



## **Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles Soccer League - Rules and Regulations**

*The Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles Soccer League (hereinafter, the Soccer League) is a branch of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles League (hereinafter, “The Coptic League”) which is under the auspices and advisement of His Grace Bishop Serapion who appoints and approves the league officials responsible for organizing, coordinating, and supervising all of the Soccer League’s Activities. His Grace Bishop Serapion, Father James Soliman, and league officials are granted supervisory authorities over all participants, coaches, and spectators and reserve the right to take disciplinary action against all participants, coaches, and spectators as deemed fit.*

*The Soccer League will strictly enforce the following rules and regulations and reserves the right to amend or modify any of the said rules and regulations throughout the season as deemed appropriate. The Soccer League further reserves the right to take disciplinary action as deemed appropriate for any violations of the following rules and regulations. Please be advised, it is the ultimate responsibility of the contact persons and/or coaches to ensure all members of their team(s) and their spectators are in full compliance of the following rules and regulations.*

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### *Teams*

1. His Grace Bishop Serapion, Father James Soliman, and league officials are granted authority over any player, contact person.
2. League officials are hereby granted the authority to call off any given game if, in their judgment, the players or spectators are in any way engaging in “anti-Christian” or unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. League officials are hereby granted the authority to make decisions as to whether a particular game should continue or be immediately terminated due to escalating tempers, unnecessary confrontation, and taunting.
4. League officials on the premises of any game are granted permission to make any necessary modifications to the organization, set-up, or operation of the event for the purpose of ensuring fair play and good sportsmanship, and for avoiding arguments and altercations between players and/or coaches.
5. League officials have authority over the coaches, players, and unruly fans in terms of making final decisions and enforcing penalties.
6. At all games there must be the contact person *or* the second contact person (whose names were represented with the roster) present. If the contact persons are not present, the game will be forfeited without rescheduling.



7. Contact persons, you are the role models of this league. Any rule that appears within these set of rules have a much higher consequence if a contact person breaks it whether it is noted or not. These consequences could be, but are not limited to, suspending you as a contact person or suspending your whole team.
8. Contact persons, unless otherwise noted, must attend all league meetings that are held. You will know 2 to 3 weeks in advance.
9. It is against league rules for players and/or contact persons to be involved in any form of “Trash Talking” either on the field during a game, in anticipation of an upcoming game, or after the completion of a game  
“Trash Talking” falls under the category of “Anti-Christian” behavior and unsportsmanlike conduct, and will not be tolerated in this church soccer league.
10. If a contact person is ejected from a game the second contact person will take over.  
If the second contact person is not present, in compliance with rule #6, the game will be terminated and forfeited to the opposing team regardless of the score and without rescheduling it.
11. Fighting or foul language coming from a spectator will result in removal from the premises by League officials.
12. Any fighting caused by any team member or contact person will result in that player or contact person’s disqualification from the league.
13. Players and contact persons must show respect to the referees and the spectators.
14. There will be no arguing with the referee. The contact persons may speak to the referees only, if permitted by the referee. There may only be one contact person per team that may speak to the referee. The referee can choose not to talk to him *if too much tension occurs*.
15. The Soccer League doesn’t accept any verbal complaints, If you have a complaint send it in writing to [soccer@lacopts.org](mailto:soccer@lacopts.org) **by the contact persons only**
16. A church may participate with more than 1 team.
17. Each team is to have 2 contact persons/coach (may or may not be a player) who will attend each game and be the **sole communicator** with the Soccer League (The Soccer League **will not** communicate about any points, rules, games, etc. with any individual other than the designated contact person/coach) **and they must be 30 years or older.**
18. Each team shall consist of at least 6 and not more than 12 players (at least 1 of which is the goal keeper).
19. A player **may not** play for more than 1 church and/or more than 1 team (i.e., Team A & Team B).
20. All Teams and Players must fully and completely register online [www.thecopticleague.org](http://www.thecopticleague.org).
21. Late registration accepted refers to the late registration rules on the website and \$50 late fee applied.
22. After The Registration, a full roster of players will be distributed to the contact person(s) of each team in which their final confirmation of members will be requested.
23. The team fee of \$400.00 must be paid by **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.
24. All players must submit an executed Liability Waiver. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**



### *Games*

1. All games will be played at Holy Virgin Mary's in Los Angeles.
2. A game will consist of 2 teams playing 5 on 5.
3. A game **may not** start with fewer than 4 players. However, if a team begins a game with 4 players and one is injured during the game, the game will continue unless the team chooses to forfeit.
4. A game will last for approximately 50 minutes (two 25-minute halves) with a half time not longer than 5 minutes.
5. A team may not be more than 5 minutes late for its scheduled game; otherwise the score will be considered 2-0 for the competitor.
6. All games will play with size 4 soccer balls.

### *Game Rules*

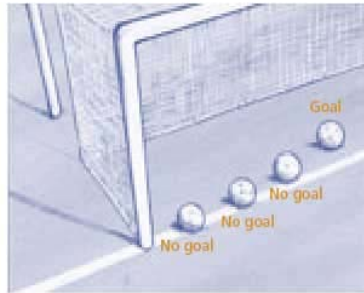
1. Attending Referee—Each game will be appointed a Referee. The attending Referee has the full authority and force to regulate the game pursuant to these rules (and any other rules agreed upon by the Soccer League) and per the International Rules of Soccer. **A REFEREE'S CALL/DECISION IS FINAL EVEN IF THEY CHANGE THEIR DECISION; ALSO THE SOCCER LEAGUE DOESN'T HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THEM UNLESS IT INVOLVES UNCHRISTIANLIKE CONDUCT.**
2. Substitutions—There will be open substitutions.
  - a. A substitution may not be made without the prior knowledge of the attending Referee (including the substitution of the goal keeper).
3. Calls—
  - a. Offside Position—A call **WILL NOT** be made for offside.
  - b. Corner Kick—A corner kick is to be played with hands.
  - c. Yellow Card—A player who 2 yellow cards have been called upon **WILL NOT** play the next game.
  - d. Red Card—A player who a red card has been called upon **WILL NOT** play the next game.
  - e. **A player who a yellow card has been called upon and the same player got two yellows followed by a red card, or a red card during the following game, will not play the next game and the first yellow card will be in his record for the rest of the league.**
  - f. **Yellow and red cards given in the first round will carry over to the second and the third rounds.**



4. Penalty Kicks—Penalty kicks will **ONLY** be played by the remaining 5 players (remaining 4 players if the team plays with 4 players) at the end of the game, including the goal keeper (goal keeper may **NOT** be changed once the whistle has been blown and during penalty kicks).
5. All other calls and rules will be regulated pursuant to the International Rules of Soccer (**PLEASE REVIEW ON THE WEB SITE.**)
6. **If a team does not report for a match – except in cases of extenuating circumstances – recognized by the Soccer League Committee – or if it refuses to continue to play or leaves the field before the end of a match, the team will be considered as having lost. The match and three points will be awarded to its opponents with a score of 3-0 or more if, in the case of an abandoned match, the winning team has already reached a higher score at the time the guilty team leaves the field.**
7. **The guilty team will, as a general rule, be excluded from further participation in the competition so that none of its matches will be deemed valid. Furthermore, we will forfeit any claim to financial remuneration from the Soccer League. The Soccer league may take further action for this team’s participation in the next league.**

### *Scoring*

1. Goals—
  - a. A goal is scored when the **WHOLE** of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar.



- b. A goal cannot be scored from a thrown-in, but can be scored if another player subsequently plays the ball before it enters the goal.
2. Points—
  - a. A win is 3 points, a tie is 1 point, and a loss is 0 points.
3. Going to Round 2—
  - a. If two (2) teams tie, then will go by the *difference* of the amount of goals scored then the *total* number of goals scored then the game score (head to head), then the penalty kicks (5 kicks).
  - b. From Round 2, all games should have a winner. If teams are tied, penalty kicks (5 kicks) will be played rather than extra game time.



## GAME ATTIRE/BEHAVIOR

### *Attire*

1. Each player must be in the proper playing attire (i.e., shorts or training pants, a t-shirt, tennis shoes-**Indoor soccer shoes required** and Shin Guards are recommended-**Regular cleat shoes are prohibited on the artificial turf**).
2. All shirts must be tucked in while on the field.
3. No tank tops and/or t-shirts displaying profanity and/or vulgar illustrations.
4. Each team is recommended to wear similar color shirt.
5. No jewelry (chains, watches, bracelets, etc.) may be worn during the game.

### *Behavior*

1. All participants and spectators must display proper Christian behavior.
2. Use of profanity, physical abuse, or the like will **NOT** be tolerated.
3. A team and/or church that does not display proper behavior will be dismissed from the league.
4. Any taunting and **unchristian** sportsmanship (whether in demeanor or in play) will not be tolerated or accepted.

***\*\*\*All rules and regulations will be strongly enforced by the Soccer League. The Soccer League reserves the right to remove and/or discipline a player and/or team as it deems fit. \*\*\****