

**U9 – 12 Co-Operative (Co-Op) League Bylaws**  
**BRYC, FPYC & BAC**  
**Spring 2015**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the House/Recreation Soccer League formed between Braddock Road Youth Club (BRYC), Fairfax Police Youth Club (FPYC) and Burke Athletic Club (BAC) is to provide an opportunity for boys and girls on house/recreation soccer teams to play soccer in competition against teams of similar composition. Sportsmanship, fair play, and a friendly atmosphere among all participants, including coaches, players, officials and spectators are required for participation in the Co-Op League.

**REQUIREMENTS**

All participating teams agree to the following rules. Failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in forfeiture of all games played and disqualification from further participation.

1. Clubs will form their teams on the same basis that they use in forming their regular recreation teams. Registration must be open to all eligible players. Each club agrees that teams are not formed on a “cut” or “all star” basis. Players who are registered as “travel” or “select” are not eligible to play. Exceptions to this rule can be made on a case-by-case basis with the approval of all league directors of the Clubs participating in the Co-Op League.
2. The age groups will be determined by the current age group division lists posted on the VYSA web site for that year. Players playing up or down will be in compliance with their club’s rules.
3. Player development is one of the primary goals of the Co-Op league. All players must play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and able to participate.

4. Team rosters, certified by the age group league director of each sponsoring club, must be set prior to the start of the second game of the season. The roster will include name and birth date. Roster and player changes may be made after the start of the second game of the season only by the approval of all Co-Op League Directors. Certified rosters will be made available upon request to all club commissioners, league directors and coaches.
5. The seasonal format for the Co-Op League will be determined by agreement of the League Directors/Age group coordinators prior to the start of the seasonal year. Schedules will be published with game fields and home teams clearly identified.
6. Team/coach telephone lists will be published and distributed to each coach.
7. Normally, 50% of each team's games will be at home unless otherwise agreed upon. Clubs are responsible for providing a suitable field with nets, lines, corner flags and a stitched size 4 game ball for all home games. This may require inspection and positive action by the coach/club in advance of the game start time. Should a field develop problems that can be corrected through positive action, such as sweeping puddles or application of topsoil/drying agents in wet or boggy areas, then it is the responsibility of the Home Club to take this action so the scheduled games may be played.
8. BAC and FPYC will provide one USSF certified referee for each home game. BRYC will provide between one and three USSF certified referees for each home game depending on the agreement of the League Director/Age group Commissioners (this is done to support BRYC's referee development program). At the discretion of the head referee, spectator volunteers may be asked to fill in as assistant referees (line judges). If no head referee is assigned or present for a scheduled game, the game may continue with a volunteer "referee" as long as both head coaches agree. If either head coach does not agree, the game will be cancelled or rescheduled.

9. Both teams will be responsible to confirm home game times, field directions and uniform colors not less than two days prior to game day. No home team will reschedule a game without the concurrence of the visiting team. All games are expected to be played unless cancellation is approved by the League Directors (BRYC, FPYC and BAC). Unauthorized cancellation could result in a forfeit. Requests to reschedule a game must be submitted to the League Directors at least 5-7 days before the schedule game date.

10. Home teams are responsible for resolving all uniform conflicts. Visiting teams will cooperate fully in resolving any uniform conflicts. For the spring 2015 season, the following uniform colors have been established:

BAC vs. BRYC games (regardless of home/away fields) – BAC always wears RED uniforms and BRYC wears BLUE. Goal keepers are required to wear a jersey that contrasts with both RED and BLUE so as to be clearly identifiable to players and game officials as goal keepers.

BAC vs. FPYC games (regardless of home/away fields) – BAC always wears RED uniforms and FPYC wears BLUE or YELLOW. Goal keepers are required to wear a jersey that contrasts with both RED and BLUE/YELLOW so as to be clearly identifiable to players and game officials as goal keepers.

FPYC vs. BRYC games - no games are scheduled between FPYC and BRYC for the spring 2015 season.

11. In the event of weather cancellations, home teams are responsible for notifying visiting team and club officials of the cancellations as soon as possible but at least 90 minutes prior to scheduled game time. If weather causes the cancellation of all games on a Saturday, the League Director's will reschedule all of the games based on field availability and in coordination with referee coordinators. If an individual game cannot be played, the Home team will coordinate with the visiting team to reschedule a cancelled game as soon as a field and referee can be assigned. The cancelled game will be rescheduled no sooner than seven

days after the original game date. As an alternative, the visiting team should check to see if its home field is available. If it is available and both coaches agree, the game could be moved to the open field.

12. The showing of RED or YELLOW cards, and coach or spectator caution or dismissal, will be reported to the League Directors and Referee assignor at the end of the game. Both coaches are responsible for reporting all offenses to the League Directors and Referee Assignor via email within 12 hours after the occurrence.
13. Home teams have first choice of which side of the field of play it occupies for its substitutes, coaches and spectators. The choice should be made as early as possible to avoid confusion and inconvenience to the visiting team. Each team is responsible for ensuring its spectators remain on its side of the field or agreed upon location based on sun and field conditions.
14. Home team clubs will bear primary responsibility for Field Set-Up and Take-Down. However, visiting teams are expected to assist the Home team in field Set-Up and Take-Down. Both teams are expected to provide a suitable number of adult volunteers and/or adult supervised player volunteers to allow the timely Set-Up/Take-Down of the field in order not to impact scheduled game times or post game activities. Home teams will ensure equipment is used or stored in accordance with Co-Op league and Home team club requirements.

## **RULES OF COMPETITION**

1. FIFA Laws of the Game will apply except as modified by this section. League Directors will provide a copy of these rules to the referee coordinators of their organizations.
2. Game duration/players on the field is as follows:
  - U9 – 7 v 7 and 25 minute halves
  - U10 – 7 v 7 and 25 minute halves

U11/12 – 8 v 8 and 30 minute halves (9v9 and/or 35 minute halves optional with concurrence of both head coaches and game officials)

3. Five minute halftime for all games. Games may end in a tie. Any change of game duration (due to heat, lack of players, etc) shall be agreed with by both head coaches and game officials at the field and will result in equal halves.
4. Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee at the following times:
  - o Throw-in, your favor
  - o Throw-in, team not in possession of the ball may substitute an unlimited number of players if the team in possession of the ball is also substituting.
  - o Goal kick, by either team.
  - o After a goal, by either team.
  - o Halftime.
  - o A team may substitute one player for an injured player when the referee stops play. The opposing team may also substitute one player at that time if the injured player is replaced.
5. Teams must field a minimum of four players to start a match for U9/10 and six players to start a match for U11/12. A team has until game time plus 10 minutes to field the minimum number of players or they forfeit the game. If the minimum number of players arrives within 10 minutes of scheduled game time the game will commence immediately at the discretion of the referee. If a team is playing down one or more players, the opposing team will play down to no more than the same number of players plus one (e.g. 7 vs. 8). A team may loan players to their opponent in order to play the game.
6. Blow out scores run contrary to the spirit of this league. This is recreation soccer and the concept is to make the sport enjoyable for all players. We hope to keep the focus of our joint league away from concepts of victory at all costs to one of good sportsmanship and keeping recreation soccer fun.

Each coach will have a game management plan in order to keep the score differential at 5 points or less. You may even want to consider instituting this plan earlier (goal differential of 3 or 4) if you feel your team has a considerable edge over your opponent. As part of your game management plan you may consider some or all of the following (and this should be discussed with players in practice or before the game to avoid game time confusion), but not limited to:

- o Playing down one or more players (taking off your strongest players not your weakest)
- o Moving your hot strikers to defense and your less experienced players to offense
- o Encourage your team to focus on other aspects of the game such as ball control, passing, only shooting after everyone has touched the ball and shooting with the player's non-dominant foot.
- o If agreed by both head coaches and game officials, the losing team may add one or more players and/or the winning team may subtract one or more players in order to make the game more competitive.

7. A game halted due to unsafe playing conditions prior to halftime will be replayed. A game halted at halftime or later due to unsafe playing conditions will be a complete game and stand as indicated by the score at the time of termination.

8. League Standings will not be kept.

## **DISCIPLINE**

1. Misconduct – a RED carded player must leave the field immediately and may not be substituted. A sent off coach or a sent off spectator must leave the field area immediately. All red carded participants (players, coaches, spectators) will be required to sit out the next game the team plays. Names of carded players or dismissed coaches or spectators will be reported immediately following the game to League Directors and Referee Assignor. Additional action will be taken if warranted.

2. Game Suspension and Termination – Should a referee terminate a game due to disciplinary problems, the League Directors will investigate the circumstances and rule on the game. Additional action will be taken if warranted.
3. Positive Encouragement & Maintaining Control – Club and Team Officials are required to maintain an atmosphere of positive and constructive encouragement. On and off the field, coaches are responsible for maintaining control of themselves, their players and spectators on their sidelines. The following are strictly forbidden before, during or after matches, on or off the field of play:
  - Negative remarks about or to the game officials, team officials or players (home or visiting)
  - Taunting or “Trash Talking” by Club or team officials, players or spectators.
  - Club or team officials, substitute players, or spectators entering the field of play without direct invitation from the head official.
  - Club/team officials, players or spectators influencing or questioning the judgment/ruling of the game officials during the run of play.

Additionally, all comments or concerns about game officials or opposing club/team officials, players and/or spectators are to be brought to the attention of the team’s official and be addressed in a respectful and constructive manner, at an appropriate time and only by the team official. Violators may be asked to leave the field by the game official and/or club/team officials. Misconduct may also be investigated by the Co-Op league and Club directors and further disciplinary action from BAC, FPYC or BRYC may occur.

4. Complaint Process – Coaches and spectators, who feel that their team or another team, coach or spectator has violated any of these by-laws, must notify his or her League Directors within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. The complaint must be formalized in writing and submitted to the League Director of the coach or team that the complaint is towards. While both League

Directors will confer with each other, the League Director of the team which that complaint is against shall formally respond to the club official, team official, or spectator filing the complaint.

5. Protests – Protests are not allowed.