

**LUTHERVILLE TIMONIUM RECREATION COUNCIL  
SOCCER PROGRAM CONSTITUTION**

**IN-HOUSE LEAGUE OPERATION**

1. In-house leagues shall be established, whenever possible, for boys and girls age 7 through 18. A League shall consist of 4 or more teams. The LTRC Soccer Program may join with other Recreation Councils to form joint leagues with the approval of the Program Commissioner and the League Commissioner.

2. All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA Soccer Rules and any modifications adopted by the Board Members. Further modifications may be made if participating in joint leagues.

3. Teams will be organized by the League Commissioner(s) to be roughly equal in skill and age level, and will consist of no more than 18 players for the youth leagues. League Commissioners will assign players to teams. There will be no drafting or recruiting of players by coaches. There will be no movement of players by coaches or parents without the written permission of the League Commissioner AND the Program Commissioner. Failure to abide by this rule may result in removal of the coach from the program.

4. Based on insufficient league registration, the League Commissioner may designate less than the standard number of players for all age groups as the official number of on-field players.

5. Playing time in the Boys/Girls Under 8, Under 10 and Under 12 leagues will consist of four 12-minute quarters. In the Boys/Girls Under 14 league, playing time will consist of four 15-minute quarters. In the 14/18 Coed league, playing time will consist of two twenty-five minute halves. If players are not on the field and ready to play at the end of the quarter and half time breaks, the referees will start the clock. There will be two minutes between quarters and five minutes between halves. There are no time outs. Teams will switch sides at halftime.

6. Every youth league player in attendance for the entire game is guaranteed a minimum of two full quarters of playing time. If a player has played for three quarters of the game, he/she may not enter the fourth quarter unless all other players present who are not injured have played at least three quarters. A player may voluntarily ask to be removed from the game or can be replaced in case of injury. Failure to abide with the minimum participation rules will result in a forfeit and may result in removal of the coach(es) from the program.

7. No game should ever be won by more than six goals. All games where the margin of victory is greater than six goals will be reviewed by the League Commissioner and may result in removal of the coach(es) from the program.

8. During the first three quarters in the youth leagues (other than 14/18 Coed), substitutions may only be made because of injuries; if the injury is minor and the player is able to return to the game in the same quarter in which the injury occurred, the original player may re-enter the game but must replace the player who was used as the substitute. Injury substitutions that play 2/3 or more of that quarter will be credited with playing a full quarter. Free substitution (defined as substitutions on either teams throw-ins, goal kicks, or after a goal is scored) is allowed in the fourth quarter for players who have already played two full quarters. Free substitution is also allowed for the entire game in the 14/18 Coed League.

9. No player is allowed to play goalie for more than one-half of a game, unless the player VOLUNTARILY requests to do so.

10. For all leagues except 14/18 Coed, if a player arrives late to a game, two quarters of playing time are not guaranteed. If a player arrives after halftime, no playing time is guaranteed.

11. A team may not start an official game with less than the minimum number of field players required for an official game (8 players in 11v11 and 6 players in 8v8). There is no requirement for a team to loan players to an opposing team in order to make the game official. If a forfeit is declared, the game may continue for "practice" purposes, with the concurrence of both coaches provided it does not interfere with another scheduled game. In this case, teams may loan players to the other team in order to have a balanced practice game. No team may bring a player up from another league.

12. Any team using an unregistered or non-roster player will forfeit the games in which that player(s) was involved and the coach may be removed from the program.

13. All teams will be coached by volunteers who are a parent of a participating child. League Commissioners (other than at Clinic level) are not permitted to be coaches (or assistant coaches) in that league, unless:

- A.) there are no other alternatives, and
- B.) they are approved by the Program Commissioner.

14. The offside rule will be enforced in all age groups except Under 8. For Under 8, the referees are instructed not to allow “cherry picking”.

15. Team benches are to be on opposite sides of the field. Coaches and assistant coaches must stay on their side of the field. Coaches are allowed to wander along the sidelines up to the top of the penalty boxes but are not permitted on the playing field. Parents who are not designated as coaches are not permitted to coach on either sideline. All parents should remain 10 feet from the sideline. Under no circumstances should a parent or coach watch a game from behind a goal.

16. In case of a conflict between an in-house game and a travel soccer game, the in-house game will take preference. Exceptions to this rule can only be approved by the League Commissioner and Program Commissioner after agreement between the respective coaches.

17. The champion of each league or division except for the 14/18 Coed shall be determined on a point basis as follows:

- A.) 3 points for each win
- B.) 1 point for each tie

Regular season games that are tied at the end of regulation time will end as ties. There will be no overtime or shootouts for regular season games.

Regular season League and/or Division Champions will receive trophies. If there is a tie, it will be broken based on the results of

head-to-head competition. If teams are still tied, both teams will be awarded trophies.

18. A tournament may be held at the end of the regular season, with seeds established by league standings. In case of ties where the affected teams would receive a bye, seeds will be based on:

- A.) results of "head to head" play
- B.) records against common opponents
- C.) a coin toss if necessary

If a tournament game is tied at the end of regulation time there will be two, five-minute golden goal (i.e. the first goal scored ends the game) overtime periods. If the game is still tied at the end of the extra periods, there will be a penalty kick shootout with rules established by the referee.

Player ratings must be submitted to the League Commissioner prior to the commencement of the tournament for a team to be eligible for tournament play.

Number of goals or goal differentials should never be used to determine seeds. Tournament champions and finalists will be awarded trophies.

For the 14/18 Coed League, a round-robin "social" tournament will be held as outlined by the League Commissioner at that time.

19. In case of inclement weather, the Field Coordinator or the Program Commissioner shall determine if games or practices can be held. Cancellations will be posted on the website at [www.ltrcsoccer.org](http://www.ltrcsoccer.org). Practice cancellations will be posted by approximately 4:30 P.M. on weekdays, and Saturday game cancellations will be posted by approximately 7:30 A.M. The League Commissioner will reschedule postponed/terminated games as time and fields permit.

20. Boys/Girls Under 8, 10 and Under 12 leagues will use a #4 approved game ball. Boys/Girls Under 14 and Coed 14/18 will use a #5 approved game ball.