

The Official

# **GiRLS** Guide Book

Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures

**SPRING/Fall 2012**

In compliance with FIFA, USSF, USYSA and IS 

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## Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse

### SECTION 1

### LEAGUE OVERVIEW

#### LEAGUE CORPORATION NAME

The Greater Indiana Regional League of Soccer, Incorporated (GiRLS) is the name of the state-wide travel league, exclusive to female soccer athletes in the U9 through U18 age groups.

#### LEAGUE PURPOSE

Travel soccer programs are intended to provide players with the opportunity to advance their skills and knowledge of the game and to experience a level of competition beyond that afforded by a recreational program. GiRLS Member Clubs may establish their own criteria for player selection and team assignment provided there is no conflict with the Indiana Soccer Constitution, Bylaws and State Rules.

The purpose of the GiRLS League is to develop, promote and administer to female travel soccer teams in the State of Indiana. GiRLS strives to encourage and assist in the inception, development and growth of community leagues, associations, organizations, programs and teams so that soccer is made available to the maximum number of girls in the state at all levels of competition.

GiRLS aspires to develop and encourage the highest level of sportsmanship and playing proficiency by all players and persons involved in girl's soccer in Indiana.

#### LEAGUE GOALS

Provide a pyramid structure consisting of Academy, Developmental (3<sup>rd</sup> Division), Classic (2<sup>nd</sup> Division), Competitive (1<sup>st</sup> Division) and Highly Competitive (Premier Division) levels of play for Indiana Soccer Member Clubs and girl's Teams, U9 through U18.

Provide better opportunities for Player, Coaching and Referee development.

Strengthen the relationship between Coaches, Administrators, Referees and Leagues;

Promote sportsmanship in a safe, healthy and fun environment.

Prioritize the best interests of the Players, above all else.

### SECTION 2

### LEAGUE AUTHORITY

#### 2.1 AUTHORIZATION

The GiRLS League is authorized by Indiana Soccer (IS) to operate as an official Travel Soccer League in the State of Indiana. All policies, procedures, and rules are approved by the GiRLS Board of Directors and are consistent with IS, US Youth Soccer, US Soccer Federation and FIFA; unless otherwise stated as modified or adapted specifically for GiRLS.

#### 2.2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business and affairs of the League shall be managed by the GiRLS Board of Directors.

All positions on the Board are strictly voluntary.

The total number of members of the Board of Directors will not be less than eight (8) or more than twenty (20).

The Board of Directors is comprised of:

The Corporation Officers (Executive Committee): President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary  
The immediate Past President  
The appointed Special Directors at Large  
The appointed Commissioners

### 2.3 TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be (a minimum) of two years commencing at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and continuing to the close of the next annual meeting two years later. Appointed commissioners shall serve at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

### 2.4 QUORUM

A quorum for voting purposes shall consist of at least a majority of the members of Board of Directors.

## SECTION 3

## BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

### 3.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The business of GiRLS is conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of: 1) PRESIDENT, 2) VICE PRESIDENT, 3) TREASURER, and 4) SECRETARY. The Executive Committee is responsible for:

Conducting the day-to-day business of the GiRLS League Corporation;  
Preparation of a proposed program for the year; to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval;  
Dealing with all matters pertaining to the finances of GiRLS subject to budget approval by the Board.

### 3.2 PRESIDENT – Chief Executive Officer

The GiRLS President is the general supervisor and controller of all the business and affairs of the League Corporation. The President presides over all meetings of the Member Clubs and Board of Directors.

The President serves as an ex-office member on all committees and in general, represents this League and its Member Clubs in meetings with other soccer associations.

### 3.3 VICE PRESIDENT – Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee

In the absence of the President or in event of his/her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President will perform the duties of the President.

### 3.4 TREASURER – Chairman of the Finance Committee

The Treasurer is responsible for all funds and securities of the League Corporation; receives and give receipts for money due and payable to the League and deposits all moneys in the name of the League Corporation.

In general, the Treasurer performs all duties incident to the Office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board.

### 3.5 SECRETARY

The Secretary records the minutes of the General Meetings and all Board of Directors meetings.

Records and issues all notices to the Member Clubs and Directors.

The Secretary is responsible for the care and keeping of the corporate records and the corporation seal.

The Secretary is responsible for affixing the corporation seal to all GiRLS documents.

Maintains a register of the mailing address of each Member Club.

In general, the Secretary performs all duties incident to the Office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board.

3.6 COMMISSIONERS– Each Commissioner serves on the Board of Directors as a representative of a specific age group division(s). Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Assignment of Member Club Teams to age divisions prior to the start of the fall and spring seasons;  
Encouraging administrative and rule changes/updates to the Board of Directors, as necessary;  
Assisting in the promotion of ethical practices throughout the League;  
Enforcing GiRLS Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations and assessing fines when necessary;  
Maintaining accurate and updated scores and standings on the League website;  
Reporting of Divisional Finalists and Fair Play Award Winners each season;  
Assisting Teams with the game rescheduling and reporting process.

3.7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS – As a whole, the GiRLS Board of Directors has the following duties:

Review and approve the programs planned and presented by the Executive Committee;  
Review and approve the budget planned and presented by the Executive Committee;  
Formation of a Discipline Committee to handle matters involving players, coaches, spectators and officials;  
Deal with all protests submitted by League Member Clubs, Teams or individuals;  
Replace non-functioning Board Members;  
Mentor designated Member Clubs in a continuing effort to inform and educate;

In addition, the Board of Directors is empowered to conduct investigations of its Member Clubs to establish that the Clubs are in compliance with all of the financial obligations, fair and equitable promotion, development and administration of soccer. If an investigation reveals that a Member Club has not complied with the rules of this League, the Board of Directors shall place the Club in “not good standing” and issue penalties and sanctions designed to bring the Member Club into compliance with the Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures of the League.

## SECTION 4

## LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

### 4.1 LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

All GiRLS Member teams must be comprised of qualified female youth amateur athletes, ages U9 through U18, who are members in “good standing” with the US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) through membership in Indiana Soccer (IS). Team Membership qualifications are set by the Board of Directors. Qualifications shall include, but are not limited to:

Payment of set fees and fines,

Proper IS registration,

Compliance with League playing Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

☒ Clubs or Teams not fulfilling these qualifications may lose their League membership privileges.

### 4.2 REQUIRED GENERAL MEETINGS

Attendance at GiRLS Annual General Meeting (AGM) is required of all Board Members, Member Clubs and Team Representatives.

The Spring AGM is held approximately 30 days prior to the start of the spring season each year (February/March).

The primary purpose of the Spring AGM is to elect the GiRLS Corporate Officers. The Member Clubs may also elect volunteers to serve as Special Directors at Large. A nomination committee will be appointed by the Board, if necessary.

The Fall General Meeting is held within 30 days of the start of the fall season each year (JUL and AUG).

GiRLS League Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures will be discussed at each meeting.

Seasonal Team packets, including schedules will be available on line.

Due to the self scheduling, there is not a “free” week of reschedules.

#### 4.3 MEMBER VOTING RIGHTS

Each qualified Member Team shall have one (1) vote.

The single vote of each Member Team shall be cast by its duly designated representative at the Spring Annual General Meeting.

#### 4.4 DISPUTES

It is the expressed and implied intention of the GiRLS League for all Member Teams to retain their autonomy within their individual Clubs.

However, all Member Clubs, Teams and individuals must adhere to the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures of the GiRLS League Corporation in all matters pertaining to interstate, regional, national, and international competition, or in other competitions sanctioned by GiRLS.

It is contrary to the purpose of GiRLS and detrimental to soccer to resort to court action unless all other avenues of relief have been exhausted.

Accordingly, any recourse to the courts of any jurisdiction by an Member Club, Team or individual before all the rights and remedies provided by the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures of GiRLS have been exhausted, will be deemed "conduct detrimental to soccer" and a violation of membership in the GiRLS League Corporation.

Such conduct may result in the immediate suspension of any Member Club, Team or individual responsible for seeking such recourse.

## SECTION 5

## LEAGUE STRUCTURE

#### 5.1 AGE GROUPS

Fall Competition: Female players in age groups from U9 through U14

Spring Competition: Female players in age groups from U9 through U18

#### 5.2 DIVISIONS

Divisional placement is generally based upon the Team's previous season's record and standings in their division as well as any requests made on the team's behalf.

To advance to a higher division, the majority of the team (a minimum of 51%) must be intact.

Divisional placement is at the discretion of the Commissioners and Board of Directors; mitigating circumstances may justify alteration of these guidelines.

The GiRLS League offers competition in the following Divisions:

PREMIER Division – Highest Level of GiRLS league competition

Division is limited to either the top five (5) teams in an age group which will insure an equal number of games for all teams in the division.

Placement is generally based on, but not limited to, previous season's division record/standings/game scores.

Teams that did not play in the GiRLS League in the prior season must thoroughly substantiate request for Premier Division placement.

FIRST Division – Highly competitive teams

SECOND Division – Competitive / Classic Travel teams

THIRD Division – Developmental / New teams

ACADEMY – U9 and U10 Teams will have the choice to play either in the Academy format or a traditional competitive format.

No scores or standings are recorded at the U9-U10 age levels; all players will receive a Participation Award and Teams are eligible to participate in the Fair Play Award challenge.

Divisional Champions are determined at the U11-U18 age levels; Division Champions and the Second place Team will receive an award and recognition on the GiRLS website.

All Teams, U9-U18 are encouraged to participate in the Fair Play Award. Coach's/Manager's are required to rate opponents and Officiating Staff in order for the team to be eligible for the award.

## PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

As a general guideline, GIRLS will utilize a system of Promotion and Relegation, U11 through U18 age levels. The number of teams relegated and promoted will be determined by the Commissioners and Board of Directors. Teams may decline the option for promotion due to mitigating circumstances only. Teams must return at least 60% of their player's from the previous season's roster to be eligible for promotion. This system of Promotion and Relegation will be used at the end of both the Fall and Spring seasons.

**The system is only a guideline; circumstances may justify altering the rules per the Board's discretion.**

### 5.4 DETERMINING DIVISIONAL STANDINGS

Standings will be determined on the basis of:

WIN = 3 points

TIE = 1 point

LOSS = 0 points

In the event of a tie in the Divisional standings, the following system (listed in order of application) will be used to determine the winner:

Team that has total points.

Team that has the point advantage in head-to-head competition

\*Goal differential for all games

\*Goals scored for using the sum of all League games.

\*Least goals allowed for using the sum of all League games.

\*For tie-breaker purposes, a four (4) goal maximum will be used for calculations.

#### 5.4.1 AWARDS

Each season, the Champions and Second place team in each age division/bracket will receive an award from the League and be recognized on the GIRLS website for their achievements.

Any team that has **forfeited** a game during the season (FOR ANY REASON) **may not be eligible** to receive a Division finalist's award. **A final decision is subject to the Board's review and determination.**

#### 5.5 PLAYING-UP

Teams can only "play-up" to the next age level if the field format is the same (i.e: small sided [u11] to small sided [U12])

Teams must also provide compelling evidence through their previous season's record that they can be competitive at a higher age level.

## SECTION 6

## APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSION

### 6.1 TEAM APPLICATION

GiRLS will accept female travel teams from within the boundaries of the State of Indiana.

Indiana girls travel teams applying to the GiRLS League must properly register with Indiana Soccer.

Teams applying for play in the GiRLS League must consist of ALL female players, U9 through U18.

All League fees are required at the time of registration.

**Payment of fees must be postmarked by application deadline date. Fees not postmarked by the application deadline date will be subject to a \$25 late fee for each week payment is late, in addition to the league application fee.**

Up-to-date Team contact information must be submitted at the time of registration.

The deadline for application for the Fall season is JULY 15<sup>th</sup>.

The deadline for application for the Spring season is JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Acceptance of late applications is at the complete discretion of the GiRLS Board. If accepted, late applications are subject to a \$250 late application fee.**

The Executive Committee reserves the right to alter the application deadline and application fee as deemed necessary.

### 6.2 DIVISIONAL PLACEMENT

Teams should include relevant team information regarding Division placement when applying to GiRLS.

In determining divisional placement Commissioners may consider any changes to team dynamic, loss/addition of players, new coach/trainer, injuries, tournament play, etc., only if Teams include this information on their application or contact their Commissioner prior to the Registration deadline.

### 6.3 Self Scheduling

GiRLS has gone to working with teams on scheduling games on available dates provided by the Teams.

### 6.4 LEAGUE ADMISSION

All Coaches, Managers, Players, Trainers, Teams and Clubs must be in "good standing" with GiRLS, IS and the US Soccer Federation to be accepted in to the GiRLS League.

Teams may not receive their regular season schedules unless all fees are paid.

## SECTION 7

## SCHEDULES

### 7.1 SEASONAL CALENDAR

The GiRLS Board of Directors is responsible for establishing the calendar parameters for the League seasons.

### 7.2 BLOCK-OUT DATES

GiRLS does not schedule any regular season games over Labor Day weekend (SAT/SUN), on Easter Sunday or Memorial Day Weekend (SAT/SUN). Teams may choose to schedule games on these dates during the scheduling period or for weather related cancellations with the approval of the Board of Directors.

### 7.3 GAME GUIDELINES

Each Age Division will have a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of nine (9) TEAMS, with the exception of Premier (5 Teams)

Each Team will receive a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of eight (8) GAMES

Each Home Club Site Assignor is responsible for reserving the appropriate sized field for each match as outline in the GiRLS Game Chart

A League Referee Assignor for the Home Club will assign THREE (3) Licensed Referees for each Home game

Both Teams are responsible for PAYING the appropriate Referee fees as indicated on the GiRLS Game Chart (Each Team pays half of the Referee fee).

Some of these policies may not apply to U9-U10 Academy teams; check with the Academy Commissioner for clarification.

### 7.4 FREE RESCHEDULE PERIOD

Due to the Self Scheduling, the GiRLS League does not off the "free" reschedule period.

### 7.5 RESCHEDULE PROCEDURE

In the case of extraordinary circumstance that is not covered in Rule 7.7, contact your respective GiRLS Commissioner. At the League's discretion, a reschedule may be allowed and an administrative reschedule fee may be applied.

Regardless of Home or Visitor status, the **TEAM REQUESTING THE RESCHEDULE MUST:**

- 1) Immediately contact Opponent and decide/agree on the reschedule date/time/site.
- 2) Contact the Home Club's Site/Field Assignor and the designated Referee Assignor; **obtain both Assignors approval** of the new date/time/site.
- 3) **Submit an accurately completed GiRLS Reschedule FORM to the appropriate League official within seven (7) days of original game date (for a weather cancellation as well). In the instance of a regular game reschedule a \$150** administrative fee must accompany the reschedule request. This amount must be sent to the Treasurer before approval will be given. The treasurer's address can be found on the website at [www.girlsinsoccer.com](http://www.girlsinsoccer.com).
- 4) The above procedure must be followed for ALL game reschedules including games cancelled due to weather.  
**The League reserves the right to extend the reschedule period, determine a reschedule game date/time/location (mandatory play date) or record the game as "not played", depending on the circumstances.**

This policy does not apply to U9-U10 Academy teams

### 7.6 DOUBLE HEADERS AND NEUTRAL SITES

A double header match may be allowed to accommodate a Team traveling more than **sixty (60) miles** for a single match.

**The double header would allow the traveling Team to play two different opponents in one trip.**

**Double Header and neutral site reschedules must be submitted within the initial free reschedule period or within FIVE (5) days of the original game date for weather related cancellation.**

The League requests that a maximum of two games are played per weekend, therefore a double header must be scheduled on a weekend that has no other scheduled League games.

In the best interest of the players, the League requests that no more than two (2) games are played per 24 hour period and no more than three (3) games are played in any given weekend.

Home Teams may not schedule double headers with two different opponents as it does not benefit a traveling team.

All double headers must be scheduled with **four (4) hours** between the start of the first game and the start of the second game (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> game start time is 10:00 AM, 2<sup>nd</sup> game start time cannot be before 2:00 PM).

The neutral site must be an IS registered travel club site and participate in either GiRLS, CIYSL or the ISL league.

The GiRLS Commissioner can help facilitate the scheduling of the neutral site double header match.

The designated Home team (as stated on the official GiRLS schedule) will be responsible for the Referee fees for their designated Home game and any site fees that may apply. The Home Team will be listed first on the schedule.

If field or weather conditions have caused games to be cancelled and the end of the season is near, double headers may be scheduled per the Commissioners discretion, if there is no alternative date (including weekday evenings) available.

#### 7.7 OTHER SCHEDULE CHANGES

Once the final schedule has been posted (approximately one week prior to the start of each season) League games may only be changed at no charge for the following reasons:

TIME ONLY changes with opponent, Site Assignor, Referee Assignor and GiRLS Commissioner's approval

UNPLAYABLE FIELD due to weather conditions

Unplayable WEATHER CONDITIONS; the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of play must START for a game to be considered COMPLETE

Mistakes in the schedule on GiRLS part, evidence is needed to substantiate

UNSAFE TRAVEL CONDITIONS as determined by GiRLS or the State of Indiana

**Lack of Referees as determined by the Home Site Referee Assignor; GiRLS Commissioner and Game Opponent must be notified at least 48 HOURS PRIOR TO GAME TIME or the Team cancelling will be responsible for ALL REFEREE FEES. The cancelling Team may also incur a FORFEIT and forfeiture fine. may incur a FORFEIT**

Direct conflict with rescheduled State or Challenge Cup games

Catastrophic circumstances as determined by the GiRLS League Board

#### **NO RESCHEDULES WILL BE APPROVED FOR ANY REASONS OTHER THAN STATED IN THIS SECTION**

Any GiRLS regular season game rescheduled and/or played without knowledge or consent of the GiRLS Commissioner is a direct violation of GiRLS Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures and therefore considered ILLEGAL and UNOFFICIAL. Both teams may incur FINES and/or other penalties as determined by the Commissioner and GiRLS Board.

**The Reschedule process is the same as outlined in Section 7.5 for games cancelled for any of the above reasons with the following ADDENDUMS:**

Teams must immediately contact their GiRLS Commissioner to inform the League of the game cancellation

The Reschedule Form must be submitted to the appropriate GiRLS Commissioner with all party's approval within seven (7) days of the date the GAME IS CANCELLED.

The rescheduled game must be scheduled/played by the posted "end of the season" date

If the teams cannot agree on a reschedule date or if the Reschedule Form is not submitted within the stated time frame, the GiRLS Commissioner will assign a date/time/site, may assess fines to either or both Teams or may record the game as "not played." Other penalties may be applied as determined by the Board.

#### 7.8 FORFEITS OR LEAGUE WITHDRAWAL

Any Team that WITHDRAWS from GiRLS after the regular season schedule has been generated (typically two weeks after the registration deadline), or who forfeits more than 20% of its scheduled regular season games – for any reason – will be assessed a \$250 WITHDRAWAL FINE.

The following sanctions may also be applied:

A \$150 fine may be assessed for EACH GAME that a Team forfeits (regardless of the reason for the forfeit).

The Team will be subject to possible elimination from further play in that season and all statistical records will be deleted from GiRLS standings.

The Team, Coach and Club will be placed in "unfavorable" standing with the League and therefore suspended from participating in GiRLS until all outstanding fines are paid.

**Any Team that FORFEITS a game may not be eligible for a Divisional Finalist or Fair Play AWARD. Final decisions are subject to the Board's review and determination.**

If a Team forfeits more than two (2) games in a season, the Coach may be suspended; the Team may also be ineligible to participate in the GiRLS League the following season.

These rules and fines will apply to any team that may WITHDRAW from GiRLS at any time after the schedules are generated until the end of the season OR to Teams that FORFEIT individual games during the course of the season.

The Forfeit Fine may be waived for special circumstances, at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

If a game is forfeited within 48 hours of game time the referee crew will need to be paid by the team forfeiting the game as well as the forfeit fee.

## SECTION 8

## ELIGIBILITY

### 8.1 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players become registered to a Team when the Member Club registration form is signed by:

The player's parent or guardian, if the player is under age 18;

The player, if 18 or older:

Completion of this form by all parties binds the player to that specific Team for the entire seasonal year unless a release is obtained and signed by all Coach's involved.

All players must be registered with Indiana Soccer prior to admission to the GiRLS League.

All players must have a current photo adhered to their official IS Player Pass.

All players must personally sign their Player Pass.

All players must appear on the Team's official, stamped IS roster for the appropriate season.

If player is a secondary rostered player with an additional team, both Team rosters must include the player's information and indicate primary or secondary player status.

Players are restricted to playing on two teams per season, with the exception of all players participating in the Academy program or the Club Pass program.

### 8.2 PLAYER BIRTH DATE

Eligibility for age groups/divisions is determined by a player's age on August 1<sup>st</sup> of the seasonal year; age group year is from August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>.

A copy of a valid Birth Certificate, passport, Board of Health records or Driver's License should be kept along with the IS roster and Player Passes by each Team Manager, Coach or Club representative.

U9 to U13 Players may play-up on teams no more than two age levels older.

U14 and above are not limited and may play-up as many levels as desired.

### 8.3 IS PLAYER PASS

Player eligibility is determined by possession of an official IS Player Pass issued for the appropriate Club, specific Team and age group for the given season.

Player Passes must be signed by the Club Registrar and Player to be considered official.

If the Player Pass is not signed by both parties indicated above, the Pass is not valid; the Player cannot participate in any League games.

A current photo of the Player must be attached to the official IS Player Pass.

All Player Passes must be laminated and attached to a key ring.

IS Player Passes and Rosters must be present at every game and available for review by the Officiating Staff or Opponent if requested.

Generally all Teams should receive their Player Passes by the start of the season. Passes are sent directly to the Clubs from the Indiana Soccer office; GiRLS does not issue the Player Passes. Notify the Club Registrar and appropriate GiRLS Commissioner if Player's Passes have not been received by the start of the season.

#### 8.4 IS CLUB PASS

Each Club has the choice of using either the Club Pass program or the Primary/Secondary Roster program.

Teams must comply with their respective Club's decision in regard to the use of either program.

A copy of the Player's Club Pass must be kept with the Team's Player Passes at each game.

All players must be identified on the game day line-up/roster card; no handwritten write-ins on the game day line-up/roster will be accepted by the League.

Club Pass Players must be specified as "CP" or "PASS" on the Game Card player line-up and must be listed for each game in which they are participating. The Manger must ~~strike out~~ their name on the specific game card when they are not playing.

A maximum of four (4) Club Pass Players are allowed to play in any one game.

The Indiana Soccer and your respective Club Registrar/Administrator will be managing both programs; refer to the Indiana Soccer website for rules, policies and procedures ([www.indianayouthsoccer.org](http://www.indianayouthsoccer.org))

#### 8.5 GUEST PLAYERS

The GiRLS League does not allow Guest Players to play for any Team during regular season League games.

A Guest Player is defined as a Player who:

Does not have an official IS Player Pass for the specific Team playing,

Does not appear on the Team's official IS roster,

Does not normally play with the team as an official rostered player.

**A Club Pass Player is NOT considered a Guest Player.**

#### 8.6 USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

An "Ineligible Player" is defined as a Player, who

Is NOT registered with Indiana Soccer

Is illegally registered

Who is illegally using another Player's IS Player Pass

Who is NOT registered with the specific team playing

Who has been suspended by GiRLS, ISL, IS

**Who is not properly identified or listed on the specific team's game day line-up/roster card.**

#### **A TEAM SAHLL FORFEIT EACH GAME IN WHICH:**

A player was improperly entered on the Team's official IS roster,

A player improperly uses another player's official IS Player Pass,

A suspended player is at any GiRLS sanctioned event prior to satisfying her game suspension.

If a Coach, Manager or Club knowingly permits an ineligible player to participate in a GiRLS sanctioned game, the Player, Coach, Manager, Club and entire Team may be suspended for a period of time to be determined by the GiRLS Board.

#### 8.7 COACH, TRAINER, MANAGER ELIGIBILITY

Each Adult on the Team sideline must be registered with IS, appear on the Team's official IS roster and have either a Coach's Player Pass for that specific Team or a Coach's Club Pass.

A minimum of one (1) properly registered adult Coach, Trainer or Manager per Team must be present on the Team sidelines at ALL games; if the adult does not appear on the Team's official IS roster and does not possess a Player Pass for that specific team then the adult is not allowed on the Team sidelines.

Teams are allowed a maximum of three (3) properly registered adults on the Team sidelines.

Per IS Coaching Standards, all Youth Travel Coaches must be licensed:

U9 through U14 = USSF "F" License or IS Technical Course

U15 + = USSF "E" License

## 8.8 TRAPPED PLAYERS

During the Fall season only, U15 Players who are "trapped" as 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students when their Teammates are in the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade/High School, may compete on a U14 Team as a "Trapped Player".

Trapped Players are required to submit a completed Trapped Player Form to IS.

A Fall U14 Team roster may contain a maximum of three (3) trapped U15 players.

The trapped players must return to a U15 Team for the Spring season.

## SECTION 9

## IS ROSTER POLICIES

All GiRLS Member Clubs must register all Travel Teams with Indiana Soccer.

Teams will receive an official, stamped Team Roster from IS at the beginning of the Fall season for the seasonal YEAR.

All Coaches, Trainers, Managers and Players should appear on the official IS Roster to be considered a Team Member.

The Team Manager must add the Player's Jersey # next to each Player's name on the IS Roster.

Primary and secondary rostered Players must appear on both the primary Team and secondary Team official IS rosters; the rosters must indicate the Player's status with the specific team and must match the official IS Player Pass for each team.

The roster and passes must be available for review by the Officiating Staff or Opponent if requested.

ANY ROSTER CHANGES TO ANY TEAM OR TEAM MEMBER MUST BE SUBMITTED TO IS, INCLUDING COACH, TRAINER AND MANAGER CHANGES. A new roster will be issued to the Team and a copy of the official updated roster must be sent to the GiRLS Commissioner immediately.

IS rosters are open during the entire seasonal year; changes can be made at any time.

Any Player transfers, releases or secondary rosters must have both Coach's approval and signatures and be appropriately documented.

If there are no changes to a Team's official IS roster from the Fall season to the Spring season, notify the GiRLS Commissioner that the roster is still applicable for the upcoming Spring season.

IS Rosters should be received by the start of the season. Rosters are sent directly to the Clubs from the Indiana Soccer office; GiRLS does not issue the IS Rosters. Notify the Club Registrar and appropriate GiRLS Commissioner if the roster has not been received by the start of the season.

## SECTION 10

## RULES OF COMPETITION

### 10.1 FIFA "LAWS OF THE GAME"

The current FIFA "Laws of the Game" as interpreted by USSF and IS will govern all GiRLS sanctioned games with the exception of any authorized modifications or adaptations to the "Laws of the Game," as permitted by FIFA and approved by IS and GiRLS. These modifications or adaptations supersede in the case of conflict.

## 10.2 LEAGUE MODIFICATIONS OR ADAPTATIONS

### 10.2.1 SUBSTITUTIONS:

Substitutions may only be made with the consent of the Center Referee at any given time.

Unlimited Player substitutions are available to either Team on the kick-off, goal kick or drop-ball.

Substitutions may only be given to BOTH Teams on a throw-in if BOTH Teams have substitutes at the line prior to the ball going out of bounds.

Players may re-enter the game without restriction to the number of substitutions.

All Substitutes must wait for the Center Referee's signal to enter the field of play.

Substitutions may also be given on an injury (one for one).

Referees may add extra time if they feel a Team has delayed the game by using substitutions excessively.

10.2.2 GAME FORMATS: A separate GAME FORMAT CHART is available on line at [www.girlsinsoccer.com](http://www.girlsinsoccer.com).

### 10.3 ABANDONMENT OF GAME

Any game that is abandoned due to severe weather, deteriorating field conditions or darkness, AFTER the START of the 2<sup>nd</sup> HALF, will be considered a completed game.

If the 1<sup>st</sup> Half has not been completed or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half has not been STARTED, the game will be replayed in its entirety prior to the end of the current season.

Both Teams must contact their GiRLS Commissioner with an explanation of abandonment immediately.

Game reschedules must be submitted in accordance to the protocol stated in Section 7.5 and received within seven (7) days of game abandonment.

The Commissioner will review any game abandoned for any other reason.

### 10.4 DELAYED GAME START OR FAILURE TO APPEAR

**BOTH TEAMS MUST IMMEDIATELY INFORM THEIR GIRLS COMMISSIONER IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS OCCUR:**

**Visiting Team Delay of Game:** If the Visiting Team fails to appear at the game site within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled kick-off and fails to notify the Home Team Opponent of the delay, the Visiting Team will incur a forfeit and applicable forfeiture fees. The Home team will be awarded a win with a maximum score of 4-0. **The Forfeiting Team must still pay the Referee fees.**

**Home Team Delay of Game:** If the Home Team fails to appear at the game site within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled kick-off and fails to notify the Visiting Team of the delay, the Home Team will incur a forfeit and the Visiting Team will be awarded a win with a maximum score of 4-0. **The Forfeiting Team is responsible for paying the Referee fees.**

**Agreement to Play:** If the aggrieved Team agrees to play the game after any of the above delays occur, the request for forfeit is waived.

**Failure to Appear:** In the event that both Teams do not appear for a scheduled League game and the match Official rules the grounds playable and weather conditions acceptable, **BOTH Teams will be assessed with a forfeit and will share the responsibility of paying the Referee fees.**

## **OFFICIATING STAFF**

All GiRLS League games must make every effort be made to have three (3) officials for each game.

All Officials must be attired properly per FIFA officiated by a THREE (3) Referee system: ONE (1) CENTER Official and TWO (2) Assistant Lines Referees. The Referee teams must be assigned by the League's Referee Assignor assigned to each Club.

A Referee may not officiate as a Center Referee for games in which a team participant is a member of his/her family unless both Coaches agree and sign the game card stating their acknowledgement and acceptance. The Official may serve as an Assistant Line Referee if denied the Center role.

#### 10.5.1 VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT LINES REFEREE

In the event that one of the Licensed Assistant Lines Referees does not show for the game, the Home Team Manager should request a VOLUNTEER from the Opponent's spectators to assist on the line furthest from his/her own team or spectators.

If neither Licensed Assistant Line Referees shows for the game, the Home Team Manager should request a VOLUNTEER from each team's spectators to assist on the line furthest from his/her own team or spectators.

Volunteer Assistant Line Referees may ONLY INDICATE OUT-OF-BOUNDS PLAY

Coaching or cheering as a Volunteer Assistant Line Referee is STRICTLY PROHIBITED

The Center Referee and/or Home Team Manager reserve the right to remove/replace a Volunteer from the line at any time during the game if they do not comply with these policies.

Volunteer Assistant Line Referees are not paid for their service. The Center Referee is paid for his/her position only; the remaining Referee fees should be returned to the Club.

Managers must indicate on the Coach's Report if a Volunteer(s) was used as an Assistant Line Referee.

#### 10.5.2 IS ROSTER AND PLAYER PASSES

IS Player Passes and a copy of the IS official state roster, with Player jersey #'s added, must be present at each game and available for Opponent and Referee staff review upon request.

The Center Official has sole discretion in determining a Player's eligibility to play based on his/her determination of the validity of any Player's Pass.

#### 10.5.3 EQUIPMENT AND FIELD VERIFICATION

Prior to the start of the game the Officiating staff should make certain that each player's equipment is in proper order.

The Officiating staff and Home Team representatives should also check all goal nets and corner flags for proper installation and proper working condition; both goals must be securely anchored to the ground.

The Referees should verify that field markings are according to the GIRLS game chart and that the field condition is suitable for play.

If the Referee and both Coach's determine that fields are not properly lined, the Home team will forfeit the game if the decision is made that the field is not playable or another properly lined field is not available for play.

#### 10.5.4 CAUTIONS AND EJECTIONS

PLAYER CAUTIONS (Yellow Cards) and EJECTIONS/SEND-OFFS (Red Cards) MUST BE REPORTED BY THE REFEREE ON THE ONLINE REFEREE REPORT

BOTH TEAM MANAGERS MUST INFORM THEIR GIRLS COMMISSIONER of a PLAYER CAUTION or EJECTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE MATCH. Player's name, Team, Club and Jersey # are required.

If a Coach, Manager, Trainer, Parent, Spectator or ANY OTHER PERSON observing the game is EJECTED for misconduct, the incident must be reported by the Referee on the Referee Report and both Managers must notify the GIRLS Commissioner immediately following the completion of the match.

#### 10.6 HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

10.6.1 UNIFORM CONFLICTS– Traditionally the Home Team wears a white/light-colored jersey and the Visiting Team wears a dark-colored jersey. In the event that both Teams wear uniforms of the same or similar colors, whichever Team is out of compliance must change. The League recognizes that some Teams may not have two contrasting jerseys in this case Team Managers may need to discuss other options with the Center Referee prior to the start of the game. If the game is being played at a neutral site, generally the Team listed first on the schedule is considered the Home team.

10.6.2 GAME BALL – The designated Home Team is responsible for providing an appropriately sized light colored game ball; refer to the GiRLS Game Chart.

### 10.6.3 FIELD REQUIREMENTS

All fields used by GiRLS League Teams must have well-defined markings 2-yards or 6-feet back from each touchline. Only Assistant Lines Referees will be allowed in this area during a game.

One side of the field will be designated for spectators; the opposite side of the field will be designated for the Teams. Only team-specific carded Players and Adults are allowed on the Team side of the field or behind the goals.

GiRLS recommends that on the Team's side of the field, 20-yard markings will be placed on each side of the centerline of a full-sided field and 12-yard markings will be placed on each side of the centerline of a small sided field.

### 10.6.4 REFEREE PAYMENT

The Home Team is responsible for all Referee fees as previously indicated on the GiRLS Game Chart, except for the U9-U10 Academy teams. In the case of a match played at the neutral site, the Home team is always listed first on the official League schedule.

The Referee staff must be PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO THE START OF EACH GAME.

**EACH REFEREE POSITION IS INDIVIDUALLY PAID. A lump sum payment, incorrect dollar denomination or checks will not be accepted as payment.**

Only Licensed and properly attired Referees should be paid; Volunteer Assistant Lines Referees should not be paid.

If a full Officiating crew is not present, the Center Referee and any Assistant Line Referee present should only be paid the designated fee for that position.

Referee money not distributed should be returned to the Home Club.

If a game is cancelled or moved for any reason other than a weather reschedule within 48 hours of the game time then the referee crew must be paid the said amount by the team requesting the cancellation/reschedule or forfeit.

10.6.5 GAME CONFIRMATION– A Home Team Representative/Manager is strongly advised to CONFIRM FIELD and REFEREE ASSIGNMENT with the Home Club's Assignors at least one week prior to the game date. The Representative should also confirm game date/time/location with the visiting Opponent either via email or phone.

## 10.7 COACHING FROM THE SIDELINES

Coaching from the sidelines is allowed as long as it is within reason and in accordance with FIFA "Laws of the Game"

Only individuals with a valid Coach's or Manager's Pass (or Club Pass) for the specific team playing are permitted to coach or give direction from the sidelines.

A minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) Adult Team Members (i.e.: Coach, Asst Coach, Team Manager, DOC, Trainer) are allowed on the team sidelines. All must possess a valid Coach's Player Pass (or Club Pass) for the team playing; all others must remain on the spectator's sideline for the duration of the match.

Teams may incur a game forfeit along with the applicable forfeiture fine if a properly carded adult is not present on the team's sidelines. Fines may also be sanctioned against teams with more than three (3) adults on the team sideline.

No Coach or Team Member will be allowed to stand further than 20-yards (full-sided) or 12-yards (small-sided) from the centerline on their designated end of the field and must remain 2-yards back from the touchline. All Team Members must remain within the confines of this designated technical area except in special circumstances, for example a Team Member assisting an injured player on the field or a Player waiting to be subbed.

Coaches may only enter the field of play when signaled by the Center Referee.

Spectators must also remain 2-yards back from the touchline on the spectator's side of the field.

Spectators should not position themselves behind either goal or on the Team's sidelines at anytime.

Spectators are not allowed to enter the field of play for any reason, unless a player is injured and the Referee requests the assistance of the parent or spectator.

## 10.8 PLAYER LINE-UP, GAME CARD AND GAMEREPORTS

10.8.1 PLAYER LINE-UP– An online PLAYER LINE-UP (not to be confused with the official IS roster) lists specific Team Players approved to participate in GiRLS League games; including any Club Pass players or Secondary-roster players. The Manager will ~~strike-out~~ a player's name that appears in the player line-up for a specific game but who is not playing/at the field. **No handwritten player add-ins on the Game Card player line-up will be accepted by the League.** The link to each Game Card with PLAYER LINE-UP is provided on the Gotsoccer team account schedule page, to the right of the game information. If more than 18 players are on the player line-up, simply choose the “reprint card” option in the upper right hand corner of the game card.

10.8.2 GAME CARD – An online tool used to identify specific game information; player line-up, Referee staff, game date/time/location and used to record the final score and any warnings, ejections or game issues. Managers will print two (2) game cards for each game; giving one to the Center Referee and the other to the Opposing Manager, after ~~striking-out~~ any player's name appearing on the player line-up that is not playing and verifying Officiating staff names. Managers will keep their Game Cards as a reference when calling in the score, submitting the Coach's Online Report or reporting game issues to the League.

### 10.8.3 GAME REPORTS

**REFEREE REPORT** - The Center Official of each match will collect a Game Card from each Team and submit an online Referee Report.

**REPORTING OF SCORES** - Each Team Manager should confirm the final match score with their opposing Team Manager and only in the case of a discrepancy should request verification from the Center Referee. **Both Managers MUST phone the score into the designated phone number with event ID/pin # by midnight the day of the match. This is the only REQUIRED reporting of scores.**

**COACH'S FAIR PLAY REPORT**– Teams must submit a Coach's ONLINE Report for each game. Coaches are strongly advised to comment on all aspects of the game, including site condition, Referee staff, opposing Player's, Coach and spectators. The Coach's Online Report link is provided on each team's Gotsoccer team account schedule page.

## 10.9 GAME PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Game protests and appeals must be made in writing to the appropriate GiRLS Commissioner, no later than 24 HOURS AFTER the COMPLETION of the MATCH.

The game protest fee of \$125.00 and written protest letter must be mailed to the GiRLS Treasurer.

Once the official written protest and fee have been received the protest will then be referred to the GiRLS Disciplinary Committee for review and final determination.

All parties involved with the protest will be notified by the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson within 72 hours of the receipt of the official written complaint.

All parties will be given an additional 72 hours, after notification, to provide relevant information to the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson regarding the protest.

A final determination will be made by the GiRLS Disciplinary Committee within 20 days of the receipt of the complaint. The Committee reserves the right to extend this period of time if necessary and will notify all parties if an extension is needed.

If the protest is denied, the fee is forfeited to the GiRLS League scholarship fund.

Only one protest per incident is permitted.

All protest judgments/ruling are final.

A protest of a game Official's judgment ruling during a match shall not be permitted; all Referee game decisions are final.



## 10.10 SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship includes the behavior of the Players, Coaches, managers and spectators before, during and after the game, toward the Opponent, the Officiating staff and their own Team Members.

Coaches, Managers, Players, spectators, Teams and Clubs are expected to acknowledge reading and adhering to all IS and GiRLS policies and rules regarding behavior.

As a sign of Fair Play sportsmanship, Teams should offer their official IS roster and Player's Passes to their opponent or Referee staff if requested.

The behavior of all Coaches, Players, managers, spectators and Teams will be evaluated through the Referee Report and Coach's Report.

Artificial noise makers, including but not limited to: air horns, cow bells and whistles, are not permitted during League games. Host sites may be utilizing one or more of these noise makers to warn participants of an emergency. In addition, loud noises made by artificial noise makers are disruptive to fans, players and referees and may be interpreted as a display of poor sportsmanship.

### 10.10.1 FAIR PLAY AWARD

GiRLS Commissioners will determine the Fair Play Award winners at the end of the season. Several awards may be presented to teams demonstrating good sportsmanship and fair play behavior throughout the season. However, no awards may be presented if no teams have consistently demonstrated good behavior.

The Commissioner has the final decision on the Fair Play Award and will review Referee Reports, Coach's online reports and may solicit votes/comments from other Teams in their specific Division when determining the Fair Play Award winners.

## 10.11 SEVERE WEATHER GUIDELINES

GiRLS is a state-wide travel League and as our state is given to inconsistent and unreliable weather patterns and predictions, it is very difficult for the League to firmly establish weather guidelines that represent every Member Club.

The Officiating staff and Coaches/Managers should always discuss the weather and field conditions prior to the start of each game. In the best interest of all individuals on the field, a strong commitment to common sense must be exercised.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the Game must be started before the game is suspended/called due to weather for the game to be recorded as complete.

The Center Referee has the final say in determining playable conditions or the termination of the game due to deteriorating weather conditions.

Member Clubs should develop their own Severe Weather Policies; Clubs should determine acceptable playing conditions at their own fields. As a League, we would like to establish uniformity across the state in regard to severe weather conditions. Below are some suggested guidelines:

### 10.11.1 COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES

46° and higher = considered normal playing conditions

35° to 45° = playable conditions if the pitch is dry; however, the following criteria may apply:

Referee may shorten game time (5-10 minutes per half) with a 5 minute half-time; both Coaches must be informed.

Players may layer additional clothing under uniform and wear gloves, mittens, stocking caps/beanies, jackets;

No strings, hoods, ear muffs with plastic or metal band or scarves allowed.

Jersey numbers must remain visible.

If field is wet or becomes increasingly wet during play, game may be suspended per the Referee's discretion.

Temps below 35° = unacceptable conditions – game should be cancelled and rescheduled.

### 10.11.2 HOT WEATHER GUIDELINES

Up to 89° = considered normal playing conditions

90° to 99° = playable conditions; one minute water break per half while game clock is still running is advised (Players cannot leave the field of play); games may be shortened additionally 5 minutes per half.

100° to 105° = playable conditions; two minute water break per half while game clock is still running is advised (Players cannot leave the field of play); games may be shortened additionally 10 minutes per half.

Above 105° = unacceptable conditions – game should be cancelled and rescheduled

### 10.11.3 STORMY WEATHER GUIDELINES

If lightning is visibly seen, the field must be evacuated and safe shelter sought. Safe shelter includes a car, truck or van with a hard top. Avoid places such as pavilions, shelter under trees or near poles, or remaining in an open field.

As a guide, play may resume 30 minutes after the last lightning flash is observed.

### 10.11.4 OTHER CONDITIONS

Games can and will be played in light to heavy rain in the absence of lightning

Fields with standing water of two or more inches should be considered a hazard and the game should be cancelled or moved to another field if available.

If no field is available, game can be rescheduled per GiRLS Rule 7.7

Dry, barren and extremely hard fields can also be a hazard and can lead to Player injuries; these conditions are not acceptable; an alternative field should be used.

## SECTION 11

## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

11.1 GiRLS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE – The GiRLS Disciplinary Committee and/or Board of Directors maintain the authority to review all matters concerning the conduct of players, coaches, managers, trainers, and spectators. This may include, but is not limited to, players, coaches, managers, trainers, or spectators from a team (or a combination thereof) receiving multiple red cards/ejections and violations of the GiRLS and/or Indiana Soccer Codes of Conduct. Following review, fines or extended suspensions may be imposed. If appropriate, a disciplinary hearing may be conducted. In addition, the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee oversees all game protests.

### 11.2 AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS–

If a suspended player, coach, manager, trainer, or spectator is suspended because of participation on a GiRLS team through club pass or secondary rostering (or is a spectator at such a game), the person must serve the suspension at the first game played by either the primary or secondary of the two teams, PROVIDED that if the suspension is served during a secondary team's game, convincing evidence must be provided that the player, coach, manager, trainer or spectator would have participated in the game but for the suspension.

### 11.3 RED CARD (PLAYER EJECTIONS)

A Player receiving a RED card during a match is considered EJECTED from the game and will receive an AUTOMATIC ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION.

A Player receiving TWO (2) EJECTIONS is AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT TWO (2) succeeding games and will be reported to the GiRLS Disciplinary Committee for further review and action.

A Player receiving THREE (3) EJECTIONS will be SUSPENDED for the REMAINDER of the SEASON and will appear before the GiRLS Disciplinary Committee for further review.

If an ejection occurs during the last game of the season, the automatic suspension will carry over to the Player's next GiRLS sanctioned game at the beginning of the following season regardless of any Club or Team changes. The suspension is attached to and follows the Player.

All Player ejections are reported to IS.

**Both Team Managers must notify the GiRLS Commissioner of any Red-card ejections immediately following the game.**

The Commissioner will report the player ejection to the GiRLS Disciplinary Chairperson and Indiana Soccer.

#### 11.4 YELLOW CARD (PLAYER WARNING)

Any Player who receives a YELLOW card is considered warned of unsporting behavior, a SECOND (2<sup>nd</sup>) YELLOW card violation in a single match is equal to a RED card ejection. The Player is ejected from the game and must leave the field. All other policies listed above in 11.3 apply to the ejected player.

Any Player who receives THREE (3) YELLOW cards or a Coach who receives THREE (3) documented WARNINGS in three separate games over the course of a single season will receive an AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION for the next scheduled GiRLS game.

It is primarily the responsibility of the Club or Team to follow ethical practices in enforcing this penalty.

**BOTH Team Mangers must report any YELLOW CARDS to the GiRLS Commissioner immediately following the game.**

The GiRLS Commissioner will track yellow card infractions.

#### 11.5 OTHER EJECTIONS

Any person other than a Player (including but not limited to Coach, Asst Coach, Trainer, Team Manager, spectator, Parent or any other person observing/attending the game) who is ejected or asked to leave the field by the Center Referee will receive and **AUTOMATIC TWO (2) GAME SUSPENSION.**

Anyone receiving an automatic two game suspension is prohibited from attending any other GiRLS League games until the suspensions have been satisfied. Suspensions are attached to and follow the individual.

It is primarily the responsibility of the Club or Team to follow ethical practices in enforcing this penalty.

Any person ejected for the second time during a single season will appear before the GiRLS Disciplinary Committee for further review and action.

If an ejection occurs during the last game of the season, the automatic suspension will carry over to the next GiRLS sanctioned game at the beginning of the following season regardless of any Club or Team changes. The suspension is attached to and follows the individual.

**BOTH Team Managers must report ALL Non-Player ejections to the GiRLS Commissioner.** Team Mangers and Coaches are responsible for identifying ejected spectators; sanctions may be levied if identification is intentionally withheld from the League.

The GiRLS Commissioner will report the ejection to the GiRLS Disciplinary Committee and IS.

**11.6 VIOLENT CONDUCT**– Physical assault by a Player or any other person on a Referee or other game official, whether before, during or after, will result in expulsion from the League for a period of not less than FIVE (5) YEARS. The offender will be required to appear before the GiRLS Disciplinary Committee and Board of Directors and may be subject to other fines and penalties as determined by the League. Threats of harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment, whether verbal or through actions (whether before, during or after), constitute referee abuse, and shall result in a minimum three (3) game suspension. A longer suspension may be imposed if circumstances warrant.

**11.7 SUSPENSION VIOLATIONS** – Any Coach who allows a suspended Player or other suspended Team member or individual to compete, participate in or observe a sanctioned GiRLS game will receive an automatic minimum ONE (1) YEAR suspension and the game(s) in which the ineligible Player, Team Member or individual participated will be FORFEITED.

**11.8 ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS** – Fines and penalties may be incurred if any of the Team's administrative responsibilities are not satisfied. Including but not limited to:

Late registration or late registration payment  
Failure to submit game scores within 24 hours  
Game forfeits or League withdrawal  
Failure to report Team Member warnings or ejections or to enforce suspension  
Allowing ineligible or suspended players, coaches, managers, trainers or spectators to participate in a GiRLS sanctioned event.

**Fines or sanctions may be applied at the discretion of the GiRLS Commissioner and Board of Directors for any violation of League Rules & Regulations, Policy and Procedures as outline in this Guidebook, GiRLS Bylaws or any documented GiRLS policy. All of these documents are made available on the GiRLS website or by contacting the League.**

## SECTION 12

## TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

### 12.1 PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 12.1.1 EQUIPMENT

All Players in the GiRLS League are required to wear age-appropriate shin guards made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar material) and worn within 2" of the ankle.

Shin guards must be worn at all times while on the field of play and should be covered entirely by the socks.

All Players must have similar uniform jersey, shorts and socks with unique numbers on the back of each jersey.

All jerseys must have SLEEVES; sleeves may NOT be rolled under, clipped or tied.

Players may not wear any jewelry, metal hair clips or bands.

Goalkeepers should wear a different color jersey to distinguish themselves from other Players and Referee staff.

Protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors must be made of soft, lightweight padded material and contain no metal or hard plastic.

#### 12.1.2 BEHAVIOR

Players are expected to acknowledge reading and adhering to all IS and GiRLS policies and rules regarding behavior and fair play.

As members of IS and GiRLS, Players are expected to display good sportsmanship and fair play conduct BEFORE, DURING and AFTER each game toward their opponent, the Referee staff and their own Team Members.

Reports of inappropriate behavior or poor sportsmanship will be investigated by the appropriate GiRLS Commissioner.

### 12.2 COACH'S & MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 12.2.1 PRE-SEASON

Each Team is required to have a representative present at each pre-season GiRLS General Meeting.

Only Teams with representatives in attendance at the GiRLS General Meeting will be eligible to participate in the free reschedule period.

Each Team must contact the appropriate GiRLS age group Commissioner prior to the start of each season either via email or phone to verify contact information. Age Group Commissioner assignments can be found on the League website "girlsinsoccer.com"

Coaches and Managers are required to read all GiRLS League rules and policies as stated in the GiRLS Guidebook prior to the start of each season; sign the attached acknowledgement and GiRLS Code of Conduct form and submit both forms to the appropriate GiRLS Commissioner by the start of each season.

Coaches and Managers are advised to review GiRLS policies of sportsmanship behavior with all Team Members, including parents and spectators. All Parents and Guardians are required to sign the League Code of Conduct. The Team Manager must submit the Team Code of Conduct signatures to the respective Commissioner prior to the start of the season. **The League**

**highly recommends that a copy of the specifics of the Code of Conduct be given to each parent/guardian for their reference throughout the season.**

Coaches and Managers are responsible for the conduct of Players, other Team Members, and Parents/Spectators BEFORE, DURING and AFTER each game. Referee's and Opponents rate the Spectators as well as the Coach and Players.

### 12.2.2 GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

The Coach/Manager is responsible for taking the official IS Team roster and Player's Passes to each game; both should be made available to the Officiating staff or opponent if requested for review.

The Coach/Manager may not refuse a request from the opposing Team or Referee to review their official IS roster or Player's Passes.

The Home Team's Coach/Manager is responsible for paying the appropriate Referee fees as outlined in the GiRLS Game Chart prior to the start of each game. (Except for the U9-U10 Academy Teams) **EACH REFEREE POSITION IS INDIVIDUALLY PAID. A lump sum payment, incorrect dollar denomination and/or checks will not be accepted as payment.**

Each Coach/Manager is required to take TWO (2) GAME CARDS with **the accurate game day Player line-up/roster to each game. No handwritten player add-ins on the Game Card will be accepted by the GiRLS League.**

Each Coach/Manager will ~~strike-out~~ any Players listed on the Game Cards that are not participating in the specific game. One game card will be present to the Center Referee and the other game card will be given to the Opposing Manager prior to the start of the game.

Each Coach/Manager is required to phone-in the game score according to the instructions stated in Guidebook Rule 10.8.3

**Each Coach/Manager must immediately report to the GiRLS Commissioner ANY Player YELLOW or RED CARDS, or the EJECTION of ANY other individual participating in or observing the game.**

The Coach/Manager is responsible for ENFORCING ANY GAME SUSPENSIONS incurred by ANY individuals affiliated with their Team. If a suspended Player, Team member or other individual is affiliated with another Team playing in the GiRLS League, it is the Coach's/Manager's responsibility to inform the second team of the suspension. No suspended Player, Team Member or other individual may participate in a second team's events until the suspension with the first team is satisfied.

## SECTION 13

## LEAGUE CLUB MENTORING

As a League, we have found that many of the issues and problems that arise with Clubs and Teams within our structure could be avoided with better understanding of our rules, procedures and resources.

Each of our Board Members can help regarding League play, registration, game formats, Manager's duties and training, scholarship application assistance, website navigation, understanding League rules and FIFA Laws. Mentors can mediate Team protests or appeals and are available to observe any games or events that may require an unbiased assessment. Updated Mentor assignments can be found on the GiRLS website or by contacting a GiRLS Board Member.

## SECTION 14

## GiRLS SCHOLARSHIPS

14.1 PLAYER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP – GiRLS is pleased to offer a Scholarship program for female soccer athletes who are in need of financial assistance in order to play travel soccer with a Club Team participating in the League.

Each Scholarship request will be considered on a per season basis for fees involving coaching, club fees, field usage or field equipment fees, officials or referee fees, league fees and other fees deemed acceptable by the GiRLS Executive Committee.

The following fees will NOT be considered for scholarship awards: coach's travel expenses, uniform expenses, player/family travel expenses, tournament fees, camps or clinic fees.

Scholarship applicants are expected to meet the volunteer commitment required by their travel soccer club during the season for which the scholarship is granted.

Scholarship applications should be submitted to the Club President or a Club Executive Board member for review and signature. The Club Executive Board member must submit the completed and signed application to the GiRLS Treasurer.

The GiRLS Executive Committee will review all submitted applications for scholarships and make recommendations to the full Board. Fee assistance is not guaranteed. All information on the format is for the sole purpose of helping GiRLS award scholarships to players in need of financial aid. Any information shared with the full Board will be in a format that does not identify the applicant.

If a scholarship recipient withdraws from the Club or if the recipient does not play because of circumstances that would allow a fee refund under Club rules (e.g., injury, moving away from area), the Club must return the scholarship money to GiRLS.”

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** All scholarship information is for the sole purpose of helping the GiRLS Executive Committee award scholarships to athletes in need of financial aid. These scholarship requests are strictly confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than the GiRLS Board of Directors.

Scholarship applications and full instructions can be found on the GiRLS website [girlsinsoccer.com](http://girlsinsoccer.com)

**DEADLINES:** Applications for the Spring Season must be received by February 17<sup>th</sup>; deadline for the Fall season is July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**GiRLS reserves the right to amend or discontinue the Scholarship program.**

14.2 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP – GiRLS is excited to offer a College Scholarship program for females in the State of Indiana who have participated in the GiRLS League, either as a Player or Referee. A \$500 Scholarship will be awarded semi-annually; the winner will be announced at the Spring and Fall GiRLS General Meetings.

The Scholarships will be funded solely by GiRLS League fees, fines and contributions.

The GiRLS League reserves the right to amend or discontinue the Scholarship program.

These Scholarships are administered and sponsored exclusively by GiRLS.

Selections will be at the sole discretion of the GiRLS Board of Directors.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** All information provided in the application is confidential. Only non-identifiable information is provided to the GiRLS Board for review and consideration. Winner is selected by a blind vote based on votes submitted by the GiRLS Board Members.

Scholarship applications and full instructions can be found on the GiRLS website [girlsinsoccer.com](http://girlsinsoccer.com)

**DEADLINES:** Please check the GiRLS website for deadlines on the College and Financial scholarships located at [www.girlsinsoccer.com](http://www.girlsinsoccer.com).

## SECTION 15

## MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

The GiRLS Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Disciplinary Committee and Commissioners reserve the authority to make decisions and resolve conflicts for matters not otherwise provided for in this addition of the GiRLS Official Guidebook or in additional Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures documents.

Any amendments, addendums or corrections made to the GiRLS Official Guidebook will be posted online and made available to all Teams participating in the GiRLS League. A link to a .pdf copy of this Official Guidebook can be found on the GiRLS website.



# GiRLS GAME CHART

	U9 / U10	U11 / U12	U13 / U14	U15 / U16	U17 / U18
<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>6 v 6</b> (5 Field Players + Goalie)	<b>8 v 8</b> (7 Field Players + Goalie)	<b>11v 11</b> (10 Field Players + Goalie)	<b>11 v 11</b> (10 Field Players + Goalie)	<b>11 v11</b> (10 Field Players + Goalie)
<b>GOAL KEEPER</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>GOAL KEEPER DISTRIBUTION</b>	Drop-kicks, ground kicks throwing and rolling past midfield are allowed. A goalie may PUNT the ball but it must land in their defensive half before crossing the midfield line. An infraction will result in an <b>indirect free kick</b> from the midfield line for the opposing team.	Throwing, rolling and unrestricted punting. Possession in Goalie's hands for <b>NOT MORE THAN 6 Seconds</b>	Throwing, rolling and unrestricted punting. Possession in Goalie's hands for <b>NOT MORE THAN 6 Seconds</b>	Throwing, rolling and unrestricted punting. Possession in Goalie's hands for <b>NOT MORE THAN 6 Seconds</b>	Throwing, rolling and unrestricted punting. Possession in Goalie's hands for <b>NOT MORE THAN 6 Seconds</b>
<b>ROSTER SIZE</b>	<b>12</b> max, <b>6</b> min	<b>14</b> max, <b>8</b> min	<b>18</b> max, <b>11</b> min	<b>18</b> max, <b>11</b> min	<b>18</b> max, <b>11</b> min
<b>MINIMUM # TO START GAME</b>	4 Players	6 Players	7 Players	7 Players	7 Players
<b>GAME DURATION</b>	2 Halves x 25 MINS	2 x 30 MINS	2 x 35 MINS	2 x 40 MINS	2 x 45 MINS
<b>SUBSTITUTIONS</b>	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
<b>BALL SIZE</b>	4	4	5	5	5
<b>GOAL SIZE</b>	Recommended: <b>6 ft x 12 ft</b> max 6 ft x 18 ft	Recommended: <b>6 ft x 18 ft</b> max 7 ft x 21 ft	<b>8 ft x 24 ft</b>	<b>8 ft x 24 ft</b>	<b>8 ft x 24 ft</b>
<b>FIELD SIZE (In Yards)</b>	Recommended: <b>50 L x 40 W</b> max 55 L x 45 W	Recommended: <b>75 L x 55 W</b> max 80 L x 60 W	Recommended: <b>110 L x 65 W</b> max 120 L x 80 W	Recommended: <b>110 L x 65 W</b> max 120 L x 80 W	Recommended: <b>110 L x 65 W</b> max 120 L x 80 W
<b>CENTER CIRCLE</b>	<b>5 yard</b> radius	<b>8 yard</b> radius	<b>10 yard</b> radius	<b>10 yard</b> radius	<b>10 yard</b> radius
<b>CORNER ARC</b>	3 feet	3 feet	3 feet	3 feet	3 feet
<b>GOAL AREA (6-Yard Box)</b>	4 yd L x 14 yd W	4 yd L x 14 yd W	6 yd L x 20 yd W	6 yd L x 20 yd W	6 yd L x 20 yd W
<b>PENALTY AREA</b>	9 yd x 22 yd	14 yd x 34 yd	18 yd x 44 yd	18 yd x 44 yd	18 yd x 44 yd

<b>PENALTY MARK</b>	<b>8 yards</b> out from center of goal line	<b>10 yards</b> out from center of goal line	<b>12 yards</b> out from center of goal line	<b>12 yards</b> out from center of goal line	<b>12 yards</b> out from center of goal line
<b>SCORES</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>STANDINGS</b>	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>THROW-IN</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>OFF-SIDES</b>	NO OFF-SIDES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>*CENTER REFEREE</b>	<b>ONE-LICENSED</b> *Only ONE Center Ref/whistle allowed	<b>ONE-LICENSED</b> *Only ONE Center Ref/whistle allowed	<b>ONE-LICENSED</b> *Only ONE Center Ref/whistle allowed	<b>ONE-LICENSED</b> *Only ONE Center Ref/whistle allowed	<b>ONE-LICENSED</b> *Only ONE Center Ref/whistle allowed
<b>**ASSISTANT REFEREES</b>	<b>TWO-LICENSED</b> **Volunteers Lines allowed	<b>TWO-LICENSED</b> **Volunteers Lines allowed	<b>TWO-LICENSED</b> **Volunteers Lines allowed	<b>TWO-LICENSED</b> **Volunteers Lines allowed	<b>TWO-LICENSED</b> **Volunteers Lines allowed
<b>***REFEREE PAY</b>	<b>\$20 / \$10 / \$10</b>	<b>\$27 / \$20 / \$20</b>	<b>\$30 / \$25 / \$25</b>	<b>\$35 / \$30 / \$30</b>	<b>\$40 / \$35 / \$35</b>

**\*Only ONE Center Official is allowed;** games officiated by two Referee's splitting the field, known as a Double Center are illegal and will be replayed after fines are assessed to both Teams involved.

\*\*Volunteers/Team Parents/Spectators may be used as Assistant Lines Referees if the assigned Licensed Assistant Referees do not show. These Volunteers can **ONLY make OUT-OF-BOUNDS calls** and do not receive payment. Refer to GiRLS Rule 10.5.1 for the complete rule.

\*\*\*Only Licensed Referees in proper uniform attire receive payment for the game. Payment is only for the ONE position assigned; a Referee should never receive payment for more than one position. **Payment must be made by the Home Team prior to the start of the game.**

\*\*\*UPDATED REFEREE PAY SCALE

Revised 5/11/10 (lm)



Greater Indiana Regional League of Soccer, Inc.

## **GiRLS Guidebook Acknowledgement:**

**By signing below, I hereby acknowledge receipt of the GiRLS Guidebook, containing League Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures including:**

League Membership Requirements  
Team Applications, Admission and Divisional Placement  
Game Guidelines, Reschedule Policies and Procedures  
Forfeits and Withdrawals  
Player, Coach and Manager Eligibility  
IS Roster Policies  
Modifications and Adaptations of the FIFA "Laws of the Game"  
Referee Staff Policies  
Home Team Responsibilities  
Team Member Responsibilities  
Game Reporting  
Sportsmanship  
Severe Weather Guidelines  
Disciplinary Actions  
GiRLS Scholarship Programs

## **Coach, Trainer & Manager Code of Conduct:**

**By signing below, I also acknowledge that I will:**

Encourage fair play;  
Show respect for the game Officials before, during and after the game;  
Display good sportsmanship as a positive example for all the Players and Spectators;  
Avoid negative or harsh criticism of any Player's performance;  
Avoid negative or harsh criticism of the Team's performance;  
Avoid embarrassing my own Players/Team/Spectators by my personal behavior;  
Show respect for the opponents: Players, Coaches and Spectators  
Encourage positive cheering from the sidelines for all Players on the field;  
Create a positive environment in which the Teams can play, learn and have fun;  
Prioritize the best interests of the Players.

I understand that I not only represent my Team, but also my Club and the League and I will conduct myself accordingly. I understand the Coach/Manager, Players and Parents/Relatives/Supporters of my Team may hold me accountable for my actions and behavior. I further understand that a GiRLS Commissioner may monitor my behavior or the conduct of my team or spectators at any time and may take appropriate action to uphold the League Code of Conduct and GiRLS Rules & Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE GROUP/DIV: \_\_\_\_\_

COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print name Please print name

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**All Adults listed on the official IS Team Roster must read and sign this form.**

Please use the reverse side for additional signatures. This form must be submitted to the appropriate GiRLS Commissioner by the start of the season along with the IS Code of Conduct containing Parent/Guardian signatures.

REV2010(BI)