

**Plantation Athletic Club
Meadowcrest Park
Soccer Manual**



**Revision 1
January 2002**

**Approved by the PAC Board of Directors on the 13th Day of
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I. Philosophy – Soccer Program

The Plantation Athletic Club (PAC) Soccer Programs provide youth soccer players an opportunity to receive quality soccer training in a fun environment where they can develop their individual soccer skills. PAC places emphasis on player development rather than competition.

II. Soccer Organization

1 Positions

- Soccer Commissioner
- Director of Coaching
- Age Group Coordinators
 - U6
 - U8 Girls
 - U8 Boys
 - U10 Girls
 - U10 Boys
 - U12 & U19 Recreational (girls and boys)
 - Rec-Plus (girls and boys)
 - Premier (girls and boys)
- Registrar
- Uniform Coordinator
- Field Coordinator
- Referee Assignor

2 Soccer Committee Members

- Soccer Commissioner
- Director of Coaching
- Age Group Coordinators
- One PAC Board member
- Referee Assignor.

III. PAC Soccer Programs

PAC will form teams and leagues at all levels of play as defined by LSA Premier, Recreational Plus, and Recreational/Developmental divisions. The overall purpose is to equalize competition within the each division. The following are the PAC Soccer Programs:

- 1 Premier (U11 - U19)** – This is the highest level of competition, in age brackets U-11 through U-19, offered in the State of Louisiana. Premier teams will compete for the State Open Cup at the end of the soccer season for the right to represent the State of Louisiana at the Region III Tournament.
- 2 Rec-Plus (U12 - U19)** - Rec-Plus is the next level of competition offered in age brackets U-12 through U-19. Rec-Plus teams consist of recreational players who are seeking a competitive environment in which to advance their skills. These teams will vie for a Pelican Cup berth and are eligible for travel and tournament participation.
- 3 Recreational (U6 – U10)** – Recreational teams are developmental teams. The Recreational program is the only level of play offered to the U6 – U10 player, with the exception of U10 Spring Travel. All registered players in these age groups make up this development soccer program. These players play in an opening season jamboree with a round robin format and then 10 regular scheduled games. The season ends with another jamboree. The focus is on developing player’s soccer skills not competition.
- 4 Recreational Travel (U10)** – During the spring season, all registered U10 players are organized into travel teams. These travel teams will travel to local parks and play friendly games and jamborees with other U10 travel teams.

IV. PAC Soccer Programs Rules

1. General Rules Of Competition

- 1.1 FIFA Laws Apply.** FIFA Laws of the Game as approved by the USSF and USYSA are applicable with any exceptions noted in these Rules of Competition.
- 1.2 Jurisdiction.** All games played by LSA registered teams, and any non-association teams playing at PAC shall be under the jurisdiction of these association as well.

2. Seasonal Year

The PAC Soccer Association seasonal year shall conform with LSA's seasonal year. The PAC Playing year will consist of two seasons, Fall and Spring. The Fall season will begin August 1 and conclude by mid-December. The Spring season begins in late January and concludes by March 31 for the Recreational teams. The Soccer Commissioner, Registrar and PAC Board of Directors will determine the exact season dates. Premier teams and Rec-Plus teams will conclude their season after state, regional and/or national competition. Competition dates are set by LSA.

3. Player's Ages & Levels

- 3.1 PAC Soccer Age Groups.** A player's age for registration purposes shall be defined by USYSA and shall conform to LSA rules and regulations. The age groups are defined as follows:
- U06 Player must be 4 years old by August 1st of the current year.
 - U08 Player must be 6 years old by August 1st of the current year.
 - U10 Player must be 8 years old by August 1st of the current year.
 - U12 Player must be 10 years old by August 1st of the current year.
 - U14 Player must be 12 years old by August 1st of the current year.
 - U16 Player must be 14 years old by August 1st of the current year.
- 3.2 Records.** PAC's soccer registrar shall be responsible for maintaining a copy of a birth record for each registered player. Proof of age shall consist of a certified or verified birth certificate, an Uniformed Services ID and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173), a birth registration issued by an appropriate government agency, board of health records, passport, alien registration card issued by the U.S. Government, or a certificate of any U.S. citizen born abroad issued by the appropriate government agency. (Not acceptable are hospital, baptismal or religious certificates.) If none of the approved documents are available, the individual case shall be referred to the PAC Soccer Commissioner for resolution.
- 3.3 Transfers.** To maintain eligibility any player transferring to PAC mid-season must provide an official release from his or her previous association prior to the LSA roster freeze date.

- 3.4 Age Requirements.** PAC will strive to form teams and leagues at all age levels of play as defined by LSA when sufficient numbers of players are available. Age groups may be combined for recreational play, where deemed appropriate by PAC.
- 3.5 Play-Up Requests.** Players will be placed on a team in their age appropriate division. PAC Coaches, not the parents, must initiate all play-up requests. All play-up requests must be approved by the Soccer Commissioner. No play-up requests will be permitted except for the following:
- 3.5.1** A U6 player will be permitted to play-up on the U8 level during the player's second year of playing at the U6 level. The Soccer Commissioner must give approval.
- 3.5.2** U6 players who play-up to U8 must play 3 years in the U8 Division.
- 3.5.3** U8 Players will not be allowed to play up to U10 during the Fall season. Under special circumstances they may be allowed to play-up during the spring travel season
- 3.5.4** A U10 player will be permitted to play-up to a U11 or U12 Premier team if player is selected through a Premier tryout
- 3.5.5** The PAC Soccer Commissioner may see fit to request a player or players to play-up in order to adequately field enough players in an older age group. Factors to consider include: player's age, player's skill level and needs of the age group programs

4. Player Equipment:

- 4.1 Shin-guards.** All players must wear shinguards, which are commercially produced and specifically designed to provide protection to the shins. Shinguards must adequately cover the shin area for the individual player.
- 4.2 Uniforms.** Uniforms for players are mandatory and shall consist of a uniquely numbered jersey, shorts, and socks. Players must wear the approved PAC uniform with no exceptions. Shoes must be worn by all players. Knee pads and elbow pads are allowable with the referee's permission. Sliding pants are permitted if they match the predominant color of the uniform shorts or do not show.

All uniforms to be worn by PAC must be approved by the Uniform Coordinator, Soccer Commissioner, and the PAC Board of Directors. The color scheme for all traveling team uniforms shall be either Purple on White or White on Purple. Specific uniform selection criteria are as follows:

- Uniforms for the Recreational Program will be chosen by the Uniform Coordinator and approved by the Soccer Commissioner.
 - Uniforms for the Rec-Plus Program and Premier Programs will be chosen by the PAC Board of Directors. Each team must have an alternate jersey for use at each match. The color scheme for these jerseys must follow the requirements stated above.
 - The Rec Plus Program will have two options for uniform selection.
A \$25 to \$35 uniform for those teams choosing to play only in the Fall.
A \$50 to \$70 uniform for teams playing the full year and participating in the Pelican Cup Tournament.
 - Uniforms for U10 travel teams will be chosen by Uniform Coordinators with the approval of the PAC Board of Directors. Each team must have an alternate jersey for use at each match.. Uniforms will be reasonably priced.
- 4.4 Cold Weather.** Players may wear warm clothing in cold weather, provided that the jersey and shorts are worn on the outside.
- 4.5 Bandannas.** Bandannas of any style shall not be worn during any game. Exceptions may be made for medical reasons.
- 4.6 Casts.** Properly padded casts may be permissible. It is the sole discretion of the referee to determine if is safe to play with the padded cast.

5. Scheduling –Practices and Games

- 5.1 Practice times.** Teams will be assigned an appropriate practice location, day, and time by their Age Group Coordinator. Final schedules will be approved by the Soccer Commissioner.
- 5.2 Coaches with more than one team.** Coaches with more than one team will be given priority for practice times.
- 5.3 Recreational Program Game Schedules.** Teams will be assigned an appropriate game location, day, and time by the Soccer Commissioner or an Age Group Coordinator if designated. Final schedules will be approved by the Soccer Commissioner.
- 5.4 Premier and Rec-Plus Programs Game Schedules.** Premier and Rec-Plus teams may schedule games by calling the PAC Field Coordinator and, after receiving a field assignment, calling the Referee assignor. (A minimum of 7 days notice is required.)

5.5 Fields. Only PAC approved fields may be used for game or practice purposes. Fields may be added during the year after proper field inspections and registration with the LSA office for liability coverage.

5.6 Cancellation/Postponement of Scheduled Games.

5.6.1 Recreational Programs: Regularly scheduled games may only be postponed or rescheduled by the Age Group Coordinators and/or Soccer Commissioner. Coaches wishing to reschedule games must communicate this to their Age Group Coordinator, who will then help coordinate the rescheduling does not double-book a field. Matches may be postponed or suspended in cases of inclement weather as defined below.

5.6.2 Rec-Plus Programs: Cancellations of any match must be communicated by the coach/team manager to the Field Coordinator and Referee assignor with at least two days notice so in order that the referees may be cancelled. Matches may be postponed or suspended in cases of inclement weather as defined below.

5.6.3 Premier Programs: Cancellations of any match must be communicated by the coach/team manager to the Field Coordinator and Referee assignor with at least two days notice in order that the referees may be cancelled. Matches may be postponed or suspended in cases of inclement weather as defined below.

6. Inclement Weather Procedures

6.1 All teams must show up for scheduled games. Each team is required to show up for all scheduled games at the assigned time and field unless notified prior to the game through the coaches' communication system.

6.2 Before Game Postponement. Postponement of games due to inclement weather will be determined by PAC's Soccer Commissioner or his/her designee.

6.3 During Game Postponement. Once play has begun, the referee or any Age Group Coordinator may suspend play if, in their judgement, the conditions are hazardous to the players.

- For all games, if play is suspended in the first half, the coach or team manager is responsible for rescheduling the game.
- For all games, if play is suspended in the second half, the game will be considered complete.

7 Team Disbandment Internal Transfer of Players

7.1 Team Disbandment. In the event a Premier or Rec-Plus team disbands during the season, the Soccer Commissioner will attempt find alternative player opportunities for the remaining players within Meadowcrest Park

8 Internal Transfer of Players

- 8.1 Internal Transfer of Players from Recreational Teams to Premier teams.** Once Recreational and Rec-Plus teams are rostered for the fall season, a player may not transfer to a Premier team or Rec-Plus team until the end of the fall season.
- 8.2 Number of Transfers Allowed during Soccer Year.** PAC will abide by the LSA transfer limitation of 3 players during the soccer year. This applies to Rec-Plus and Premier teams only. There is no limit on the number of new (no participation prior to playing for PAC) players except the roster limits stated in this document.

9 Fee Collection

- 9.1 Recreational Programs.** It will be the responsibility of the Registrar to collect the proper amount of club monies from the registered players for the Recreational program during the fall and spring registration period.
- 9.2 Rec-Plus Programs.** It will be the responsibility of the Registrar to collect the proper amount of club monies from the Rec-Plus players during the Fall registration period. Spring fees for Rec-Plus teams will be collected from coaches or team managers by the Rec-Plus Coordinator and be given to the registrar by the published PAC deadline. Teams will not be allowed to practice until all fees are paid
- 9.3 Premier Programs.**
 - 9.3.1** All premier registration fees will be collected from the Premier team managers by the Premier Coordinator and turned over to the Registrar by the published deadline for both Fall and Spring seasons.
 - 9.3.2** Fall Premier League Fees will be paid to PAC (with accompanying paperwork) at least 10 days prior to the deadline published by LSA.
- 9.4 Scholarships.** Three discretionary scholarships will be available to the Soccer Commissioner each season. They are to be used to help families get their kids into the PAC Program. The awarding of a scholarship is the responsibility of the Soccer Commissioner. However the members of the Soccer Committee or the PAC Board of Directors may nominate individuals.

V. SOCCER PROGRAM OPERATING RULES

1 Roster Size. The following rules shall apply to roster size for age levels and programs at PAC.

1.1 Eleven Players on field. For any age brackets playing eleven (11) players on the field per side, no team shall be allowed more than eighteen (18) nor less than thirteen (13) registered players. Sixteen (16) is the maximum recommended number of players for U11 – U14.

1.2 Eight Players on field. For any age brackets playing eight (8) players on the field per side, no team shall be allowed more than twelve (12) nor less than ten (10) registered players.

1.3 Six Players on the field For any age brackets playing six (6) players on the field per side, no team shall be allowed more than ten (10) nor less than ten (8) eight registered players.

1.4 Four Players on field. For any age brackets playing four (4) players on the field per side, no team shall be allowed more than twelve (12) nor less than ten (10) registered players. This is so each team will be able to field an “A” team and a “B” team during scheduled games. If, the number of registered players does not amount to 40 total registered players then the roster size can vary accordingly: No team shall be allowed more than seven (7) nor less than five (5) registered players. In this case, each team will field only one team during scheduled games.

1.5 Three Players on field. For any age brackets playing three (3) players on the field per side, no team shall be allowed more than fifteen (15) nor less than twelve (12) registered players. This is so each team will be able to field 3 teams of three players with at least one substitute for each team for each scheduled game.

2: Team Formation:

2.1 Premier Program Team Formation. Players are selected based on an open tryout process. Tryout procedures and recruitment policies are governed in accordance with state guidelines. Premier teams are allowed a maximum of three (3) transfers per seasonal year as stipulated by LSA.

2.2 Rec-Plus Program Team Formation. Rec-Plus team formation rules are as follows:

2.2.1 No team may be formed through any method of selection. As openings develop, eligible players are added randomly to the roster.

2.2.2 At registration, parents or guardians must request for their child to participate in the Rec-Plus program. For ages U14 through U19, Rec-Plus

teams may be the only available option.

2.2.3 Teams must be rostered by the roster deadlines as set by the registrar.

2.2.4 Rec-Plus teams are limited to a maximum of three (3) transfers per seasonal year as stipulated by LSA.

2.2.5 No team training shall be permitted in the Rec-Plus program unless it is PAC sponsored training for players under the following conditions:

- Trainers must be approved by the Soccer Commissioner and the PAC Board of Directors.
- Trainers must be available to all players that compete in an age group.

2.3 Recreational Program Team Formation. This level of play will consist of U6 through U10 players. This program is instructionally oriented and stresses the development of skilled soccer players rather than competition. The games are to be intramural in concept.

2.3.1 To encourage the development of better skills by providing players with more touches with the ball, the U6 through U8 age levels will play small-sided games.

2.3.2 Teams in the Recreational program will be established (with exception to U6 teams) by a draft, following a fair evaluation of the talent pool.

2.3.3 Teams will be drawn randomly each season with no more than three (3) players from the previous season.

2.3.4 U6 teams will be co-ed. Players will be evenly distributed by age and gender among the available coaches, not to exceed the maximum roster size for this age level.

3 Minimum Play:

3.1 Significant Participation. Significant participation for each type of PAC program is defined as the following:

3.2 Premier Program – Significant participation as defined for Premier teams is defined as playing thirty percent (30%) or more in each game, including all regular season games, scrimmages and tournaments. Playing time for tournament semi-final or final, Premier League, State Open Cup, Regional and National matches are left to the coaches' discretion.

3.3 Rec-Plus Program – PAC requires significant participation in each match by each eligible player on Rec-Plus teams. Significant participation is defined as playing fifty percent (50%) or more in each game, including all regular season games, scrimmages, tournaments and playoffs. If an eligible player is present at a game and ready to play, yet does not participate the required amount in the game, that coach may be subject to a hearing by the Soccer Committee. All players must be invited to every game in which the team participates, including tournaments and any playoffs which are

necessary to determine advancement to the Pelican Cup. Each team's registered coach will be held responsible for ensuring that each member of his/her team receives at least the minimum amount of playing time required in these Rules of Competition.

3.4 Recreational Programs - PAC requires significant participation in each match by each eligible player on the Rec-teams. Significant participation is defined as playing fifty percent (50%) or more in each game, including all regular season games and all jamborees. If an eligible player is present at a game and ready to play, yet does not participate the required amount in the game, that coach may be subject to a hearing by the Soccer Committee. All players must be invited to every game in which the team participates. Each team's registered coach will be held responsible for ensuring that each member of his/her team receives at least the minimum amount of playing time required in these Rules of Competition.

3.5 ALL Programs – Any player who is either not playing or who is playing less than the required minimum playing time for disciplinary, medical or other reasons should be brought to the attention of the Age Group Coordinator. No player should be denied playing time for disciplinary reasons without the parent of such player being notified in advance of such disciplinary action is being taken.

4 USYSA Identification Cards and Rosters

4.1 Player Cards. PAC will provide each participating player and coach in Premier and Rec-Plus with an official USYSA identification card. Such identification card must have the player's picture affixed to the back, be signed by the player and PAC's Registrar. The team manager must then laminate all identification cards. These cards are valid from September 1 to August 31 of the current soccer season.

4.2 Creation of Cards. All Premier and Rec-Plus cards will be generated and obtained from the Registrar. The following items must be presented to the Registrar in order to create a valid player card:

- Copy of player's birth certificate
- All registration and league fees necessary for participation must be current with PAC.

4.3 Team Roster. In addition to the identification cards, the Registrar will generate and sign team rosters for all Premier, Rec-Plus, and Recreational travel teams.

4.4 Falsification of Information. Falsification of player's name or age, birth records, picture or any other information will result in immediate suspension of the player and possible further disciplinary action against the responsible party. Unauthorized creation of player passes will result in immediate and indefinite suspension of the responsible party.

VI. SOCCER ORGANIZATION JOB DESCRIPTIONS

1 Soccer Commissioner

- Ensure club policy is being followed.
- Work along with Registrar to establish Fall registration dates along with schedule for Fall league play (Calendar of Events).
- Coordinate soccer participation in the Summer and Spring field conversions.
- Select all Age Group Coordinators for U6 – U10.
- Oversee evaluation of players.
- Coordinate game schedules for Fall season with the help of Age Group Coordinators.
- Work with the Director of Coaching to provide coaching education for all recreational coaches.
- Work with the Director of Coaching, Registrar, and Age Group Coordinators to market PAC to the rest of the Westbank.
- Coordinate the picture schedule no later than the second week of the Fall season.
- Coordinate the sign up of recreational players for the Spring season.
- Work with Registrar on in-park registration during December for Spring Recreational program
- For Spring season, order uniforms for Recreational and U10 Travel teams.
- Handle complaints by members.
- Oversee the maintenance and repair of the soccer fields.
- Communicate with the Board of Directors on soccer matters.
- Represent PAC on LSA matters.
- Along with Registrar, answer questions concerning the soccer program during the registration periods.
- Is a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

2 Registrar

- Work with Soccer Commissioner to develop Fall dates for registration and evaluations. (July)
- Develop Fall mail out registration to current members (mid to late July)
- Coordinate in-park registration during August.
- Review all registration forms to verify correct amount has been paid.
- Enter all registration information in League Organizer software before player evaluations (late August).
- Provide printouts of registered players to Age Group Coordinators in time for player evaluations.
- Arrange for PAC's registration signs to be placed around Algiers and/or the Westbank.
- Provide information phone number on signage and answer information requests left on personal answer machine.

- Actively work with the Soccer Commissioner to market PAC to other Westbank communities in order to increase membership.
- Provide a player pass and LSA approved roster for each Rec-Plus and Premier team. Provide LSA approved roster for U10 Travel teams.
- Mail LSA dues to LSA by required deadline.
- Provide an annual Rec-Plus Team Formation Questionnaire for each Rec Plus team to LSA by the required deadline
- Provide the Premier and Rec Plus teams with all required paperwork travel out of state, and personnel transfers.
- Maintain a supply of all LSA forms.
- Provide final Rec-Plus and Premier rosters to LSA by required deadline.
- Register Rec-Plus and Premier teams for respective State tournaments by required deadline.

3 Premier Coordinator

- Coordinate Premier try out dates along with Director of Coaching and Baseball/Softball Commissioners.
- Advertise try out dates and work with the Director of Coaching on marketing the Premier program.
- Along with the Director of Coaching and Premier Team Managers hold a pre-Fall and pre-Spring scheduling meeting to select tournaments for the Premier program.
- Collect all PAC fees and registrations from all Premier Team Managers and give to Registrar at least one week prior to first scheduled practice.
- Work with Director of Coaching to establish and maintain a PAC Premier philosophy.
- Ensure the PAC uniform policy is followed.
- Along with the Director of Coaching, ensure that Premier Coaches and Team Managers understand PAC's Soccer Policies and procedures as it relates to game and referee scheduling at Meadowcrest Park.
- Know and have the ability to communicate LSA Premier rules of team formation, league play, and State Cup Competition.
- Collect all fees for Spring season from the Premier Team Managers and give to the PAC Treasurer by the clubs designated deadline.
- Assist in the maintenance and repair of the soccer fields.
- Assist the Soccer Commissioner in coordinating volunteers for the Summer and Spring field conversions.

4 Recreational / Rec-Plus Coordinator (U12 – U19)

- Select Age Group Coordinator for U12 (if there are enough boys and/or girls to form an in-park Recreational program)
- Coordinate and develop evaluations for U12 players.
- Coordinate and develop evaluations for new players in U13-U19.
- Determine which program teams will be playing (Recreational or Rec-Plus).
- Form teams according to PAC and LSA policies for all U12 – U19 players.

- Find coaches for all teams formed.
- Hold a pre-season coaches meeting to discuss PAC and LSA policies, Game and Referee scheduling procedures, and Uniform selection policies.
- Work with the Soccer Commissioner, Uniform Coordinator, and team managers with the uniform selection process.
- Collect all fees for Fall season from Rec-Plus teams and give to Registrar by club designated deadline.
- Collect all fees for Spring season from the Rec-Plus teams and give to the PAC Treasurer by the clubs designated deadline.
- Assist teams with scheduling tournaments so that all teams could travel together if possible.
- Work with Director of Coaching to schedule coaches license clinics when appropriate.
- Assist in the maintenance and repair of the soccer fields.
- Assist the Soccer Commissioner in coordinating volunteers for the Summer and Spring field conversions.

5 Recreational Coordinators For U6, U8 Girls and Boys, U10 Girls and Boys

- Attend coordinators meeting the Soccer Commissioner holds late August.
- Coordinate and develop evaluations for age groups you are coordinating for Fall and Spring seasons.
- Hold evaluations for your age group according to PAC Calendar of Events for Fall and Spring seasons.
- Find volunteer coaches for your age group for Fall and Spring seasons.
- After evaluations are held in August, form teams according to PAC policy for your age group. Distribute team rosters to coaches.
- For Spring season, form teams according to PAC policy for your age group. Distribute team rosters to coaches.
- Work with other Age Group Coordinators and Soccer Commissioner to determine practice schedules for all recreational teams for fall and spring season.
- Give Registrar final team rosters for all the teams in your age group by the Fall designated deadline. Give Soccer Commissioner final team rosters for all the teams in your age group by the designated spring deadline.
- Assign team uniform colors to each team for fall and spring seasons.
- Pass along any Park information to coaches when necessary.
- Handle all problems of team formation, timing of games, or field prep or parent concerns when they arise. If problem persists contact the Soccer Commissioner.
- Know and have the ability to communicate LSA rules for small-sided soccer and the rules for refereeing such games.
- Ensure that all coaches in your age group are following PAC policies.
- Assist in the maintenance and repair of the soccer fields.
- Assist the Soccer Commissioner in coordinating volunteers for the summer and spring field conversions.

6 Uniform Coordinator

- Have a complete understanding of PAC's Uniform Policy as written in General Rules of Competition – Rule 4.2.
- Order uniforms for the recreational program with team information provided to you by the Soccer Commissioner.
- Work with Rec-Plus Coordinator and Soccer Commissioner to determine which uniform option the Rec-Plus teams will be purchasing. (Economy \$25-\$30 or Regular \$45-\$60). Once the decision has been made order these uniforms.
- Work with Premier Coordinator and Soccer Commissioner to select and order Premier uniforms.
- Ensure that all uniforms purchased are properly screened with approved PAC/Meadowcrest Park logos.
- Ensure that the PAC Board of Directors and Soccer Commissioner has approved all vendors and uniforms prices.

7 Field Coordinator

- Assigns game times for U12 fields.
- Coordinates practice schedule for U12 fields.
- Handles all rescheduling of games for U12 fields.
- Works with Assignor to schedule referees for all scheduled games on U12 fields.
- Notifies Assignor of any postponement or canceled games for U12 fields.
- Normally, this position is held by the recreational (U12)/Rec-Plus Coordinator. However, Soccer Commissioner may designate another person.

8 Soccer Committee

- The PAC Soccer Committee is appointed by the Soccer Commissioner each Seasonal Year.
 - The committee will consist (at a minimum)of:
 - The Soccer Commissioner
 - Each Age Group Coordinator
 - The Registrar
 - The U12 Fields Coordinator
 - The Referee Assignor
 - One PAC Board Member

VII. Referees

1. General

Plantation Athletic Club will adhere to the USYSA directive to use only USSF Certified Referee for all matches U10 and above. In accordance with USSF directives all referees must be assigned to the matches by a USSF registered referee assignor. Plantation Athletic Club will maintain a program of youth referee training and encourage all interested players, parents and coaches to attend a referee certification clinic.

2. Referee Assignments

2.1. Either a coach or a parent will referee U6 and U8 matches. PAC will offer an informal training session on the Modified Law of the Game for Small Sided matches to all coaches and interested parents in these age groups. This session will be lead by a certified referee

2.2. A single referee will be utilized on all U10 matches.

2.2.1. Certified Referees, Referees in training and club linesmen may be used to assist the center referee in making possession calls (i.e. out of touch, goal kick or corner kick)

2.2.1.1. It is the coaches' responsibility to provide club linesmen if requested.

2.2.1.2. Persons acting as club linesmen may not coach or in any other way show bias to one team or another. If this occurs, the center referee will relieve the person of their duties.

2.2.2. Only uniformed certified referees may make calls for offside or fouls

2.3. On all matches U11 and above, the Diagonal System of Control will be used. Certified Referees will be utilized in all positions.

2.3.1. Club linesmen may be used only if there is no certified referee available.

2.3.1.1. Referees may be taken off of another match to accommodate this requirement

2.4. It is the responsibility of the referee assignor to assign the referees with the proper experience and competency for each match.

3. Referee Fees

3.1. PAC will pay referees at the prevailing rates paid by the other local associations.

3.1.1. At a minimum Center Referees will be paid "Age plus \$2" (e.g. the center referee on a U10 match will receive \$12.00 minimum).

- 3.1.2. At a minimum Assistant Referees will receive ½ the fee of the center referee plus \$3.

4. Dissent, Referee Harassment and Referee Abuse

The following policy regarding referee harassment and abuse was adopted by the PAC Board of Directors August 13, 2000.

- 4.1. LSA, USYSA and USSF have made it excruciatingly clear that referee harassment, dissent and abuse will not be tolerated. This is especially true when it is directed toward youth referees. All referees working at PAC are instructed to issue only one warning to a coach if they feel that a coach, a parent or the spectators are harassing them. This warning will be verbally issued to both benches at the next stoppage of play.
- 4.2. The referees are instructed to do everything possible not to penalize the players because some overzealous person can not control him/herself. Some of the actions that may be taken are to suspend the match until ALL spectators remove themselves from the field. The institution of a quiet match (no cheering for either side) or an entire quiet day. The last resort would be playing matches without spectators.
- 4.3. The following relate directly to actions taken by or to a coach
- 4.3.1. It is the coach's responsibility to control his team, his team parents. And associated spectators. If in the referee's opinion, there is no action taken or the action has produced little or no results, the coach or spectator will be asked to remove him/herself from the field and surrounding area. If there is no compliance with this request, the referee may, as a last resort, abandon the match.
- 4.3.2. In the case of a dismissal, the coach will be relieved of his duties for the entire week following the dismissal including the next match. On the second occurrence, the coach will be relieved for two weeks, on the third occurrence the coach will be immediately and indefinitely banned from coaching at PAC. Notification of this action will be sent to LSA. The banned coach will be entitled to a hearing with the PAC Soccer Committee and or LSA. The hearing must be requested within 72 hours of the punitive action. The coach may apply for reinstatement to PAC programs after one full soccer season, unless the LSA sanction is for a longer period.
- 4.3.3. If a coach is unable to control the spectators and parents associated with his team, the referee may choose to dismiss him for the remainder of the match without additional sanctions, and to clear the spectator area. The failure of a coach to exercise control over his team parents and spectators may result in being removed as the team coach. PAC may also elect to ban the coach from any team management role.
- 4.3.4. If the coach has made a concerted effort to control the spectators and the harassment persists, it will be the coach's responsibility to contact the proper authorities, be it the Standby Referee, PAC Leadership, or NOPD, to remove the offender from the premises. The referee is admonished to use common sense in this situation, recognize the efforts of the coach and assist him in anyway possible. The referee will document the problem and submit it in writing with the match report.
- 4.3.4.1. The problem spectator/parent will be sanctioned with dismissal from the match field and surroundings for the remainder of the match and the next match.

- 4.3.4.2.** On the second occurrence the sanction will be for the current match and the next two matches.
- 4.3.4.3.** On the third occurrence the parent will be permanently banned from participating in any PAC activity and notification of this action will be forwarded to LSA.
- 4.3.5.** The Parent or Spectator will be given the opportunity of a hearing with the PAC Soccer Committee, PAC Board of Directors and/or LSA. Under no circumstances will unilateral decisions in these matters be made. Sanctions will remain in effect until overridden by one of the PAC entities listed above. In the case of a hearing by LSA and the issuance of lesser sanctions, PAC reserves the right to enforce their sanctions related to PAC activities
- 4.3.6.** The referee will document the facts of the dismissal and or abandonment on his/her match report. The referee may request that the match report be forwarded to the LSA for further action. If the referee files a report with LSA, the punitive action applied by LSA will be binding, however PAC reserves the right to issue additional sanctions which may carryover the baseball season.
- 4.3.7.** In the unlikely case of physical assault or direct verbal abuse of any referee offending the player, coach or spectator will be asked to leave the park. The incident will be recorded on the referee's match report and forwarded to the LSA Referee Committee for action. The referee may also file an assault charge with NOPD.
- 4.3.8.** Dissent from a player is a cautionable offense and will be handled in accordance with Law 12. If the player is encouraged or reinforced by a coach "in the opinion of the referee" the offending coach may be dismissed from the match.
- 4.3.9.** The restart for all of the above actions involving a coach or spectator will be a drop ball at the location it was when play was stopped. The restart for all actions involving a player will be in accordance with LAW 12 - Fouls and Misconduct.

4.4. Rationale:

While these above actions may seem drastic and harsh, it is the only way we can protect the individuals who manage the match, and presumably keep it safe for all participants.

The toughest thing for a youth referee to do is sanction a coach. It has to do with the "respect your elders" precept that we all have been brought up with. Sadly, the coaches and spectators have forgotten how to respect authority, especially if it is young. This policy provides support to the youth referees for the decisions they make on the field.

4.5. The criteria for this policy are based on the 1999/2000 decision 2 of the IFAB in regard to Law 3, which states:

“The coach may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. He and the other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, where such an area is provided, and they must behave in a responsible manner.”