

FAQs
Frequently Asked Questions
March 16, 2007

Quoted passages are from the ASA Rule Book, except the Gunston suggestion, which comes from the Arlington Sports Division.

Should you have any questions or suggestions, please email (mpbevis@comcast.net) or call (703-527-7878).

Byes

If a team requests a “bye” and that team fails to contact the opposing team to reschedule, it is then the responsibility of the opposing team to initiate a reschedule request. It is advantageous to schedule “byes” sooner rather than later so that the game can be included in the statistics prior to seeded play (posted after the fifth week of play).

If a team asks its opponent to reschedule, with appropriate lead times, and the opponent refuses to entertain rescheduling, the ASA Executive Director or Assistant Director shall reschedule the game.

Field Issues

All nets must be put up and taken down at the end of play on each game day, except TJ Upper and Bluemont Junction. This is a requirement of the Sports Department.

Coaches should have a copy of the ASA rules at the field.

Goals must never be moved.

U8-10 games: “The “Home Sub-Teams” are required to switch fields at half time and begin the second half at 0-0.” Please report total score.

Rover number: 571-238-0265

All trash should be removed from sidelines and placed in or near trash receptacles. This could be done by a team parent who brings a plastic garbage bag and leaves it by the trash receptacle.

Please do not use tape to attach the nets to the goals. In fact, please feel free to remove old tape you find on the goals.

The mowing contractors cut the fields the first three days of each week. The rectangular natural grass fields are marked on Thursday or Friday of a given week so that the lines are visible on the weekends for play. Fields can be painted in the rain, but not in the middle of a driving rain.

Forfeits

If your team knows it is going to forfeit, even at the last minute, please inform the opposing team and Mary Bevis (mpbevis@comcast.net or 703-527-7878), so that the referee can be cancelled or informed.

Greenbrier Park

ASA will be using the new Greenbrier Field for Saturday rec games and Sunday travel games. All players and families should park in the parking lot near the fields and pool. If that is full, please park in the other school parking lots – not on the neighborhood streets. Please note that the gate located on 27th Street will be locked on weekends this spring and should not be considered as access to the stadium.

Required number of players to begin game

Note: Players may not be borrowed from other teams in order to field enough players for a game. If one team does not have enough players as noted below, a scrimmage may be played, but the game must be reported as a forfeit (for the team short of players) by both teams.

U8 – U10 (5v5): “Unless otherwise indicated, a team must have at least eight (8) eligible players to commence a game (Four (4) on each sub-team). If within ten minutes after scheduled game time, a team does not have the required number of players ready to play, the referee shall abandon the game as a forfeit for the team with the required number of players. The winning coach (forfeit winner) shall report the game score along with the circumstances” (along with the forfeiting coach).

U11/U12 (8v8): “Unless otherwise indicated, a team must have at least five (5) eligible players to commence a game. If within ten minutes after scheduled game time, a team does not have the required number of players ready to play, the referee shall abandon the game as a forfeit for the team with the required number of players. The winning coach (forfeit winner) shall report the game score along with the circumstances” (along with the forfeiting coach).

U13-U19 (11v11): “Unless otherwise indicated, a team must have at least eight (8) eligible players to commence a game. If within ten minutes after scheduled game time, a team does not have the required number of players ready to play, the referee shall abandon the game as a forfeit for the team with the required number of players. The winning coach (forfeit winner) shall report the game score along with the circumstances” (along with the forfeiting coach).

Five Goal Rule

“In any competition where one team achieves a five goal lead over its opponent, the coach of the winning team is required to remove one player from the field of play. For each additional goal scored by the leading team, the team shall continue to remove one player. If after a five goal lead and withdrawing a player or players, the leading team shall be permitted to replace a player previously withdrawn for each goal scored by its opponent.”

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Coaches must inform the referee of the “Five Goal Rule”.

The coaches are responsible for monitoring the Five Goal Rule.

Standings and Goal Differential

Many coaches ask why the “99 goals for” is not reflected in their team standings. Please note “For the purpose of computing “standings” a team shall be credited with not more than four goals in excess of the number of goals scored by its opponent in any Association competition.”

Game Reschedule Requests

Please use the attached form. With this form completed, the teams are confirming that they have been in contact with each other and the game can be rescheduled. Coaches must work through their managers to obtain the opposing team/coach information. The Club Manager, not the coach, must send the form to Mary Bevis at mpbevis@comcast.net.

Score Reporting

Please remind your coaches that **both** teams (not just the winning team) are to report the score (asascores@comcast.net, preferred method, or 703-532-2088, extension 311) the weekend on which the game was played. As the season progresses, a “Missing Score Report” will be published. Often score information is fuzzy at that point and coaches will send an email stating that the “ABCs won, but I don’t remember the score”. That information can not be recorded! Last season there were approximately 150 games per weekend with potentially 300 score reporting emails. If your coach reports an error on the standings, please contact me at asascores@comcast.net as soon as possible so that the conflict can be researched.

Include all necessary information in the "Subject" line of your email. It is much easier to research conflicts with the information in the subject line as opposed to having to open many emails searching for the game in question. The “Subject” line should include:

1. Date
2. Age group - Division - Gender
3. Field
4. Game time
5. Own team – name and score
6. Other team – name and score
7. Referee information – number of referees (especially in U8-U10) and referee names.

Sample Email Score Report:

Subject: 4/14/07, 12-IG, Bluemont, 8:30, AA-5, Lightning-5, 1 referee present-Chris Sparks-good job.

If there is more to add about the referee or a field issue, please put that in the body of the message.

Standings and Seedings

Standings and scores will be reported on the website after the third weekend of play for U9 and above and will continue to be updated.

Seedings will be reported on the website after the fifth weekend of play for U8 and above and remain in effect for the remainder of the season.

TOPSoccer

As has been done for the last two seasons, the 13/14 girls and boys teams will be scheduled to be TOPSoccer Buddies. A team playing in the 1:30 pm ASA game slot will be chosen to arrive at Woodlawn Park at 3:15 for the program, which runs from 3:30 – 4:30 pm. The girls and boys will alternate weeks so that each has four teams participating in TOPSoccer. Please remember that if the divisions have playoff games, the TOPSoccer Buddies will not be known until after the fifth week of play, when seedings are determined. Also, if fields are closed due to wet conditions, the TOPSoccer program moves inside to the TJ Community Center Gym at the same time.

Suggestions from the Sports Department for Team Games and Practices at Gunston

“The synthetic turf field at Gunston Park provides a good surface for soccer games and practices, but occasionally problems occur with community members who both play on and observe players on the field. To make your game or practice go as smoothly as possible, we provide the following suggestions.

1. **Field Permit.** Always bring a printed copy of your permit to the field.
2. **Give Advance Notice When “Claiming” the Field.** Sometimes there is pickup play on the field when you arrive, or what looks like a “real” game even though your group is the first scheduled activity on the field. To get your group onto the field with as little conflict as possible, try to give whoever is playing there about 15 minutes notice. At a break in the play, tell the referee or the players that you have the field reserved at **X** time and ask them if they can leave the field by then. If you have a game, requesting 15-20 minutes of warm-up time is appropriate. For a practice, ask them to clear the field five minutes before your scheduled time. Being polite and respectful goes a long way in creating a smooth transition.
3. If your scheduled game or practice follows another scheduled activity, be aware that the Sports Division *usually* schedules a 30-minute break between groups. Games sometimes run late, but another group’s game generally should not encroach on your assigned time.
4. **Ask for Help.** If you have problems in either clearing another group off the field, including stray players who continue to play, pass the ball, or shoot on the goal, or if onlookers are making inappropriate comments to or about your players, please ask for help from County staff. There are several options to pursue, usually in this order:

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- a. During the afternoon and evening, one or two staff persons from Gunston Community Center, Jorge and Bladimir, should be at the soccer fields. Try to find one of them, who should be wearing a County shirt, and ask them for help. On weekends, there is usually a Sports Division staff person at Gunston Park, who will be wearing a County shirt. However, this staff person rotates between the two rectangular fields, the diamond field, and the Bubble, so he/she may not always be immediately available.
- b. If you cannot locate a staff person in the park, go to the front desk at the Community Center and ask if they can assist you. Another option is to call the front desk (703-228-6980) while you remain at the field. The Center is open 9 am – 9 pm Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4:30 pm on Saturday, and is closed on Sunday.
- c. If Community Center staff is unable to help, or the Center is closed, call the Sports Division Rover at 571-238-0265. The Rover can usually arrive at the field within ten minutes of your call, although it will occasionally take longer if he/she is at the north end of the County.

If you encounter a situation which you feel is dangerous for the players, you can call the police non-emergency number at 703-558-2222. If the situation is life-threatening, call 911. We do not believe this has ever occurred at a youth game or practice.”