

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF BLACK FOREST (AABF)

2022 SUMMER RECREATION SOCCER

RULES AND GAME INFORMATION

This is an all-volunteer group! If you want to help plan and run the soccer program, join the AABF Board. If you want to improve any aspect of AABF sports don't complain... VOLUNTEER! Contact a board member or visit our website at <https://aabf.blackforest-co.com/> for more information.

1. **GAME LOCATION/TIMES:** All games will be played at the Black Forest Regional Park (located off of Milam Road just north of Shoup Road). Game times will be 6-7 pm or 7-8 pm on Monday through Thursday (and some Friday nights in the event that make-up games are necessary). Check the AABF website or see your team schedule for date details.

2. **SUMMER SOCCER PROGRAM GOALS:** The summer recreational soccer program has several organizational goals, as listed below. Please keep them in mind at all times.

- Having fun – and then more fun
- Learning how to play soccer
- Respecting the game, coaches, referees, opponents
- Learning about good sportsmanship
- Learning to win and lose with dignity and grace
- Developing the concepts of team play and team work
- Letting everybody play, regardless of skill level
- Improving your soccer skills
- Learning different positions
- Honoring excellence of effort – not just achievement

3. **GAME RULES:** FIFA rules will generally be followed except as noted below. The major exception is that in order to avoid injuries to the many new recreational players involved, **NO slide tackles are allowed**. In addition, guidelines for penalties are modified to befit a recreational league with a shorter season.

4. DIVISIONS:

Based on ages. Typically no younger than 6. Must be no older than 15 during the season (for insurance reasons). See current season registration form for birthday ranges for each division.

A: #3 Ball 8 v. 8 including a goalkeeper (subject to change)

B: #4 Ball 8 v. 8 including a goalkeeper (subject to change)

C: #5 Ball 8 v. 8 including a goalkeeper (subject to change)

D: #5 Ball 6 v. 6, including a goalkeeper (subject to change)

If fewer than the required number of players for one team are available, the other team may reduce their number or loan them players. If the coaches cannot come to such an agreement, the “short” team may play shorthanded or forfeit.

5. **LENGTH OF GAME:**

- Division A games will consist of two 15-minute halves with a 5 minute halftime break.
- Division B games will consist of four 10-minute quarters with two minutes between quarters and a 5-minute halftime break.
- Division C and D games will consist of two 25-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime break.

6. **PLAYING TIME:** Each player is required to play at least half of each game, unless an injury prevents that player from playing. Coaches will rotate the players to allow skill development in different field positions (goal, forward, defense). During the course of the season, players should get to play all 3 positions if they request to do so.

7. **CANCELLATIONS:** As a result of weather conditions, cancellations will be made only by AABF Board members or referees. Games which are cancelled because of weather conditions after half of the game has been completed will be considered completed games. **NO GAME WILL BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TIME DUE TO RAIN. PLEASE GO TO THE FIELD. THE GAME WILL BE CANCELLED 20 MINUTES AFTER SCHEDULED TIME, UNLESS THERE IS ONLY ONE GAME PER EVENING IN WHICH CASE THE GAME WILL BE CANCELLED 30 MINUTES AFTER THE SCHEDULED TIME. THE DECISION TO CANCEL WILL BE MADE BY THE AABF BOARD MEMBERS OR REFEREES.**

7a. **Lightning Policy:** In the event of lightning, the AABF will be in general conformance with the NCAA Guideline 1d of Lightning Safety, supplemented by the use of a lightning detector. The lightning detector will assist the AABF board member/referees when advising AABF participants on site and/or deciding to temporarily stop the games. The lightning detector will be used according to its published manufacturer specifications. If lightning is detected within defined striking range, games will be stopped and fields will be cleared for a minimum of 20 minutes. Players and families will be advised to go to their cars as the El Paso County Parks Department will not validate the safety of the pavilions during lightning. The lightning detector will be continuously monitored during those 20 minutes. If no more lightning registers within the defined striking distance during the 20 minutes, then games will resume. This information is submitted with the AABF rules for reference purposes. Parents, guardians, and/or adult responsible parties (for example, carpool drivers) are solely responsible for the evacuation of their players and other charges (siblings, playmates, etc.) when they deem conditions to be unsafe.

8. **EQUIPMENT:** Each player is required to wear an AABF provided soccer shirt during games. Shirts should be tucked in. The goalkeeper is required to wear a penny of a color contrasting to that of his/her team and the opponents, also provided to each team. This penny should be controlled by the coach and returned at the end of the season. Goalkeepers are encouraged to wear gloves and pads. Each player must furnish their own socks, shin guards, shorts and shoes (cleats, turf or tennis shoes) and bring their own filled water bottle. Referees will be checking shoes for dangerous condition such as sharp edges or gouges. No metal spikes or toe cleats will be allowed. No jewelry may be worn during games or practices. Hard headgear, such as barrettes or hard-brimmed hats may not be worn during games or practices.

9. **PRACTICES:** Practices are held at Black Forest Regional Park. All teams will hold two practices during each of the first two weeks of the season. Besides these, practices will be at the discretion of the coach.

10. **STANDINGS:** The AABF has a policy of not keeping win/loss records or recognizing league leaders. There will be no play-offs in any division. The primary emphasis is having fun and learning to play soccer. Each player will receive a participation award at the end of the season.

11. **COACHING AND SPECTATOR POSITIONS:** Coaches must refrain from excessive running up and down the sidelines. No coaching is permitted from the side of the field opposite of the team bench or from behind the net. For A Division level games, one coach per team is allowed on the field to work with their players. Teams should stay on their half of the field to preclude adversarial contact.

12. **GUEST PLAYERS:** If one team does not have enough players to play a game, the opposing team may "lend" them a player for the game, if both coaches agree. Only AABF registered players are allowed.

13. **AUTHORITY:** AABF Board members and referees have authority to control all phases of the game: before, during and after, INCLUDING SPECTATORS.

14. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Good sportsmanship is required at all times by players, coaches and spectators. When one team is ahead in score by 4 goals, this team will restrict its players' actions to allow a more evenly matched game by (1) allowing the losing team to add a player, (2) removing one or more players, (3) requiring three or more passes before a goal or (4) another method chosen by the coaches. For each additional 2 point spread beyond 4, another adjustment will be made. Remember, this summer program is to learn and have fun.

15. **OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT:** If the referees have not shown up by 5 minutes after the scheduled start time, the two coaches may referee the game, determine if there are qualified referees among the spectators or decide not to play the game. The AABF Board member present should be consulted.

16. **INJURY:** The referees will stop a play for an injured player only if they feel it is a serious injury, or if play is occurring too close to the injured player to be safe. Please advise players to stay on the ground if they are hurt, and the referee will stop play as soon as possible (normally at the first dead ball). Play will normally be restarted with a drop ball, if the game is stopped for an injury during other than a dead ball situation. This is the reason the referee will, for example, encourage the goalkeeper to distribute the ball before the referee stops the game.

Concussions: Coaches and referees should take concussion recognition training at the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>.

Suspected Concussions: Coaches and referees will remove from play participants who they suspect may have sustained concussions.

For players who show any signs of concussions, a licensed physician must provide written clearance before the players can return to the field of play. Parents or legal guardians must provide a copy of the written clearance in either paper or electronic form to the AABF.

17. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Substitutions may be made upon notification to the game officials as follows:

- At a throw-in, corner kick, or goal kick
- At the end of each quarter and the half
- After a goal is scored
- When a serious injury occurs and play is stopped, the injured players must normally leave the field of play. If seriously injured, the injured player must be replaced by a substitute. Referees may allow for substitution of an injured player at any time they deem appropriate. The opposing team may also substitute a player (or players, if more than one is injured) at the same time. Referees must make every attempt to ensure that injuries are attended to at the first opportunity, or immediately if the injury is serious.

NOTE: Please observe that the referee's notification is required in each of these cases. In all divisions, a goalkeeper change may be made at any time other substitutions are allowed. Finally, it is the coach's responsibility to ensure safe and reasonable departure from the field.

18. YELLOW AND RED CARDS: These cards are issued at the discretion of the referee (although there are some conditions where the rules require mandatory carding) for violence, misconduct, arguing with the referees, obscene gestures, unsportsmanlike conduct, faking injuries, foul language and intentional fouls (those which are deliberate, defiant or excessive in nature, etc.). This applies to players, coaches and spectators alike. The following guidelines are in effect:

- Accumulation of three yellow cards in a season will result in a one game suspension. Each succeeding yellow card will result in an additional one game suspension.
- A red card will result in immediate ejection from the game. Violent fighting will normally result in a one game suspension as decided by the AABF Board on a case by case basis.
- Determination of whether an offense deserves a yellow or red card is at the discretion of the referee.
- The AABF Board Members can and will take whatever action is necessary to assure proper conduct and sportsmanship on the part of all persons involved in playing or watching soccer matches. Coaches are asked to help control their players, their spectators and themselves.

19. CAUSES FOR TURNOVER: The following actions will result in turnover from the offending team to the opposing team:

- **Hand Ball** (Definition of handball: a player, other than the goalie in his/her own penalty area, makes DELIBERATE contact with the ball with his/her hand or arm – from the shoulder down. Deliberate is defined to be: (1) the player could have avoided contact but chose not to, (2) the player's arms were not in a normal playing position at the time, (3) the player deliberately continued an initially accidental contact for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage. Moving hands or arms to protect the body when suddenly faced with a fast approaching ball does not constitute deliberate contact unless there is subsequent action to direct the ball once contact is made. The fact that a player may benefit from the ball contact does NOT transform the otherwise accidental event into an infraction.)
- **Intentional Tripping (with feet)**
- **Interference (without feet)**

20. REMINDERS FOR PARENTS:

- The AABF, its coaches and its representatives are not responsible for any accident that might occur during practices or games or en route to or from activities.
- If a parent guardian, or responsible adult in charge feels that conditions of practices or games are a danger to his/her child, it is the parent's responsibility to remove that child from such activity.
- Please pick up players from practices and games on time. Participants not picked up promptly will not be allowed to participate in AABF activities.
- Your child has signed up to play soccer, so please help your child realize the importance of attending each practice and game. Each player has a responsibility to the rest of the team to be there to the maximum extent possible.
- AABF cannot guarantee team pictures, so please take your own.
- Coaches will enlist the help of parents in the following areas:
 - (1) Team Manager – Arrange for healthy snack (e.g., oranges) at halftime, if desired, and a drink and snack at the end of the game.
 - (2) Goal Set Up/Tear Down – The coach may request assistance with goal setup or teardown.
 - (3) Linespersons – Generally not required. Coach may request if needed.

21. **CLEAN UP DUTIES:** Each team is required to clean up after its games. The last teams to play each day are responsible for the final clean up. At practice sessions, each team is also responsible to clean the area before leaving practice.

22. **TERMS:** Some common soccer terms are listed below:

- KICK-OFF -starts the game, half, and after a goal from the center spot of the field. The opposing team must be outside of the larger center circle.
- THROW-IN -restarts the game after the ball passes over the out-of-bounds sideline. The ball is thrown into play by the team indicated by the referee.
- GOAL KICK -restarts the game when a player from the attacking team kicks the ball over the defending line (end of the field).
- CORNER KICK -restarts the game when a defender has last touch on the ball and the ball rolls over the defending end out-of-bounds line. Taken from the corner arc of the field.
- DROP BALLS -restarts the game when the referee stops the game for any reason and does not use one of the other restarts.
- DIRECT KICK -restarts the game after the referee has called a foul and the player can directly score a goal.
- INDIRECT KICK -restarts the game after the referee has called a foul and the player can NOT directly score a goal.
- OFF-SIDES -an attacking player receives the ball without two defending players (one may be the goalkeeper), between him/her and the end line when the pass was initiated. AABF will only enforce off-sides in Division C and D.
- KICK BACK TO GOALKEEPER -a defending player kicks the ball to their team's goalkeeper. The goalkeeper is then only allowed to kick the ball and may not use his/her hands.
- PENALTY AREA -the area around the goal (including the goal area) in which the goalkeeper can use his/her hands.

If there are any questions, please email us at aabfsoccer@gmail.com. An AABF Board Member will contact you as soon as possible. Please remember this is an all-volunteer group, so if you have a suggestion, please be ready to help out.

THANKS AND HAVE FUN!!!!