Offence 5 – 6 game suspension
 - ii. 2nd Offence or more To be determined by Discipline Committee
 - b. Deliberate touching with no Violent Conduct (striking or attempting to strike, includes grabbing of yellow / red cards)
 - i. 1st Offence 12 – 16 game suspension
 - ii. 2nd Offence or more To be determined by Discipline Committee
 - c. Deliberate Violent Conduct (striking or attempting to strike including spitting)
 - i. 1st Offence 2 – 5 year Suspension
 - ii. 2nd Offence Lifetime Ban

15.6 Other Offences

1. Illegal Entry onto the field
 - a. 1st Offence 8 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence To be determined by Discipline Committee
2. Altercation / fighting
 - a. 1st Offence or more Hearing
3. Return after ejection
 - a. 1st Offence or more Hearing
4. Other Extenuating Circumstances
 - a. 1st Offence or more Hearing

15.7 Coaching / Team Official(s) Offences

1. Playing an ineligible / illegal trialist and/or overage player
 - a. 1st Offence 1 Game Suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence or more Suspended until Hearing
2. Returning to the field of play following an ejection
 - a. 1st Offence Suspended until Hearing
3. Willfully abandoning a match
 - a. 1st Offence Suspended until Hearing
4. Entering the field of play without the referee's consent
 - a. 1st Offence 4 Game Suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence or more To be determined by Discipline Committee
5. Playing a suspended player
 - a. 1st Offence 1 Game Suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence or more Suspended until Hearing
6. Foul, Abusive, Offensive &/or Insulting and Racial Remarks
 - a. 1st Offence 4 Game Suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence or more Suspended until Hearing
7. Offensive &/or Insulting Gestures
 - a. 1st Offence 4 Game Suspension
 - b. 2nd Offence or more Suspended until Hearing
8. Fighting
 - a. 1st Offence or more Suspended until Hearing

15.7.1 In addition to the suspensions as outlined above, "Fines" and/or "Bonds" may be issued to the individual or team or both.

15.7.2 Any dismissal related to a referee that involves a Youth Referee between the ages of 12-18 (inclusive) will result in two (2) times the discipline.

15.8 Bonds

- 15.8.1 Bonds must be paid to the SPDSA within five (5) business days.
- 15.8.2 Bonds will be held, in trust, by the SPDSA for the term of the bond.
- 15.8.3 Bonds are posted by a club or team or individual to ensure that the same will comply with the rules and regulations of the SPDSA or any terms outlined by the bond.
- 15.8.4 In the event the said club or team or individual contravenes any of the SPDSA's Rules and Regulations or any term of the bond, the bond may be forfeited.

- 15.8.5 The bond will be returned to the club or team or individual once the terms is successfully completed.
- 15.8.6 No interest will be paid on the bonds.
- 15.8.7 Any club or team or individual wishing to contest the issuance of a bond must make an application in writing to the SPDSA within forty-eight (48) hours of the bond being issued.

15.9 Fines

- 15.9.1 All fines must be paid to the SPDSA within five (5) business days
- 15.9.2 Clubs or teams or individuals with outstanding fines shall be considered suspended until the fine is paid in full.
- 15.9.3 Any club or team or individual wishing to contest the issuance of a fine must make an application in writing to the SPDSA within forty-eight (48) hours of the fine being issued. All appeals for fines are subject to fees as laid out in section 14.8.2