

Greater Greece Soccer League  
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**GREATER GREECE SOCCER LEAGUE, INC**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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*Version 6.0*

**Amendment Record**

Version	Date	Status	Comment
6.0	2017	Annual Amendment	Version 6.0 sent for Final Review

**References**

Document	Author	Status	Version
2006 League Rules	GGSL BOD	Final	1.0
2007 League Rules	GGSL BOD	Final	1.1
2007 League Rules	GGSL BOD	Final	1.2
2013 League Rules	GGSL BOD	Final	1.3
2014 League Rules	GGSL BOD	Final	2.0
2015 League Rules	GGSL Board	Final	3.0
2016 League Rules	GGSL Board	Final	4.0
2016 League Rules	GGSL Board	Final	4.1
2017 League Rules	GGSL Board	Final	5.0
2018 League Rules	GGSL Board	Final	6.0
2019 League Rules	GGSL Board	Final	1.0

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of GGSL is to promote soccer in the Town of Greece area by providing a quality training environment for youth, coaches and referees to participate, develop and enjoy the game of soccer, and provide them with the necessary skills and values to succeed in life. This mission is based on the philosophy of achieving excellence in the game of soccer by promoting the physical development, mental growth, and moral character of its participants while strengthening the love of soccer.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of Greater Greece Soccer League program are as follows:

- To offer programs throughout the year to fulfill the recreational needs and wants as a service to the community.
- To offer an equal amount of participation opportunities regardless of race, national origin, creed, religion, disability or economic status, or any other legally protected class.
- To make our programs safe and enjoyable in an atmosphere that promotes learning and participation first and competition second.
- To have the best possible people volunteer as coaches and to thoroughly train them to do the best that they can.
- To expect that good sportsmanship and fair play are standard behaviors.
- To ensure that the child's participation is a worthwhile and positive life experience.

## **LEAGUE RULES**

### **Recreation Age Divisions- Based upon current approved age matrix**

*Tykes (Coed)*

*6U (Coed)*

*8U*

*10U*

*13U Girls*

*10U Boys MURSL*

*13U Boys MURSL*

*16U Girls MURSL*

*19U Girls MURSL*

(\* **MURSL = Monroe United Recreational Soccer League**; GGSL will follow the MURSL Rules of game per the MURSL Rules and Bylaws.; for MURSL rules, please visit [www.mursl.org](http://www.mursl.org))

### **Proof of Age**

All new (1st time) registrants to GGSL must submit proof-of-age documentation to ensure placement in the correct age group and in order to be admitted into the league. The following constitute acceptable forms of Proof of Age.

- A certified proof-of-age document issued by federal, state or provincial registrars of vital statistics, or local offices, is acceptable proof-of-age, provided the document was filed, recorded, registered or issued within one (1) year of the birth of the child (i.e. birth certificate).
- For children born abroad of a parent or parents who are U.S. citizens, any official government document issued by a U.S. federal agency or service is acceptable. These must be originals, not copies, and must refer to a filing, recording, registration, or issue date that is within one (1) year of the birth of the child.
- A photocopy of the following documents (state law permitting) will be acceptable:
  - Birth Certificate
  - Baptismal Certificate
  - Valid Passport
  - Medical Insurance Cards with enumerated birth dates, etc.
  - Documents from Nos. 1 and 2 above

GGSL reserves the right to accept or reject any proof-of-age documentation not listed above.

### **Equipment**

Coaches are responsible to pick up equipment bag at the beginning of the season. Coaches are responsible to return all delivered equipment back to the League at the end of SoccerFest, or after their last game.

**Uniforms will consist of the following provided by Greater Greece Soccer League.**

- 1 Jersey
- 1 Pair Shorts
- 1 Pair Socks

It is required that only the uniforms supplied by GGSL be worn. Players must wear the game jersey issued by GGSL in order to play within the league. Game jersey's may not be torn or cut. Lost or damaged uniforms may be reordered for an additional fee. Referees cannot disallow players due to non-matching socks.

Players must only wear rubber molded soccer cleats, multipurpose cleats or tennis shoes and Shin Guards. Shin guards are mandatory. All shin guards must be completely covered by sock or stocking.

It is recommended participants wearing glasses secure them with an eyeglass strap.

Hard casts or hard splints of any material are considered illegal equipment. Casts can sometimes be wrapped in a towel or equivalent manner to allow the player to participate in a safe manner. A final determination of safety will be made by the Game Official (referee).

Goalies must wear protective headgear during a game. A mouth guard is suggested but not required. GGSL requires that all goalies in the 8U, 10U, 12U, and 15U wear protective headgear provided by GGSL. Tyke's and 6U age divisions do not have goal keepers. Goalie must wear a different shirt of a different color than the other team playing.

All jewelry must be removed except for medical alert equipment. Earrings are not approved jewelry exceptions, covering earrings with tape is not acceptable. If players are not willing to remove jewelry, they will not be allowed to play.

### **Coach's Duties**

**It is a privilege not a right to become a Head Coach or Assistant Coach. All Coaches are decided at the beginning of the Season per the Coaches Committee.**

1. Coaches are required to properly display (wear/carry) their Risk Management card.  
Coaches are encouraged to wear the coach's shirt provided to them by the league.
2. Each team is required to have one (1) Head Coach and at least one (1) up to maximum of two (2) Assistant Coaches per team.
3. Insure that all equipment issued to him/her by GGSL is safeguarded and maintained, and that he/she is directly responsible for the return of all equipment at the end of SoccerFest or after the last game of the season.
4. All coaches (head and assistant(s)) must coach and remain on their team's designated sideline. (See Field Conduct Rule # 2)
5. Insure that proper conduct is always maintained among the team.
6. Have a minimum of one (1) team/parents meeting to explain the rules, philosophies, bylaws and parental expectations.
7. Responsible for ensuring that the field is as clean when they leave as when they arrived.
8. Coaches will be sure his/her behavior sets a good example for the players on the team. The coach shall not criticize players in front of spectators but reserve the constructive criticism for private or in the presence of the team so all may benefit.
9. Accept the decision of the officials on the field as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
10. Do not criticize the opposing team, its coaches or spectators by word, gestures or by encouraging spectators to do so.
11. Do not allow players to re-enter any game injured.

12. Abide by the doctor's decision in all matters of a player's health and injuries. If a player is injured in a game or practice, they must give their coaches a doctor's excuse before playing or practicing again.
13. Make sure that proper practices are conducted and that a minimum of one and a maximum of three per week are conducted. (Tykes do not hold practices).
14. Coaches must report any injuries to GGSL immediately upon his or her awareness of the injury.
15. We stress that you encourage maximum participation by letting participants experience a variety of positions and involving them in making decisions.
16. Coaches must apply proper principals of conditioning and nutrition.
17. Coaches must demonstrate sportsmanship and not allow excessive score domination.
18. All Coaches must pledge their commitment to provide an enjoyable, healthy youth sports experience by signing the Coaches Code of Ethics.
19. If a Coach is ejected from a game, he/she must leave the premises at once and will be immediately suspended from coaching until reinstated by the Commissioner at Large or the Disciplinary Committee.

### **Unsportsmanlike and Unacceptable Behavior**

1. The President, Vice President, Commissioner at Large, Age Group Commissioner and the Game Officials have the authority to eject any player, coach or spectator from the premises for unsportsmanlike conduct. Any player or coach ejected is prohibited from further participation until he/she is reinstated by the Commissioner at Large.
2. If a coach is ejected from a game, he/she must leave the premises at once and will be immediately suspended indefinitely from coaching until reinstated. If a coach does not leave, the game will be forfeited.
3. If a player is ejected from a game, she must remain on the bench under strict supervision of the coach or assistant coach. The player will automatically be suspended for the next game.
4. Parents must be positive role models exhibiting sportsmanlike behavior at games and practices.
5. The use of alcohol, tobacco and other illegal substances by coaches, players or spectators will not be tolerated at games or practices. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances will be ejected from the premises by the Commissioner at Large or Game Officials.
6. Any player, coach or spectator guilty of striking an official in any manner during or after a game shall automatically be suspended indefinitely from participating in all leagues.
7. A coach or player shall not commit an unsportsmanlike foul. These fouls are listed.
  - Disrespectfully addressing the Game Official.
  - Attempt to influence the Game Official's decisions.
  - Use of profanity.
  - Disrespectfully addressing and taunting an opponent.
  - Objecting to the Game Official's decision by rising from the bench and using gestures.
  - Inciting undesirable crowd reactions.
  - Going on the field of play during the game.
8. The penalty for violating any part of Rule #7 shall be removal from the premises by the Head Coach or Commissioner at Large.
9. Only authorized coaches and assistant coaches may occupy the player bench area in addition to the uniformed players.
10. Two yellow cards equal one red card. One red card requires ejection from a game. When a player is ejected, a replacement for that player is allowed unless physical or verbal abuse has taken place. If a coach, player or spectator receives a red card, the offending party will be ineligible to attend any GGSL event until reinstated by the Commissioner at Large.

11. A Coach must report to their Age Commissioner at least 24 hours before the start of a game in which a player is being disciplined. The Age Commissioner must agree with the reason that the Coach has for disciplining a player, otherwise, the disciplinary action may not take place.
12. The Commissioner at Large will review ALL allegations of un-sportsman and unacceptable behavior or conduct violations on an individual basis, with the parties involved, to determine if disciplinary action is warranted. The disciplinary procedure is found in the league's Bylaws.

### **Inclement Weather**

1. The Game Official may suspend a game due to weather and/or unsafe playing conditions. If thunder or lightning is heard or seen the following procedures should be adhered to:
  - o Game Official will suspend play and direct coaches to inform players and spectators to take shelter or go inside a vehicle.
  - o A mandatory wait time of 30 minutes from the last clap of thunder or flash of lightning is required to make ensure the storm has passed before the game can resume.
  - o If the game is delayed more than 45 minutes, then the game must be cancelled, and a make-up will be rescheduled by the Head Coaches.
2. GGSL will notify coaches, players and spectators no later than 3:00 p.m. via email blast if games will be cancelled due to heat index or rain. A make-up game will be rescheduled by the Director of Fields.
3. Status for athletic fields located in the Town of Greece and Greece Central School District is posted on the GCSD website(s). If the Town of Greece and GCSD have closed their athletic fields, all green space located around these sites are considered closed.
4. Fields are not available to Greater Greece Soccer League until designated open by the Town of Greece or GCSD (typically around May 15<sup>th</sup> each year), weather permitting.

### **Field Conduct**

All coaches, players not assigned on the field and spectators must remain off the field during the game. The Game Official will give permission to persons entering the field.

1. Parents and spectators must stay behind the spectator's line or if no line is provided, at least 5 feet behind the sidelines of the playing field.
2. All Coaches (head and assistant(s)) must coach from the sideline. Tykes, 6U and 8U coaches are allowed on the field.
3. No one can stand behind the goal or behind the end line while the game is in progress.
4. All spectators must sit opposite of teams playing. No Exceptions.

### **Player Eligibility**

Only players registered within Greater Greece Soccer League and insured under the New York State West Youth Soccer Association may participate in scheduled games. Players are assigned to age divisions based on their birth year and current approved age matrix. Players are not eligible to play up or play down, no exceptions will be granted.

### **Rostering of Teams**

1. The league supports recreational in-house play in Tykes, 6U, 8U, 10U GIRLS and 13U GIRLS age groups. The league supports 10U BOYS, 13U BOYS, 16U and 19U to participate within the MURSL League. Depending upon the number of teams, additional divisions may also play in MURSL.
2. Registered players will attempt to be rostered by the following:
  - By Head Coach's Home School or by Head Coach's player's Home School.
  - Additional Players will be designated to their Home School first. If that team is filled, the league will roster the additional players together on another team in need of players.
  - Players will then be evenly placed on teams based on need of teams that do not have enough players.
  - Players are not placed on teams based on requests or needs. There is no formula for rostering teams, only to ensure that the league will have an even number of players on each team.
3. Players may not be transferred from one team to another after being assigned to a team except where the league has made an error.
4. No Player will be transferred from one age division to another after being assigned to a team except a situation where the league has made an error.

### **GAME RULES**

1. The field of play shall be governed by the rules of FIFA except for those noted in the Greater Greece Soccer League Rules.
2. Field Permits are not required for practices just for games. Head Coaches will retain copy of all permits.
3. Head Coaches will retain a copy of GGSL Rules and Game Card to have on hand during their games.
4. The Home team and Away team will be responsible for providing 2 corner flags each for their games.
5. The Home team is responsible for the game ball. If the Game Official requests a new ball, it's up to the Home team to provide another game ball.
6. The Home team and Away Team will be responsible for providing set-up of their soccer nets.
  - a. All nets will be required to have stakes placed in order to fasten net securely for the safety of the players.
  - b. If another game is scheduled after your game, the next Head Coach can hand over his/her net, stakes and flags and take over the responsibility of the set-up field.
7. The Home team and Away team will be responsible for making sure all players are in correct uniform.
8. Tyke's, and 6U Age Divisions do not have goalkeepers.
9. At 8U and 10U, all players on the opposing team must move across the center line for all goal kicks.
10. At 8U and 10U, no goalie punts will be allowed. The goalie must distribute the ball to a player in the defensive side of the field.
11. It is recommended that no heading of the ball be allowed for Tykes, 6U, 8U, and 10U Age Divisions.
12. The Home team and their spectators get to choose which side of the field they'd like to play from. The Away team and their spectators shall occupy the opposing side. Coaches are asked to enforce this rule whenever possible and avoid involving the Game Official.
13. When the Game Official requests team captains to come to the center field, both Head Coaches of each team will also come up and show good sportsmanship.
14. All will agree upon the rules of the game and shake hands to show good faith that all rules will be followed.
15. The Home team Head Coach will provide payment in full to the Game Official BEFORE the start of the game.

16. Should a Coach find him/herself at the favorable end of a lopsided game, he/she must consider the effect on their opponents. The decision to play down evenly on both teams will be decided with the Game Official, Team Captains and both Head Coaches.
17. All Players must play at least half (50%) of the game, subject to the exceptions below. No player may play 4 quarters unless all the other players play at least 3 quarters. Exceptions may be made only if the player is:
  - i. Being disciplined by the Coach (with prior approval of the Age Commissioner).
  - ii. Is unable to play because of physical limitations.
  - iii. Is ineligible because of improper registration status.
18. All players are given the opportunity to play multiple positions during every game. No one player should play the same position each game.
19. Each Coach will be responsible for providing an adult on their side of the field to act as linesman. The linesman must not instruct or direct players. Coaches cannot be linesman.
20. No overtime will be played during the regular season. Games may end in a tie.

### **Modified Rules**

Highly modified rules are in place to lessen the potential for injury, as noted here:

#### ***Tykes and 6U***

1. Teams can practice up to two (2) x prior to the start of league sanctioned game nights.
2. There are no referees. One or both coaches will act as referees during the scrimmage.
3. There is no offsides rule. Coaches should not, however, position a player in an offsides position.
4. Playing of a defensive player back in the goal is not allowed.
5. Goal kicks, Corner Kicks and Penalty Kicks are not allowed. The team with possession will take a throw-in.
6. Each team will use the field on Game Nights in the beginning for warm-ups and instruction. After that warm-up and instruction period, the field will be used for a controlled scrimmage with both teams.

#### ***8U and 10U***

1. Players will be allowed a second chance at a throw-in in the discretion of the referee and if it is determined by the referee that the first throw-in was illegal.
2. Offsides will be called only for flagrant situations and if a true advantage was gained.
3. Goal kicks will be taken as an indirect kick from anywhere on the front line of the penalty area (not the goal box); all players on the opposing team must move across the center line for all goal kicks.
4. Penalty kicks will be taken as an indirect kick from the front line of the penalty area at the point which is closest to where the foul originally occurred.

#### **The Game Ball Size**

Tykes- Size 3

6U - Size 3

8U - Size 3

10U - Size 4

13U Boys - Size 4 (per MURSL Rules)

13U Girls – Size 4

16U and 19U - Size 5 (per MURSL rules)

#### **Game Nights-**

***Please see the website for current year game nights.***

***Please note: Schedule is subject to change based upon field availability, rain-outs and holidays.***

#### **Length of the Game**

### **Tykes and 6U**

Games for the Tykes, and 6U will play four (4) eight (8) minute quarters. At the end of each quarter, the game will be restarted by an indirect free kick.

### **8U and 10U**

Games will have four (4) 12.5-minute quarters. At the end of each half, teams will change goals and the game will be restarted by an indirect free kick. Teams will exchange ends of the field (switch goals) only at the half.

### **13U**

Games will have the option to play four (4) 12.5 Minute Quarters or two (2) 25-minute halves. This will be the Head Coach and Away Coaches discretion and a mutual agreement. Teams will exchange ends of the field (switch goals) only at the half.

### **10U, (boys) 13U (boys), 16U and 19U MURSL Age Divisions**

10U (boys), 13U (boys), 15U and 19U will play in the MURSL Program; GGSL will follow MURSL Rules and Bylaws. For MURSL rules, please visit [www.murssl.org](http://www.murssl.org).

### **Number of Players and Substitutions**

There will be an even number of players on the field at any time from the Home Team and the Away Team.; except for lopsided games and disciplinary reasons (see Game Rules #16 and #17).

*Co-ed (For Tykes and 6U - that have male and female players).*

1. EVERY player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total game playing time.
2. EVERY team shall play with 50% boys and 50% girls on the field during the game.

The number of substitutions is unlimited during play.

### **Tykes and 6U**

The maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be **four (4)**, none of which shall be a goalkeeper.

Substitutions are allowed after each quarter or for an injured player.

### **8U and 10U**

The Maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be **seven (7)**, one of which shall be a goalkeeper.

Substitutions are allowed after each quarter or half time or for an injured player.

### **10U -MURSL**

The maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be seven, (7) one of which shall be a goalkeeper.

### **13U – MURSL**

The Maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall **be nine (9)**, one of which shall be a goalkeeper. Free substitutions are allowed.

### **13U - GGSL**

The Maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall **be eleven (11)**, one of which shall be a goalkeeper.

Free substitutions are allowed.

### **16U and higher Age Divisions**

The Maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be **eleven (11)**, one of which shall be a goalkeeper. Free substitutions are allowed and are subject to FIFA rules with the following exceptions:

1. Substitutions are allowed at any time within FIFA rules. These are:
  - a. Either team may substitute on any goal kick;
  - b. Either team may substitute after a goal is scored;
  - c. Either team may substitute when the referee stops play for an injury;
2. Only the team with possession may substitute on a throw-in;
3. NEITHER team may substitute on a corner kick.
4. All substitutes must be waived in and accepted by the referee.

### **Reporting Scores**

1. Where applicable; the Home Team is responsible for reporting scores; please use "Reporting Scores" reference on ggsl.org website/coaches.
2. We do not report scores for Tykes, 6U, 8U, and teams participating in MURSL.

### **Game Officials (Referees)**

1. Game Officials are assigned by the FIFA Referee assigner.
2. If a Game Official is a no show, Coaches will be responsible for contacting their Age Group Commissioner.
3. GGSL does not allow anyone who is not authorized by FIFA to coach a game with a no-show Game Official. No Exceptions.
4. If a Game Official cannot be provided, Coaches will need to reschedule the game.
5. Teams can use the game time to scrimmage, if the teams do not want to reschedule, but it will only count as practice.
6. The Game Official is the sole authority of a game.
7. If you are not happy with your Game Official, please email your Age Group Commissioner.

### **SPECIAL GAME RULES**

#### **SoccerFest Tournament**

1. Rules shall be governed by the rules of FIFA; unless modified by GGSL Game Rules.
2. Game Rules (as reported above) will apply unless replaced by the Special Rules.

Special Rules (if applicable) will be developed and distributed prior to the start of the Tournament.