

BAWSL Roster Relief Player Loan Program

The *Roster Relief Player Loan Program* aims to allow teams flexibility in fielding complete rosters while maintaining league integrity, safety standards, and competitive balance. The program will be piloted in Spring 2026 and re-evaluated after the season.

Eligibility Requirements

1. **Relief Player Eligibility:** Only current season BAWSL registered members in good standing with signed waivers and completed age verification may serve as relief players
2. **Division Restrictions:** Relief players may only play in their registered division or higher (e.g., Division 2 players may fill-in for Division 1 or 2, but not Division 3)

Usage Parameters

1. **Limited Availability:** Maximum of 2 relief players per team per game
2. **Necessity Requirement:** Relief players may only be used when a team cannot field 11 players from their registered roster. When using a relief player, total active players (including relief players) cannot exceed 11 at any time during the game.
3. **Pre-Game Declaration:** Relief players must be declared to referees before kickoff and registered on the game sheets

Administrative Process

1. **Enhanced Game Sheets:** Referee game sheets will include 2 additional blank lines designated for relief players
2. **Relief Player Information:** Teams must provide relief player's full name, division, and BAWSL primary team
3. **Verification:** a BAWSL board member (***Roster Relief Coordinator***) will verify player information against the BAWSL registration database

Penalties for Violations

Teams found in violation of relief player regulations will face:

1. **Immediate Consequences:**
 - o \$100 fine per ineligible player
2. **Season Penalties:**
 - o Loss of relief player privileges for remainder of season

BAWSL Roster Relief Proposal

Overview:

The Bay Area Women's Soccer League (BAWSL) proposes implementing a Roster Relief Player Loan Program to allow teams flexibility in fielding complete rosters while maintaining league integrity, safety standards, and competitive balance.

Objectives:

- Ensure all players have signed BAWSL waivers and liability forms
- Maintain competitive integrity across divisions
- Provide teams with roster flexibility only when needed
- Streamline game-day administration for referees

Program Guidelines:

Eligibility Requirements

3. **Relief Player Eligibility:** Only current BAWSL registered members in good standing may serve as relief players
4. **Division Restrictions:** Relief players may only play in their registered division or higher (e.g., Division 2 players may fill-in for Division 1 or 2, but not Division 3)
5. **Team Registration:** Relief players must be registered with a BAWSL team for the current season

Usage Parameters

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5. **Necessity Requirement:** Relief players may only be used when a team cannot field 11 players from their registered roster. When using a relief player, total active players (including relief players) cannot exceed 11 at any time during the game.
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6. **Verification:** BAWSL board member (***Roster Relief Coordinator: new position***) will verify player information against the BAWSL registration database

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Implementation Timeline

- **Phase 1** (Spring Season 2026): Pilot program with all divisions
- **Review Period:** Summer 2026 evaluation and adjustment if needed
- **Phase 2** (Fall Season 2026): Full league implementation

Benefits:

- Reduces game cancellations due to insufficient players
- Maintains safety through verified waiver compliance
- Preserves competitive balance through division restrictions
- Provides clear enforcement mechanisms

Next Steps:

1. Board approval of proposal
2. New Board member position filled (Roster Relief Coordinator)
3. Development of referee verification system
4. Communication to team managers
5. Training for referees on new procedures