

VERMONT SOCCER LEAGUE Divisional Rules and Guidelines

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I. MISSION STATEMENT

ABOUT VSL

Vermont Soccer League, (VSL) is presented by the Vermont Soccer Association (VSA) which is under U.S Youth Soccer and United States Soccer Federation (USSF). VSA is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to fostering the physical, mental, and emotional growth and development of Vermont's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

MISSION STATEMENT

VSA develops, implements, and governs youth soccer programs through education, training, and experience and provides oversight in the development and solidification of soccer clubs in Vermont. Our objective is to provide a safe, rewarding, and fun experience that will instill a lifelong passion for the sport in our young players.

II. GOAL

It is the goal of the VSL to bring out the joy that the game of soccer can provide our youth. To offer players competition at comparable level, within multiple play divisions throughout the state of Vermont, fueling their passion no matter what level of play, challenging the individual to grow, teaching them to persevere, and to recognize the strength of character that can come from contributing to their teammates and their communities.

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III. DIVISIONAL PLAY

DIVISION ONE (D1)

Division 1 is the premier level of play in the VSL. As D1 is the league's highest level of play we require member clubs to accurately assess their team's ability to compete at this level. Clubs and teams competing at this level will have a commitment that parallels this level of play. This may include a more rigorous training approach, a more competitive atmosphere, and a more extensive travel schedule.

The VSL's D1 is a qualifying league for participation in Vermont Soccer Association (VSA) State Cup. This competition establishes a State Champion in each gender and age bracket U12 -U19. Teams winning State Cup can participate in the US Youth Soccer (USYS) Region 1 National Championship Series.

Brackets

Divisions will be created by the league for Boys and Girls at U10, U12, U14, U16, and U19. Division composition will take into consideration number of teams registered within each age group and the skill level of those teams, to provide the most competitive and appropriate level of play.

If an insufficient number of teams register within any given age group, VSL will look to provide the next most competitive seeding available, it will be the club's discretion as to accept this placement or not.

Roster Size:

State Cup

Teams competing in Vermont Soccer Association State Cup Championships are required to follow the roster rules set forth by USYS and VSA.

VSL

Teams competing in the VSL will have these set requirements:

- U10 minimum of 7 players on the roster
- U11 and U12 minimum of 9 players on the roster
- U13 thru U19 minimum of 11 players on the roster

Commented [K1]: We had set a roster limit since the teams were competing in the same division, but not for state cup. With President's Cup, there should be a consistent number of players on clubs who are planning on playing in any sanctioned tournament, but most teams will pare down the roster if they have more players than are allowed for the tournament.

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Club Passing

Club passing allows a club to play a player currently registered in their club on any age-appropriate team within their club.

D1 Teams may Club Pass players under the following rules:

- Club Pass players must be rostered on a team as a Primary Player within the SAME CLUB.
- Club Pass players can play within their age or in the next age group just above.
- Club Pass players may not play down from the D1 division to the D3 division.
- Club Pass players must be listed as such (CP) on the match card for games they club pass in. The Referee may keep this roster as a record of the Club player(s) participation.

Dual Rostering

There is no dual rosters within your club.

No player may be listed as a primary player on more than one D1 roster.

The VSL does allow a player to roster with a second club if it is on a roster that plays in a division that is different from their primary team's division. No player shall dually roster within the same division. Players listed as primary on a D1 roster should not dually roster to a D3 team.

DIVISION TWO (D2)

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Division 2 is our second tier of play within the VSL. It is a competitive level of play that is suited to those teams with players that have travel team experience. May consist of players in their second year of age bracket play or a team that has achieved a higher competitive edge.

While the commitment for D2 will include travel to communities that are within approximately a 60-minute travel time; additional travel time may be expected for a small percentage of the games. Training schedule is to be determined by individual Club and or Coach.

Clubs should consider D2 if:

- Their teams have returning players primarily in the older year of the 2-year bracket
- Their club builds rosters based on player evaluations, selecting first and second teams.
- Their team has a strong nucleus of players that have developed a skill level beyond the rec level.

D 2 Brackets

Brackets will be developed based on the number of teams registered within an age bracket. Geographic location, equity of play level and club mix will be factors considered while building these brackets. Brackets will be created for U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U19 both Boys and Girls.

Roster Size

Roster minimums are mandated

- U8 – no less than 5 players
- U10 – no less than 7 players
- U12 – no less than 9 players
- U14 thru U19 – no less than 11 players

Roster maximum size in D2 is not mandated, but recommendations are:

- U8 – no more than 10 players
- U10 – no more than 13 players
- U12 – no more than 17 players
- U14 thru U19 – no more than 21 players

Club Passing

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Club passing allows a club to play a player currently registered in their club on any age-appropriate team within their club.

D2 Teams may Club Pass players under the following rules:

- Club Pass players must be rostered on a team as a Primary Player within the SAME CLUB.
- Club Pass players can play within their age or in the next age group just above.
- Club Pass players must be listed as such (CP) on the match card for games they club pass in. The Referee may keep this roster as a record of the Club player(s) participation.

Dual Rostering

There is no dual rostering within your club.

No player may be listed as a primary player on more than one D1 roster.

The VSL does allow a player to roster with a second club if it is on a roster that plays in a division that is different from their primary team's division. No player shall dually roster within the same division.

DIVISION THREE (D3)

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Division Three provides travel team entry-level competition and is open to all member clubs whose teams match this level of play. D3 is designed to serve as an introduction to competitive soccer. Clubs with teams that are not deep in experience or skills will have the opportunity to develop and grow while enjoying the spirit of the game. While the commitment for D3 includes travel to communities that are within a one-hour travel time; additional travel time may be expected for a small percentage of the games scheduled. Training schedule is to be determined by individual Club and or Coach.

Clubs should consider placement of teams in D3 if:

- The team is primarily players new to the game.
- The team is primarily players in the first year of the 2-year grouping.
- Club teams are established by registration only, without tryouts or assessment
- Teams that are looking for entry-level travel team competition and commitment

Brackets

Brackets will be developed to accommodate the number of teams and quality of the teams submitted. Brackets will be created for U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, and U19 Boys and Girls. Geographic proximity will be a priority in developing U8 game brackets.

VSL Roster Size

Roster minimums are mandated

- U8 – no less than 5 players
- U10 – no less than 7 players
- U12 – no less than 9 players
- U14 thru U19 – no less than 11 players

Roster maximum size is not mandated, but recommendations are:

- U8 – no more than 10 players
- U10 – no more than 13 players
- U12 – no more than 17 players
- U14 thru U19 – no more than 21 players

Club Passing

Club passing allows a club to play a player currently registered in their club on any age-appropriate team within their club.

D3 Teams may Club Pass players under the following rules:

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- Club Pass players must be rostered on a team as a Primary Player within the SAME CLUB.
- Club Pass players can play within their age or in the next age group just above.
- Club Pass players in a game must be listed as such (CP) on the match card. The Referee may keep this roster as a record of the Club player(s) participation.

Dual Rostering

There is no dual rostering within your club.

No player may be listed as a primary player on more than one D1 roster.

The VSL does allow a player to roster with a second club if it is on a roster that plays in a division that is different from their primary team's division. No player shall dually roster within the same division.

IV. ROSTERS AND PLAYER PASSES

To participate in any VSL match all teams must have an approved roster issued by the VSA. Players on a roster must have a photo loaded to their profile and their age verified by the VSA.

Coaches

All teams must have a coach assigned on a team's roster. The team coach or a club coach that has their coach requirements current must be present on the sidelines of the field for the duration of their game. If a team does not have a coach or assistant coach with their requirements current present for the duration of the game, the referee may declare a forfeit by the offending team with a differential of minus 3 goals posted.

Rosters

If the team does not present their Roster, the game will be reported by the Referee as a forfeit by the offending team with a minus 3 goal differential posted. If both teams do not present their Roster, both teams will forfeit this match and will both receive the minus 3 goal differential. There will be no refund of referee fees and fines may apply.

Players not on the team roster will not be allowed to play. Club Pass Players should be added to the game roster and designated as such.

Any player discovered to have participated in a match and not listed properly on a roster will cause the match to be listed as a forfeit for the offending team.

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Roster and Player Pass Review for Matches

Fifteen minutes prior to the start of the match, players line up in front of their bench on the sideline. The Referee will then verify each Player from the official Team Roster or the Match Card.

Player Cards

Player Cards can be provided for teams that are entering into competitions that have them required. Please allow adequate time to produce once your roster is set. (min. 1 week)

Roster Freeze Dates for State Cup Teams

A roster freeze date will be established by the VSA in accordance with the requirements of Region 1 National Championship Series. Rosters for teams participating in Vermont State Cup may only be altered pursuant to USYS rules for additions, drops, and transfers. Deadlines for declaring the freezing of rosters will be determined on a yearly basis by the VSA.

Roster Freeze Dates for Non-State Cup Teams

Rosters, which are processed by the VSA, may be revised at any time during the season. The following requirements are met:

- Roster reissue fees are paid to VSA at the time of reissue
- Players being added to a roster must not be in violation of the terms of VSA Player Recruiting Policy.
- Clubs must allow the VSA adequate time to process the revision. (Two days minimum)

V. Match Scheduling – Postponements & Cancellations

Schedule

The league schedule is the responsibility of the VSL League Coordinator. The official league schedule that clubs are required to follow will be posted on the official league web site. Clubs must ensure all their teams make every effort to attend all games scheduled for their club during the season. Once the final schedule is issued to the member clubs by the league, there are restrictions regarding ability to reschedule games as official league games.

Member Clubs are responsible for ensuring their coaches, players and parents are familiar with the VSL rules regarding postponements due to weather, field conditions and officials. That all are aware of the rescheduling process, travel expectations, and the penalties forfeits may incur.

Postponements

Last update January 1, 2023

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- For purposes of definition, we will call all games that the determination is made to postpone for a reason deemed acceptable and in accordance with league guidelines as “Postponed”. Postponements can be re-scheduled as league games.

Acceptable reasons for postponing and rescheduling as an official league game are:

- “Unplayable” field conditions - a game ‘called’ by a referee due to unplayable field conditions (standing water) or Home Club giving advanced warning their fields will not be playable.
- Weather - a game “called” by a referee due to weather (lightning – see Lightning Policy)
- Absence of game official – if no officials are assigned and if a mutual agreement between both teams on an acceptable officiating option that is in line with VSA requirements cannot be made.
- State Cup game conflicts
- ODP Tournament or Match play

Protocol for Postponements

The timing of and the confirmation of the communication are the two main concerns.

Requests for postponements should be made by the club director, scheduler, or admin directly to the league director. Coaches should not reach out directly, they should work through a designated club official.

If and or when a request is approved, it is then designated a postponement and rescheduling can move forward.

Inside of 24hrs prior to the start of a game referees are paid full game fee regardless of postponement/cancellation. (exception- see appearance fee-referees)

Unplayable Field –

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- The host team can make the call on an unplayable field. **Confirmed** contact with the visiting team, game officials and VSA office is required and is the cancelling team's responsibility
 - Notification should be made as early as possible. Understood that weather can have late impact on field conditions; for weekday games -confirmed contact needs to be made 6 hrs ahead of the match, for weekend games - confirmed contact to be made Friday by 5:00pm prior to that weekend.

Inside of these times- **only the game official** can make the call to postpone the game due to field conditions.

Weather-

- Weather in Vermont can change on the hour, it can be difficult to work the balance of travel vs. likelihood for play.
- To cancel the day of a game, confirmed contact must be made with the opposing team, game officials and VSA office.
- Inside of 24 hr window – game officials are PAID in FULL regardless of game status.
- If confirmed contact CANNOT be made teams are expected to show. If the game official deems the game was playable any “no show” team/s will receive a forfeit and subject to fines. The match will not be rescheduled.
- Prospect of postponement should be initiated by the HOME Team.
- Teams that are “no shows” without any confirmed confirmation are subject to forfeit fines.
- Day of the game – Officials may decide; to postpone play or to suspend play based on their judgement in regard to player safety. (see VSL Lightning Policy)

Officials

- Absence of Officials- It is possible to know prior to the match by checking your match card that no official has been assigned. If a

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situation presents that it is known no referee has been assigned to the game, a request can be made to reschedule. Confirmed contact should be made 6 hrs prior to the match with VSA and opposing team to confirm rescheduling. If the scenario presents at game time and the two teams can agree to a substitute official that is acceptable and falls within VSL guidelines* the match may be played. If agreement cannot be made, and the match is not played the home team can contact the VSA, regarding rescheduling.

State Cup conflict-

- If a team develops a conflict due to scheduling of a Vermont State Cup match, they may work with the opposing team to arrange a mutually agreed upon re-schedule date and time. The conflicted Club Coordinator must contact the VSA Office to confirm new date and time and to schedule officials for the rescheduled match. The conflict should be made known as soon as it arises.

ODP conflict-

- If a team develops a conflict due to scheduling of a ODP match, they may work with the opposing team to arrange a mutually agreed upon re-schedule date and time. The conflicted Club Coordinator must contact the VSA Office to confirm new date and time and to schedule officials for the rescheduled match. The conflict should be made known as soon as it arises.

ALL POSTPONEMENTS – Once the VSL schedule is locked those dates are final. Any emergency request for change must have the reason communicated by a club's director, admin, or scheduler and approved by the VSA Office. Once / If approval is granted then it becomes officially POSTPONED. Teams are then able to confer with opponents regarding options for reschedule. Teams may not make the determination on their own and just switch schedules. The league recognizes things occur in-season and will work with clubs, but it will be the sole discretion of the VSA office as to the status of amending schedule.

*Substitute Official – VSL does allow for a club member on a current official VSA roster to officiate a match as a substitute official. Expectation is that both teams mutually agree that the person is an acceptable and capable substitute for officiating the match. If both teams are not in agreement the match may be postponed and re-scheduled for a later date and time.

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Rescheduling Procedure

To reschedule an approved postponement or a game called by an official due to weather the home club coordinator must:

- 1) Confirm match number to be rescheduled with the VSA Office.
- 2) Confirm a reschedule date, time and location that has been mutually agreed upon by both teams, with an advance notice of at least 3 days.
- 3) Teams should act in good faith regarding efforts to reschedule. If determined they have not, they are subject to forfeiture of the match.

Forfeits

- For purposes of definition, we will call all games that are not played that fall outside of reasons deemed acceptable and in accordance with league guidelines as “ Forfeits” and a forfeit will be recorded for the offending team/s. Forfeits will not be re-scheduled as league games.
- Every effort should be made to avoid forfeits due to cancellation of league games but if occurring the team/s responsible for causing a forfeit must:
 - :
 - Make confirmed contact with; the VSA office, the opposing team and the VSL referee assignor at least 24 hours ahead of the scheduled match or be subject to full ref fees for that match.
 - Sending an email with no response is inadequate, you must receive confirmed receipt of the communication. This will avoid the opposing team and the officials from having to travel needlessly to the venue.
- The team necessitating the forfeit shall have the match declared as such and the offending team will have a differential of minus 3 goals posted. As well the team responsible for the cancellation shall be assessed a penalty of \$100 payable to the Vermont Soccer League.
- If the team responsible for the forfeit does not have confirmed contact with the opposing Club and game officials as per the timeframes listed above the forfeit penalty assessed will be \$200 and include all official's fees for the match and any venue cost if incurred by the home team.
- Clubs with repeated forfeits, especially those that do not give proper notice are subject to additional penalties, sanctions or fines that may be imposed at

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the discretion of the VSA Board. A team with two or more forfeitures during a season may also be subject to loss of home games in the successive season.

- Teams with unpaid forfeiture fines will be deemed in “bad standing” and subject to suspension of play in successive seasons.
- Forfeited games may be re- scheduled as “Friendlies”. However, these will not be a VSL sanctioned game, will not have referees assigned through the VSL, and the result will not be reflected in VSL records of game results.

OFFICIALS APPEARANCE/ GAME FEES-

- Officials will receive only an appearance fee if they come to the field, and they make the call to postpone before it starts. Officials receive full game fee if the game is postponed due to weather during either half.
- Officials will receive the full game fee if for any reason the game is deemed a FORFEIT. The Offending team will be solely responsible for these official's fees.

Referee No Shows

Coaches should inform their Club Coordinators. Club Coordinators should contact the VSA Office within 48 hours of the scheduled game to inform of referee no-shows.

Late Arrival

The referee and the teams should be present at the field at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start. A forfeit may be claimed if a team arrives more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start

LIGHTNING POLICY

In the event of lightning, the below guidelines will be followed during games, tournaments, practices, clinics and any other Vermont Soccer Association sanctioned events:

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The "30/30 Rule" should be followed when evaluating lightning danger: if lightning is 30 seconds or less away, it is too close, and do not resume play for 30 minutes from the last seen flash or last heard thunder. Inside of 30 wait 30.

The "Flash-to Bang" Method is the easiest and most convenient means for determining distance to the Lightning flash, which is integral to assessing the need to postpone or suspend an activity.

To us the flash to bang method, the observer begins counting when a lightning flash is sighted. Counting stops when the associated thunder is heard.

Divide this count by 5 to determine the distance to the lightning flash (in miles).

Example: A count of 30 seconds equates to 6 miles. -

By the time the flash to bang approaches 30 seconds, all individuals should be inside or should be immediately seeking a safe structure location. -

Be proactive with the flash to bang rule. Indecisiveness creates a life-threatening situation. -

Lightning should be monitored with the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no

Matter how far away the storm is. It is critical to monitor how far away the Lightning is occurring and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of a safe shelter. -

If play is suspended, all individuals, including athletes, coaches, referees, and spectators, should immediately go indoors or to their cars to wait for the storm to pass. If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. -

A person who feels his or her hair stand on end or his or her skin tingle should immediately crouch down with only the balls of their feet touching the ground.

Minimize contact with the ground because lightning current can enter a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. Do not lie flat. -

Avoid using landline telephones during a storm.

Resumption

-

For resumption follow the 30 -minute rule

: Play should not be resumed until 30 minutes have passed since the last flash of lightning or clap of thunder.

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All games will resume at the point of stoppage. However, in the event that a game cannot resume after one hour, Vermont State Cup Rule G.8 applies: a game will be considered a completed game if it was suspended in the second half. If the game was suspended, any earlier, it must be replayed.

Chain of Command

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Utilize the chain of command listed below to determine who monitors threatening weather and who makes the decision to remove a team, or individuals (participants and spectators) from a Vermont Soccer Association site or event.

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If lightning occurs during a game, the game officials are responsible for monitoring weather conditions. The center referee shall decide whether play will start or continue, and when play resumes. The assistance referees shall help monitor the storm and will make sure that the center referee is made aware of its intensification or proximity. Any coach who becomes concerned about weather conditions should advise the nearest assistant referee. The team coaches are responsible for ensuring that their players are safe during the storm.-

If lightning occurs during a Vermont Soccer Association tournament, the VSA tournament staff has the right to suspend play should they deem necessary. The VSA staff will be responsible for communicating that play is suspended and for clearing the fields

VI. RECRUITING OF PLAYERS

The VSL adheres to the policy and guidelines of the VSA regarding the recruitment of players, which is outlined below.

Recruitment of player(s) actively playing for any other team is prohibited, except as specifically provided in this rule. A player is actively playing for another team if the player appears on an official team roster certified by an authorized representative of Vermont Soccer Association for the current Soccer Year OR has signed a contract **OR** paid a deposit for the upcoming seasonal Soccer Year.

The current Soccer Year begins September 1 of each calendar year (the "Soccer Year"). Recruitment will be allowed between July 1 and September 30 of each seasonal year.

No adult registered with Vermont Soccer Association as a volunteer (administrator, coach, trainer or booster) shall recruit players actively playing for another team for participation in their program during the Soccer Year.

No adult volunteer may encourage players within their program to recruit players actively playing for another team during the Soccer Year.

This rule does not prohibit the communication or publication of open tryouts to the general public, or the conduct of open tryouts.

Recruitment includes the following activity:

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1. Communicating with a player or parent about that player's participation in a club or a team.
2. Inducing, soliciting or otherwise using current players, or their parents, to persuade players from another team to transfer.
3. Providing incentives to players such as reductions in fees, trips, uniforms, and other equipment, other than financial aid with respect to Club fees in cases of financial need or hardship.
4. Using a position of authority to persuade a player to transfer from one team to another. This shall include adults involved with the State ODP program, adults involved with clinics and soccer camps, and adults involved with High School programs or other programs such as indoor soccer. This includes from division to division and well as club to club.
5. **Special Rules Applicable to Coaches**
 1. All rules pertaining to recruiting shall be strictly adhered to by coach, manager, and all team representatives. Compliance with these rules shall be the responsibility of the coach. Violations of this rule may be regarded as violations of the Coaches Code of Conduct and subject to Vermont Soccer Association's Disciplinary Policy.
 2. Any direct contact with a player or parent with the intent to recruit must begin with an inquiry as to the player's current status, with any other team.
 3. Continuing any contact with a player or parent after learning that the player is actively playing for another team is prohibited.
 4. Discussing a club or program with a player from another team (after being contacted first) without notifying the player's parents is prohibited.
 5. At all times when discussing the advantages of his/her Club, program or organization, the coach has an obligation to be truthful, forthright and refrain from making derogatory remarks regarding other coaches, teams and organizations.
 6. No coach may make a statement, at any time, to a prospective athlete that cannot be verified as true or promise any kind of compensation or inducement for play.
 7. Once an authorized direct contact with a player has been made, no further contact with that player may be made without the express consent of the player's parent or legal guardian.

Penalties

When any player is recruited in violation of these rules this shall subject the coach and Club to further sanction that may be imposed by the VSA BOD.

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VII. ZERO TOLERANCE

Vermont Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Policy

Is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every member of this organization is responsible for protecting our participants and ensuring their safety and well-being while involved in sponsored activities. To this end, we have established the following guidelines of behavior and procedures for our staff, volunteers and participants. All members of this organization, as well as parents, spectators and other invitees are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.

1. Abuse of any kind is not permitted within our organization. This means we do not tolerate physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, referees, officials, volunteers, parents or spectators.
2. Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within our organization.
3. Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include but are not limited to such forms of abuse as: yelling, insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements regarding a person's race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age.
4. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our players, participants and staff. We do so by appointing all coaches, officials and volunteers and anyone else affiliated with our organization – as protection advocates. Every member of this organization is responsible for reporting to their Club Risk Management Director, any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward our members by any coach, referee, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling or spectator. If a club has no Risk Management Director, then complaint should be reported directly to the Vermont Soccer Association Risk Management Coordinator.
5. Buddy System: We recommend that every activity sponsored by our program put a Buddy System in place. Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere –to the bathrooms, locker rooms or other location – without his or her buddy.
6. To further protect our youth participants, as well as our coaches and volunteers, we strongly advise that no adult person allow him/herself to be alone with a child (other than their own) or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, we recommend that coaches or other adult members of this organization:
 - a. Do not drive alone with a child participant in the car.

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- b. Do not take a child alone to the locker room, bathrooms or any other private room.
 - c. Provide one -on-one training or individual coaching with the assistance of another adult or the child's Buddy.
 - d. If you must have a private conversation with a youth participant, do it within view of others, in the gym or on the field, instead of in a private office.
 - e. Coaches and other adult members of this organization should not socialize individually with the participants outside of sponsored activities.
7. Supervision/Chaperone ratio: We recommend that for any sponsored activity, the ratio of adults to youth participants be 1:8 – one (or more) adults for every eight children, with a minimum of two adults for every activity.
8. When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of same gender and similar age group or with their own parents, with chaperones in separate, but nearby rooms.
9. We want to empower our children to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns, fears and hopes are important by listening to them. Open communication between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface.
10. We encourage parents to be present at sponsored activities, games, practices and other events. The more the parents are involved, the less likely it is for abusive situations to develop.
11. We will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the authorities for investigation and will be reviewed by the organization's Risk Management Director and/or President. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly. Vermont Soccer Association will be copied on all correspondence.
12. Any person accused of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended by the board until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his/her former position.
13. We promote good sportsmanship throughout the organization and encourage qualities of mutual respect, courtesy and tolerance in all participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators. We advocate building strong self-images among the youth participants. Children with a strong self-image may be less likely targets for abuse; similarly, they may be less likely to abuse or bully others around them

Spectating

VSL requires our spectators adhere to the Zero Tolerance Policy. Expectation is that Club Officials will work in support of game officials to enforce

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this policy. Refs speak to coach; coach speaks to the spectator. Games with spectators found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to suspension of play until said spectator has left the venue, a coach's suspension and or a team forfeit.

Spectators are obliged to view the game from the field's designated viewing area, if the area is not defined it is observed to be the side of the field opposite of the player's benches. Officials may stop play to gain compliance.

Red Cards

Any player issued a Red Card in a VSL match will automatically serve a 1 game suspension. That suspension match will be the next scheduled match for the player's primary team. All cards will be reviewed by the VSA, the VSA reserves the right, at their discretion to add to the disciplinary measures based on the nature of the infraction and or any pattern of behavior that is unacceptable.

Per the VSA 's Players Code of Conduct, any VSA sanctioned event is applicable for these penalties if deemed warranted by VSA.