

## Eligibility

1. Players must be at least **18 years of age** and are not currently playing professional soccer. BCRP is not liable in any capacity for any injury, incident or accident that may arise as a result of any BCRP Adult Soccer participant attending off-field/after game activities.
2. All players must sign a waiver before being allowed to play. Waivers are available online and must be electronically signed. Players login to [CivicRec](#) and accept the waiver.
3. All players must sign the waiver before he/she plays.

## Officials

1. Two (2) officials will be at each game for 11v11. Referee fees are the responsibility of the captain and must be paid prior to the game. \$40 for each 11v11 outdoor games.
2. The officials are responsible for all calls of the game (including offsides). Their ruling is final. Additional questions on the field regarding questionable calls or disagreements are discouraged as they hinder the official from monitoring the game. Questions regarding calls should be limited to one, and if the official cannot answer it reasonably, stop asking and let the play resume.
3. The officials are also responsible for keeping time. Not for updating scores on the system.
4. Officials are responsible for keeping the games running on time, and game clock is to start at the scheduled time.
5. Officials are responsible for making sure that players comply with the rules in regards to wearing **shin guards with socks, no jewelry** and uniform requirements. Players must be wearing numbers, matching shirts, not wearing competitor shirts, no metal cleats.

## Red cards / Yellow cards

1. Officials are responsible for calling and recording yellow & red cards and/or reporting unusual and/or bizarre behavior. For example, a player who is consistently retaliating or belittling other players will be called out appropriately and given proper disposition.
2. Yellow cards are given for minor infractions and in games, the player must leave the field for 5 minutes. Yellow carded player can be substituted.
3. Red Cards or Ejections must be reported **within 48 hours** and the player that is ejected must leave the field immediately and will not be allowed to play for up to 2 games/weeks in the facility depending on the infraction.
4. Red card reports need to be clearly stated with best attempt to gain the players name, the captain's name, the player's number and possible names of players that were around so that we can get additional information if warranted.
5. A player who receives 3 Red card ejections in the same season will automatically be suspended from the remainder of the season. No exceptions.
6. Players given a red card/ejection has the right to appeal the decision in writing within 48 hours of notice. No substitute for a red-carded/ejected player and the team must play down a person for the duration of the game.
7. Officials are not moral compasses on the field and are not to give cards for expletives that are uttered or shouted out in frustration as long as it is clearly not aimed any player or official.

## Banned players

1. Players that are banned due to violence or extreme behavior will not be allowed to play in any BCRP league or participate.
2. A banned player can appeal the decision to be allowed back to play after 6 months.
3. Officials have the right to remove a player that appears to inebriated or smells of alcohol. Any player that is removed from a game due to alcohol consumption will not be allowed to play in the next game.
4. Officials are to respect and reciprocate considerate behavior to players and spectators.

## Inclement Weather

**Lightning Rule:** Maryland State Law requires that a 30-minute wait period be called on the first strike and all players, officials and spectators must leave open field and head for cover. The official will wait out the period provided that a second strike has not occurred. If lightning strikes into the second half of a game the game will be called and the score will remain. No replays. If a game is called due to weather within first 10 minutes, the game will not count and will be rescheduled.

#### **Alcoholic Beverages & Unknown Substances**

Because we are using a city park property, no alcoholic beverages are allowed on the premises without proper permits and will be strictly enforced. Do not get caught with alcohol at league games played at BCRP facilities. Officials will be on the lookout for inebriated players. Any player that appears to be incapacitated due to alcohol or other substance will be asked to leave the game and not allowed to play.

The officiating group on contract with BCRP is Charm City Referees. Comments questions or concerns regarding officiating for certain games, a particular incident or a referee can be sent to Jeremy McEwan at [Jeremy.mcewan@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Jeremy.mcewan@baltimorecity.gov)

#### **Play Format & Divisions**

1. The regular season will be pool play format with 3 points awarded to a team for each win, 1 point for each tie, and 0 points for each loss.
2. Captains are responsible for the reporting of the scores after each game.
3. Teams are guaranteed 8 games.
4. Playoff eligibility will be based on the number of teams registered in the league.
5. BCRP will provide additional information as to how the end of the season will be handled for both top seeded and lower seeded games, again based on the capacity of the league and field availability
6. 6. Game times may be increased per day and the season will be adjusted accordingly to fulfill the allotted amount of hours per season per details in registration.

#### **Awards & Prizes**

Trophies will be awarded to the champion of the league.

#### **League Administration & Rule Enforcement**

The Baltimore City Adult Soccer League is a Youth and Adult program administered by the Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (BCRP). The League Coordinator is Jeremy McEwan.

Contact Information:

Program Coordinator: Jeremy McEwan: [Jeremy.mcewan@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Jeremy.mcewan@baltimorecity.gov)

Athletic Director: Quentin Matthews: [Quentin.matthews@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Quentin.matthews@baltimorecity.gov)

Referees: Al Lloyd @ Charm City Referees: [alloyd5571@aol.com](mailto:alloyd5571@aol.com)

BCRP reserves the right to make changes, updates, corrections or delete rules at any time for the betterment and/or safety of the league or when a rule or policy in question becomes controversial for BCRP coordinators, players, and officials.

In the event that a particular policy or rule is found to be incorrect or misinterpreted at the time of enforcement, BCRP coordinator/staff should be consulted so that an immediate ruling or clarification can be made. If a member of the BCRP staff is not available, the decision defers to the officials on the field. If an official is unable to make a ruling based on information, the captains of both teams must agree on the outcome.

#### **Field, Equipment & Insurance**

1. Per the policy of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, all players & referees are to carry their own insurance. All players, captains, spectators and officials are responsible for their own safety and aware of the hazards of playing a contact sport. BCRP is not responsible for injuries or accidents that occur as a result due to care or the neglect of playing fields.

2. On outdoor turf field, only turf shoes, tennis shoes or molded cleats should be worn. Metal or screw in cleats are strictly prohibited.
3. Proper Game balls are the responsibility of the captains to be supplied, one each per team.
4. **Gatorade, Sports drinks, food, chewing gum, smoking, sodas, and eating on the field is strictly prohibited.** Participants or spectators found to bring those items onto the field will be asked to remove or dispose of those items. Upon entrance, the field attendants may inspect and prevent entrance into the field if those items are detected. Only water will be allowed on the field. Coolers are subjected to be searched.
5. Spectators are encouraged to sit in the stands and not interfere with the course of play or the officials.
6. Dogs are not allowed, unless it is a service pet.
7. Litter is to be picked up and not left behind. Please do not leave behind trash to be pick up after end of game and place in trash cans.
8. Parking is not allowed without a valid permit in the park. Participants are encouraged to park on the street (Linwood or Eastern Ave). BCRP is not responsible for damage or theft of property or vehicles while participating or spectating. Violators face ticketing or possible towing.

### **Outdoor 11v11 Rules**

All rules will be governed by FIFA rules with the exception of those listed below that are modified for specifically or exclusively for the Baltimore City Adult Soccer League (BCRP).

#### **Game Rules**

1. Coed outdoor 11v11 Teams must field 11 players with a minimum of three women - a team is welcome to use more than three women
2. The use of a female goalie will be counted as a female on the field, and allow for more male field players to satisfy the requirement.
3. A team will be allowed to start the game with just one woman but the team must play down two.
4. In order to avoid forfeits, a minimum of seven players in 11v11 one of them must be a woman with the following exception: In the case of the opposing team having a shortage of players/women. If the match can start with even amount of men/women or no women as long as there are seven players (11v11), the referees will allow the game to play. Captains must agree before the game starts. Teams may also offer additional players to opposing team to fulfill the required amount of players in order to get the game started. If both team captains agree in the beginning, the game will count toward statistics regardless of who wins.
5. A team that cannot field the minimum amount of players 10 minutes past game time is subject to a forfeit and a forfeit fine is paying both the teams ref fees.
6. You can't sub on a foul or corner kick.
7. You can sub when the ball goes out of bounds.
8. Substitutes can be used from other teams in any BCRP Adult Soccer League if the other team allows it.
9. Halftime will last one minute.
10. Games will be 30 minute halves.

#### **Substitutions**

Unlimited substitutions are allowed throughout the game. Substitutes may only enter the game when the referee gives permission during a dead ball (throw-in, free kick, etc.) of the team with the ball, however in case of extreme heat, both teams may piggy-back substitute in the second half of the game

provided it has been discussed and agreed by the officials. It is suggested that at half time both captains approach the officials and not while the game is running.

### **Scoring**

1. All goals count as 1.
2. Ties: Any regular season game that ends in a tie will remain a tie.
3. In the event that a Playoff/Championship Bracket game ends in a tie, the teams will play an additional (2) 5 minute periods played to conclusion with a golden goal to determine a winner. All players must remain on the field at the end of the game and will also participate in the golden goal round.
4. In the event that the game is tied after the extended time, the game will be decided by penalty kicks. Each team will take 5 kicks. All female players on the field will participate for each team.

### **Slide Tackling**

Not allowed in soccer Coed. Any deliberate attempts to hurt another player through illegal contact on the field or a dangerous tackle will be dealt with at the discretion of the referee.

***"Sliding" is allowed if a player is attempting to get to a ball and not in contact with another player and is clearly not endangering any player in range. Must not be in contact with any player. This will be a judgment call by the official and in Men's Open Level play.***

Slide tackling and tripping are two different calls and first offense will be a yellow card. Second calls on either slide tackling a player or tripping will result in a red.

Slide tackling from behind is a legal play and again by discretion of the officials on the field.

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### **BCRP Uniform Policies**

1. Upon registration, a team/captain **must declare their team's color**. Each player of the team must wear this color each game and in the case of a substitute must attempt to wear a like color with a number. The referees will have to determine if the teams on the field have distinct enough shirts to play the game. There will be on certain occasion when a team needs to borrow a player who may not have the same color shirt but it is different than the opposing team. The referees can ask players to wear pennies or to change shirts. It is suggested that captains invest in purchasing a few pennies.
2. **Shirts from competing social leagues or soccer leagues will not be allowed to be worn by players** in games. It is the responsibility of the captain in addition to the referee to ensure that all players are not wearing competing league shirts on the field while playing in the BCRP league.
3. In the event that two opposing teams are the same color, **the away team must wear another color** for that game or pennies will be worn, the exception is if a team is wearing league-provided shirts and they are the home team, they can wear their shirts, and the opposing team who is wearing a "sponsor-provided" shirt then must prove the alternate colored shirt.
4. Goalies must wear a color that is different from his/her team and the opposing team.
5. **Players must wear shin guards and socks to hold them up**. Any player not wearing shin guards will not be allowed to play.
6. **No visible jewelry allowed**. Non dangling earrings can only be worn if tape is placed over them. Wedding bands without prongs or gems can also be safely worn. Referees are to ask that jewelry is to be removed before a player is to be allowed to play.
7. **No metal spikes**. Referees will not allow players to participate who are wearing metal cleats.