

Tidewater Advance Soccer League, inc



TASLi is an all volunteer organization, made successful by the dedication of our players, coaches, and parents to serve our young players and make soccer happen in the Tidewater area

Handbook of the Tidewater Advanced Soccer League (TASL)

• **Table of Contents**

Table of Contents.....2 & 3

Chapter 1 - General Information.....4

 Section 101 - History and Philosophy4

 Section 102 - Participation/Membership Requirements4

 Section 103 - Composition of the TASL Board of Directors4

 Section 104 - TASL Officers4

 Section 105 - Duties and Responsibilities of TASL Board Members4

 Section 106 - Applicability5

 Section 107 – Nomination of Officers5

Chapter 2 - League Registration Policies.....5

 Section 201 - Club Registration.....5

 Section 202 - Team Registration.....5

 Section 203 - Player Registration6

Chapter 3 - Coaches7

 Section 301 - Selection7

 Section 302 - Guidelines.....7

Chapter 4 - Program Guidelines –8

 Section 401 - Registration Guidance8

 Section 401.1 - Tryouts and Team Formation8

 Section 401.2 - League Fees8

 Section 402 - Scheduling of Matches8

 Section 402.1 - League Schedule.....8

 Section 402.2 - Cancellation Policy.....9

 Section 403 - Playing Rules.....9

 Section 403.1 - Minimum/Maximum Players per side9

 Section 403.2 - Ball.....9

 Section 403.3 - Uniform/Equipment Requirements.....10

 Section 403.4 - Fields and Other Specifications (Table)10

 Section 403.5 - Referees and Assistants10

 Section 403.5-1 - Referees and Assistants Format for Games.....11

 Section 403.6 - Participation Policy.....11

Chapter 5 - Scheduling Policies12

 Section 501 - Regular Season12

 Section 501.1 - Pre-Season Registration Deadlines.....12

 Section 501.2 - Match Scheduling Policy.....12

 Section 501.3 - League Standings.....13

 Section 502 - End-of-Season Tournament.....13

Section 503 - Other Tournaments	13
Chapter 6 - Adjudication and Grievance Policies and Procedures	13
Section 601 – Hearing and Appeal Rights.....	13
Section 602 - Standards of Conduct.....	13
Section 603 - Assault and Abuse	15
Section 603.1 - General Guidance	15
Section 603.2 - Player.....	15
Section 603.3 - Coach.....	15
Section 603.4 - Referee.....	15
Section 604 - Adjudication Procedures.....	16
Section 604.1 - Member Clubs	16
Section 604.2 - League Adjudication Committee.....	16
Section 605 - Grievance Procedures.....	16
Section 605.1 - Member Clubs	16
Section 605.2 - League	17
Chapter 7 - Laws of the Game Summary.....	17
APPENDIX A – Sample Roster Form.....	18
APPENDIX B – Sample Team Declaration Form.....	19
APPENDIX C – SAMPLE COACHING APPLICATION.....	20
APPENDIX D – Sample Field Declaration Form	21
APPENDIX E – TIDEWATER ADVANCED SOCCER LEAGUE (TASL) CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	22 & 23

Addendum

Approved changes to the TASL Handbook ; February 2009:

Section 501.3 - League Standings

Standings, as maintained internally by TASL, and each organization's TASL Representative, have bearing on the seeding of the end-of-season tournament and are therefore relevant for the regular season and the maintenance of same shall be made by TASL.

Section 501.4 – The Competition Committee

A Competition Committee shall be established to assist in the organization of league divisional structures and to ensure similarities in skill levels between competing teams is maintained to the maximum extent possible. The Committee shall be comprised of representatives from each member/participating club who are familiar with teams' abilities and are authorized by their respective organizations to place teams in appropriate divisions established by the Committee. The Committee will meet one month prior to the beginning of the respective season and mid-season to seed the TASL Tournament.

Section 501.4(a) – Seasonal Divisional Structure

The Competition Committee will strive to establish as many divisions that can be supported by both quantity of teams and competitive levels of play. Information contained on the team declaration forms will be considered in the placement of teams in the various sub-divisions, as well as data associated with previous team performance during seasonal/tournament matches. Newly established/untested teams will generally be placed in a divisional bracket per the recommendations of their respective team/club staffs. It is each clubs' responsibility to ensure the team declaration forms with supporting information are submitted to the TASL Administrator prior to the Competition Committee meetings that establish the respective seasons' divisional structures. The decision for team placement in the seasonal divisions rests with each participating club representative and will be finalized by the TASL Competition Committee.

Section 501.4(b) – TASL Tournament (TT) Seeding

The Competition Committee will meet during mid-season to establish the divisional structure for the TT. Team data available via the match score reporting system will be used to determine the appropriate placement of teams. TT divisions can be adjusted such that teams with a significant goal differential (positive or negative) can be shifted between seasonal divisions to ensure quality of play for all players participating in the TT. It is each clubs' responsibility to ensure the data in the score reporting system is current prior to the Competition Committee's meeting to develop the TT divisional structures. The decision for team placement in the respective TT divisions rests with each participating club representative and will be finalized by the TASL Competition Committee.

• Chapter 1 - General Information

Tidewater Advanced Soccer League (TASL), www.tasli.org is a corporation as defined in both United States and Commonwealth of Virginia statutory law whose principal purpose is to promote youth soccer. Although membership is from clubs predominantly from Tidewater Advanced, membership may be offered to any club in the Southeast Region of the Commonwealth of Virginia or Northeast Region of North Carolina.

Section 101 - History and Philosophy

TASL was founded in August 2005 by a group of local soccer clubs in South Hampton Roads Neighborhood Youth Soccer League, Norfolk Youth Soccer League (now Norfolk United Soccer Club), Churchland Soccer League, and Chesapeake Select Soccer Club (now Chesapeake United Soccer Club).

TASL offers competition at all levels of recreational soccer from U-9 through U-19, boys, girls, and co-ed. Participation in TASL is extended to all clubs affiliated with the US Soccer Federation (US Soccer).

TASL provides an umbrella organization which is designed to bridge the gap between pure recreational players and select or travel players. Accordingly, divisional assignments will be made according to the playing ability of the team members via recommendations by the competition committee. TASL can accommodate teams that range from being newly-formed all the way up to and including Travel C teams.

Section 102 – Participation/Membership Requirements

Organizations desiring participation and/or membership should submit a TASL Club Application for consideration and approval by the Voting Member Organizations and TASL Board approval. Application can be found within Appendix E of this handbook.

Organizations desiring participation in TASL who have not been approved or who miss the deadline for submitting application may inquire about being sponsored to play by a Voting Member Organization (Club). Base requirements are that the team being sponsored must play under the Organization name which is sponsoring them, i.e. NYSL [Team Name] (Sponsored Club name), sponsored organization must use sponsor organizations fields for all home games, sponsored organization must pay all applicable fees for TASL to the sponsor who will pay TASL on your behalf, sponsored organization must provide TASL with a copy of their organizational structure and contact information (meaning BOD, etc) sponsored organization must also provide TASL with a copy of their player insurance policy, and sponsored organization must meet all requirements placed on it by said sponsor (as may be applicable outside of what TASL requires). Additional requirements may be modified from season to season as approved by the TASL BOD and Voting Members so each organization wishing to be sponsored must clarify with their sponsor any additional requirements that TASL or the sponsoring Club may place on them.

Section 103 - Composition of the TASL Board of Directors

Refer to Bylaws

Section 104 - TASL Officers

PLEASE refer to the TASL website: www.tasli.org for a list of the current Officers (Board of Directors....referred to as BOD), Committee Members (if applicable) and Organizational Representatives.

Section 105 - Duties and Responsibilities of TASL Board Members

Refer to Bylaws

Section 106 - Applicability

These Rules and Procedures apply to all member and participating organizations (including those being sponsored) and their players, coaches, team and club officials as well as parents, spectators and others associated with the member. Lack of knowledge of these Rules and Procedures will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in TASL, or seeking entry into TASL, from the responsibilities and possible penalties contained herein. ALL CLUBS, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS, BY PARTICIPATING IN TASL PLAY, AGREE THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY THESE RULES.

Section 107 – Nomination of Officers

Refer to Bylaws

• **Chapter 2 - League Registration Policies**

Section 201 - Club Registration

Each member club within TASL shall publish and be responsible for the administration of the registration process within respective clubs. Issues arising from registration within a club shall be handled within that club in accordance with the rules established by that club for adjudication of such matters. TASL, as a general rule, will not involve itself in the adjudication of registration issues that concern only one member club. An exception to this rule is made at the request of a member club to forward the issue to TASL for adjudication. In this event, the referring club shall agree, in advance, to abide by the decision of the TASL Board, which shall render a binding decision.

TASL will involve itself in registration issues in the event that more than one member club is involved in a dispute. In this case, the TASL Board shall issue a ruling, which will be binding on all parties.

TASL matches should be sanctioned through the auspices of the US Soccer Federation as applicable, dependent upon the particular affiliation of TASL and/or its participating Clubs. Sanctioned matches require participants to be registered with a parent organization for injury insurance purposes. Players registered through VYSA are automatically enrolled in a group medical insurance plan, which may be accessed for secondary payment for all injuries sustained in a sanctioned event, which includes practices as well as matches. AYSO has a similar program for players registered through that organization. Other Federation members have similar arrangements. Teams registered through and representing other Federation members are considered properly registered and sanctioned in accordance with US Soccer rules.

Section 202 - Team Registration

Teams are formed in accordance with the rules established by the parent club, with deadlines also being established by the individual clubs. The Administrator of TASL shall establish a deadline for team declarations to TASL for inclusion in the upcoming League season schedule. Nominally, this deadline will be set five weeks prior to Opening Day. At that time, clubs shall provide team names and points of contact to the Administrator. All League Fees, as established by the TASL Board will be due not later than 10 days prior to Opening Day, unless an exception is granted by the TASL Board of Directors in writing. Fees are made payable to TASL and are remitted directly to the TASL Treasurer by the deadline stated by TASL BOD prior to each season and posted on the TASL website and/or conveyed to TASL Participating Organization Representatives. Organizations failing to pay fees in full will have teams suspended from the schedule until the fees are paid. Organizations not paying fees by the deadline will forfeit matches the 1st weekend of the upcoming League season schedule play. Organizations failing to pay Full Season Fees by the 3rd weekend of the upcoming League season schedule match play will not have teams re-admitted for match play that season. Organizations wishing to resolve financial responsibility and have

matches rescheduled must make full financial restitution prior to the 3rd weekend of match play and understand team matches will only be re-admitted to the schedule 5 days after the payment has been received. All matches missed due to failure to resolve financial responsibility

As a general rule, there are two basic types of teams that participate in TASL. These types are determined by the parent club on the basis of team formation. If a team is formed through a tryout process (i.e. competition for places on the team roster), it is considered to be an advanced team and other teams that were formed on the basis of a tryout where such a division exists. Teams which are formed on a pay-for-play basis (i.e. assignment to teams based upon payment of a registration fee) are considered recreational teams. Exceptions to this general rule will be made on a case-by-case basis by the TASL Board. Divisional placement of teams will be determined by the Competition Committee.

Section 203 - Player Registration

TASL conforms to the policies established by US Soccer Federation through which feeder organizations are sanctioned and through which matches may be sanctioned. US Soccer Federation members are covered by group liability insurance policies, which cover injuries sustained during practice and /or match play. As such, all players must be properly rostered and registered through their parent nationally-affiliated organizations.

Individual players are to be placed on an approved TASL Roster Form (see [Appendix A](#)) which includes: Jersey No., Player Name, Address, Phone No., Date of Birth (DOB). Completed rosters shall be signed by a club officer designated by the club president and shall be kept on file with the club registrar. League/Team rosters are due not to the TASL Administrator on or before the 1st weekend of the upcoming League season. Rosters are frozen not later than 1 APR for the spring season and 1 OCT for the fall season, after which time no additions or deletions to any team roster may be made without the approval of the TASL Board of Directors in writing.

The size of the authorized roster will be dependent upon the age group of the players. US Soccer recognizes the soccer calendar established by the Federacion Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) which runs from 1 August of one year to 31 July of the following year. The age of the oldest child on a team roster will determine the age group in which the team competes. For example, a team has a player who was born on 17 July, 1985 and this player is the oldest on the roster which is submitted to the League. Since this player will turn 16 on 17 July, 2001 the team will play at the U-16 level, even though all other players are eligible to play at the U-14 level. Nominally, player registration is effective for the entire soccer year, unless the player's parent club has more stringent requirements in which case the parent club's rules take precedence. The following table lists the authorized roster sizes for teams that are registered and play in TASL unless an exception is made by the TASL Board of Directors and Voting Member Clubs:

	U9	U10	U11	U12	U14	U16	U19
Min No. Players on Field	5	5	7	7	7	7	7
Max No. Players on Field	6	6	8	8	11	11	11
Max Roster Size	12	12	14	14	18	18	18
Length of Half (Minutes)	25	25	30	30	35	40	45

Players appearing on the authorized team roster are considered registered players. Coaches or team manager are required to carry a copy of their authorized roster and player passes (which shall include the players picture and signature) signed by either the parent club president or registrar. Player passes MUST have a current photograph of the player permanently affixed and their signature on it. Questions concerning whether a player on the field is properly rostered shall be addressed with the opposing coach either directly prior or directly subsequent to the match in the presence of the individual venue Site Representative who shall communicate with the TASL Representative for said team in question. Roster issues so handled that remain unresolved will be submitted directly to the TASL Administrator for final determination by fastest available record means.

TASL is opposed to the cross-recruiting of players between member clubs during the seasonal year as previously defined. Cross-recruiting of players within the member clubs are an issue for the member clubs themselves. However, players will be allowed to change teams between playing seasons (i.e. fall and spring) in accordance with the following guidance:

“During season play Players desiring to switch from one team to another must submit a request, in writing, to the parent club president (or other club officer as the president or club rules designate). Any transfer must then be approved in writing by the losing coach, the gaining coach, and the designated club representative. For players desiring to switch between member clubs (i.e. Chesapeake and Neighborhood) must additionally have written approval of the designated officer from that other club. Copies of the entire transaction shall be submitted to the TASL Administrator within 10 working days for filing.”

Transfers that occur outside this process shall be adjudicated by TASL as provided for under the Adjudication and Grievance Procedures elsewhere in this manual.

• **Chapter 3 - Coaches**

Section 301 - Selection

The selection of coaches to participate within any program within TASL will be at the discretion of the member clubs. TASL will not normally involve itself in the selection of coaches unless specifically requested to do so by a member club.

Section 302 - Guidelines

Probably one of the biggest sacrifices of time is the coaching of a youth sports team. Additionally, a youth sports coach serves as a mentor and role model for our youth. It is also true that youth sports programs are administered primarily by volunteers which are often hard to come by and in short supply. Given these parameters, the following guidelines are provided for the selection and retention of coaches participating in TASL programs:

- a. Head Coaches should be of sufficient maturity and moral character to accept the responsibility that coaching youth requires. While it is not the policy of TASL to provide guidance for the minimum age of coaches or assistants, member clubs should take into consideration the age of its coaches vis-à-vis the age of the players they are assigned to coach. For example, it would be considered inappropriate for an 18-yr old person to coach a U-19 team. Additionally, the use of convicted felons, sex offenders, and/or pedophiles as coaches is prohibited.
- b. Head Coaches shall possess sufficient knowledge to carry out the responsibility of coaching the game of soccer. To that end, it shall be the policy of TASL that each coach participating in a TASL program possesses a USSF license. These licenses are targeted for individual age groups in accordance with the following table:

License	U9	U10	U11	U12	U14	U16	U19
F-Module No. 2 (8-9 Yr old Children)	X	X					
F-Module No. 3 (10-11 Yr old Children)			X				
E License				X	X		
D License						X	X

Notes:

- 1. The NSCAA Regional License program completion is strongly encouraged in addition to the requirements listed above.
- 2. Licenses ensure that age-specific coaching is conducted.

3. Licensure course are scheduled through the various entities which fall under the US Soccer Federation and are held several times annually. Since it is not always possible for coaches to attend sessions due to the numerous personal and professional conflicts that arise, a one soccer year grace period will be granted for new or non-licensed coaches to obtain appropriate licensure. Assistant Coaches remaining in the program in excess of one year are encouraged to obtain the appropriate license by the end of their second soccer year with the team. Assistant Coaches involved with a team for one soccer year or more desirous of assuming a Head Coach position must have an appropriate license prior to assuming those duties. Member clubs shall monitor this requirement. Exceptions to this rule may be made on a case basis by the TASL Board.
4. Coaches are reminded that they are role models for our youth, whether they believe that or not. Therefore, it shall be the policy of TASL that coaches conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while on the field, either during practices or matches. While is anticipated that the game provides a great deal of excitement, it is expected that coaches shall make every effort to maintain their composure. Coaches unable to control their emotions, who verbally (or physically) abuse players, other coaches, parents, League Officials, or referees shall be disciplined in accordance with procedures found elsewhere in this manual.

• Chapter 4 - Program Guidelines

Section 401 - Registration Guidance

Section 401.1 - Tryouts and Team Formation

Advanced Program teams are formed on the basis of a tryout. The mechanics of the tryouts will be left to the individual member clubs. Issues pertaining to team formation should be handled by the member club but may be submitted to TASL for adjudication in accordance with the adjudication procedure. Those teams submitted for play as purely Recreational level teams will be deemed teams that are formed at the club level on the basis of “pay for play”.

Section 401.2 - League Fees

Fees shall be collected from each participating organization, based on their team declaration, by the TASL Treasurer on a per team basis. The amount of the fees may vary but will be approved by the TASL Board prior to taking effect. League fees shall be voted and approved by the end of the previous season. For example, fall season fees shall be approved prior to the preceding spring season.

Section 402 - Scheduling of Matches

Section 402.1 - League Schedule

The League schedule will be prepared by the TASL Administrator for dissemination to all TASL Clubs and member teams. Member clubs desiring to place teams in the league schedule must declare them NOT LATER THAN team declaration deadline as established each season by the TASL BOD and Voting Member Clubs prior to the announced commencement of the League season. Clubs shall use the form included in [Appendix B](#). Teams designated as advanced teams shall be placed in divisions with teams of like ability based on recommendation of the competition committee as approved by the TASL Board.

The league schedule will be produced based upon the number of teams entered per division and the number of fields available. Once promulgated, any changes to the league schedule must be submitted to and approved by the TASL Administrator. Request for changes to divisional assignments must be reviewed and approved by the competition committee

The seasonal League Schedule shall consist of two parts. The first part will be the Regular Season Schedule of typically eight games; and the second part will be the Tournament Schedule which will be played on the last

weekend of the season consisting of a Saturday and Sunday.

Section 402.2 - Cancellation Policy

- A. Rainouts. Prior to each season the TASL BOD and all Participating Member Organization Representatives discuss and agree upon a rain out policy which MUST be conveyed by each Organizations Representative to their respective teams. IF possible, the TASL Administrator may monitor the predicted weather conditions as game day approaches. Should adverse weather threaten the cancellation of matches 24-48 hours prior to game day, the TASL Administrator shall consider cancellation of all league matches upon consultation with the TASL President and Board of Directors. For inclement weather on game day, the following procedures shall apply:
- B. In the event of inclement weather or at any time there is a doubt as to the playability of the fields, by 7 AM on a game day, the member club having jurisdiction of the venue to be used shall:
1. Verify the conditions of the fields.
 2. Immediately notify the TASL Administrator when field(s) is unplayable.
 3. Place the information on a telephone call line as established and posted by each Participating Organization and shared via prior meeting, email or posted on said organizations website.
 4. If, after matches begin, field conditions deteriorate which requires the cancellation of later matches, Club Representatives shall notify the TASL Administrator.
 5. If fields are under the control of another activity (e.g., schools, park authorities) and these organizations determine playability of fields, member Club Representatives must coordinate closely and in a timely manner to ensure early decisions and proper notifications are made.
 6. Referee Decision of Unplayable Conditions
 - a. A referee may suspend or terminate a match due to weather conditions; i.e., lightning, rain, fog, fields becoming unplayable in the opinion of the referee, etc. before or during a match. Under these conditions, the referee's decision is final. If at least one half of the match has been played, the match shall be deemed complete and the score shall stand.
 - b. After a referee cancellation, the host member Club shall determine if remaining matches scheduled for the field should be cancelled. In such cases, immediate notification of the TASL Administrator is required.
 - c. Inconvenience to the visiting team, who has traveled or may travel to the site, cannot be avoided if weather conditions worsen during the visiting team's travel time.
 - d. In the event that a match suspended due to field conditions that fall within the member club's control, the member club shall be responsible for costs incurred by the league rescheduling of matches as a result of the suspension.

Section 403 - Playing Rules

Section 403.1 - Minimum/Maximum Players per side

	U9	U10	U11	U12	U14	U16	U19
Min No. Players on Field	5	5	7	7	7	7	7
Max No. Players on Field	6	6	8	8	11	11	11
Max Roster Size	12	12	14	14	18	18	18
Length of Half (Minutes)	25	25	30	30	35	40	45

There will be a 5 minute break between halves. Matches tied at the end of regulation will remain tied unless otherwise specified.

Section 403.2 - Ball

U9 through U12 Size 4

U14 and Up Size 5

* Home team will supply the ball for all matches

Section 403.3 - Uniform/Equipment Requirements

Player Equipment:

Shall meet the guidelines of US Youth Soccer and FIFA.

Substitutions may be made with permission of the referee, at the following times:

1. Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession.
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
3. After a goal has been scored by either team.
4. At the beginning of the second half of play.
5. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play. The opposing team may be allowed a one-for-one substitution at the opposing head coaches' discretion.
6. After the issuance of a caution (i.e. Yellow Card), for the offending player. The issuance of a caution does not require substitution; this decision will be at the offending player's coaches' discretion.

Spectator and Coaching Areas

1. All coaches, players and spectators, will remain eighteen (18) yards from the goal lines.
2. Coaches and players are to take opposite sides of the field from the spectators.
3. No coaching may take place from behind the goal lines
4. All coaches and spectators must remain at least five (5) yards from the touch line at all times.
5. The referee or assistant referee may, at any time, restrict the sideline movement of coaches, players, and spectators.
6. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of themselves, their players, and their spectators and shall be expected to take timely and appropriate action to ensure proper decorum is maintained throughout the match.

Section 403.4 - Fields and Other Specifications (Table)

	U9/U10	U11/U12	U13 and Above
Field Size (Yds)	Note 1	Note 1	Note 2
Goal Area (Yds)	Note 1	Note 1	Note 2
Penalty Area (Yds)	Note 1	Note 1	Note 2
Goal Size (HxW) (Ft.)	Note 1	Note 1	Note 2

Notes:

1. Conform to US Youth Soccer Small Sided Games with modified rules
2. Refer to latest FIFA Law 1 – The Field of Play

Section 403.5 - Referees and Assistants

Referees and Assistant Referees are certified by US Soccer. They are assigned to matches by assignors who also will be certified by US Soccer. No uncertified referees shall be used as center referees for any TASL match. In the absence of one or both assistant referees (for U-11 and above where a 3-person system is required by FIFA and US Soccer), venue coordinators or the home coach shall enlist one or more spectators to “run the line” for the duration of the match or until relieved by a certified referee and will be referred to as a “Club Linesman.”

All Assignors and/or Referees working TASL matches, whether directly for TASL or through a participating organization, agree to adhere to and abide by TASL guidelines as set forth in the TASL by-laws, TASL handbook and TASL End of Season Tournament rules and guidelines.

Referees are as much a part of any soccer match as the coaches and players. The triumvirate of coach, player, and referee shall always strive to perform at their best level. By the same token, this same triumvirate will also commit

errors. Only the “speaking captain(s)” shall be authorized to address the referees concerning aspects of the match in progress. Judgments made by the referee and assistants during the course of the match are considered final and are not subject to debate. Referees are well within their rights to send coaches, players, and/or spectators off (i.e. issue a RED card) before, during, or after a match for dissent. In addition, instances of referee abuse shall be reported and adjudicated in accordance with procedures established elsewhere in this manual.

Section 403.5-1 - Referees and Assistants Format for Games

Referees and assignors shall use a one man system for matches up to U-10. A three man system shall be used for all other matches U-11 and up. ALL Assignors are required to abide by this guideline if Assigning referees for TASL matches.

Section 403.6 - Participation Policy

The Advanced Program is established to act as a “bridge” between strictly recreational play and Advanced play. TASL Participating Organizations may have agreements whereby purely Recreational teams may be placed in purely Recreational brackets for play against other Participating purely Recreational teams. The following basic guidelines are established:

1. Each team shall participate in all scheduled matches which include the regular season and end of season tournament.
2. Each team shall be represented on the field of play by a coach or assistant coach, or a parent designated by the coach ahead of time.
3. Each coach shall be encouraged to play each player at least one-half of every match.
4. Recreational teams are authorized to play in the Advanced Program as their placement is identified by TASL.
5. Participating Organizations understand that teams declared are Advanced/Recreational teams. As such all players must be carded as Advanced/Recreational players.
6. TASL does not currently allow organizations to submit Travel (Select level of play) carded TEAMS for play in the Advanced/Recreational structure TASL has established. Select/Travel carded players are authorized to play simultaneously in any Advanced Program in TASL based on Participating Organization guidelines and so long as not more than 55% of the team is comprised of Travel carded players. Furthermore TASL Competition Committee shall be informed at said Competition Committee meeting prior to the season in which said match play will commence. Such teams will be carefully evaluated by the TASL Competition Committee for placement in the appropriate competitive division for match play. Each participating Organization is expected to abide by this guideline and monitor the status of all teams declared to TASL for match play in TASL, including any such teams being sponsored by said Voting Member Organization.
7. Any coach, player, or spectator sent off by the referee (i.e. issued a RED card) must immediately depart the area of the match and must remain outside of sight and hearing of the match for the remainder of the match in accordance with FIFA rules. In addition, any coach or player ordered off will serve a suspension for the next match and must remain out of sight and hearing of that match as well. Appeals to this must be made in accordance with procedures established elsewhere in this manual. Exceptions to this rule can only be made by the TASL Board of Directors.

• Chapter 5 - Scheduling Policies

Section 501 - Regular Season

Section 501.1 - Pre-Season Registration Deadlines

Member clubs conduct registration in accordance with their own internal procedures and those listed elsewhere in this manual. Due to the large number of teams nominally entered for League play, the paucity of fields and referees, and in order to inform all players and their families of a season schedule, it is the desire of TASL to provide completed schedules to all concerned NOT LATER THAN 10 days prior to Opening Day. Accordingly, member clubs shall provide information required to schedule matches to the TASL Administrator NOT LATER THAN the date established by the TASL Board of Directors. As season dates vary from year to year, the Board will establish the appropriate dates prior to the respective season.

Section 501.2 - Match Scheduling Policy

Teams declared to TASL for scheduling shall be placed in divisions based on recommendation of the TASL Competition Committee and approval of the board. The league's goal is to provide and schedule as many matches as possible with an optimum of 8 matches. Dependent upon the size of the division, availability of fields, and the play dates available, teams may be scheduled to play double headers. The TASL Administrator is responsible for the promulgation and maintenance of the League schedule. Changes thereto can only be authorized by the TASL Administrator with the advice of the TASL President and the TASL Board of Directors.

Teams are required to field a team for scheduled matches. Two types of conditions may warrant rescheduling of a league match - emergency conditions and/or legitimate outside activities as specified below. In these circumstances, requests to reschedule league matches shall be made in writing and verified via phone call to the TASL Administrator at least two weeks (14 calendar days), or as soon as possible in the case of an emergency, prior to the scheduled match. Inability to field the minimum number of players (as defined by age group elsewhere in this manual) can be due to emergency conditions which are listed as follows:

1. Illness such as chicken pox, measles, food poisoning or other similar conditions affecting several team members. Note: Injuries, vacations, recreational activities or other team activities are not just cause for rescheduling matches.
2. Death of a team member or team official
3. Other emergency conditions at the discretion of the TASL Board of Directors.

Inability to field the minimum number of players (as defined by age group elsewhere in this manual) can be due to legitimate activities however, ALL Participating Organizations MUST provide TASL Administrator and President notice, in writing (email will suffice so long as it is confirmed received), no less than two weeks (14 calendar days), prior to the scheduled match. The optimum goal should be to inform TASL prior to the schedule being published of any prior known conflicts. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture fine being assessed the offending team. Outside activities which are listed as follows:

1. School activities such as organized trips or standardized testing such as PSAT or SAT testing.
2. Religious Ceremonies, such as confirmation, or bar/bat mitzvah that includes several team members.
3. Other legitimate activities at the discretion of the TASL Board of Directors.
4. Referee no-show.

Save for the above circumstances, failure to provide a team for a scheduled league match will result in a forfeiture of that match. The offending team will be required to pay a minimum fine of \$75.00 per occurrence (payable to the TASL Treasurer). Since it is a premise of TASL play to actually PLAY matches, forfeitures do a great deal of harm in that both teams are denied a match. Re-scheduling of forfeiture matches are normally not done unless the team that was prepared to play requests a re-schedule in writing to the TASL Board. The offending team's member club

Board representative must agree to the rescheduling and ensure that his/her team fields a proper team for that match.

Failure to pay the forfeiture fine by the end of the regular season will result in the offending team being ineligible for post-season play. In addition, a team that causes more than one forfeiture in a season will be subject to review for further League play by the TASL Board of Directors.

Section 501.3 - League Standings

Standings, as maintained internally by TASL, and each organizations TASL Representative, have bearing on the seeding of the end-of-season tournament and are therefore relevant for the regular season and the maintenance of same shall be made by TASL.

Section 502 - End-of-Season Tournament

See End of Season Tournament (EOST) guidelines and rules as posted on the TASL website to be found at www.tasli.org

Section 503 - Other Tournaments

There are a number of other tournaments locally and statewide during the soccer year. As a matter of policy, TASL does not become involved in such tournaments as participation in those tournaments is nominally a matter for the member clubs themselves. Accordingly, any issues concerning these tournaments will not be resolved by TASL, but can be forwarded to VYSA or any other Parent Organization of Said TASL Participating Organization/Club for adjudication if requested by the member club concerned.

Participation in tournaments that conflict with the TASL season will be considered by the TASL Board of Directors upon written request. While TASL will not prohibit any team from participating in any non-TASL tournament, it does reserve the right to require that teams desiring to enter a tournament which precludes the team from participating in a scheduled TASL match submit a notification in writing NOT LATER THAN 30 days prior to the match date so schedules may be re-adjusted. Failure to submit the request in a timely manner may result in the team paying a forfeiture fine as provided for elsewhere in this manual.

• Chapter 6 - Adjudication and Grievance Policies and Procedures

Section 601 – Hearing and Appeal Rights

The Tidewater Advanced Soccer League adopts, in toto, US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) By-Law 701 as its own concerning a party's right to appeal any decision rendered under these Rules and Procedures by the TASL Board.

Section 602 - Standards of Conduct

The Tidewater Advanced Soccer League (TASL) exists to provide the youth of Southeastern Virginia and, as applicable, North Eastern North Carolina, the opportunity to acquire and develop soccer skills through a higher level of competition. These skills, as well as the individual growth of the players cannot be nurtured in an environment which permits confrontation, poor sportsmanship, and verbal/physical abuse amongst referees,

coaches, players, and spectators. While it is not the policy of TASL to dictate internal policies to its member clubs, it will provide a framework governing undesirable behavior that the member clubs must adhere to in the administration of their teams. Players, coaches, and parents are expected to act and perform in a manner consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Coaches, in particular, are expected to reinforce those same principles with their youth players and act in a manner that is above reproach and does not embarrass either the League or the member club he/she represents. To that end, the following policies are provided for guidance:

1. Under no circumstances shall a player, coach, parent, or spectator enter the field of play during the match, unless invited by the referee.
2. **PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE, and/or HARRASSMENT OF PLAYERS OR REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
3. Parents and Spectators should be aware that the coach is responsible for their actions on the sidelines and he/she can and will be sent off the field and even banned from attending future matches for his/her misconduct. In the case of a parent/spectator being sent off by the referee, failure of the parent to depart the field and remain out of sight and hearing of the match in accordance with FIFA rules in a timely manner may result in an abandonment of the match at the sole discretion of the referee. In this case, the venue coordinator shall notify the TASL Administrator of the fact at their earliest convenience. Abandonment of the match under these circumstances will be considered a forfeit by the offending team and the appropriate team fine will be applied.
4. A player receiving an ejection (i.e. RED CARD) from the referee must sit out the remainder of that match plus his/her team's next TASL match. No substitution may be made for the ejected player during the match in which the red card was issued. The player must immediately leave the field and remove him/herself out of sight and hearing of the match in a timely manner. Players receiving two Red Cards during a season will be suspended from further League play pending review by the TASL Board of Directors. That review must be requested by the player before consideration to lift the suspension is made.
5. It is the duty of the coach to withhold ejected players from the next TASL match. Any violation of this requirement will be considered a separate offense and will be forwarded to the TASL Adjudication Committee for additional action.
6. Any team allowing a player, coach or team official to participate in a league match while under suspension shall forfeit the match in which the suspended individual participates.
7. The referee has the discretionary power to suspend or terminate a match whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, he deems such stoppage necessary. When the referee terminates a match based on the conduct or actions of one team or its player(s), coach(es), team officials and/or spectators, the match will be scored as a forfeit by the offending team and the appropriate team fine will be applied.
8. A coach or team official receiving a send off instruction (i.e. RED CARD) from the referee must leave the field and remain out of sight and hearing of the match for the remainder of the match. In addition, the coach is prohibited from participating in the next match and is not allowed to be present at the field or in the area surrounding the field. Coaches ejected from matches may be subject to review and additional sanctions by the TASL Adjudication Committee.
9. It is the coach's duty to self-impose the appropriate suspension. If a suspended coach participates, enters the field of play or the area surrounding the field while under suspension, the team shall forfeit the match and it will be scored as a forfeit by the offending team and the appropriate team fine will be applied.
10. Two Caution (i.e. YELLOW CARDS) given to the same player or coach in the same match will result in immediate ejection from the match and the rules outlined above regarding ejection apply.
11. Physical violence, foul and abusive language and/or harassment of players or referees will not be tolerated. Because of the seriousness of such instances, Red Cards issued during or after the end of a match, as a result of physical violence, foul and abusive language and/or harassment are subject to review by the TASL Adjudication Committee. The TASL Board of Directors may impose additional penalties, which are subject to appeal within TASL in accordance with Section 701. Normally, the

TASL Adjudication Committee will conduct a disciplinary hearing when physical violence occurs before, during or after a match, to determine if additional penalties are warranted. The results of the hearing will be forwarded to the TASL Board of Directors for disposition.

12. Member clubs shall insure that these standards of conduct are distributed and understood throughout their club. Repetition of occurrences of misconduct which shows a "disregard for these guidelines" could lead to long term penalties, up to and including prohibition from further participation in TASL League play of the offending players and/or coaches.

Section 603 - Assault and Abuse

Section 603.1 - General Guidance

1. Assault and abuse of any person connected with TASL matches has no place in League play and shall not be tolerated. Any incident concerning abuse shall be expeditiously reported to the TASL Administrator for referral to the TASL Board.
2. TASL will not involve itself in criminal prosecutions. This is a matter for the legal system. Misdemeanor assaults are nominally handled through the local police department or city/county magistrate's office. However, the filing of criminal charges in any matter involving assault (or abuse) that occurred in a League match will not preclude the League from applying further sanctions against the offender.

Section 603.2 - Player

Players are expected to perform at their best level during matches. It is understood that during any match, the potential exists for close physical contact and over exuberance. However, these instances shall not be confused with or be used as an excuse for any form of abuse or assault against anyone. Players committing this type of misconduct will be dealt with at the discretion of the referee. Misconduct of this nature reported to the TASL Administrator shall be reviewed for further action.

Section 603.3 - Coach

Coaches are expected to perform at their best level during matches. It is understood that during any match, the potential exists for over exuberance. However, these instances shall not be confused with or be used as an excuse for any form of abuse or assault against anyone. Coaches committing this type of misconduct will be dealt with at the discretion of the referee. Misconduct of this nature reported to the TASL Administrator shall be reviewed for further action.

Section 603.4 - Referee

Referees are the final authority on match play. As such, their decisions are not subject to dissent by players, coaches, parents and spectators. Such dissent may be dealt with at the discretion of the referee. Caution and/or Ejection cards may be issued for such dissent either during or subsequent to the match to any and all parties as necessary to maintain control of the game. Such actions taken by the referee shall be reported via the referee assignor to the TASL Board for review. If any player, substitute, coach, spectator, or parent refuses to leave the playing site immediately after an ejection by the referee, the referee may terminate the match. Upon follow on review of the TASL board, the board may record the match as a forfeit with the offending team losing by a score of 3-0. "General Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee." Terms and References as used in the rule "Referee" include the following:

- All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
- Any non-licensed, non registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee.
- Any club assistant referee.

Referee Assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting; kicking; punching; choking; spitting at; or

on; grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

Referee Abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee; using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or verbally threatening the referee. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or "You won't get out of here in one piece," shall be deemed referee abuse.

Note: Nothing in the above paragraph shall preclude any referee from pursuing a legal remedy for abuse on his/her own.

Section 604 - Adjudication Procedures

Section 604.1 - Member Clubs

TASL shall establish a separate committee to deal with issues that develop during League operations. Issues that are not otherwise covered in this manual may be referred to the Adjudication Committee at the request of a member club.

Requests for referrals shall be forwarded to the TASL Administrator who will forward the request to the TASL President and Board of Directors. If deemed warranted, the issue will be forwarded to the Adjudication Committee. The TASL Administrator will maintain coordination responsibilities for the issue. If the issue is one concerning an internal club matter, it will be considered by the League only if the member club agrees to abide by the resolution of the League. If the issue pertains to a matter between member clubs, then referral to the Adjudication Committee is required and the members must abide by the decision and any possible sanction deemed warranted by the Committee and the TASL Board of Directors.

Section 604.2 - League Adjudication Committee

The Adjudication Committee shall be an ad hoc committee which will be constituted when circumstances warrant. It shall consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 9 members, the total being of an odd number to ensure that any vote is not a tie vote. The committee shall consider any matter properly referred to it. Referrals will nominally be made within seven (7) calendar days following an incident and the report of the Committee will be due NOT LATER THAN TWENTY-ONE (21) calendar days from the referral. The TASL President shall designate an individual to chair the committee. The chair will work with the TASL President to coordinate the details of the investigation. Once the committee completes its work, a report of findings and recommendations will be prepared and voted upon. This report will then be forwarded to the President for presentation to the TASL Board of Directors for consideration and final action. Any actions taken by the TASL Board shall be reported, by the parties involved, to VYSA or other such parent organization for consideration when processing applications to host tournaments or when choosing representatives to any "Parent" organization programs including but not limited to VYSA, NCYSA, USYSA, AYSO, SAY, and US Club Soccer.

Section 605-Grievance Procedures

Section 605.1 - Member Clubs

Member clubs are encouraged to establish appropriate grievance procedures within their own clubs. Member clubs unable to satisfactorily adjudicate a grievance may refer said grievance to TASL for disposition, provided the club agrees prior to the referral to abide by any decision the TASL Board of Directors renders.

Section 605.2 - League

There are generally two types of grievances. The first deals with a function of the administration of the League itself. This type of grievance is nominally brought forward by a member club to the TASL Board of Directors for review and action.

The second is a protest which occurs during League play. Specifics concerning protests are contained below:

- a. General - A protest is a dispute over a point of fact dealing with the MISAPPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME by a match official. Protests on the grounds of judgmental actions on the part of a match official (including red and yellow cards) shall not be considered. The Referee Evaluation Form is appropriate instrument for reporting disputed judgmental actions by a match official. The evaluation form shall be submitted to the TASL Administrator, who will forward the comments to the appropriate referee association.
- b. A protest shall be submitted, in writing to the TASL Administrator, within two (2) days of the conclusion of the match, as verified by the postmark (snail mail or email). Any protest not submitted within two (2) days of the match will be returned unheard.
- c. A \$50.00 Protest Fee, made payable to TASL, shall accompany the protest. If the protest is upheld, the protest fee shall be returned. If the protest is denied, the protest fee shall be retained by TASL.
- d. The TASL Adjudication Committee shall handle protests as listed above.

Any decision by the Committee or the TASL Board may be appealed. The procedures for such an appeal are as listed below:

- a. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the TASL Administrator within 48 hours of the decision or imposition of penalty or fine.
- b. A \$50.00 appeal fee shall accompany the appeal. If the appeal is upheld, the appeal fee will be returned. If the appeal is denied, the fee shall be retained by TASL.

No other matters are grievable or to be dealt with on any appeal including:

- a. Coaching Guidelines found in this manual or otherwise promulgated by the TASL Board.
- b. Non-selection as a coach, assistant coach, player, or other team official.
- c. Age groups determined by the TASL Board in accordance with USYSA guidelines.
- d. Field usage as directed by various member clubs cities.
- e. Players, coaches, or other team personnel barred from participation in TASL.
- f. Any or all items stated as duties or responsibilities of directors, etc. found in this handbook.
- g. Modifications to FIFA Laws of the Game as approved by the TASL Board.

• Chapter 7 - Laws of the Game Summary

TASL follows the FIFA Laws of the Games U-13 and Older and Handbook for Small Sided games for U-12 and younger.

• APPENDIX A – Sample Roster Form

TIDEWATER ADVANCED SOCCER LEAGUE

Official Roster Form (TYPE or PRINT NEATLY)

Season	Year

Club	Team	Age/Gender
------	------	------------

Coach(s)/Mngr.	License	Address	Ph(H)	Ph(Cell)	Email

No	Jersey	Name (Last, First)	Address	Zip	Phone	DOB (MM/DD/Y Y)	Parents
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							

Club Officer Name: _____

Club Officer Signature: _____

• APPENDIX B – Sample Team Declaration Form

TIDEWATER ADVANCED SOCCER LEAGUE
TEAM DECLARATION FORM

Club _____

Team Name _____

Age Group: U- _____ BOYS _____ GIRLS _____

Coach Data:

Head Coach _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____ Zip _____ Ph(H) _____

Email: _____ Ph. (W) _____

USSF License Data: (Circle) A B C D E F License No. _____

No. of Rostered Players: _____ No. of Rostered Players Playing Travel: _____

Previous TASL Experience: _____ or NONE (circle)

Desired Division (if offered) (circle) GOLD SILVER PLATINUM NO PREFERENCE

Any Pertinent information that would affect scheduling: (Holidays (religious), coaching more than one team, SAT/PSAT, etc.) _____

• **APPENDIX C – SAMPLE COACHING APPLICATION**

TIDEWATER ADVANCED SOCCER LEAGUE
COACHES APPLICATION

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State _____, ZIP _____ - _____

Phone (H): _____ Phone (W): _____ Email _____

Age Group for which application is being submitted (circle):

U-6 U-8 U-9 U-10 U-11 U-12 U-13 U-14 U-15 U-16 U-17 U-19

Gender (circle): Boys Girls

Previous Coaching experience:

Dates Club or League Age Group(s) Level (Rec/Adv/Travel)

USSF License Data:

Level Date Attained: License No.

- F
- E
- D
- C
- B
- A

“I understand that selection as a coach is solely at the discretion of my member club. By submitting this application, I certify that the information I have submitted is accurate and that I may be subject to a background check for verification. I understand that my tenure as coach is at the discretion of my member club and that my status may be terminated at any time. If unlicensed, I agree to obtain the applicable USSF License within one soccer year of appointment as a coach.”

Signature _____ Date _____

• **APPENDIX D – Sample Field Declaration Form**

Club _____ Date _____

POC: _____ Ph. (H) _____ Ph. (W) _____

Email: _____

Name of Facility _____

Location & Directions _____

Field Data:

Designation Field Size (yds) Age Group(s) Restrictions

APPENDIX E – TIDEWATER ADVANCED SOCCER LEAGUE (TASL)

Organization Participation/Membership Application

Name of Organization _____

Date _____

Organizational Structure:

	Name	Phone	E-mail address
President			
Vice President			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Director of Coaching			
Other Officer(s) (List Name & Title)			

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 teams to declare and must provide at least 1 field for every 5 teams being declared (6 teams would require 2 fields, etc..).

Furthermore applicants understand that:

- **TASL Board of Directors and Voting Member clubs reserve the right to Deny any application, Require organizations to participate by being sponsored through a Voting Member club, Approve Associate Member Participation, Extend the length of time an applicant may remain an Associate Member, and/or Approve applications for Voting Member Status.**
- **If the request for participation is accepted organizations will participate as an Associate Member (non-voting) for at least the 1st full year (2 consecutive seasons) of participation. At the conclusion of the 2nd season of participation the applicant organization, upon request, will be reviewed, by the TASL Board of Directors (BOD) and Voting Member Clubs, for full Voting Member status. Applicants may withdraw their request for Voting Member status at any time up until 48 hours prior to the vote and may request to maintain their status as an Associate Member. All applicants will be notified of their Voting Member status after the TASL BOD and Voting Members meet to discuss all such applications.**
- **Applicant Organizations understand that teams declared are Advanced/Recreational teams. As such all players must be carded as Advanced/Recreational players.**
- **TASL does not currently allow organizations to submit Travel (Select level of play) carded teams for play in the Advanced/Recreational structure TASL has established. (Please refer to modification of Section 403.6 #5 and #6 for Travel/Select carded players- Board approved June 25, 2008.)**

APPENDIX E – TIDEWATER ADVANCED SOCCER LEAGUE (TASL)

Organization Participation/Membership Application-Page 2

Name of Organization _____

Estimated club enrollment: _____

Estimated number of teams to declare _____

Designated club representative to attend TASL meetings _____

Principal location of play _____

Number and approximate size of acceptable fields: _____

Fees: There is a fee of \$50.00 per team not to exceed \$300.00. This fee is non-refundable upon acceptance.

Club declaration deadline: 1 July prior to the season in which organization intends to participate.

_____ requests consideration for participation in TASL. We have read the TASL Handbook and Bylaws which are posted at www.TASLI.org and agree to abide by these documents.

Club President/Head Officer

Date