

Soccer Academy Alliance Canada

Policies and Procedures

2015 Edition



Issue 9

Our Mission

The SAAC mission is to support its member organizations in developing world class soccer players in Canada on a continual and systematic basis by providing their members with best-in-class training, facilities and competition.

Revision and History Page

REV	DESCRIPTION	RELEASE DATE
1	Initial Release	02-Aug-2007
2	Added Field Dimensions Diagram Updated Membership Classifications + minor updates as noted in redline version	14-Feb-2008
3	Updated Minimum training requirements Modifications to U8 format Added Committee details Added Dispute Resolution process	7-May-2011
4	Update minimum field size requirements for Mini Soccer Update overage player eligibility rule	15-Oct-2011
5	Updates to standards to align with OSA Added limit to games a player can play in a Season Minor edits as required to align with more recent documentation Added details to Player Registration Card review procedure. Added section on penalties for non-compliance	15-Aug-2012
6	Updated Standards to synchronize with ORNCA	17-Aug-2013
7	New player registration policies	8-Sep-2014
8	Common Practice Updates	8-Sep-2014
9	Incorporate new policies	1-Apr-2015



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1 Membership

1.1 Application for Membership

- (a) Any proprietor or business entity operating a soccer Academy in Canada can apply for membership in Soccer Academy Alliance Canada ('SAAC').
- (b) In order to be considered for membership, an academy must provide the following:
 - i. Payment of \$125 CDN annual membership fee.
 - ii. Completed SAAC application for membership
 - iii. Evidence to support Academy compliance with the membership criteria outlined herein.
- (c) New members shall be considered for membership by the SAAC Board of Directors in accordance with the Association By-Laws.

1.2 Minimum Standards

- (a) Prospective Academies must meet the following requirements to be **considered** for membership.

1.2.2 Technical Director

- (a) Each member is expected to have a Nationally licensed Technical Director with a CSA National 'B' license or equivalent (as determined by the CSA)

1.2.3 Membership

- (a) For a new member to be considered, they must have a minimum of 100 registered members (in programs involving >50 hours of on-field training), or plan to field at least 4 teams for the upcoming Inter-Academy Competition.
- (b) For existing members, registration requirements shall be defined by the membership class (see Section 1.3).

1.2.4 Support Staff

- (a) Each member must employ technical coaches per the following:
 - i. Qualified Head coaches per Section 2.4.2 for SAAC full-time teams; or
 - ii. For members without full-time SAAC teams, at least 1 Provincial 1 coach for every 40 players
- (b) Each Member must retain a Certified Physical Therapist on staff/contract to oversee player conditioning and injury treatment.
 - i. Each Academy member is expected to provide an on-site certified therapist at all sessions requiring physical activity.
 - ii. Each School is expected to provide at least one member of the coaching staff with a current First Aid Training certificate.
- (c) Each Member must retain a Professional Coach on staff/contract specializing in Goalkeeper training. All goalkeepers in the academy are expected to receive specialized training on a regular basis (at least 50% of technical training).
- (d) Each Academy must have access to a qualified strength and conditioning coach that will work with players on a regular basis.

1.2.5 Risk Management

- (a) Each Member shall carry a minimum of \$5,000,000 General Liability Coverage.
- (b) Each Member shall implement a Risk Management Policy in accordance with Section 15

1.3 Membership Classes

Soccer Academy Alliance Canada

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- (a) Once a prospective or returning organization has shown that they meet or exceed the SAAC requirements for membership, the Board of Directors will assign one of the following classes to each member:
- i. SAAC Academy
 - ii. SAAC School of Excellence
 - iii. SAAC Member (non-participating)
- (b) Membership requirements are described in the table below.

	Academy	School of Excellence	Member (non-participating)
Technical Director	Nationally Licensed ¹	Nationally Licensed ¹	Nationally Licensed ¹
Head Coaches:			
Senior (U18+)	Provincial B or higher ¹	Pre-B or Higher ¹	---
Youth (U14 - U17)	Provincial B or higher ¹	Pre-B or Higher ¹	---
Development (U8 - U13)	Pre-B + LTPD or USYSA National Youth ¹	LTPD or USYSA National Youth ¹	---
Goalkeeper Coach			
	Mandatory	Mandatory	---
Physiotherapy			
	Mandatory at all sessions ²	Mandatory Oversight (with First Aid on site) ³	---
Strength & Conditioning Coach⁴			
	Mandatory	Optional	---
Head Coaches:			
Training-to-Game Ratio⁵	3:1	3:1	3:1
Full Time Players	100%	100%	---
Liability Insurance	Mandatory (\$5M)	Mandatory (\$5M)	Mandatory (\$5M)
Risk Management Policy	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Representation			
Overall⁶	At least 6 teams	At least 4 teams	---
Development (U8 to U13)	At least 40 Players	At least 25 Players	---
Youth Programs (U14 to U17)	At least 2 teams	At least 1 team	---
Senior	Recommended	Optional	---
Entitlements			
AGM Voting Rights	Yes	No	No
SAAC Competitions	Yes	Yes	No
Player Registration & Travel	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹ Refer to Section 2.4.2 for details

² A staff Athletic therapist must be present at all sessions

³ A staff Athletic therapist must oversee all medical needs. Staff members trained in First-Aid must be present at all sessions

⁴ A qualified strength & conditioning coach available on a regular basis (i.e. weekly) to provide training as required.

⁵ Refer to Section 2.4.1 for annual training hours

⁶ Academies will not be permitted to place teams in a division with a more than 2 year gap to their next youngest team



1.4 Executive Members

- (a) Any current SAAC Academy member is eligible to become an executive member.
- (b) Only Executive Members are eligible to vote on SAAC matters
- (c) Applications for executive membership shall be accepted/rejected as defined in the by-laws.

1.5 Board of Directors

- (a) A Board of Directors of no less than 3 (three) members shall be elected every 2 (two) years by the executive membership, as described in the SAAC By-Laws.

1.6 Committees

1.6.1 Governing Committee

- (a) A Governing Committee, made up of the non-Academy affiliated members of the Board and the Operations Manager shall be established to decide on matters as described in this document.

1.6.2 Discipline Committee

- (a) A Discipline Committee, made up of the Discipline Chair, Chief Referee and a non-Academy affiliated member of the Board shall be established to decide on discipline matters as described in this document.

1.6.3 Technical Committee

- (a) A Technical Committee will be commissioned annually to provide input and recommendations to the Board of Directors on technical topics that are deemed critical to the continuing development of SAAC and its members. The committee will be made up of qualified representatives of SAAC members and may include experienced technical staff from outside organizations.
- (b) In consultation with the Board of Directors, the Technical Committee shall develop a list of objectives for the year. Each objective shall align with the SAAC Vision and Mission, and include specific and measurable goals that can be achieved within the calendar year.
- (c) The Technical Committee will be chosen from interested applicants by the SAAC Board of Directors. The Committee shall then appoint a Chair that will be responsible for liaising with the Board throughout the year.
- (d) At the end of the year, the output delivered by the Committee will be reviewed against the objectives and any recommendations will be presented to the Board. At this point the Technical Committee shall disband and a new Committee appointed for the following year.



2 SAAC Teams

2.1 Youth SAAC Teams

- (a) All SAAC participating members are eligible to field SAAC Teams.
- (b) **SAAC Teams** will be sanctioned by the Association in accordance with the requirements stated herein.
- (c) **SAAC Teams** will be subject to the published rules of the Association.
- (d) **SAAC Teams** will be afforded any and all the privileges obtained by the Association through any membership in the Canadian Soccer Association and any provincial soccer association.
- (e) The Association may sanction **SAAC Teams** (for both Boys & Girls) between the ages of 8 and 18.
- (f) Players on an **SAAC Team** shall be registered for full season spanning 12 months (start/end dates may differ based on location).
- (g) **SAAC Teams** shall be registered with the Association by providing completed application forms (including individual player and staff forms)
- (h) As of 2015, the following minimum requirements will be imposed in order to submit a team registration:
 - i. U08 – Roster of 5 registered players (*at least 4 born in 2007*)
 - ii. U09 – Roster of 9 registered players (*at least 7 born in 2006*)
 - iii. U10 – Roster of 9 registered players (*at least 7 born in 2005*)
 - iv. U11 – Roster of 11 registered players (*at least 9 born in 2004*)
 - v. U12 – Roster of 11 registered players (*at least 9 born in 2003*)
 - vi. U13 – Roster of 11 registered players (*at least 9 born in 2002*)
 - vii. Academy League (U14+) – Roster of 13 registered players that meet division age requirements
- (i) Applications for teams are reviewed independently from Academy membership. Team applications from member academies may be rejected if, in the opinion of the SAAC Governing Committee, the academy will not be able to meet the minimum standards for team programs.

2.1.2 Player Registration

- (a) In order to be eligible for SAAC Competitions, full-time Academy players cannot be simultaneously registered with a Competitive Club team.
- (b) SAAC competitions MAY provide provisions for Club-registered players to participate in a limited capacity as TRIAL players.



3 Tournament Teams

3.1 Definition

- (a) SAAC Members are eligible to field **Tournament Teams**.
- (b) **Tournament Teams** will be sanctioned by the Association in accordance with the requirements stated herein.
- (c) **Tournament Teams** will be subject to the published rules of the Association.
- (d) **Tournament Teams** will be afforded any and all the privileges obtained by the Association through its membership in the Canadian Soccer Association and any provincial soccer association.

3.2 Classification

- (a) The Association will sanction **Tournament Teams** (for both Boys & Girls) for any of the following:
 - i. Inter-Academy Competition and friendly matches
 - ii. Calendar year age based competitions (i.e. Canada)
 - iii. Aug-July age based competition (i.e. United States)
- (b) Players may be registered to an **Tournament Team** outside of their age bracket, subject to the approval of the SAAC Technical Committee and the rules of competition.
- (c) **Tournament Teams** are eligible to participate in the inter-academy program on a part-time basis.
- (d) **Tournament Teams** shall be registered with the Association by providing completed application forms (including individual player and staff forms) and relevant supporting information.
- (e) Applications for teams are reviewed independently from Academy membership. Team applications from member academies may be rejected if, in the opinion of the SAAC Governing Committee, the academy will not be able to meet the minimum standards for team programs.



4 General Programs

Deleted



5 General Membership Requirements

5.1 Code of Ethics

5.1.1 Academy Commitments to other Members:

- (a) Each member is required to respect the aims and objectives and comply with all Published Rules of the Association.
- (b) Academies shall not knowingly solicit players signed full-time with other academies.
- (c) Academies shall make every effort to ensure that coaches and parents understand that players signed with other member academies are not to be approached in a manner that can be construed as an attempt to recruit.
- (d) Academies will not engage in actions that bring SAAC, its members or the game of soccer into disrepute.

5.1.2 Academy Commitments to the Soccer Community:

- (a) SAAC and its members will be expected to maintain positive relationships with the soccer community, including all outside clubs and associations.
- (b) Advertising will not be made to mislead the consumer or misrepresent the intentions of SAAC or any of its member academies.

5.1.3 SAAC Commitments to the Player:

- (a) The purpose of the SAAC Academy programs is to train, develop and promote talented Canadian players.
- (b) SAAC Academies will strive to ensure that the best young players have access to the highest standards of coaching, facilities and competition.
- (c) SAAC Academies will provide talented young Canadian players the resources they need to further their playing careers at the senior level.
- (d) SAAC and its member Academies will endeavour to implement assistance programs to allow qualified players undergoing financial hardship to enter an Academy.

5.1.4 SAAC Commitments to the Academies:

- (a) SAAC will strive to establish partnerships with one or more professional foreign clubs.
- (b) SAAC will affiliate and work with recognized national and provincial soccer organizations.
- (c) SAAC will communicate actively with existing organizations to provide education on the services provided by the member Academies.
- (d) SAAC will establish a corporate plan to serve all member academies for the benefit of the game of soccer in Canada.

5.2 Code of Conduct

5.2.1 General

- (a) Soccer Academy Alliance Canada has endeavoured to provide a unique competitive program to its members that strives to provide the best possible conditions for player development.
- (b) The purpose of this program is to allow players to showcase their skills and put into practice the training they received from the professional staff at the member academies.
- (c) To that end, SAAC enforces a strict Code of Conduct for sideline behaviour that ALL participants in this program are expected to follow.



5.2.2 Coaching Staff Conduct:

- (a) Be respectful of the referee and your opponents
- (b) Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- (c) Limit the amount of coaching done from the sidelines to only when necessary
- (d) Keep your players and fans under control
- (e) Remember that the score of the game is secondary to the opportunity for your players to demonstrate and improve their game
- (f) Present a professional example to your players before, during and after competitions

5.2.3 Players Conduct:

- (a) Be respectful of the referee and your opponents
- (b) Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- (c) Remember that you are here to provide a strong performance, and that the result of the match is secondary to its benefit as a development tool.

5.2.4 Fans Conduct:

- (a) Be respectful of the referee and the teams on the field
- (b) Refrain from using foul or abusive language
- (c) Keep comments positive.
- (d) Refrain from coaching from the sidelines
- (e) Remember that you are here to support your child, not win a game where achieving a result is not the primary objective.
- (f) Keep in mind that your attendance at SAAC events is a privilege, not a right, and that the Academy will be held responsible for the behaviour of its fans

5.3 Dispute Resolution

- (a) A dispute resolution committee will be formed to address conflicts between academies. Any academy deemed guilty of misconduct per SAAC rules may be sanctioned
- (b) Sanctions may include a one or a combination of the following:
 - i. Report of misconduct available to the public
 - ii. Fines levied on offending academy
 - iii. Suspension of personnel
 - iv. Suspension of privileges
- (c) Decisions on such matters will be made by the SAAC Governing Committee. The SAAC Governing Committee shall have full power to carry out any sanctions prescribed unless waived by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.
- (d) The process for bringing disputes to SAAC for resolution shall be as follows:
 - i. Disputed activity should be reported to SAAC in writing, as soon as possible.
 - ii. The Parties involved are notified and given the opportunity to respond
 - iii. The SAAC dispute resolution committee will investigate and submit a recommendation to the SAAC Board of Directors.
 - iv. If the recommendation is approved, the affected parties are informed of the decision.



5.4 Conflict of Interest

- (a) Members of the Board of Directors shall disclose to the board, prior to engaging in any activities that may be seen as conflict of interest, such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Having a vested interest in an external business which may provide materials or service to the Association;
 - ii. Being offered services or materials as a result of employment or position with the Association;
 - iii. Utilizing Association equipment, services or materials for an external business;
 - iv. Pursuing personal gain over the well-being or needs of the Association.
 - v. Non-compliance of this policy and procedures and the By-Law pertaining to conflict of interest on the part of the Board members shall constitute cause for removal from the board.
 - vi. Board members shall confirm in writing that they have received and read this policy and procedure at the first meeting of the board of directors that they attend following their election.

5.5 Discipline (derived from Ontario Soccer Association Policies)

- (a) Each Academy is responsible for the actions of its players, officials, and spectators.
- (b) Each Academy is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, officials, and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone present at a game, especially the game official(s).
- (c) Discipline decisions will be made by the SAAC Discipline Committee. The SAAC Discipline Committee shall have full power to carry out any sanctions prescribed unless waived by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.
- (d) Discipline required as a result of actions related to competitions is covered in Section 7.

5.6 Use of the SAAC Brand

- (a) The integrity of Soccer Academy Alliance Canada is contingent upon its proper recognition and reference in the marketplace. Any reference to Soccer Academy Alliance, SAAC or the SAAC logo by member academies shall only be under the following conditions.
 - i. To identify themselves as members
 - ii. To promote the formation, development and achievements of properly sanctioned academy teams.
 - iii. To promote general programs that meet the conditions herein.
- (b) To ensure a consistent image, references to SAAC shall be in one of the following forms:
 - i. "Soccer Academy Alliance Canada"
 - ii. "SAAC"
 - iii. Appropriate membership Logo per <http://www.academyfootball.ca/docs>.
- (c) SAAC Members are expected to display their SAAC Class designation (as determined by Section 1.3) on any material advertising or promoting their involvement in SAAC programs.





6 Affiliations

6.1 Governing bodies for Soccer in Canada

- (a) The Association will strive to obtain affiliation with the following organizations and will be subject to is subject to the published rules in declining order of authority of the following governing organizations to which it is affiliated:
 - i. The Canadian Soccer Association
 - ii. The Ontario Soccer Association (or any other official provincial governing body)
- (b) Individual members may seek out an affiliation with existing organizations that are members of their respective provincial association.



7 Competitions

7.1 General

- (a) SAAC shall support the member academies in establishing a seasonal program that provides suitable competition for academy players
- (b) SAAC reserves the right to impose restrictions on competitions if it believes that the standards set out by the association are being compromised.
- (c) Academies failing to abide by these restrictions are subject to discipline as defined herein.
- (d) SAAC may impose a common calendar for all teams participating in its competitions.

7.2 Number of Games

- (a) The recommended number of games (in all competitions) to be played in any Season by an Academy Player shall be:
 - i. Age groups Under 8 to Under 13 Minimum 20 Maximum 30 (all small-sided)
 - ii. Age groups Under 14 to Under 16 Minimum 20 Maximum 35
 - iii. Age groups Under 17+ Minimum 20 Maximum 42
- (b) SAAC expects members to ensure all players receive appropriate playing time and that players are not playing excessive games. The following table provides general guidelines for individual match time.

Age Group	Average	Maximum	Minimum
U7 – U8	45 minutes	90 minutes	25 minutes
U9 – U10	60 minutes	120 minutes	30 minutes
U11 – U13	75 minutes	150 minutes	30 minutes
U14	80 minutes	160 minutes	30 minutes
U15+	90 minutes	180 minutes	30 minutes

Weekly Match Time



7.3 Provincial Inter-Academy Competition

- (a) Where numbers permit, SAAC shall endeavour to provide a match structure to facilitate inter-academy competition.
- (b) A competition committee will be established to govern the league. The committee will have the mandate to maintain the standards of the competition for the benefit of all members. This includes (but is not limited to):
 - i. Altering the published schedule to maintain competitive balance
 - ii. Allowing players and/or teams to play out of their registered division to maintain competitive balance
- (c) Competitions will be open to all member academies based in the boundaries identified by the competition committee.
- (d) Any member academy within the stated boundaries may apply to register a team in a SAAC sanctioned league.
- (e) The structure of the inter-academy competition program shall be established by the competition committee.

7.4 Cup/Playoff Competition

- (a) For SAAC matches in which a winner must be declared, the following will be used to decide a result when the score is tied after regulation time.
 - i. teams may play 2x10 minute periods (in full - no golden or silver goal) *time-permitting
 - ii. if still tied, teams will compete in penalty kicks per FIFA rules.
- (b) Unless otherwise stated, Academy Cup games will go directly to penalty kicks.
- (c) Players participating in a Cup/Playoff game shall be considered 'Cup-tied' and will not be eligible to play for another team in the same competition.

7.5 Declaring a League Champion

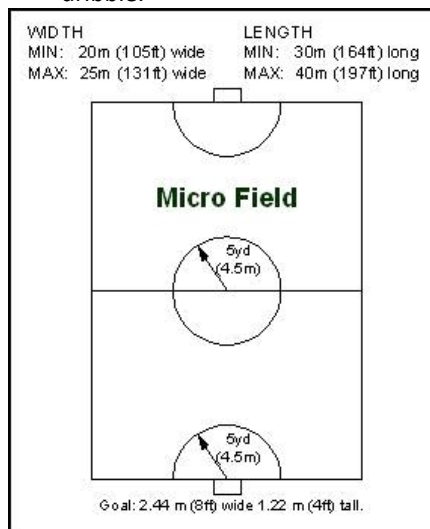
- (a) In the event two teams are tied for 1st place at the end of a season, a winner shall be declared using the following tie-breakers (in order of application):
 - i. Points in head-to-head competition (in the event more than 2 teams are tied, head-to-head can only be used if each team played an equal number of games against the other tied teams)
 - ii. Greater Number of Wins
 - iii. Better Goal Differential
 - iv. Coin Toss

7.6 Recommended Game Structure

- (a) SAAC is committed to incorporating the CSA Recommended Game Structure guidelines into its team programs.
- (b) The following sections define the specific structure recommended by SAAC:

7.6.2 Micro Soccer

- (a) Micro Soccer will be the recommended structure for players ages 8 and under.
- (b) Micro Soccer teams will play 4-a-side (no goalkeepers).
- (c) Micro Soccer games will consist of 3 x 15 minute periods (for regular matches) or 1 x 20 minute period (festivals).
- (d) Micro Soccer games shall employ a size 3 ball.
- (e) Micro Soccer Standings and/or scores will NOT be published.
- (f) Micro Soccer field dimensions shall be: 30-40m (164-197ft) long x 20-25m (105-131ft) wide.
- (g) Micro Soccer goals shall be: 1.83 m (6ft) wide 1.22 m (4ft) tall.
- (h) Notwithstanding the above modifications, Micro Soccer games shall employ FIFA rules except:
 - i. Players are not permitted within the goal crease area
 - ii. Goals must be scored from within the opponent's half
 - iii. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed
 - iv. The Offside Rule will not be enforced
 - v. All free kicks are **indirect**.
 - vi. For all restarts, opponents must be at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball.
 - vii. After a goal is scored, play will resume as with a goal kick
 - viii. When the ball goes into touch, play can be restarted from the touchline via either a kick-in or dribble.

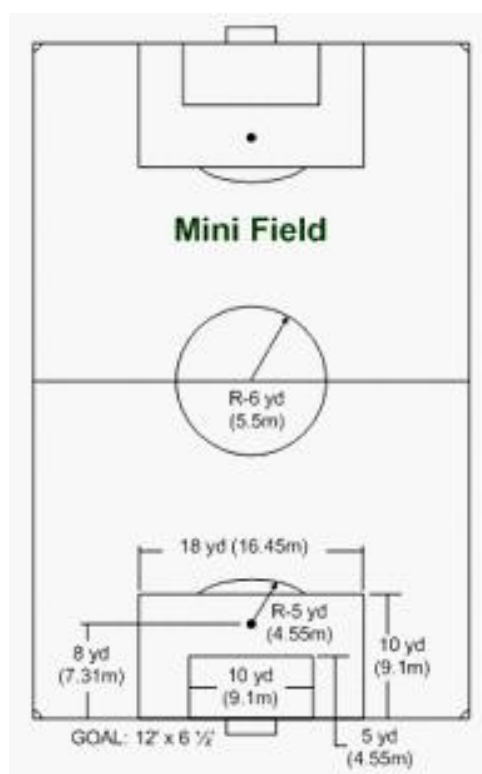


Game Management:

- Coaches are expected to work together to create a productive environment for all players. If the game is one-sided, consider playing 5v4 for portions of the game, or using pinnies to mix the players to improve team balance
- Players (both offensive and defensive) should stay clear of the goal areas

7.6.3 Mini Soccer

- (a) Mini Soccer will be the recommended structure for players ages 9 and 10.
- (b) Mini Soccer teams will play 7-a-side.
- (c) Mini Soccer games will consist of 3 x 20 minute periods.
- (d) Mini Soccer games shall employ a size 4 ball.
- (e) Mini Soccer Standings and/or scores will NOT be published.
- (f) Mini Soccer field dimensions shall be: 50-60m (164-197ft) long x 35-40m (105-131ft) wide.
- (g) Mini Soccer goals shall be: 3.66m (12ft) wide x 1.98m (6.5ft) tall.
- (h) Notwithstanding the above modifications, Mini Soccer games shall employ FIFA rules except:
 - i. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed
 - ii. The Offside Rule will not be enforced
 - iii. All free kicks are **direct**.
 - iv. For all restarts, opponents must be at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball.

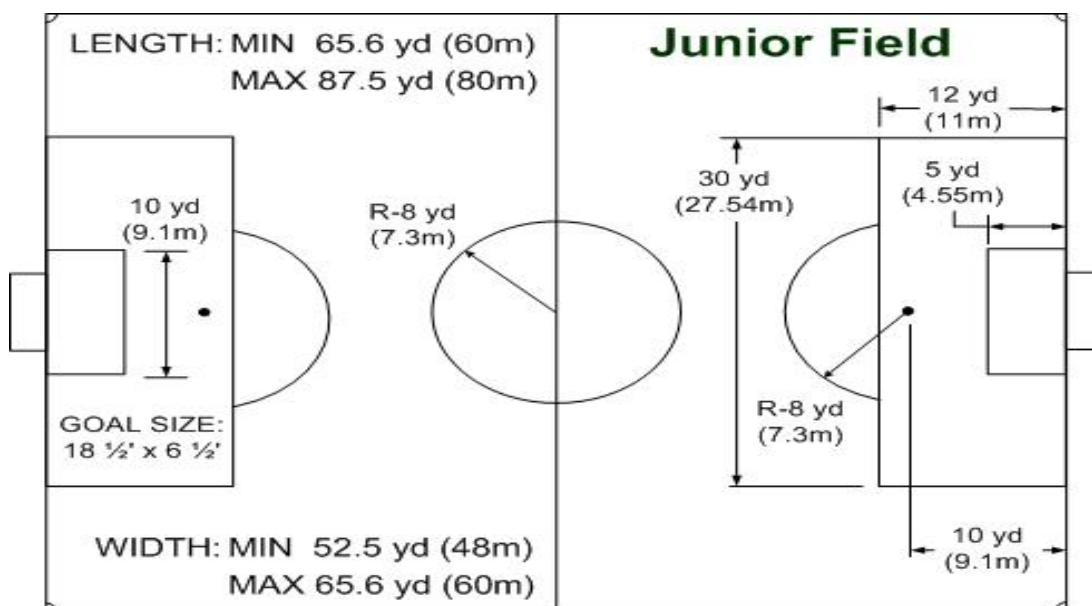


Game Management:

- Teams should retreat to centre when opposing goalkeeper is in possession.
- Games restarted by indirect 'kick-in' when ball is played into touch.
- Coaches are expected to work together to create a productive environment for all players. If the game is one-sided, consider playing 7v6 for portions of the game, or using pinnies to mix the players to improve team balance

7.6.4 Junior Soccer

- (a) Junior Soccer will be the recommended structure for players ages 11 and 12.
- (b) Junior Soccer teams will play 9-a-side.
- (c) Junior Soccer games will consist of 3 x 24 minute periods.
- (d) Junior Soccer games shall employ a size 4 ball.
- (e) Junior Soccer Standings and/or scores will NOT be published.
- (f) Junior Soccer field dimensions shall be: 60-80m (197-262ft) long x 45-60m (148-197ft) wide.
- (g) Junior Soccer goals shall be: 5.49m (18ft) wide x 1.98m (6.5ft) tall.
- (h) Notwithstanding the above modifications, Junior Soccer games shall employ FIFA rules except:
 - i. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed



Game Management:

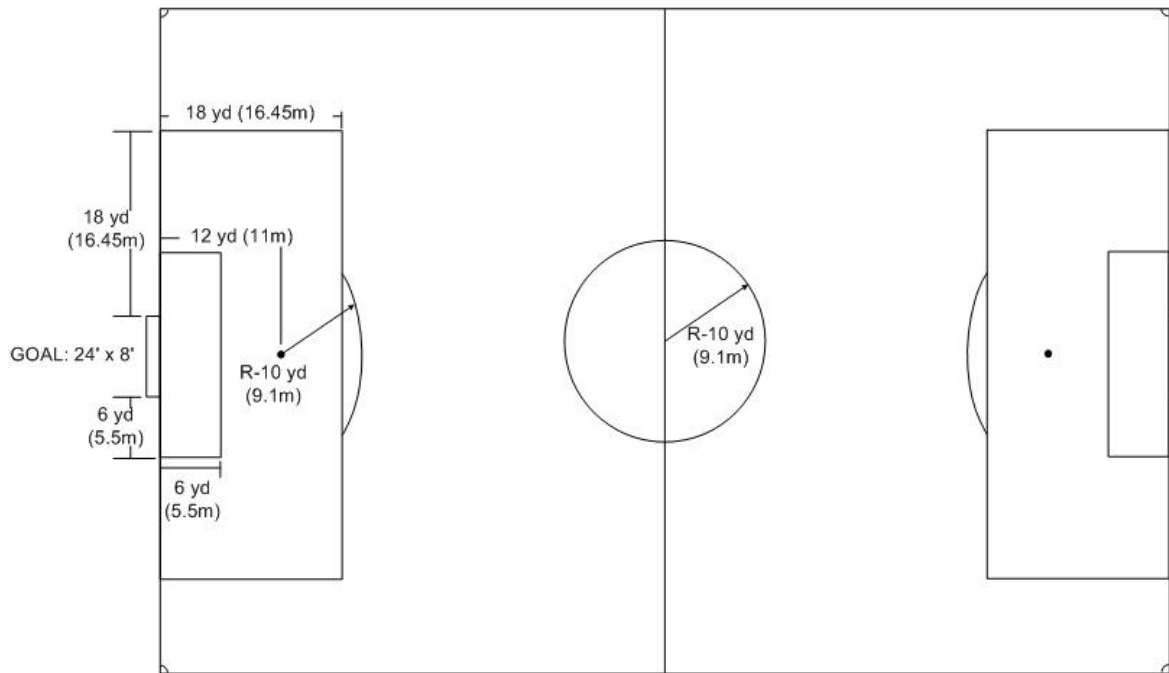
Coaches are expected to work together to create a productive environment for all players. If the game is one-sided, coaches should discuss options to keeping the game competitive.

7.6.5 Senior Soccer

- (a) Senior Soccer will be the recommended structure for players ages 13 and up.
- (b) Senior Soccer teams will play 11-a-side.
- (c) Senior Soccer games will consist of:
 - i. 2 x 40 minute periods (age 14)
 - ii. 2 x 45 minute periods (ages 15 and up)
- (d) Senior Soccer games shall employ a size 5 ball.
- (e) Senior Soccer field dimensions shall be per FIFA regulations.
- (f) Senior Soccer goals shall be per FIFA regulations..
- (g) Notwithstanding the above modifications, Senior Soccer games shall employ FIFA rules except:
 - i. Unlimited substitutions will be allowed

WIDTH: MIN 50 yd (45.7m)
MAX 100 yd (91.4m)

LENGTH: MIN 100 yd (91.4m)
MAX 130 yd (118.9m)



Senior Field



7.7 Other Competitions

7.7.1 General

- (a) The association reserves the right to deny permission to travel in cases including (but not limited to):
 - i. Where the Association believes the practice-to-game ratio of the team making the request will be compromised
 - ii. Where the Association has determined the competition identified is not appropriate for the team making the request.
 - iii. Where the team making the request has not maintained the standards of professionalism expected by the Association.

7.7.2 Tournaments & Showcases

- (a) SAAC will be responsible for sanctioning properly registered teams to enter tournaments and showcases, subject to the conditions of the host organization.
- (b) SAAC teams wishing to enter a competition organized by an outside organization shall request permission to travel from SAAC prior to committing to attend.

7.7.3 Inter-Province Competition

- (a) SAAC will be responsible for sanctioning properly registered teams for inter-province competition with other SAAC members.
- (b) SAAC teams wishing to enter a competition involving SAAC members from other provinces request permission to travel from SAAC prior to organizing such an event.

7.7.4 Exhibition Matches

- (a) Exhibition games scheduled between SAAC academies and involving only SAAC-registered players will be sanctioned by SAAC. No prior permission will be required.
- (b) Prior permission from SAAC is required to sanction a match involving non-SAAC players and/or teams. All non-SAAC registered players will be asked to provide a completed and signed waiver prior to participating.

7.8 All-Star Teams

- (a) SAAC may choose to assemble and field SAAC All-Star teams for specific events such as tournaments, exhibitions, etc.
- (b) While participation in this program is voluntary, all Academies are expected to support the program.

7.9 Competition Guidelines

7.9.1 Substitutions

- (a) Substitutes shall report to the fourth official or assistant referee at midfield, and may not enter the field without the permission of the referee. Substitutions can be requested at the following stoppages:
 - i. After the awarding of goal or goal kick
 - ii. At the half-time break
 - iii. At throw-ins
 - iv. To replace an injured player
- (b) All substitutions are at the discretion of the referee.



7.9.2 SAAC Schedule

- (a) SAAC schedule is official when posted to the public by SAAC. The official SAAC schedule and updated changes are posted on the official web site of the Academy Competition.

7.9.3 Scheduling Changes

- (a) All schedule changes need to be approved by the SAAC office. All game change requests must comply with the rules below.
- (b) Request made to SAAC at least 28 days prior to match:
 - i. \$25 rescheduling fee
 - ii. Team is responsible for obtaining agreement from the opposing team and either finding a suitable free slot on the CDS calendar or a suitable alternate venue and qualified officials. (Both SAAC and the opposing team must agree to any venue change)
- (c) Request made to SAAC between 8-28 days prior to match:
 - i. \$50 rescheduling fee
 - ii. Other conditions as above
- (d) Request made to SAAC less than 8 days prior to match:
 - i. \$100 rescheduling fee
 - ii. Other conditions as above
- (e) SAAC does not guarantee that all requests will be accepted.

7.9.4 Eligibility

- (a) All teams must provide their completed team roster to the SAAC convener prior to each match. Team players and staff must have their SAAC Identification Card available for inspection, if required.
- (b) For INTERNAL/UNOFFICIAL competition only, players may be registered to an **SAAC Team** outside of their age bracket. Overage exemptions must be pre-approved by SAAC, and a maximum of two (2) overage players are permitted to appear on a game sheet.

7.9.5 Incomplete Games

- (a) In the event that a game cannot continue through full regulation play the game will count if one-half of the game was completed.
- (b) If there is no result and the match is suspended prior to the expiration of one-half due to inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, it will be rescheduled in consultation with the SAAC office.
- (c) The Referee / SAAC convener have the final decision on postponing a game due to weather or field conditions.

7.9.6 Postponing a Game Prior to Start

- (a) A game may be called off / postponed no earlier than two hours prior to kick-off because of inclement weather or situations considered acts of God, unless agreed to by both teams and the SAAC office.

7.9.7 Grace Period Before Abandoning a Game

- (a) Unless both teams, the referee, and the SAAC convener agree to an alternate plan, teams must wait one hour before abandoning a game that has been delayed.

7.9.8 Fines

- (a) Fines will be assessed for violation of SAAC rules, game changes, and any minimum standard requirements.



7.9.9 Payment

- (a) Deposits for the season will be required at a date specified by the SAAC Office. Prior to the scheduling meetings all competition fees must be paid in full. All payments must be made out to SAAC.

7.9.10 Game Cancellation Criteria

- (a) Competition game cancellations should occur only in the most serious circumstances, however the personal safety of participants, personnel, and spectators shall always be highest priority.

7.9.11 Rescheduling Considerations

- (a) SAAC conveners will have the authority to review all the facts, (including fault on the part of either team, unavoidable conditions, expense for both teams, and requests by a team to take a particular action in the best interests of SAAC and its teams) in determining whether and when a game shall be rescheduled, who should bear the financial burden as a result of cancellation or rescheduling, whether the game should be forfeited or cancelled permanently, and whether other fines should be levied.

7.9.12 No-show / Forfeit

- (a) A no-show occurs when an academy team wilfully does not show up at a game and there has been no SAAC approved written agreement for a change of the scheduled game. Penalties for no-shows are as follows:
 - i. A forfeit to the opposing team and additional loss of three (3) points in the standings (For Showcase Division Only)
 - ii. If a team fails to meet game schedule obligations and fails to attend a match, the Academy will be fined in the amount of \$500.00.
 - iii. One no-show may result in a team being terminated at the discretion of the SAAC.
 - iv. The accumulation of two no-shows in a season shall result in forfeiture of a team.
 - v. A forfeit will result in a 2-0 win to the team not at fault (For Showcase Division Only).
- (b) A team unable to attend a scheduled game because of an accident, weather or Act of God should immediately notify the opponent and the SAAC office. Each situation will be reviewed by the SAAC office, which shall render a decision that may be appealed through SAAC.
- (c) SAAC supports the practice of temporary player loans if the coaches in a particular match believe it is necessary to provide a more competitive setting. However, teams that continually show up to games without enough players to provide a full and capable squad will be subject to review by the SAAC competition committee with regards to future participation.

7.9.13 Considerations for the Sharing of Players

- (a) An Academy must field a team missing no more than 2 players (in the starting line-up) in order to play a game without borrowing players from another academy. Teams short more than 2 players shall be required to accept age appropriate SAAC-registered players offered by the opposing team.
- (b) For the Showcase Divisions, teams required to borrow players will default the result to the opposing team.

7.9.14 Withdrawal of an Academy Team

- (a) In the event an Academy withdraws a team from the SAAC without finishing its scheduled games, it shall forfeit its membership and the following regulations will take effect:
 - i. If at least half of the full schedule of games has been played, all resulting scores stand as validated by the SAAC Office. Any unscheduled remaining games shall be recorded as a forfeit victory for the opponents. (mainly for the showcase division)
 - ii. If less than one-half of the full schedule of games has been played, these completed games will be deleted from the standings (Showcase division).
 - iii. The SAAC may, at its discretion, reschedule any or all remaining games.



7.10 Conduct & Discipline

7.10.1 Suspensions

- (a) Following a game, a coach serving a suspension may enter the locker room, but must not be in or around the field of play. Coaches must sit in the press box or in some location other than in the grandstand. If this is not possible, then the coach is prohibited from attending the game.
- (b) Communication via cellular, 2-way radios, electronic, written or verbal is strictly prohibited. Additional fines and/or suspensions will result.
- (c) Extending a Suspension -- In any case, the SAAC reserves the right to impose suspensions beyond any of these parameters for offences deemed to be particularly violent and against the spirit of the game.

7.10.2 Commencement of Suspensions

- (a) Suspensions and fines will be publicized the 1st weekend following the occurrence and will come into effect on the 2nd weekend following the occurrence.
- (b) If requested, discipline hearings will take place the 2nd weekend after the offence occurred. If the team is not scheduled to play at the main facility (CDS) that weekend, the hearing may be moved to the next such opportunity. In these cases, the suspension would not come into effect until after the hearing.

7.10.3 SAAC Disciplinary Committee

- (a) A panel of individuals from the SAAC Office shall conduct the review of disciplinary issues. Such a panel will consist of at least three people on the board, one of which includes the Competition Director.
- (b) The penalties described herein act as a guideline. SAAC reserves the right to impose further sanctions, if warranted.
- (c) A \$25 fine will accompany all Cautions and a \$50 fine will accompany all Ejections handed out in SAAC competition.

7.10.4 SAAC Fines for Serious Incidents

- (a) SAAC has the power to impose fines up to \$5,000 for any incident bringing the game into disrepute.

Typical Player Misconduct Types and Standard Penalties

Description of Misconduct	First Seasonal Offence	Second Seasonal Offence	Third Seasonal Offence
First Caution.	no action		
Second Caution	no action		
Third Caution.	1-game suspension		
Fourth Caution.	no action		
Fifth Caution.	2-game suspension		
Sixth Caution & any subsequent caution.	3 game suspension		
Dismissed for "Receiving a second caution in the same game"	1-game suspension	3-game suspension	not applicable
Dismissed for "Denying a goal scoring opportunity"	1-game suspension	3-game suspension	5-game suspension
Dismissed for "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at the game official(s).	3 game suspension	8 game suspension	3-month suspension
Dismissed for "Serious Foul Play".	2-game suspension	4-game suspension	6-game suspension
Dismissed for "Violent Conduct".	3-game suspension	6-game suspension	8-game suspension
Received a third dismissal in a season.	a discipline hearing shall be conducted and the appropriate discipline shall be rendered		
Game Official Assault for "deliberate physical	6-12 month	1-3 year	Minimum 5 year



Description of Misconduct	First Seasonal Offence	Second Seasonal Offence	Third Seasonal Offence
contact (i.e., pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening".	suspension + \$200.00 fine	suspension + \$200.00 fine	suspension
Failed to attend a discipline hearing at which he/she was accused of game official assault.	player is fined \$100.00 and remains suspended until he/she requests and attends a subsequent discipline hearing		
NOTE: THESE PENALTIES SERVE AS A GUIDELINE ONLY. SAAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND PENALTIES WHERE APPROPRIATE AND TO ESTABLISH PENALTIES FOR ITEMS NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED			

Typical Administration Misconduct Types and Standard Penalties

Description of Misconduct	First Seasonal Offence	Second Seasonal Offence	Third Seasonal Offence
Persisted in misconduct "after receiving a warning 'for misconduct' from the game official"	2-week suspension	5-week suspension	10-week suspension
Used "Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures".	2-week suspension	5-week suspension	10-week suspension
Physical Assault or Attempted Physical Assault of a player.	3-12 month suspension	1-3 year suspension	Minimum 5 year suspension
Game Official Assault for "deliberate physical contact (i.e., pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening".	6-12 month suspension + \$300.00 fine	1-3 year suspension + \$300.00 fine	Minimum 5 year suspension
Made deliberate physical contact (i.e., pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempts physical contact with, or threatens, a registrant of SAAC, the O.S.A., a player or spectator	6-12 month suspension	1-3 year suspension	5 year suspension
Failed to attend a discipline hearing at which he/she was accused of game official assault.	Accused is fined \$100.00 and remains suspended until he/she requests and attends a subsequent discipline hearing		
Participated in a soccer activity from which he/she was suspended	6-12 month suspension	1-3 year suspension	2-5 year suspension
Intentionally acted in a manner deemed to be detrimental to the game.	3-12 month suspension	1-3 year suspension	2-5 year suspension
NOTE: THESE PENALTIES SERVE AS A GUIDELINE ONLY. SAAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND PENALTIES WHERE APPROPRIATE AND TO ESTABLISH PENALTIES FOR ITEMS NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED			

7.10.5 Scandalous Conduct

- (a) The SAAC Office may suspend for a definite period and/or impose a fine on any officer, director, player or employee of a member Academy guilty of gross misbehaviour in public, including intoxication, drug use, fighting, indecency or other scandalous conduct, whether on or off the playing field, when such conduct is, in the SAAC Office's opinion, prejudicial to the best interests of the sport of soccer or SAAC.

7.10.6 Moral Truth

- (a) Any employee, player or official of any member Academy or the SAAC who shall be convicted of a felony, or who shall have been found by the SAAC Office to have conducted themselves in a manner detrimental to the best interests of soccer or the SAAC, may be declared by the SAAC Office to be suspended for such period of time as the SAAC Office shall deem to be appropriate.



7.10.7 Tampering

- (a) No manager, officer or representative of a Academy shall approach a registered player, coach or staff member of another Academy regarding employment unless that contracted party's employing Academy gives written permission to the requesting Academy to make such contact. Violations of this rule shall subject the offending party to disciplinary action from the SAAC Office.

7.10.8 Conduct of Spectators

- (a) Academies are responsible for their own fans and are thus required to do what is in their power to keep their fans in accordance with the rules.
- (b) If fans are acting inappropriately, the head referee will have the right to warn and/or dismiss a fan away from the field. If fan interference becomes out of the control of the referee, the referee will have the authority to cancel the game.
- (c) If the fan does not co-operate with the referee, the SAAC officials will have the right to dismiss the fan and/or notify the authorities of the situation.
- (d) Cancellation of a game due to fan interference will not result in a re-scheduled game.

7.10.9 Vandalism / Destruction of Property

- (a) No player, manager, officer, or representative of an Academy shall intentionally damage or destroy the physical property of another Academy. This prohibition shall extend to the damage and destruction of locker rooms or other area of a leased or owned stadium facility.

7.10.10 Other Misconduct

- (a) Nothing contained in this rule shall be construed as exclusively defining or otherwise limiting conduct, acts, transactions, or practices that are not in the best interests of the sport of soccer or of SAAC. Any and all other conducts, acts, transactions or practices which are not in the best interests of soccer or the SAAC are prohibited and shall be subject to such penalties imposed by the SAAC Office, such as permanent ineligibility, ineligibility for a period of time, suspension of voting rights, suspension from playing, or suspension of an individual from sitting on committee or advisory board, as the facts in the particular case may, in his/her opinion, warrant.

7.10.11 Social Media

- (a) Players, managers, officers and any representative of an Academy shall refrain from posting inappropriate content on social media or in online communities.
- (b) Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:
 - i. Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another member; taunting comments aimed at a player, coach or team at another organization and derogatory comments against race and/or gender).
 - ii. Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
 - iii. Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
 - iv. Posts depicting or encouraging unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, underage drinking, illegal drug use).



7.11 Appeals & Complaints

7.11.1 Complaints

- (a) All Complaints must:
 - i. Specifically refer to the Rule in the manual that is being violated. (Refer to Page No. and Item very specifically).
 - ii. Should a Rule not exist to resolve your problem or wrong, then provide a simple statement on the problem form.
- (b) No complaint can result in the overturning of a game's result, although point forfeiture and other penalties may result from a complaint that has been upheld.

7.11.2 Types of Complaints

- (a) By playing in SAAC, your Team Management and players agree to utilize this process exclusively for the resolution of all disputes. Each type has its own progressive steps of review and final resolution. Each type and each step have very exacting requirements, both in format and timing. The party that misses or errs in format and/or does not adhere to time schedules loses a complaint, all rights to proceed and the decision, or in some cases the non-decision at the last step properly undertaken is final and binding.
- (b) The four (4) types of Complaints are as follows:
 - i. A complaint about events that occur on the field of play during a game, pre-game or post game, affecting some component or outcome of the game.
 - ii. A complaint between your team management and another team management and/or players that is not about events upon the field or surrounding a game. These complaints are purely business and have no direct impact on a game's outcome
 - iii. A complaint about the SAAC, SAAC office, officer, staff member, or Executive Committee member in their official capacity (not as Team Owners, but as a SAAC official.)
 - iv. A complaint about a referee, linesman or related person.

7.11.3 Filing a Complaint

- (a) A complaint must be filed within 48 hours after the incident took place.

7.11.4 Discipline Appeals

- (a) Notice of appeal shall be received by SAAC no later than the Tuesday following publication of the penalty.
- (b) If requested, discipline hearings will take place the 2nd weekend after the offence occurred. If the team is not scheduled to play at the main facility (CDS) that weekend, the hearing may be moved to the next such opportunity. In these cases, the suspension would not come into effect until after the hearing.
- (c) The Fee to request a hearing is \$100. Fees are refundable if a decision is overturned by appeal.



8 Player Registration (Ontario Only)

8.1 General

- (a) The following contains all the registration information for SAAC. SAAC will be registering all academy players. All SAAC rules and regulations will be enforced concerning eligibility of players.

8.1.2 Player Registration Terminologies

- (a) Amateur Player -- An amateur player is defined by the following: A player who does not receive payment for playing soccer and who has signed an amateur registration form with SAAC/Canadian Soccer Association.
- (b) Registered Player -- A registered player is an amateur player who has filed the proper forms as required by SAAC and their respective academy, with the proper fees, and has secured any necessary clearances from the player's former Academy.

8.1.3 Player Liability

- (a) Players shall assume all risks, responsibilities, and liabilities for loss, damage, injury or death to himself / herself while engaged as a player for an academy subject to applicable laws and regulations.

8.1.4 Full Competition Roster

- (a) The Full Competition Roster is the official player roster of the academy and the individual academy team. Competition rosters are limited to the following:
- i. U08 (4-aside): 10 players
 - ii. U09/10 (7-aside): 14 players
 - iii. U11-U13 (9-aside): 16 players
 - iv. U14-U20 (11-aside): 18 players

8.1.5 Eligible Player

- (a) A player who is properly registered with SAAC, and who is not subject to any kind of suspension, is considered an eligible player. The SAAC Office will post online the updated player rosters weekly that specify the eligibility of suspended players. Teams using players before they have been properly cleared to compete by SAAC will be subject to the disciplinary action by the SAAC Officers.

8.1.6 Ineligible Player

- (a) Players listed on the Full Competition Roster but not eligible to play, due reasons such as missing registration forms, proof of age, serving a SAAC suspension, or not on the official game day roster and line-up sheet shall be considered an ineligible player.

8.1.7 Illegal Player

- (a) Any player that does not appear on the Full Competition Roster shall be considered an illegal player. Any academy using an illegal player shall be subject to a loss of three points in the SAAC standings.



8.1.8 Player Registration Cards

- (a) All players and coaches must have their SAAC Identification Card available for inspection by the SAAC convener prior to the match.
- (b) It is the right of any properly carded SAAC staff member to request to review Player ID cards of an opposing team prior to a match, under the following conditions:
 - i. Requests to view player ID cards must be made to the opposing coach no less than 15 minutes prior to kickoff
 - ii. Coaches may subsequently review ID cards for any players that show up after this point (It is the responsibility of late arriving players to present ID cards for inspection prior to entering the match)
 - iii. Teams are only required to make player ID cards available to coaches presenting a valid SAAC Staff ID Card
- (c) If a player DOES NOT produce a valid player ID card, one of the following will apply:
 - i. If the player is not on the electronic game sheet, the player CANNOT play (player cannot be added by write-in)
 - ii. If the player cannot produce any other proof of SAAC registration (i.e. copy of signed registration form), the player CANNOT play
 - iii. If the player is on the game sheet and/or provides proof of registration, the Player's name shall be circled on the game sheet to indicate a player ID card was not provided. In this case, the player CAN play
- (d) All efforts must be made to play the game, and only players that cannot provide proof of registration (as opposed to proof of age) shall be kept out of the game.

8.1.9 Player Status

- (a) In accordance with Section 6.0 Policy 7 and Policy 9 of the Ontario Soccer Association Published Rules.
- (b) For the purposes of insurance, SAAC registration is effective until May 31 of the following year.

8.2 Player Transfers

8.2.1 International Transfers and Transfers involving non-SAAC members

- (a) In accordance with Section 6.0 Policy 8 of the Ontario Soccer Association Published Rules.

8.2.2 Transfers between SAAC members

- (a) In order to be eligible for an inter-academy transfer, a player must show that they are leaving in good standing from their current Academy.



9 Technical Staff

9.1 General Requirements

- (a) The following sections outline the minimum qualifications for the different levels of technical staff as defined by SAAC. In addition to the qualifications listed, all professional Academy staff members must provide a completed municipal or provincial police background check in order to be registered with SAAC.
- (b) Each academy shall provide proof of qualification and background checks to SAAC by March 1st of the registration year. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of the staff member, team or academy depending on which requirements are affected.

9.2 Professional Development

- (a) All member Academies shall prepare and maintain a plan for the professional development of its coaching staff. This plan shall be made available to the Association.



10 Facilities

- (a) All Academies shall endeavour to provide permanent training facilities for their members.
- (b) The minimum recommended permanent training facilities to be provided by a Academy are:
 - i. 1 suitable playing area measuring 60 yards by 40 yards for every 40 Players in age groups up to Under 10;
 - ii. 1 suitable playing area measuring 80 yards by 50 yards for every 40 Players in age groups Under 11/12;
 - iii. 1 Full-Sized Pitch for every 40 Players in age groups Under 13+;
 - iv. adequate changing, washing and toilet facilities for the number of Players attending there.



11 Referees

- (a) Unless otherwise stated herein, the administration and certification of game officials shall be in accordance with the policies of the governing provincial and/or national association.
- (b) In order to officiate in SAAC events, a referee must be certified at the minimum referee classification level indicated in the following chart:

Program	Referee	Assistant Referee
Mini-Soccer (7v7) / Junior Soccer (9v9)	Class 3	Class 4
Senior Development Soccer (11v11)	Class 3	Class 3
Senior Soccer (U17+)	Class 2	Class 3



12 Appeals

- (a) The SAAC appeals process shall follow the guidelines set up by the applicable provincial and/or national association.
- (b) The SAAC Governing Committee shall determine the jurisdiction of any appeal.
- (c) In lieu of any official association with a provincial and/or national association, SAAC shall be the final avenue for appeal.



13 Finance

- (a) The accounts of the Association shall be reviewed annually, and the correctness of the Financial Statement ascertained by the Reviewer, who shall be an accredited accountant.
- (b) All monies owing to The Association shall be payable within thirty days of invoicing unless otherwise stipulated.
- (c) Penalties for late payment or non-payment of monies due shall be as established by the Board.



14 Privacy

- (a) Any personal information collected by SAAC or its members shall be used strictly to enable Soccer Academy Alliance Canada and its members to deliver their programs.
- (b) Personal information will be kept secure and will not be shared with anyone other than those individuals charged with administering the SAAC programs and SAAC affiliates; the Ontario Soccer Association and the Canadian Soccer Association, as required.
- (c) SAAC or its member academies shall seek prior consent before sharing personal information with a third party for any reason.



15 Risk Management

Adapted from US Club Soccer Risk Management Policy, March 1, 2007

15.1 Policy Guidelines

- (a) SAAC is committed to providing a safe environment for its Members and participants, and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every Academy Member and its personnel are responsible for protecting participants and ensuring their safety and wellbeing while involved in sponsored activities.
- (b) To this end, the following guidelines of behaviour and procedures have been adopted for SAAC Organization Members, staff, volunteers and participants. All Members, as well as parents, spectators and other invitees, are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.
- (c) Violation of these guidelines may be used as a basis for a Member or its staff's suspension or other disciplinary action, or a staff's disqualification from registration.
- (d) Abuse of any kind is not permitted within the Association. Physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents or spectators shall not be tolerated.
- (e) Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, and any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within the Organization.
- (f) Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but are not limited to such forms of abuse as: insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behaviour, or making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age.
- (g) SAAC is committed to providing a safe environment for players, participants and staff. Every Member is responsible for reporting any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward our Members by any coach, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling or spectator.
- (h) SAAC will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly.
- (i) Each staff who is required to be carded shall also submit to an annual background check. Failure to submit a background check application before participating with SAAC registered players, or falsifying the application in any way, shall be grounds for immediate suspension from SAAC. The staff's Member Organization may also be terminated if they are aware of a staff falsifying an application.

15.2 Member Conduct Recommendations

- (a) SAAC promotes good sportsmanship throughout the association and encourages qualities of mutual respect, courtesy and tolerance in all participants, coaches, officials and volunteers. It advocates building strong self-images among the youth participants. Children with a strong self-image may be less likely targets for abuse; similarly, they may be less likely to abuse or bully others around them.
- (b) Buddy System: It is recommended that every activity sanctioned by the Association establish a "Buddy System". Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere--to the bathrooms, locker rooms, or other location- -without his or her buddy.
- (c) Supervision/Chaperone ratio: It is recommended that for any sponsored activity, the ratio of adults to youth participants be 1:8, or 1 adult for every 8 children, with a minimum of 2 adults for every activity.
- (d) When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of the same gender and similar age group, and with chaperones in separate, but nearby rooms.
- (e) No child should be left alone at a training session or at any other time until they are picked up by their parent, older sibling, or other designated adult.. It is recommended that the last adult in addition to the coach or trainer wait at the site as well until the child is picked up.



- (f) To further protect youth participants, as well as coaches, officials and volunteers, it is strongly recommended that no adult person allow him/herself to be alone with a child (unless their own child) or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, it is recommended that coaches or other adult Members of this association:
- i. Do not drive alone with a child participant in the car.
 - ii. Do not take a child alone to the locker room, bathrooms or any other private room.
 - iii. Private conversations with youth participants should occur within the view of others, in the gym or on the field, instead of a private office.
 - iv. Coaches and other adult members of the organization should not socialize individually with participants outside of sponsored activities.
- (g) We want to empower our children to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns, fears and hopes are important by listening to them. Open communication between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface.

15.3 Staff Registration Obligations

- (a) All coaches and administrators who are required to register with SAAC pursuant to Section 9.1 of this policy shall, as part of that registration process, complete a SAAC Staff registration form and provide a current (less than 3 years old) police background check report. Failure to complete or falsification of the application can result in immediate disqualification or suspension.

15.4 Disqualification of Individuals

- (a) SAAC may deny registration to and disqualify any individual, or deny Membership to or otherwise discipline any organization which continues to employ or utilize any individual who either fails to comply with the these registration procedures, falsifies information, or as a result of such procedures is determined by SAAC to be unfit to continue in his current position, and is disqualified.
- (b) SAAC may use any information and its absolute discretion in determining disqualification, but at a minimum such information can include conviction of an indictable offence, violation of these guidelines, or driving offences, including loss of license, reckless driving, impaired driving, or a DUI
- (c) Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or will be suspended by SAAC until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the association and could be harmful to the participants. A person, who is accused, but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated within SAAC. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his/her former position.
- (d) In addition, an individual's actions may give rise to a suspension instead of a disqualification under the SAAC Disciplinary Rules.



16 Penalties

(a) The following penalties shall apply for violations of policies described herein.

Policy	Requirement	Deadline	Penalty
1.2.2 Technical Director			
(a)	Each member is expected to have a Technical Director with minimum CSA 'B' License (or equivalent)	March 1st	0-90 days - Fine - \$50/month 90-120 days - 30 day suspension of membership 180+ days - revocation of membership
1.2.4 Support Staff			
(b)	Each Member must retain a Certified Physical or Athletic Therapist on staff/contract to oversee player conditioning and injury treatment. <i>(Qualified therapist must be present at all Academy training and competitions)</i>	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$50 fine 2nd offence - \$100 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$150 fine & 30 day suspension of membership for each offence
(c)	Each Member must retain a Professional Coach on staff/contract specializing in Goalkeeper training. All goalkeepers in the academy are expected to receive specialized training on a regular basis (at least twice per week).	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$50 fine 2nd offence - \$100 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$150 fine & 30 day suspension of membership for each offence
(c)	Each Member must have access to a qualified strength and conditioning coach that will work with players on a regular basis.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$50 fine 2nd offence - \$100 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$150 fine & 30 day suspension of membership for each offence
1.2.5 Risk Management			
(a)	Each Member shall carry a minimum of \$5,000,000 General Liability Coverage.	March 1st	0-90 days - Fine - \$50/month 90-120 days - 30 day suspension of membership 180+ days - revocation of membership
(b)	Each Member shall implement a Risk Management Policy in accordance with the SAAC Policies and Procedures.	March 1st	0-90 days - Fine - \$50/month 90-120 days - 30 day suspension of membership 180+ days - revocation of membership
2.3.1 Full-Time Player			
(c)	At least 75% of an Academy's membership must be Full-Time Players.	Upon Notification	0-90 days - Fine - \$50/month 90+ days - suspension of Part-time players until compliance
2.4.1 Training			
(a)	The minimum length of coaching sessions (excluding games) required to be provided to registered Youth Players at Soccer Academies in each week during the Season shall be in accordance with the table in SAAC Policies and Procedures.	Audit	1st offence - \$50 fine 2nd offence - \$100 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$150 fine & 30 day suspension of membership for each offence

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Policy	Requirement	Deadline	Penalty
2.4.2	Technical Staff		
(a)	An Academy Team program shall employ technical coaches per the following (as a minimum) for all of its teams: [see table]	March 1st	0-90 days - Fine - \$50/month 90-120 days - 30 day suspension of membership 180+ days - revocation of membership
5.1	Code of Ethics		
5.1.1	Academy Commitments to other Members:		
(b)	SAAC Members, or their representatives, shall not knowingly solicit players signed full-time with other academies.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$500 fine 2nd offence - \$1,000 fine 3rd offence - revocation of membership
(d)	Academies will not engage in actions that bring SAAC, its members or the game of soccer into disrepute.	Upon Notification	To be determined by Review
5.2	Code of Conduct		
5.2.2	Staff Misconduct:	Upon Notification	To be determined by Review
5.2.3	Players Misconduct:	Upon Notification	To be determined by Review
5.2.4	Fans Misconduct:	Upon Notification	To be determined by Review
5.6	Use of the SAAC Brand		
(c)	SAAC Members are expected to display their SAAC Class designation (as determined by Section 1.3) on any material advertising or promoting their involvement in SAAC programs.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$25 fine 2nd offence - \$50 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$75 fine
7.7.4	Eligibility		
(a)	All teams must provide an OFFICIAL game sheet to the SAAC convener prior to each match. Team players and staff must have their SAAC Identification Card available for inspection, if required.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$25 fine 2nd offence - \$50 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$50 fine & match forfeit
(b) i.	For INTERNAL/UNOFFICIAL competition only, players may be registered to an SAAC Team outside of their age bracket, under the following conditions: A Maximum of two (2) overage players (within 1 calendar year) are permitted to appear on a game sheet.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$100 fine 2nd offence - \$200 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$50 fine & match forfeit
7.8	Conduct & Discipline		
7.8.1	Suspensions	Upon Notification	Cautions: 1st & 2nd Cautions in one season - no fine 3rd & subsequent Cautions - \$25 fine Ejections: 1st Ejection in one season - \$25 fine 2nd & subsequent Ejections - \$50 fine



Policy	Requirement	Deadline	Penalty
8.1.6	Ineligible Player		
(a)	Players listed on the Full Competition Roster but not eligible to play, due reasons such as missing registration forms, proof of age, serving a SAAC suspension, or not on the official game day roster and line-up sheet shall be considered an ineligible player.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$100 fine & match forfeit 2nd offence - \$150 fine & match forfeit 3rd offence - \$500 fine, match forfeit & 30-day player suspension
8.1.7	Illegal Player		
(a)	Any player that does not appear on the Full Competition Roster shall be considered an illegal player. Any academy using an illegal player shall be subject to a loss of three points in the SAAC standings.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$50 fine & game forfeit 2nd offence - \$100 fine & game forfeit 3rd & subsequent offence - \$200 fine & game forfeit
8.1.8	Player Registration Cards		
(a)	All players and coaches must have their SAAC Identification Card available for inspection by the SAAC convener or opposition coach prior to the match. If the individual's picture is not on the SAAC Identification Card, the individual will not be eligible for the match.	Upon Notification	1st offence - \$25 fine 2nd offence - \$50 fine 3rd & subsequent offence - \$100 fine & game forfeit
9	Technical Staff		
(b)	Each academy shall provide proof of qualification and background checks to SAAC by April 1st of the registration year. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of the staff member, team or academy depending on which requirements are affected.	April 1st	0-90 days - Fine - \$50/month 90+ days - 30 day suspension of staff member, beginning after compliance
13	Finance		
(b)	All monies owing to The Association shall be payable within thirty days of invoicing unless otherwise stipulated.	30 days	0-90 days overdue - Fine of 2% + Suspension of Executive Membership 90+ days - Fine of 5% + suspension until account is up-to-date + Revocation of Executive Membership