



KEY ELEMENTS

- Games are 8 v 8 (or 7 v 7) on 50 x 70 yard Bermuda grass fields with 7' x 21' goals
- Halves are 35 minutes in length. One ref per game
- Registration fee is \$980 per team
- Teams are co-ed. No team may have more than three male players 18-24 years old
- Single ref system of licensed and experienced officials.
- The top four teams compete in playoffs for the league championship and a chance to raise the Fauquier Cup.
- Schedules, standings, and information relative to this league is tracked on the adult league website and Facebook page.
- The league plays on the fields at the Warrenton Sports Complex (Athey).
- The goal is to create a family-friendly environment for competitive soccer where good sportsmanship prevails.

The Fauquier Soccer League (FSL) is an adult soccer league program operated by the Fauquier County Soccer Club (FCSC) since 2006. It operates a single Division – focused on providing playing opportunities for players in a broad spectrum of age groups and skill levels.

Each team requires a designated “manager” who takes responsibility for submitting the full team roster, team fees, and organizing the team.

Each team is able to register up to three male players in the 18-24 year age group with no upper limit on age. This provides an opportunity for “seasoned” and younger players both to field competitive teams.

Individual players wishing to join a team or new teams wishing to join the league should contact the league administrator through the FSL website or Facebook page.

The FCSC web site maintains a complete set of rules as well as the current league standings and schedule.



www.fcsc.org/adult



www.facebook.com/FSLAdultSoccer



Mission and Background

FCSC established an adult recreation program in the spring of 2005 in response to a growing need for soccer opportunities for adults. In recognition of the large number of competitive adult soccer players in the Piedmont Region, the Fauquier Soccer League (FSL) was established in the fall of 2006 as a competitive adult soccer league for the adults of Fauquier County and the surrounding counties. Our goal is to provide a friendly, competitive playing opportunity for adult soccer players in a family friendly atmosphere that encourages family support. The FSL adult soccer league will generally follow the rules of FIFA/USFS except as modified and listed below.

League Organization

The league will be registered and sanctioned by the Metropolitan D.C. - Virginia Soccer Association (MDCVSA) in conjunction with the U.S. Adult Soccer Association (USASA).

The FSL commissioner, appointed by the FCSC Adult Soccer Chairman, will be responsible for all aspects associated with running this league.

Every team will have a team manager. It is the responsibility of the team manager to make sure his team is properly registered and that the team's players fully understand the rules and regulations of the FSL.

Season Dates

- 1) Games will be played on **Saturday** evenings prior to sunset. Season dates will range from the first weekend in April through the second weekend in June (Spring season) and from the first weekend in September through the second weekend in November (fall season).

- 2) Rain dates will be scheduled on **Sunday** evenings as needed.

Players and Rosters

- 1) Players must be at least 18 years of age to participate (FSL commissioner may grant exceptions to this rule based on ability). **Teams may have no more than three male players ages 18 through 24 on their roster**; each of these players is referred to as a “waiver” player. All conventional non-waiver players must be either at least 25 years of age or no older than 17 years of age as of the first scheduled game of the season (Team managers may be exempted as waiver players upon approval from FSL commissioner).
- 2) Roster size will be a maximum of 15. Rosters are “locked” after the 5th week of play. After the 5th week of play, Additions/Deletions are allowed only by permission of the FSL Commissioner in matters of player injury.
- 3) A player may only play for one FSL team. However, during non-playoff games, a player may play for another a team as substitutes for missing players on the roster.
- 4) Only players listed on the official roster may participate in league play.
- 5) Guest players are not permitted unless registered and authorized by the league.
- 6) All FCSC adult league players should bring photo identification (such as a driver's license) to every game for age validation.
- 7) Managers may be required to present an official printed roster to the referee prior to a game.
- 8) No carded travel player or professional players will be allowed on the rosters.

Teams

- 1) Each team requires a designated “manager” who takes responsibility for registering the full team roster, submitting the team fee, and representing the team throughout the season.
- 2) Individual players will be assigned to a team by the FSL Commissioner based on current team needs and roster sizes.
- 3) Practices are optional and left up to the discretion of each team. Practice nights and locations can be coordinated through the FCSC field coordinator. If a conflict arises over limited field locations and times, FCSC youth team practices will take priority over adult team practice requests.

Games

- 1) Game format is 8v8 (includes goal keeper). However, if a team can only field 6 or 7 players at the start of a match, the format will be set to 7v7 upon request to the referee). After the start of the game, the format may change back to 8v8 if enough players show up to play. However, once the ref starts a game in 8v8 format, it may no longer switch to 7v7 at any point.
- 2) Games will last 75 minutes (two 35 minute halves with a five minute half-time). No overtime in regular season games.
- 3) Playoffs will consist of semi-finals and finals. If tied at the end of regulation, winner will be by “Golden Goal” (first goal scored). Golden Goal will consist of two 10-minute periods followed by Penalty Kicks.
- 4) Games are played on Saturday afternoon/evenings at FCSC designated fields and on Sundays as alternate dates. The field size will be standardized at 50 yards x 70 yards but may vary between 40-60 yards wide and 60-80 yards long.

- 5) If a game in progress is called off due to inclement weather or field conditions, the game is considered official if it has reached or passed the half-way point.
- 6) Substitutions:
 - a) Unlimited substitutions are allowed on all goal kicks, after a goal is scored, on throw-ins when the substituting team is in possession, or other stoppages of play at the discretion of the referee so long as it does not interfere with the flow of the game.
 - b) During times of extreme heat, substitution rules may be relaxed at the discretion of the referee.
 - c) A substitution may also be made after an injury when the referee stops play. The opposing team is also offered the chance to substitute one player.
- 7) All game results are final and may not be reversed.
- 8) Forfeits – Teams are encouraged to be ready to play the game within 15 minutes of the scheduled time. A team must have 6 players available to start a game. Teams that do not show, or do not have at least 6 players after a 15 minute grace period, will be forced to forfeit. The score will be posted as 2-0 win in favor of the team that fielded a squad of at least six players. A team that forfeits two games in one season will not be eligible to qualify for the playoffs, and may not be eligible to participate in the next season. A \$50 fee may be charged against the team that forfeits for each forfeit.

League Standings

- 1) 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss.
- 2) Goals will be tracked. Goal differential will determine standings. Tie breakers, in order: Most goals for – ^{1st}, then Goals Against – ^{2nd}, then head-to-head record – ^{3rd}, and then coin flip.
- 3) If the championship game is not played, the regular season point leader is automatic champion.

Referees

- 1) Games are officiated by one certified referee. The decisions made by the referee are final.
- 2) All coaches, players, and spectators must recognize the referee as the sole authority over the game. As specified under FIFA laws of the game, maintaining respect for the referees is of vital importance to successful soccer. Behavior that falls below this standard will not be tolerated. Any incidents are subject to the FCSC disciplinary committee's review.
- 3) If the assigned referee fails to appear within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time, teams may designate a substitute referee by mutual agreement. Such appointment of a substitute referee shall be binding for the game. Should the originally assigned referee appear after the game has started and the substitute referee has begun the game the teams, by mutual consent, may allow the original referee to officiate the game. Any non-refereed games not count as official games.
- 4) Misconduct – Red Card offences are counted and accumulated throughout the course of a season. A player receiving a Red Card may be punished with a minimum 1 game suspension and may face league expulsion pending a review by the FSL commissioner and FCSC board. A forfeited or cancelled game will not count toward a suspension.
 - a) Dissent – All referee calls are final regardless of the quality of judgment. A player may be allowed to request an explanation over a judgment, but dissent will not be tolerated. A player that expresses dissent one or more times should receive an automatic Yellow Card.

- b) Sending-Off Offence (Red Card) – A player receiving a Red Card, or two Yellow Cards in the same match will be required to immediately leave the field of play. The offending player will have one (1) minute, as counted by the referee, to leave the field of play or his team will forfeit the game. The offending player will have five (5) minutes to also leave the premises and to be out of sight and sound or his team will forfeit the game.
- c) Recommendations for Player Suspensions – The FSL commissioner will review referee reports for all offenses and will assess penalties depending on the nature of the offense. The following recommendations are typical followed:
 - i Red Card Offence Based on misconduct – One (1) game suspension
 - ii Second Red Card in one season for whatever reason – One (1) game suspension and consideration for expulsion by the FCSC board.
- d) Reporting Cards – All Red Cards are reported by the referee to the FSL Commissioner who will forward them to the FCSC Disciplinary Committee for review. The Commissioner will inform the teams involved of players who will not be eligible to play in the following week’s games.
- e) Team Red Card Points – When a player receives a Red Card, his team is also assigned a Team Red Card Point. Teams that receive a total of four (4) Team Red Card Points during the season will be ineligible to play in the playoffs. The team may be also be suspended by the league pending a review by the FCSC Disciplinary Committee. If a fight breaks out, each team will be assigned at least two (2) Team Red Card Points, even if no individual Red Cards were awarded.
- f) Trash talking, taunting, showboating, the use foul language, fighting, and the uttering of sexist or racist comments is strictly prohibited and will result in an automatic review of the player’s conduct and status by the FCSC Disciplinary Committee. This review will occur if the incident is reported by anyone irrespective of whether the behavior was witnessed by the referee or punished on the field.

Uniforms and Equipment

- 1) Each team must identify their team color, which must be approved by the FSL Commissioner. Teams are responsible for providing their own uniforms based on their authorized team color. A team may utilize a color that has already been designated if they have an alternate color to wear.
- 2) Each player shall wear a uniform with a unique number as listed on the official roster. The referee shall be notified of any number changes prior to the match. In exceptional circumstances any player not wearing a number may play as long as he identifies himself to the referee prior to the start of the game and the referee records his full name.
- 3) The home team provides the game ball. A size 5 ball is used.
- 4) Only soccer/athletic shoes are acceptable. No “street shoes”, sandals, or metal-cleated shoes will be allowed.
- 5) Shin guards are **MANDATORY**. The shin guards must provide a reasonable degree of protection.
- 6) The league will not provide uniforms or equipment to the teams.
- 7) The Home team of the first game will be responsible for setting up the corner flags if they are not set. The Home team of the last game will be responsible for returning the corner flags to storage (if asked to so do).

Registration

- 1) Registering a team to play is the responsibility of the designated team manager. Prior to the start of a season, the team manager must submit signed waivers for all players on the team, including full name, date of birth, and contact information.
- 2) Team entries for each season are granted on a first-come-first-serve basis with no exceptions. A team manager must confirm their team's participation to the FSL commissioner no less than 2 weeks prior to the start of the season.
- 3) Individual players must also be registered with the FCSC system, including a signed waiver, prior to participating in any FSL game or function.
- 4) Teams are permitted to seek and display sponsorship as long as the sponsor is approved by the league.

Special League Rules:

- 1) **Slide Tackling** - Slide tackles are ruled as dangerous plays if they occur as challenges to possession within 3 feet of an opposing player. Sliding to block, stop, or volley a ball is permitted if there is no opposing player within 3 feet. Any slide which is considered injurious or excessively dangerous by the referee will be ruled a foul and may carry an automatic Yellow or Red Card depending on the gravity of danger as defined by FIFA rules.
- 2) **Intoxication** – If any active player is determined by the referee to be intoxicated, that player should be barred from entering the game. An opposing team may petition a referee to inspect a player by smell to determine intoxication prior to a game, during halftime, or after a game. If a player is determined to be intoxicated and has already played more than a full half for a team, the offending player's team receives an automatic forfeit.
- 3) **Player Residence** - There is no restriction as to where a player lives. Non-county residents are allowed to play as long as they register as part of the club, follow club rules, and are covered by club policies.
- 4) **Slaughter Rule** - In any competition where one team achieves a 8 goal lead over its opponent, the coach of the leading team is required to remove one player from the field of play. For each additional goal scored by the leading team, the team is required to remove an additional player. If after an eight goal lead and withdrawing a player or players, the leading team shall be permitted to replace a player for each goal subsequently scored by the opposing team.
- 5) **Tailgating** – No alcohol or tobacco products are allowed on school property or on fields managed by Fauquier Parks and Recreation. Picnics and team support are encouraged as long as they are family oriented and non-hostile. Teams are responsible for cleaning up any and all garbage in and around their general location, regardless of who created it.