

## **2014 PINELANDS LEAGUE** **YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The **Pinelands League** shall consist of the following townships and divisions:

**Division 3 (Boys and Girls):** Indian Mills (IMMA), Southampton (STRA), Medford Lakes (MLAA), Tabernacle (TAA). – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. MYAA & MLU may be included based on need.

**Play 8 v 8 (including goalie)**

**Division 2 (Boys and Girls) :** Indian Mills (IMMA), Southampton (STRA), Medford Lakes (MLAA), Tabernacle (TAA) , Medford (MYAA), Mt. Laurel (MLU) – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**Play 8 v 8 ( including goalie)**

**Division 1 (Boys and Girls) :** Indian Mills (IMMA), Southampton (STRA), Medford Lakes (MLAA), Tabernacle (TAA), Medford (MYAA), Mt. Laurel (MLU) – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**Play 11 v 11**

The Pinelands League **REQUIRES** each participant to register and play in the township of the player's primary residence. (i.e.: Medford Lakes residents MUST register and play for Medford Lakes, not in/for Medford, Tabernacle, etc.)

If townships are short players to make up a team at any division, the league will allow townships to "combine" players from two or more townships, to create a team. Approval from Pinelands League Commissioner will needed to do so.

The Pinelands League is NOT a member of the **US Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association (U.S. Youth Soccer or USYSA), New Jersey State Youth Soccer Association** or any other federation or association. The Pinelands League is an independent, non-sanctioned, non-profit league.

Each township above is required to provide their own insurance coverage for all participating players

### **PINELANDS LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

The **FIFA Laws of the Game of Soccer** shall apply with the following modifications, clarifications and additions.

1. **Field of Play** – Division 2 and 3 shall use a 'scaled down' field, 40-50 yards x 70- 80 yards. With 6' x 18' goals. Division 2 and 1 shall use a regulation size field and goals.

2. Both teams shall be on the same side of the field and the coaches and players must stay on their half of the field in the coaching area during the match. All spectators shall be on the opposite side of the field and no person shall be behind the goals or the goal line.

3. **The Ball** - Division 3 and 2 shall use a size 4 ball. Division 1 shall use a size 5 ball.

#### 4. **Mandatory Playing Time**

Coaches shall ensure that each team member present plays at least half of the match, (i.e. at least two full quarters). If a player is being disciplined and will not play at least half of the match, the opposing coach and the referee must be notified before the start of the match.

Each Township's In-House Rules and Regulations on Discipline shall prevail

Players may never be disciplined for playing errors or lack of playing skills.

Players on the roster must play minimum 50% of scheduled league matches to participate in league tournaments. This will be monitored by each township individually.

#### **Start of the Match / Emergency Move Ups**

1. Teams are permitted to start and play a match with **9 players at Division 1 and 2** and **with 7 players at Division 3**. Players may be added at first available substitution for each team.

2. If either team chooses to begin the match, or falls below the 7 players (at Division 3) or 9 players (at Division 1 and 2) during the course of a match, play shall be terminated by the referee. At that point, the (2) coaches will mutually agree if play shall continue or the match terminated.

3. **Emergency Move Ups** - If a team determines it will have a "player shortage" prior to any league or tournament match (a player shortage is defined as **below 12 players at Division 1 and 2 or below 10 players at Division 3**), for "safety" reasons, a team is permitted at move up players for that single match and the following move up policy applies:

A) The player **must be registered in the township "recreation" program**. Travel players are NOT permitted to be added at ANY time for regular season or tournament games. Any travel player added to team for a regular game will result in forfeit of game. Any travel player added to team for a tournament game will result in team removal from the tournament

B) Borrowing a player from the same division is allowed. This should be done only to assure the game can be played and not for an advantage. Coached should use discretion and this is not to be abused.

C) Call or confer with the opposing coach prior to the match.

D) Division 3: May add players (under the rules defined above) to equal **NO MORE than a total of 11 players**. (This will allow for 3 subs)

E) Division 1 and 2: May add players (under the rules defined above) to equal **NO MORE than a total of 13 players**. (This will allow for 2 subs)

F) Emergency move up players **ARE NOT PERMITTED** to play more minutes than the players already on the team. Any violation of this rule will result in a forfeit of the match.

G) **No player shall play down a division.** Either during the entire season or for a single match

H) If at the start of a match, one team has “a limited amount of players to play a match” or “no substitutes available” (understanding the Emergency Moves call-up provisions above) the coach of the team that is “limited” shall notify the opposing coach of the number of players he/she has available. **In the effort of good sportsmanship**, the opposing coach shall make a determination on the number of players he/she will field against that team.

### **Age Groups/Max Players-Rosters / Travel Players / Rosters**

The age restrictions are determined by **school grades**, not age/birthdate of the child.

**DIV 1** - Play 11 a side Roster 16-18 players (recommended)

**DIV 2** - Play 8 a side Roster 10-12 players (recommended)

**DIV 3** - Play 8 a side Roster 10-12 players (recommended)

**All teams MUST have even distribution of TRAVEL players**, regardless of the level (“A”, “B” or “C”). i.e.: All “A” team players MUST be split up evenly, all “B” team players MUST be split up evenly, etc.

Each township’s in-house rules and regulations on allowing Travel League players to participate in the Pinelands League is in effect.

**THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!** Any team that **DOES NOT** adhere to this rule, will **NOT** be eligible to participate in the Pinelands League.

**Rosters MUST be submitted** to the acting Pinelands League Commissioner before the start of the regular season indicating all players names, uniform #, grade and indicating if they are a Travel Player. If a roster is late or a roster violation occurs, the team shall lose by forfeit. Rosters shall be frozen as of the second match

### **PLAYING OF THE GAME**

**Number of Coaches** – No more than three (3) coaches are authorized for each team and must be

listed on the team roster. Only coaches listed may be with the team during a match.

### **Substitutions** - See Below

**Division 3** substitutions will be allowed at the first stoppage around the **6-minute mark** in each quarter by the referee. Substitutions are also permitted during quarter and half time intervals, except for an injured player or between periods of extended play.

**Division 1 and 2** may substitute as follows:

1. At quarter and half.
2. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor (or if BOTH coaches agree before the game that substitution can be made by either team regardless of who has the throw-in)
3. Prior to a goal kick by either team
4. After a goal by either team
5. For an injured player. Only the injured player may be substituted for. The injured player may return at first opportunity

A bleeding player must come out of the match until the bleeding stops. Also any bloody uniform must be changed before the player may re-enter the match. It is required that coaches have a spare jersey and players may want to carry an extra pair of shorts.

### **Players Equipment**

- Players shall wear a matching team uniform jersey for all matches.
- Each player other than the goalkeeper will have an identification number on their team shirt.
- If a uniform color conflict occurs, the HOME team must change color, or wear pinnies etc. Goalkeepers must wear a contrasting color to stand out from the other players.
- Soccer shoes are recommended and shin guards are required.
- Sweatpants are permitted. No hats or hoods are permitted.
- The goalkeeper may wear a hat with the referee's permission if sunshine creates a disadvantage.
- No jewelry, earrings, watches or hard hair pieces are permitted.
- Boys: Cups are recommended (NOT REQUIRED) for all players.
- No Player may play with a hard cast on any part of the body, unless the cast is properly padded or is legal sports cast, and is not dangerous in the opinion of the referee.

**New Jersey Protective Sports Eyewear Law**: Requires any child who wears corrective eyeglasses while participating in soccer, sponsored by a community, shall be required to wear protective eyewear that meets the he frames standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials and lens standards of the American National Standards Institute.

Each township shall make their own decision that requires all children to abide by **New Jersey Protective Sports Eyewear Law**

## **Referees/Linesman**

The home team shall provide at least **one (1) Certified Referee** for all matches.

The home team shall provide a referee(s) at a minimum of 2 school grade levels above the match to be officiated. (i.e.: a referee must be at least the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to referee a Division 3 match, or in HS to referee and Division 1 or 2 match) . If a referee is under 4 school grades, a 2nd Certified referee, that meets the age requirements above, MUST also be used to officiate the match.

A referee may not officiate a match in which any member of his or her immediate family is a team member or a coach, unless both coaches agree to the referee prior to the match.

Coaching from the touchline opposite the team bench is NOT permitted. The referee may prohibit coaching from either touch line if a coach is not coaching in a positive constructive manner.

It is recommended that Division 3 Referees should clarify all calls/fouls, so that players understand the call/foul.

If the referee(s) are a no show, the coaches will mutually determine if they will play or not and who will referee the match. If the match is played, the outcome counts and no change shall be made after the match is played.

**Linesman** - Use of 2 linesmen for every match is recommended. They may be an official or township provided. If an official or township provides linesman is used, then each team must provide one club linesman. Linesman is not permitted to “coach” from the sideline.

## **Duration of the Match**

**Division 3** - four 12-minute quarters (48 minutes)

**Division 2** - four 15-minute quarters (60 minutes)

**Division 1** - two 35-minute halves (70 minutes)

Every match shall have a 2-minute interval between each quarter and 5 minutes at half-time. Each quarter shall begin with a kickoff, alternating teams. At half-time, teams shall switch goals.

**Cancellations** – Cancelled matches due to weather conditions/field conditions must be rescheduled as soon as possible. Coaches must notify their respective commissioners of the cancellation and seek help to reschedule, if necessary. All games must be rescheduled prior to the last week of the regular season. Each township shall reschedule their own cancelled matches.

The township Soccer Commissioner is responsible for calling off a match due to weather and/or field conditions. The visiting coach and assigned referees should be notified at least **1 hour prior** to the match start time. After the match has begun, the referee shall have the authority to terminate the match.

**Forfeits** - If either team fails to field a team within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time that team forfeits the match and a score of 1-0 by reason of forfeit shall be reported. If neither team is able to field a legal team, a double forfeit shall be declared with no winner.

## **RULES OF THE GAME**

### **Off-Sides**

- A. A player is in an off-sides position if he is nearer his opponent's goal than the ball unless:
  - 1. He is in his own half of the field, or
  - 2. Two opponents (including the goalie) are nearer there goal than he is.
- B. A player can be declared offside at the moment that the ball touches or is played by one of his team while he is in an off-side position, if in the opinion of the referee he is:
  - 1. Interfering with play (e.g. passed to him);
  - 2. Interfering with (e.g. obstructs) an opponent;
  - 3. Seeking to gain an advantage by being off-sides.
- C. A player CANNOT BE DECLARED OFF-SIDE merely for being in an off-side position or if he received the ball directly from a goal-kick, corner-kick, or throw-in or when the ball has been dropped by the referee to restart play.
- D. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award the opposing team an indirect free-kick from the place where the off-side occurred.

**Fouls and Misconduct** - The following FIFA rules shall apply for all divisions, unless otherwise noted.

**Goalkeeper Possession** - Goalkeepers shall not be touched or approached in a violent manner while in possession of the ball. The Goalkeeper shall be considered in possession if he has maintained control with one hand on the ball or is bouncing or throwing it into the air and catching it. Rolling the ball, but not actually touching it shall not be considered possession. Possession shall resume as soon as the Goalkeeper again touches the ball.

A player cannot deliberately kick the ball back to his own Goalkeeper and the Keeper plays the ball with his hands. The penalty is an indirect free-kick at the place the Keeper touched the ball.

The following intentional fouls will result in the referee awarding a **direct-kick** to the opposing team from the place that the foul occurred:

1. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
2. Trips an opponent.
3. Jumps at an opponent.
4. Charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner.
5. Charges an opponent from behind (spinal area).
6. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
7. Holds an opponent.
8. Pushes an opponent.
9. Handles the ball (N/A to goalie in own penalty area).
10. Tackles an opponent prior to contact with the ball.

**Note:** If any of these 10 fouls are committed by a defensive player in his own Penalty Area, a **penalty kick** shall be awarded to the opposing team.

The following intentional fouls will result in the referee awarding an **indirect-kick** to the opposing team from the place that the foul occurred:

1. Dangerous play (e.g. attempting to kick ball in possession of goalie or kicking too high in proximity to other players).
2. Charging fairly (shoulder block) when ball not within playing distance and players not making play for the ball.
3. Intentionally obstructing opponent when not playing the ball.
4. Charging the Goalie in his Goal-Area (see FIFA rules for details).
5. If Goalie has ball and delays the match.
6. Offside

### **Throw-Ins**

- A. A throw-in shall be directed whenever the whole ball passes entirely outside the Touch (side) Line at the point where it crossed the line. The ball will be thrown in by a player of the team opposite to that who last touched the ball.
- B. The thrower at the moment of the delivery must:
  1. Face the field of play with some part of his body.
  2. Have part of each foot on the ground, on or outside the Touch-Line.
  3. Use both hands to deliver the throw. No flip or tumble throws.
  4. Have delivered the ball from behind and over the head.
- C. A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw-in.
- D. A player in an off side position may fairly receive the throw directly.
- E. If the ball is thrown improperly, the opposing team will be awarded a throw-in from the same position. No "Second Chance" throw-ins are permitted.

- F. The thrower cannot play the ball a second time before it is touched by another player. If he does, an indirect free-kick will be awarded his opponents.
- G. A throw-in may not go to the goalkeeper.
- H. For Division 3 (3/4 grade), 1 Do-over for a bad throw in is allowed. The coach and/or referee is encouraged to teach the player on what they did wrong and try to correct.

**Slide Tackling** is **permitted** at all Divisions (1, 2 and 3) provide the tackle is legal, as determined by the referee: from the front and the side, provided the ball is touched first. Slide Tackling is **not permitted** from behind.

**Advantage Rule** The referee need not call a foul during the match if in his opinion, the team against whom the foul is committed acquires the advantage in play immediately after the foul.

### **Reporting Scores / Protest / Cautions and Ejections**

Each coach shall report the score of the match to the Township Soccer Commissioner within one day.

**Protest** If a coach wishes to officially protest the outcome of a match, he must inform the opposing coach and the referee immediately following the match. The protest shall be submitted in writing via email to both the Township Soccer Commissioners and the Pinelands Soccer Commissioner within 24 hours.

No protests are permitted on judgement calls by the official, only rule interpretations may be protested. The Pinelands Soccer Commissioner shall judge the protest after consultation with the appropriate township Soccer Commissioners, coaches and/or witnesses. The Pinelands Soccer Commissioners judgment is final.

**Cautions/Ejections** If any parent, spectator, coach, bench personnel or player is cautioned (**YELLOW CARD**) or ejected (**RED CARD**) , this must be reported in an email to both Township Soccer Commissioners of the teams involved and to the acting Pinelands Soccer Commissioner, with a description of the incident or misconduct, within one day of the incident.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS !**

A parent , spectator, coach, bench personnel, or player shall be cautioned (**YELLOW CARD**) for:

1. Entering or leaving the field of play (except through the normal course of play) without the permission of the official.
2. Persistent infringement of any of the rules of the match.
3. Objecting by word of mouth or action to any decision given by an official; (dissent)



4. Displays unsportsmanlike conduct.

A cautioned player (**YELLOW CARD**) **MUST** be substituted for and may reenter at the next legal substitution.

Two (2) (**YELLOW CARD**) for the same player in a match and the player **MUST** leave the match and playing area and may not be substituted for, but may play in the next match.

Two **YELLOW CARD** for the same parent , spectator, coach, bench personnel in a match, that individual **MUST** leave the playing area. The coach or bench personnel are allowed to participate in the next match.

A parent , spectator, coach, bench personnel, or player shall be ejected (**RED CARD**) for:

1. Violent conduct or serious foul play.
2. Abusive or foul language.
3. Persistent misconduct after being cautioned.

**ANY** parent , spectator, coach, bench personnel, or player ejected (**RED CARD MUST**) leave the match, and playing area immediately, and may not be substituted for. The player ejected cannot play in the next match and the coach or bench personnel cannot coach or be on the team sideline in the next match.

If the referee stops the match to caution or expel a player, play shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick by the opposing team from the position where the infringement occurred.

Any player or coach ejected (**RED CARD**) from two or more matches will be asked to meet with the Township Soccer Commissioners and the Pinelands Soccer Commissioner for each subsequent offense to determine the seriousness of the offense and additional suspensions to be imposed.

**The following rule will be used to manage competitiveness:**

**If a team is ahead in a match by more than 5 goals, (i.e.: 6-0, 7-1, etc.) that team MUST pull a player off the field and play one man down. If a team is ahead in a match by more than 6 goals (i.e.: 7-0, 8-1) that team **MUST** pull a second player off the field and play two men down, etc. Team is allowed to re-enter player(s) should opposing team score a goal(s). Utilize common sense to show sportsmanship.**

1. First Violation - Warning from league to head coach.
2. Second Violation - 1 match suspension of the head coach.

3. Third Violation - Suspension for remainder of season, including tournament.

Note - The head coach is responsible for results as it pertains to this rule even if he/she is not present at match(s) in question.

### **Year- End Tournaments**

The following year-end tournaments will be held on November 16 & 17. All teams must participate for each township. Commissioners should notify coaches and they should communicate the tournament information early in the season and appropriately to assure full participation.

Division 3	TBD
Division 2	TBD
Division 1	TBD

Any changes to hosting township or date must be approved by Pinelands League Commissioner and Township Commissioners

All teams in a division **MUST** participate in the tournament in order other teams to participate (i.e.: If you have 4 teams in Division 3 Boys, all 4 teams must participate. If one team does not choose to participate, then all four teams are ineligible)

Pinelands League Rule applies to all Tournaments. Each township hosting the tournament is permitted to determine their extra time/overtime rules.

The cost per team for tournament participation is \$200 per team for a single elimination and \$300 for double elimination. **All tournaments shall try to make a double elimination or at least consolation games to have 2 games for all teams.**

Revision, July 2013  
Dave Curtis, Pinelands Soccer Commissioner