



STANDARDS & RULES

2024-2025



LEAGUE STANDARDS

- ★ These standards will be modified from year to year but are in place to preserve the quality of the league.
- ★ The standards will be reviewed and approved annually by the League Commissioner, Standards Board and Technical Advisory Group
- ★ We will progressively set the standard and then be the standard.
- ★ With standards comes accountability and oversight. We have a standards board to oversee and implement protocols, governance and sanctions to maintain standards that allow the league to perform as a top national platform.
- ★ The standards that are defined below will have a clear consequence if not followed.



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Technical Standards & Governance Model ELITE ACADEMY LEAGUE (EA)

| Standards Area | Standard | Explanation |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Age Group Structure | U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U19 age groups U11 & U12 are optional | U11 and U12 will be optional for EA Clubs and determined by individual conferences if desired. U13-U19 are mandatory for EA Clubs. |
| Competition Format | All teams will play Home and Away within conference and some conferences may have cross conference matches. Competition format can differ between conferences and will be agreed upon by each conference . | Neutral sites for specific clubs to limit overall player and family travel within conferences. Events will provide cross conference matches. These matches will count toward league standings. |
| Competition Format (cont) | League break for High School season based on each Conference | |
| Player Roster Rules | U11-U12: Roster maximum of 20 players, 14 players on Digital Match Roster (DMR) for match participation U13-U19: Roster maximum of 30 players, 18 players on Digital Match Roster (DMR) for match participation | Players playing up do not count toward total roster limits (example: U14 player competing at U14 and U15 does not count as 2 players) 3 EA players may be rostered in EA2 matches without exceeding daily Match minute limitations. Same limitation applies for EA2 players rostered in EA Matches. |
| Staff Roster Rules | U11-U19: No roster maximum for Staff. U11-U19: 5 Staff allowed on Digital Match Roster for match participation | Minimum of 2 Staff members should be on DMR and present for every match to avoid forfeit and fine in the case 1 Staff member gets sent off. |
| Match Format | U16-U19: 2 X 45 minute halves with 15 minute half time U14-U15: 2 X 40 minute halves with 15 minute half time U13: 2 X 35 minute halves with 10 minute half time U11-U12: 2 X 30 minute halves with 10 minute half time | |



Technical Standards & Governance Model ELITE ACADEMY LEAGUE (EA)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Match Scheduling Standards | EA recommends to play oldest age groups to youngest age groups. Final determination by host club. | When exposing players to minutes at older age groups, it's common to make decisions based on match flow. For example, a coach may plan to play a U17 age eligible player 45 minutes in the U19 match, but based on what takes place in the first half, the player might only play 20 minutes. In this situation, now it is clear the player can play 70 minutes in the U17 match afterward vs potentially having to guess and the player missing meaningful minutes. |
| Match Schedule Standards (cont) | A framework establishing an allowable time frame for matches to be scheduled during a given day must be followed | *See scheduling section for more info |
| Match Day Standards | When possible, 30 minutes of warm-up time on the match field is recommended prior to the start of any match | Scheduling guidelines should be reflective of this standard as well as provisions for extenuating circumstances |
| Match Day Standards (cont) | Turf fields should be considered for primary use on match day in case of inclement weather. If the matches are not on turf, Clubs should have a backup plan for if inclement weather impacts the scheduled field. | Recommended |
| Match Day Standards (cont) | Host clubs are required to provide team benches with EA branded canopies in technical area for home and away teams | Required |
| Match Day Standards (cont) | Host clubs are recommended to provide hydration center with water | Required |
| Match Day Standards (cont) | Host clubs are required to provide certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) prior to the start of any official league match | Required *Matches are instructed to not start without certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) |
| Substitution Standards | Matches in the U13-U19 age groups will operate under the FIFA-7 players "per half" substitution system. Once replaced, players cannot re-enter the match during the same half. There shall be a maximum of 3 moments to make seven (7) substitutions per half. | U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U19 |
| Substitution Standards | Unlimited / free substitutions | U11, U12 |



Technical Standards & Governance Model ELITE ACADEMY LEAGUE (EA)

| Player Development Standards | | |
|--|--|--|
| Player Development Standards | Clubs are recommended to hold a minimum of three (3) training sessions per week during the season. | U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U19 |
| Player Development Standards (cont) | Each team is expected to be provided at least one (1) day of rest per week during the season. | Recommended |
| Player Development Standards (cont) | <p>A player can only compete in a maximum number of minutes of one (1) full match: the duration of the longest match.</p> <p>GK's are able to participate in 2 league matches within the same fixture within the same day:: the duration of the longest 2 matches.</p> | Top players should be exposed to more challenging match environments and are allowed to play minutes equal to one (1) full match per day. Example: if a U15 age player competes in 50 minutes of a U16 match, that player can play 40 minutes in the U15 match (90 minutes total due to U16 match duration being 90 minutes). |
| Player Development Standards (cont) | When possible, teams will be scheduled to play one match per weekend. | Recommended / Best Practice |
| Player Development Standards (cont) | Teams are permitted to participate in other showcases/tournaments; however, the EA League must take priority in case of any conflict. | Required |
| Staffing Standards | | |
| Staffing Standards | <p>Licensing certifications in 1st year</p> <p>Continued education</p> | <p>Academy Director: USSF A or B License or accredited foreign equivalent required</p> <p>Head Coach: C License or foreign equivalent required</p> <p>The EA will work with US Soccer to pull all coaching licenses and showcase where each club is at. Clubs will be requested to provide proof of continued education direction for coaches not in compliance.</p> |



Technical Standards & Governance Model ELITE ACADEMY LEAGUE (EA)

| Governance Standards | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Governance Standards | <p>EA Technical Advisory Group consists of at least 1 representative from each Conference.</p> <p>This group helps steer the overall League with Technical Standards and Rules.</p> | <p>The Club Academy Director will be the main point of contact for all disciplinary and technical matters for the League.</p> |
| Governance Standards (cont) | <p>EA National Committee are selected to oversee the vision and lead the League in the direction best serving the Clubs.</p> | <p>To present/support any administrative issues / updates / support to Technical Advisory Group.</p> |
| Governance Standards (cont) | <p>US Soccer Technical representatives are welcome to be part of either group above.</p> | <p>Help evaluate and advise the groups on League technical standards and principles.</p> |
| Governance Standards (cont) | <p>A performance bond is required from each club to participate. Fines may be taken out of this bond through the year, which is then required to be remedied prior to participation the next year.</p> | |



Each club understands the EA Staff will make the final determination if the Club is meeting the technical standards of the EA.

GENERAL

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, all the Elite Academy League competitions shall be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in force at the time of competition as provided by the International Football Association Board.

Member clubs are required to comply with these regulations, and in addition, member clubs are encouraged to report pertinent situations to the league staff, which appear to be in non-compliance with the league requirements. Reporting non-compliance on the part of other clubs should not be viewed as a negative, but rather as a positive attempt to maintain consistent standards that ensure professionalism and fairness, both on and off the field.

All member clubs are required to adhere to the league requirements. The league reserves the right to decide how to enforce these requirements. Should a member club be found in violation of any of the requirements outlined in this document, their standing as a member Club may be jeopardized. The penalties vary based on the type and frequency of the infraction, and may result in denied participation in specific competitions and programming.

League and Team Fees for the season must be paid in full by August 15th.

CONDUCT

Each member Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its players, representatives and members at all times as related to all aspects of the league and agree to abide by the FIFA Code of Conduct. Parents, administrators, managers, coaching staff will be responsible for adhering and understanding the code of conduct established when registering within the EA registration platform.

TRAINING AND MATCH EXPECTATIONS

1. Member Clubs are responsible for adhering to all match day policies and procedures outlined and explained in the EA Technical Framework.
2. Member Clubs should make efforts to acquire the best facilities possible. Member Clubs must train and play home league games within reasonable geographic proximity to their Club's home location unless approved by the league.
3. If a club is unable to provide a home field that meets minimum standards, the Club may be required to find an alternate location or may lose the right to host games.
4. All teams inside the EA should be wearing consistent club uniforms with jersey numbers aligning with Match Day Protocol.



ELIGIBILITY & REGISTRATION

1. Registration: All registration will be completed via USSSA through LeagueApps. The league will distribute instructions to each member annually.
2. League Staff shall have the authority to establish additional procedures, including deadlines, for registration of players.
3. All Club Staff members must complete the online registration process for USSSA, by completing Safesport Certification, background check and completing a signed waiver.

ROSTERS

General:

1. Each member is required to submit an initial roster by **August 15** of each seasonal year (**U13-U19 - 14 approved Players, 1 approved Coach, U11-U12 - 12 approved Players, 1 approved Coach**)
 - a. Exceptions made for U15-U19 age groups with high school in the Fall
2. Rosters will remain open until May 9th, in which rosters will freeze for any team that has qualified for playoffs. Within a club, if a younger team doesn't qualify for playoffs, the older team will be allowed to add players from a younger roster to be part of the 18-player Match Day roster for playoffs.

Player Transfers: (only applies to EA players, moving to an EA Team in a different Club)

1. May occur with the approval of Directors of both Club. Players transferring from one Club to another shall not compete against the transferring Club within league play.

*Without both Club's approval, the player is not eligible to compete in the EA for another Club that season.

General Roster Size:

1. Maximum Roster Sizes per age at any given time:
 - a. U13-U19: 30
 - b. U11-U12: 20

Match Day Roster Rules:

1. U13-U19: 18 Players from approved Player list, who must be added to the Digital Match Roster (DMR) in MOD11 with correct jersey numbers for the Referee to confirm eligibility.
 - a. Limit of 3 EA2 players from same age category per Match Day Roster
2. The bench and technical area is reserved for Players and a maximum of five (5) registered/approved Club Staff members, not including a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC).



Digital Match Rosters: (Official Match Day Roster)

1. The official match day roster will be created in MOD11 for the Referee(s) to have access
2. It is the responsibility of the Referee to submit the Match Report, which is expected the same day as the Match has played

Match Suspensions:

1. After the League Disciplinary Committee has reviewed all disciplinary information from a weekend of fixtures, Clubs will receive suspension notification for any Players or Staff through MOD11 by Thursday leading to a weekend of fixtures
 - a. Suspended Players will not be selectable in the DMR and if by chance they are, leaving them off the DMR will confirm the suspension was served
 - b. All Players or Staff who receive a Red Card will serve a suspension in the match / fixture immediately preceding (no matter if traveling or not)
 - c. League Staff will provide communication regarding suspensions prior to any League National Events (suspensions will be served at Events)
 - d. Suspensions are served by Club fixtures and across competitions (EA + EA2), NOT team specific matches
 - i. Example: If a U14 Player or Staff receives a Red Card in a U14 Match, they will be suspended for all eligible matches in the next fixture (U14-U19)(EA + EA2)
 - e. League Staff reserve the right to provide additional suspensions as deemed necessary (consistent with but not limited by the chart below):
 - i. All incidents will be investigated and video will be reviewed where applicable

| Action | Potential Suspension |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Punch Thrown (open or closed hand) | 2-5 Matches & Club Fine |
| Punch Connected (open or closed hand) | Removal From EA & Club Fine |
| Abusive Language (to anyone) | 2 - 5 Matches & Club Fine |
| Reported Use of Banned Term** | 5 Matches & Club Fine & Forfeit of Match |
| Spitting on Another Individual | 5 Matches |
| Off-Ball Incident | 2-5 Matches |
| On-Ball Violent Conduct | 2-5 Matches |

*Please see more information in “Fines for Violating Standards” Section at bottom

**Evidence of education provided by the club to their members on topic of incident will need to be provided



Eligible Player:

1. Player will be available in MOD11 after Registration with USSSA which requires waiver, birth certificate or passport, code of conduct with EA registration.
2. Players can only be approved and made eligible by EA league registration process through USSSA sanctioning.
3. All players must be registered to the club in the league system and approved by the league administration.

| 2024-2025 Elite Academy League - Competition Eligibility | |
|---|---------------------------|
| U11 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2014 |
| U12 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2013 |
| U13 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2012 |
| U14 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2011 |
| U15 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2010 |
| U16 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2009 |
| U17 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2008 |
| U19 Age Group | Born on or after 1/1/2006 |

*Note: Players may play for their own age group and for “older” age groups.

Player Development Initiative - Registrations:

1. Females: Allowed to be registered and compete with one (1) age group younger than age team they are age eligible for after approval from EA League Staff.
2. Bio-Banding: 2 Bio Banded players are allowed to be registered per team by October 1, 2024

Ineligible Player:

1. Players not listed on the roster or any player listed on the roster but not eligible to play, due to reasons such as missing registration forms, awaiting international clearance, serving a league suspension or not on the official digital match roster (DMR) shall be considered an ineligible player.
2. Any member Club using an ineligible player during any competition may be subject to a fine as determined by the league and a forfeit (by a 0-3 margin) of any match(es) in which the ineligible player participated.



LEAGUE SCHEDULE

League schedules will be organized by EA League Staff with feedback from Clubs and with each Club having the ability to alter their schedule according to Club needs at the beginning of the season. The benefit to Club members is ease of staffing and administration of teams. All regular season conference matches must be played fully and completed prior to May 11 to ensure proper determination of postseason qualifiers for the EA National Championship Playoffs. Cancellations of match(es) are prohibited and in any case must be approved by and are at the discretion of the League Staff. **Not meeting scheduling deadlines communicated by EA Staff will result in \$500 fine per fixture.**

SCHEDULING

1. No matches shall be scheduled prior to 9:00 AM unless visiting club agrees
2. All matches must be scheduled to end at least 30 minutes prior to sunset, unless lights are provided and the visiting club agrees to later start time
3. All clubs are expected to schedule matches with professionalism and goodwill, meaning not to place any club at a competitive advantage or disadvantage
4. All matches played on the same day are expected to be played at the same facility, unless the visiting club agrees to multiple facilities being utilized
5. When possible, schedules should create the best situation to facilitate players being challenged by playing in older age groups
 - a. Oldest age groups playing first allows players to play in partial match with the older group and then get to the full match minutes allowed in their age eligible match
6. Be courteous of opposition coaching conflicts, but if conflicts are unavoidable between both clubs, the home team has priority
7. Scheduling should be **optimized in a way to enable the best Referees crews** to be assigned to the Matches
 - a. Assumption should be a 3 person Referee crew will work 3 consecutive matches, each rotating between Referee, AR1 and AR2
 - i. Best Practice: 1 field with 6 matches back to back allows 2 crews to use this rotation
 - ii. Best Practice: 2 fields with 3 matches each back to back, allows 2 crews to use this rotation
 - iii. **Not Acceptable:** Having 2 matches both playing at the same time on different fields (requiring 6 Referees for 1 Match each)
 1. This will attract low level Referees



LEAGUE RESCHEDULES

Following the mutually agreed upon postponement of a league match, the following mandatory items must be included in the communication for the reschedule to be accepted by League Staff:

1. Match Change Request via MOD11, created by the home team and ACCEPTED by the away team (note - League reserve the right to deny any requests with reason provided)
2. Time and Location must be provided by a communicated timeline by League Staff
3. Once approved, best practice is for the host club to communicate the new fixture/match times to the Referee Assignor and all other Match Day personnel such as ATC

*Reschedules by any Club after Wednesday at 11:59PM moving Matches off an upcoming weekend will result in payment of Referees (Both Clubs potentially held responsible)

**Reschedules requested by the Away Club after Wednesday at 11:59PM leading to a weekend could result in compensation for any field costs to the Home team

***Weather cancellations (Acts of God, etc.) of league matches will be considered postponed and rescheduling will be required (no additional financial implications)

MATCH ABANDONMENT

League Staff should be consulted with written communication provided in any case the full duration of a match does not play. Matches will be considered completed based on below criteria:

1. Match plays in full duration
2. 75% of the Match minutes have been played prior to unforeseen / uncontrollable circumstances causing the Match to end prior to full duration
3. Both clubs agree on the final conclusion of the Match if the match has been stopped for unforeseen / uncontrollable circumstances prior to 75% of the Match minutes being completed

LEAGUE MATCH FORFEITS

A match will be determined as forfeited when one team does not show up for a mutually agreed upon fixture (date, time, and location) without proper documented notification (via email) and agreement with the other Club or there is an instance when a team is found to have broken one of league rules, policies or procedures. The instances of forfeiture include, but are not limited to:

1. Use of an ineligible player (not on DMR, DOB, etc.)
2. Lack of digital match roster (DMR) created prior to match
3. More than one re-entry of substituted player in the same half of a match
4. No ATC on site will become a forfeited game



In cases of match forfeiture, the score shall be 3-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team. Teams forfeiting matches are at risk of being denied participation in the playoffs, however the final determination of eligibility will be made by the league.

MATCH DAY

Match Jerseys

Home team wears light color uniforms and the visiting team will wear dark contrasting uniforms. If it's a double-fixtured weekend, on the first day, the home clubs will wear light colors with away clubs wearing dark colors. On the second day, the home clubs will wear dark colors while the away club will wear light colors.

Match Field

The match field provided for Elite Academy League matches must be of highest quality in the geographic area. Turf or natural surface are both acceptable.

Note: If inclement weather is expected during an Elite Academy League match weekend, it is expected for member clubs to have a turf field back-up.

***All home matches are required to be played at the same venue/location. If not possible, Matches will result in forfeit or will be played at the away location with costs covered.**

Home Team Field Setup

1. Team sideline requires both the home and away team have adequate benches
2. Team sideline requires both teams to have matching EA Branded team tents.
3. Team sideline requires a minimum of (1) trash can
4. Team sideline requires a minimum of (1) table providing water and/or sports drink.
5. All match fields are marked properly in accordance to the FIFA rules
6. All match fields must have (4) matching corner flags
7. (3) match balls must be provided at each Elite Academy League match.
 - 7(a). U11-U13: size 4 balls used as best practice.

Facility

Each Elite Academy League facility must have permanent or portable restrooms on site and available to players and spectators.

Athletic Trainer

An athletic trainer is **REQUIRED** to be provided for all matches, beginning approximately (1) hour prior to the first match and continuing until the end of the final match. **The Athletic Trainer will attend to all Players, Staff, and Referees participating in the match.**

Referees

Referee fees will be paid for by the home team unless a neutral site is defined by League Staff in which case Referee fees will be split amongst home and away teams



Video

Mandatory requirement for all Elite Academy League matches U15 and above to film and upload to HUDL League Exchange within 48 hours of the match.

Away Game Experience Report

Following a Match Day, the EA Staff will communicate an opportunity for an Away team to provide feedback about the Match Day experience. This is completed one time per Match Day for all matches played. The EA is committed to League Standards and preserving the quality of the league as we go into the 2024/25 season.

All member clubs are required to adhere to the league requirements. The league reserves the right to decide how to enforce these requirements. Should a member club be found in violation of any of the requirements outlined in this document, their standing as a member club may be jeopardized. The penalties vary based on the type and frequency of the infraction, and may result in denied participation in specific competitions and programming.

NATIONAL EVENTS

1. All Events are required for league participation:
 - a. U13-U14 Fall Event (9/27 - 9/29)
 - b. U13-U19 Winter Event (12/6 - 12/9)
 - c. U15-U19 Spring Event (TBD - April 2025)

STANDINGS

The standings in the Elite Academy League shall be determined at the end of the Elite Academy League Regular Season defined by the League Staff (5/15/25 for the 2024-2025 season)

1. Points Per Match (PPM)
 - a. In each Elite Academy League Competition during the Elite Academy League Regular Season and the Elite Academy League Playoffs, teams shall be awarded three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. A forfeit shall be considered a 3-0 loss for the forfeiting team and a 3-0 win for the non-forfeiting team.
2. Tie Breakers
 - a. In the event that two teams are tied in PPM (points per match) upon the completion of the Elite Academy League Competition, the following will apply:
 - i. Head to Head Results
 - ii. Goal Differential (of respective competition)
 - iii. Goals Against (Fewest)
 - iv. Disciplinary Points (Fewest) (Club)
 1. Staff Red Card - 10 Points
 2. Staff Yellow Card - 5 Points
 3. Player Red Card - 2 Points
 4. Player Yellow Card - 1 Point



PLAYOFF FORMAT

1. 16 Teams Per Age Group
 - a. **The 9 Division winners**, will be seeded 1-9, based on PPM from national standings and will automatically qualify for EA National Championship
 - b. Seeds 10-16 will be determined by teams with the next highest PPM from the national standings with the following representation from each Division: Northwest Norcal (1), Southwest (2), Southwest Desert (2), Mid-America-West (1), and Pacific Northwest (1)
2. Day #1:
 - a. 1v16, 2v15, 3v14, 4v13 etc. Winners advance to quarterfinals. Losing teams go to the consolation bracket
 - i. NOTE: League Staff reserve the right to adjust matchups in effort to avoid conference conflicts
3. Day #2:
 - a. Quarterfinals and consolation matches
4. Day #3:
 - a. Semifinals and consolation matches
5. Day #4: Finals:
 - a. all teams guaranteed three matches and teams that make final play a 4th

HEAD INJURY

Any player suspected of suffering a head injury may be substituted for an evaluation without the substitution counting against the team's total number of allowed substitutions during the match.

1. If the club has used all their subs and/or moments when head-injury occurs, they will still be allowed to make a temporary substitute, bringing on a player that was previously subbed for.
2. If the player is deemed by the HCP or ATC to not have suffered a concussion, the player may re-enter the Match at any stoppage of play and must replace the original substitute; this head injury evaluation substitution will not count as a used substitution.
3. Furthermore, the temporary substitute will be able to re-enter the Match at a later time, if they had not previously played in that half.

GOVERNING BODY OF THE ELITE ACADEMY LEAGUE

USSSA is the sanctioning body that insures the EA



COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Elite Academy League Coaches must, at all times, treat Players with respect and dignity
2. Elite Academy League Coaches must treat Referees and Match Officials, at all times, with respect and dignity
3. Elite Academy League Coaches must treat the opposing Coaches, at all times, with respect and dignity
4. Elite Academy League Coaches must treat Spectators, at all times, with respect and dignity
5. Elite Academy League Coaches are expected to dress professional, in proper athletic apparel and shoes, at all Elite Academy League competitions
6. Elite Academy League coaches must not discriminate against Players based upon race, nationality, religion or sexual orientation
7. Elite Academy League Coaches must hold the Spectators of their respective teams to the Club's Code of Conduct and will be held responsible for actions taken by Spectators

LAWS OF THE GAME, DISCIPLINARY MATTERS, DISPUTES, PROTESTS & APPEALS

1. Laws of the Game:
 - a. Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, all matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game in force at the time of the competition and as laid down by the International Football Association Board. In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, the English version shall be authoritative.
2. Disciplinary Matters:
 - a. Disciplinary incidents are dealt with by the League Commissioner, League Disciplinary Committee and with the option to consult the Technical Advisory Group
 - b. The Players and member Clubs participating in the EA agree to comply with the Laws of the Game, the USSF Bylaws and Policies, these Regulations and the Disciplinary Code. The Players, Coaches, Representatives and Clubs agree to comply with all further directives regarding the EA.
3. Disputes:
 - a. Parties shall try to resolve all disputes in connection with the EA by negotiation. In compliance with USSF Bylaw 707, member Clubs, Players and other Officials may not take disputes to an ordinary court of law. If a decision is subject to appeal, it shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of the League Commissioner.



4. Protest & Appeals:
 - a. For the purpose of these regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including, but not limited to, the eligibility of Players, the state of the field, accessory match equipment, crowd behavior and stadium installations.
 - i. Time:
 1. Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests shall be submitted in writing to the league Commissioner and board of directors within 12 hours of the conclusion of the Match in question and followed up immediately with a full written report, including a copy of the original protest, to be sent in writing to the EA; otherwise they will be disregarded.
 - ii. Eligibility:
 1. Protests regarding the eligibility of Players for Matches shall be submitted in writing to the League Staff no later than 24 hours after the Match
 - iii. Field Conditions:
 1. Protests regarding the state of the field, its surroundings, markings or accessory items (e.g. goals, flag posts or soccer balls) shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the Match by the Coach or Administrator lodging the protest. The league Administrator must also be notified of the protest prior to kick-off.
 2. If the field's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the referee shall consult the League contact and both parties shall have the joint right to determine whether to delay, postpone or cancel the Match
5. After a Match:
 - a. Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a Match shall be made to the league Administrator immediately following the completion of the Match
6. Referees Decisions:
 - a. No protests may be made about the Referee's decisions regarding facts connected with a Match result. Such decisions are final.
7. Frivolous Protests:
 - a. If an unfounded or irresponsible protest is lodged, the EA may dismiss the protest.
8. Match Fixing Policy:
 - a. The EA prohibits match fixing of any kind.



BANNED TERM POLICY

Elite Academy League has a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination or harassment against anyone based on their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disabilities!

1. If a Referee hears one of the above terms or any term deemed in the direction of the above list, the Player / Staff will be removed from the match immediately and the EAL Staff will issue additional sanctions as deemed necessary by the disciplinary committee
2. If there is an alleged Banned Term during the Match:
 - a. Ask your player to notify a Coach and/or Referee
 - b. The Referee will stop the Match to allow both coaching staffs to address their respective players
 - i. If Referees do not stop the Match, Coaches have authority to do so
 - c. The Match should not restart until both teams are comfortable
 - d. If there are additional questions during this time, the Referee and/or Coaches are instructed to communicate to the EAL Staff directly

| Banned Terms (non-exhaustive) | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| F*g | F*ggot | H*mo | N*gger |
| N*gro | N*gga | Cr*cker | Ch*nk |
| Bean*r | P*to | Sp*c | Ret*rd |
| P*ssy | G*y | White Boy | Monkey |



FINES FOR VIOLATING STANDARDS

Depending on the severity of the action, fines might be deducted from the performance bond or they will be invoiced directly to the club with the expectation of being fulfilled within 7 working days. If any amount is deducted from the Performance bond it will need to be replenished and always current at the beginning of each year. Any delay in payment will result in the team not being able to play until all is resolved.

| Action Description | Potential Amount | Competition Implications |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| Not able to field a team for a match | \$500 | Match Forfeit |
| Played an ineligible Player | \$500 | Match Forfeit |
| Matches not filmed (U15-U19) | \$300 | - |
| Match film not uploaded on time | \$100 | - |
| No branded canopies | \$200 | - |
| No team benches | \$200 | - |
| No Regional / National Event participation | \$1500 | Match Forfeit |
| Regional / National Event match forfeit | \$500 | Match Forfeit |
| Player strikes another Player | \$500 | Match Forfeit |
| 5 or more players striking Players on opposing team | \$3000 | Null Match |
| Reported use of Banned Term | \$500 | Match Forfeit |
| No Certified Medical Professional / ATC | \$750 | Match Forfeit |
| Parent Altercation* | \$1000 | Match Forfeit |

***A player that strikes another player will be banned from the EA league permanently**

***Parent altercation is defined as any behavior impacting the Match environment (before/during/after)**



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