

## Vermont Soccer League

### **Mission:**

The Vermont Soccer League aims to provide its members with an intentional and structured competition platform responsible for managing and executing a league geared towards player development, intentional competition structure, and accessibility for all participants. The VSL operates in a professional manner to include the opportunity for all clubs wishing to participate, to find an appropriate competition platform and structure to best support team and player needs each season. With various divisions of play, and specific groupings within each division, the VSL supports the ability to provide our clubs with an organized, professional, and structured league that best supports every club, team, coach, and player.

### **Divisions:**

The league shall encompass three (3) divisions of play. D1 being the most competitive division and experience within the VSL. D2 being the second division and one for teams who have had prior experience within the VSL league. D3 being the third division and one for new teams in the VSL or newly assembled rosters for clubs.

### **Length of Season:**

The length of the season shall be determined by the Vermont Soccer Association Staff and shall be communicated each January at the Annual General Meeting to include spring and fall dates and timelines for the year.

### **Roster Sizes:**

The following is roster size minimums and maximums per roster. \*NOTE you may have as many players within an age group as you wish, but the minimums and maximums must be followed as presented below per team:

U8: 4 Minimum Players and No Maximum

U10: 7 Minimum Players and 14 Maximum Players Per Roster

U12: 9 Minimum Players and 18 Maximum Players Per Roster

U14: 11 Minimum Players and 22 Maximum Players Per Roster

### **Secondary Players:**

Clubs may utilize secondary players in the VSL. Players who are registered with a primary club and wish to be a secondary player must be approved as a secondary player, uploaded to the secondary clubs roster, pay the state fee for a secondary player to be added, and added to the team roster for the desired game(s).

Secondary players should prioritize their primary club first if any conflict or discrepancy arises.

IF a player is rostered as a primary and secondary player for two clubs, and the two clubs play one another, the registered player must play with their primary listed club for that match.

### **Club Passing:**

Club passing is the ability to move a player from a younger age group team within the same club, to an older team within that same club for a game.

Club passing can only occur within your own club and not with others.

Clubs may club pass players for any VSL games so long as the player is appropriately club-passed up for the desired game and matchday.

A player may NOT club pass down in younger age groups.

### **Roster Requirements:**

Teams participating in the VSL must have the following roster requirements completed to play: A designated and approved coach to the team. A team may have up to 2 listed assistant coaches as well as a team manager listed for the team as well.

If a team does not have a coach or assistant coach or team manager 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.

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

Teams must be checked in prior to each VSL game by the referee using the approved roster only. Players not listed on the matchday roster will not be eligible to play in the specific match at hand.

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.

If a 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.

### **Scheduling:**

The scheduling process for the Vermont Soccer League will be as follows: The VSL provides a yearly calendar each January reflecting VSL registration openings and deadlines, divisional groupings, team scheduling periods, final scheduling call, and final publishing dates.

Teams will register for the VSL and be placed into a divisional group based on team ability, location, and competitive history within the VSL alongside club member input and collaboration for team placement for each operational season.

As outlined by the VSL operational calendar, after the final divisional groups are published, teams will be provided a schedule of Home/Away fixtures for the respective season. Teams will have a scheduling period to finalize dates, times, locations, or any changes if needed.

A final scheduling call will be held for each divisional group prior to the final schedule being published to ensure all teams within each group are aligned and in agreement for all

match days, times, and locations.

Once the VSL final schedule is published, there should be no changes to the schedule. Changing a scheduled game or not participating in a scheduled game within the VSL is subject to fines and forfeiture, and may affect a team's future eligibility for certain divisions of play in the future.

**NOTE:** This does not include proper reschedule matches. Please see below for the appropriate process and procedure for rescheduling within the VSL.

### **Rescheduling:**

Rescheduling within the VSL should only occur if a previously scheduled game was postponed and verified to be rescheduled by VSA staff.

The rescheduling process should allow for both teams to work together to find a reschedule date for the designated game that needs to be rescheduled.

Once both teams approve a reschedule date, time, and location the VSA staff should be notified and referees notified and scheduled with the updated match information. The VSA staff may be used as an intermediary for rescheduling if desired, or if teams cannot agree on a reschedule of the game, VSA staff will do everything possible to ensure the match is played and accounted for.

If a team is unwilling to reschedule a verified postponed match, the team unwilling to reschedule is subject to a forfeit for the match.

If neither team reschedules the match prior to the league end date, both teams will remain on current points and games played with a loss of that match.

Teams should do everything to the best of their ability to reschedule any/all postponed games within a season.

### **Weather:**

All teams within the VSL should follow the Weather Guidelines as follows: A team may determine their home field as unplayable due to poor weather. The designated host team must contact the opposing team as well as the VSA to confirm field closure.

Teams affected by field closure should do everything possible to find a solution to have the match played that day before seeking rescheduling. Teams may change field location as well if possible to prioritize getting the game in if possible.

All teams will follow the extreme heat and cold guidelines listed in any scenario involving extreme heat or cold:

Extreme Heat Guidelines: [heat\\_guidelines.pdf](#)

Extreme Cold Guidelines: [cold\\_weather\\_guidelines.pdf](#)

### **Thunder and Lightning Policy:**

If lightning and/or thunder is observed the match shall be postponed for thirty (30) minutes from the last strike of thunder and/or lightning. All players, parents, coaches, and officials should wait in a safe place and be removed from the field of play. When the designated time is up, if safe to play, everyone may return to the field and start the match at the referee's discretion.

If lightning and thunder occur within the 30 minute delay the timer shall restart for thirty (30) minutes.

During a delay, if both teams agree, or the delay hits over ninety (90) minutes, the match may be officially called to reschedule. Both teams, referees, and VSA Staff shall be notified of any cancelled matches.

### **Officials**

Match officials will be assigned based on the following structure:

U8- No referee (Coach Led) (2x20 minute halves)

u9/10- 1 referee ( 2x25 minute halves)

u11/12- 3 referees ( 2x30 minute halves)

u13/14- 3 referees ( 2x35 minute halves)

u15/16- 3 referees ( 2x40 minute halves)

u17/18/19- 3 referees (2x45 minute halves)

Match officials should be paid the appropriate amount.

Only officials present at the match should be paid. If a match official is not present, teams should not pay towards the missing official and shall keep that designated money.

Each team should pay match officials as outlined directly by the Vermont Soccer Association.

The following pay structure for referees should be as follows:

U8- No Referee

u9/10- One Referee: 40 Dollars (20 per team)

u11/12- Three Referees: 48 Dollars/30 Dollars/30 Dollars (24/15/15 per team)

u13/14- Three Referees: 56 Dollars/36 Dollars/36 Dollars (28/18/18 per team)

u15/16- Three Referees: 64 Dollars/40 Dollars/40 Dollars (32/20/20 per team)

u17-u18/19- Three Referees: 72 Dollars/46 Dollars/46 Dollars (36/23/23 per team)

### **Forfeits**

If a team does not show for a match, uses an illegal player, does not have enough players, or the game cannot continue due to any specific team reasoning, the game shall be deemed a forfeit by the referee and the forfeit should be applied towards the offending team.

A forfeit must be officially determined by the referee on site, or come directly from the VSA Staff. Any individual team may not just deem a forfeit eligible without official approval from an onsite referee or VSA staff.

All forfeits should be communicated to VSA staff immediately.

Forfeits shall result in a 3-0 loss for the offending team for any match forfeited.

Forfeiting a game shall result in a fine deemed reasonable by VSA staff toward the offending team. Fines must be paid in full prior to returning to any VSL competition occurring after the fine is applied.

### **Recruitment of Players**

All player recruitment policies and procedures should be adhered to as outlined through the Vermont Soccer Association.

The recruitment of players is prohibited between September 1 and July 1 of each year.

Any team who is found to be in violation of the VSA recruitment policy may face suspension or termination from the Vermont Soccer League and its events.

If a team is found to have violated the recruitment policy within a VSL season, the team shall be removed and all games shall result in wins for the scheduled opposition as a 3-0 win for the entire duration of the active VSL season in progress.

### **Disciplinary**

The Vermont Soccer League abides by the VSA Zero Tolerance policy as well as an ambassador for player, team, and parent safety.

The VSL prioritizes the safety of all members and spectators at all times.

Offenses that disrupt the matchday environment are punishable by ejection, suspension, or termination from the VSL. Offenses include but are not limited to; fighting, foul language, discrimination, recklessness, or any offense that may put a member or spectator in danger or harm physically or verbally.

**Red Cards:** Red cards will be a 1 game suspension unless communicated otherwise directly from the VSL disciplinary committee. Any prolonged suspensions will come via email to the offending team no later than Wednesday following the offense.

The VSL, VSA, and matchday officials have the right to remove any player, coach, or spectator

that may disrupt or endanger the matchday environment. Removal can occur for a single match or a duration of time depending on the severity of the situation.

Spectators who are removed or disciplined may also jeopardize the eligibility of their respective team within the VSL if the offense cannot be resolved or continues without improvement.

Teams within the VSL agree to preserve the matchday environment and uphold the highest standards of respect, communication, and action on each matchday towards the officials, opposition, and spectators.