

Tallahassee Draggins Old Fart Soccer

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all soccer is created equal, that players are endowed with certain ineffable rights, that among these are passing, shooting and the pursuit of happiness.

Therefore, now and forever, let it be known that we the people, in order to play a more perfect game, establish substitution justice, ensure on-pitch tranquility, provide for the common defense of offside calls, promote the general consumption of favored beverages, and secure the blessings of the 'Pitch' to ourselves and our posterity, and to make this small part of the world just one notch better, do ordain and establish these rules for participation.

A. Members/Players

1. This club is for:
 - a) Old farts who are, or play like they are, over 40.
 - b) Children of members when those children have reached the age of 18.
2. Non-member players in A.1.a. & A.1.b. must pay a guest fee of \$10 each day they play and are limited to participating as a guest no more than six days per year. These guests must start as the last sub in and, should a paying member arrive while they are playing, be the first sub out. Once they come off the field for the first time, they will sub in the regular rotation.
3. The TLH Draggins Board of Directors (BOD) may establish a cap on the total number of members or guests based on field availability or other factors.
4. All individuals under the age of 40 who wish to become a member must be approved by a majority of the BOD.
5. In the spirit of the club and to encourage full participation, the board has established the designation of "emeritus player" status (also known as "plus ones"). This status means that the emeritus player(s) are empowered to go into and out of the game without waiting for a substitution. Emeritus status player participation does not count against the total number of players allowed for each side; however, each side can only have one emeritus player on the field at a time. Emeritus players can only be designated by the BOD.

B. Fees

1. Individuals must pay an annual fee to be considered a member.
2. The annual fee and guest fee will be established by the BOD on January 1 of each year but the fees may be increased throughout the year as needed.

C. Behavior

1. Members shall not be a constant dick. Infrequent occasions of "dicky behavior" happens but is expected to be ignored by others.
2. No records are kept. If winning is critical to you, fine, but refer to rule C.1.
3. Standing on the field doesn't make you a soccer player any more than standing in a garage makes you a car. Run hard then sub out. Subbing frequently to allow everyone playing time and is expected, regardless of what time you arrive, when you plan to leave or how many touches you've had. If you aren't tired after 10 minutes, that's on you so try harder.
4. Eat well, stay fit and enjoy family, friends & beer, then die anyway. Focus on the first three parts.
5. Everyone thinks they know how to drive but we all sucked at it at some point. They know they suck, but if they have enough guts to keep trying, they may have the character worth being around. If they don't know they suck, encourage self-awareness.
6. In the spirit of pickup-soccer for the club's variety of ages and skill levels, slide tackles are not permitted & overly physical play should be avoided.
7. If a player, while shooting or passing in the vicinity of the opposing team's goal, kicks the ball over the fence and/or netting surrounding the field of play, that player must immediately be

substituted and retrieve the ball. This substitution is considered a normal substitution, and they will be put in the back of the substitution queue at the moment of them leaving the field.

8. Players entering the field are expected to "sub through the goal", unless they are a plus one.

9. **The Rule of Eights.** Purpose: To ensure equitable playing time for all members during 11v11 matches when substitute numbers are high. The primary goal is to play full field 11 ~v~ 11 games, but this can be adjusted based on field availability or number of participants on any day.

a) **Activation Threshold**

- i. This protocol is automatically activated on Tuesday nights when there are at least 16 substitutes waiting on the sideline.

b) **The 15-Minute Block**

- i. A countdown timer will be set for 15 minutes.
- ii. Play on the pitch will continue to play for the duration of the timer.
- iii. Upon the expiration of the 15 minutes, the game is paused at the next stoppage to facilitate a mass substitution.

c) **Substitution Procedure**

- i. At the mass substitution time, all waiting substitutes will enter the field of play. The rotation works as follows:
 - a) *Voluntary Rotation:* Current field players are encouraged to volunteer to step off to the sideline.
 - b) *Selected Rotation:* If there are not enough volunteers to accommodate the incoming substitutes, the incoming player has the authority to select the player they will replace. The selected field player must vacate the field immediately.

d) **Goalkeeper Rights**

- i. The player currently acting as Goalkeeper is not locked into the position.
- ii. At the substitution stoppage, the Goalkeeper may choose to move to a field position.
- iii. If they choose to do so, they function as an "incoming substitute" and may select a current field player to sub out to accommodate their move to the field.

e) **EARLY EXIT PENALTY**

- i. Players are expected to play the full 15-minute block.
- ii. If a player subs themselves out before the 15-minute timer expires (due to fatigue, minor injury, etc.), they forfeit their eligibility to enter the game at the very next stoppage.
- iii. They must wait until the subsequent 15-minute rotation to re-enter play.

f) **This substitution rule supersedes the C.7, 'over-the-fence' rule when it is being used.**

All complaints shall be submitted on the official complaint form to the BOD. If a member gets three complaints within six months, which are upheld by the BOD, that member will be suspended from play and be considered not in good standing during that period set by the BOD. Members may be suspended or removed from participating permanently by a majority vote of the BOD.