

WOODLANDS FC RULES OF PLAY (Updated May 29, 2025)
Managed by Service Committee (VP of Service and league coordinators)

REGISTRATION

1. All players must register online in order to play in Woodlands FC leagues, pickups and tournaments.
2. Each league will always have an even number of teams for each season to avoid byes,

ORDER OF PLAY

1. Games must start at least 10 minutes after the official start time and end no later than 10 minutes prior to the reservation time of the field. No negotiated additional time.
2. If a team does not have a minimum number of players* at start time + 10 minutes, a captain can take a video and request a 2:0 forfeit by submitting video evidence to a league coordinator showing the team numbers with a verified time within the video. A scrimmage can be played if captains agree, which will not affect the prior forfeit.
8v8 = 5 minimum
9v9 = 6 minimum
11v11 = 8 minimum

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Standings are based on:

1. + 3 Points for a win, +1 point for a tie, & 0 points for loss.
- 2.. If teams are level on points at the end of the season, the final standings are based on the following tiebreakers:
 - . Goal differential
 - . Most goals scored
 - . Head-to-head record

GENERAL RULES

1. All throw-ins & kick-ins are to be treated as indirect freekicks.
2. No offside
3. General rules, if not defined, are to be deferrable to the FIFA Soccer Rulebook
- 4.. If a nuanced rule is not defined, please reach out to your League Coordinator to assess

SCORES

1. Captains should agree on the score at the end of the game and report it to the league coordinator. However, if there is a disagreement on the score, it can be appealed to VAR. An impartial VAR panel will review and report a decision.
2. There is no limit to the amount of appeals a team/captain has in a given season
3. If there is a forfeit or no show before the game, that results in a 2:0 loss to the team that forfeits.
- 4.. If a team no-shows or notifies of a forfeit less than 2 hours before game time, they will also receive a 2:0 loss result for the following game. A team that has a persistent habit

of no-shows, will not be invited back to the league, per the discretion of the league coordinator.

4. If there is a fight in the game, the result ends with 0 points & 0 goals, for both teams, unless a team is found not liable for the incident, they will then be rewarded with a 2:0 win, or full score if winning at the time, whichever is preferred.
5. If there is a weather cancellation mid-game, results are null. A weather cancellation must be made by the league coordinator.
6. If a losing team quits during the game, the result ends at 2:0, or whatever the current score was at the time, if preferred.

FOULS

1. There are no penalty kicks or free kicks
2. Do not foul too often. Do not call too many fouls on the other team.
3. Fouls called by the offended player, must be granted 100% of the time. No one can overrule the decision (players of either team, or captains of either team). All fouls called by the fouled person are granted as called.
4. The sooner & louder a fouled player calls the foul, the less likely there is to be any confusion
5. Play stops and the ball restarts with the GK.
6. If no foul is called, then play continues.
7. Teammates cannot call fouls for the offended player.
8. The opposing team cannot call a foul on themselves and stop play in case the offended team wants to play advantage.
9. Foul calls can be reviewed by the league if VAR is available. However, the results of the game cannot be overturned. VAR is only used to discipline players who call fake fouls, which will be up to the league coordinator. Teams that call fake, frivolous or nonexistent fouls will be subject to league discipline including possible ejection from the league.

DISCIPLINE

- Sliding is a yellow card. Reckless play is a yellow card or red card by captain agreement
- Racial slurs or name calling = Red Card
- Yellow card = 5-minute suspension. Red card = out of game and next game
- Fighting = red card and 1 game suspension (may also lead to additional disciplinary action)
- Punching or hitting someone is a suspension for the rest of the league.
- Teams that fight are expelled from the league for one season or permanently
 - Captains and appeal a foul by VAR for upgrade to a harsher penalty or for a downgrade to a lesser penalty.

SOCIAL MEDIA

WhatsApp is for league communication. Please post comments that are relevant, uplifting, and encouraging. Inappropriate posts will be deleted. A person that persists in inappropriate posting will be removed from the chat.

UNDERAGE PLAYERS

1. All players must be 18 years old and over. 30 and older for the Over 30 League.
2. If a captain asks for an ID for a young player and they cannot prove their age, the team forfeits the game 2:0. This proof must be provided within 24 hours of the verification request. This request must be brought to the attention of the league coordinator at the time of the request.

UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

1. All players are required to register for the league on the website, prior to partaking in a game.
2. If a player is challenged regarding their registration and is found not registered, the team will forfeit the game 2:0. If a captain asks for a player to confirm registration, this must be promptly brought to the commissioner's (Steve) attention. If the commissioner cannot confirm, the team forfeits the game 2:0. This player must have been registered prior to the scheduled start time of the game. Any player who has been found guilty of playing while unregistered shall be subject to league discipline.
3. Any player that is serving suspension from a Woodlands FC league may not participate in any other Woodlands FC league play while serving said suspension. Any games missed in a separate league will not count towards time served in the current league's suspension.
4. Any player that is expelled from a Woodlands FC league may not participate in any other Woodlands FC league play.

NO REFUNDS

1. For players or teams that get ejected from the league they do not get a refund of their fees for the current season, and any pre-payments for future leagues