

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

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GROUND RULES AND DEFINITIONS REVISED 10/18

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GROUND RULES

These rules are to be used in conjunction with the PGCBGC Game Rules for each sport. It is the overall responsibility of each coach to have a copy of the specific Sports rules and a copy of the PGCBGC Ground Rules.

I. PRESENTATION OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS

- A. As of the beginning of the Spring 2018 Sports Season, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) ID card will be mandatory for all PGCBGC Sports programs. *For extenuating circumstances only – the sanctioned PGCBGC Yellow ID card will be valid for Three (3) years from date of issue.
- B. All ID Card (Sanctioned Yellow/Maryland MVA) presentations must be made prior to the start of the game, to the Sports Supervisor, if present, or to the opposing coach. Each player/coach in all countywide PGCBGC Sanctioned games and official events must have a valid ID card to be eligible to participate.
- C. Failure to present ID Cards for each player/coach participating when the request is made prior to the game will result in the forfeiture of the game. In this instance, the Sports Supervisor/Coach should sign the scorebook/lineup sheets that the ID Card check was requested before the game and state which team did not have their card(s).
- D. LATE PLAYERS - must present their ID cards to the Sports Supervisor, if present, or to the opposing coach - prior to entering the game.
- E. If eligibility is questioned, any or all contested players in a game must sign the scorebook or line-up sheet when requested. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game.

II. ROSTER

- A. An official PGCBGC Roster Form must be submitted for each team entered in any PGCBGC sport.
- B. Players are not eligible to play unless they are listed on the official county roster regardless of having a yellow card/Maryland MVA card.
- C. A Unit Club/Organization has the ability to add and register a new player up to two (2) weeks after the regular season opener.

III. AGE GROUPS

Age groups for all Spring Sports programs are based on the age the player becomes as of January 1st of the current year. Age groups for all Fall Sports programs are based on the age the player becomes as of July 31st of the current year. Age groups for the Winter Sport program is based on the age the player becomes as of January 1st of the current year. Refer to individual Sports Rules for ages offered.

- A. SPRING SPORTS (SPRING SOCCER; FLAG FOOTBALL; BASEBALL; SOFTBALL AND TRACK): Based on the age the player is as of JANUARY 1st of the current year.
- B. FALL SPORTS (TACKLE FOOTBALL; FALL SOCCER AND CHEERLEADING): Based on the age the player is as of JULY 31st of the current year.
- C. current year. RT (BASKETBALL): Based on the age the player is as of JANUARY 1st of the

*All 19 Year Olds are ineligible to participate in any PGCBGC Sports programs regardless of their DOB throughout the entirety of the calendar year.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

Special rules govern each sport. Review game rules for details for each sport. The following rules also apply:

- A. A child is eligible to play when he/she has met all the requirements set forth in the PGCBGC "Ground Rules", Rules for Membership, Registration, and individual sport rules.
- B. A child may play with only one team in any sport.

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- C. Any player/s listed on a High School Varsity or Junior Varsity roster as of opening day of the PGCBGC Sport may not participate in the same PGCBGC Sport, except for baseball and softball.
- D. Players of either gender may only play up a maximum of two (2) ages. Players cannot play down.

V. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS AND PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- A. Use of ineligible players will result in forfeiture of all games in which the ineligible player participated. However, if both teams use ineligible players, a double forfeiture will result. The player(s) may be suspended for the current season, at the discretion of the Executive Director. Also, the coach may be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Director after a review of the circumstances.

VI. PROTESTS

The PGCBGC Executive Director has the authority to review and rule on ALL protests, forfeits, fines and disciplinary action.

- A. Judgement Call Protests
 - i. NO PROTEST WILL BE ACCEPTED ON JUDGEMENT CALLS BY GAME OFFICIALS.
- B. Game Rule Protests
 - i. Game rule protests must be received in writing on PGCBGC Protest Form in the Sports Office, within 2 business days after the game to which it refers was played.
 - ii. A \$50 deposit must also accompany the protest form. Protest fees must be paid in form of cash, club check, money order or certified check. No personal checks will be accepted.
 - iii. All protest forms must be signed by Unit President.
 - iv. For a game rules protest to be valid:
 - 1. The protest must be lodged with the official at the time of the infraction, and at the time that the protest is lodged, an official must sign the scorebook for basketball, baseball and softball or the line-up sheet for football and soccer.
 - v. If protest is valid, deposit will be returned.
- C. Eligibility Protests
 - i. Eligibility protests may be made any time prior to the completion of the last scheduled game of the regular season currently being played. However, protests regarding the last scheduled game must be:
 - 1. Received in writing in the Sports Division office or the envelope must be U.S. Postmarked within two (2) business days after the game played.
 - 2. All upheld Eligibility Protests will result in the forfeiture of all games in which the protested player has participated.
- D. Protests of playoff games
 - i. Only participating teams may protest.
 - ii. Upheld protests will result in forfeit of playoff games only.
 - iii. All protest must be on the PGCBGC Office Protest Form and must be signed by the Club's Commissioner of the sport being protested and the Club's President.
- E. Age Protest:
 - i. May be lodged at any time during the season.

VII. FORFEITS

- A. Refer to PGCBGC Rules governing each sport. Forfeits will be defined as a team's inability to perform in/failure to show up for a scheduled game and/or any transgression caused by player/coach/spectator to terminate or produce stoppage of a game in play. Also, a forfeiture can be caused by any transgression before, during or after any sanctioned league game.

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- B. The forfeiting team will be billed \$150.00 by the PGCBGC for the cost of the officials for that game.
- C. ID card presentation as defined in Rule #I.
- D. If both teams use ineligible players, a double forfeiture will result. Both teams receive a forfeit.
- E. Teams forfeiting two games are subject to being dropped from the league.
- F. Once a team forfeits or accepts a forfeit from another team, they may not decide to play or request to be rescheduled.
- G. Officials should sign line up sheets for all forfeits as 2-0.

VIII. FINES:

- A. Any club dropping/adding a team from a league after the specified drop/add date (refer to "Dates to Remember" for each sport) will be charged a \$150.00 for each team dropped/added. If schedules are completed, teams may not be added.
- B. All PGCBGC Clubs and Independent organizations' teams are required to fully participate in the PGCBGC regular season and playoff/championship formats for all sanctioned team sport leagues. All teams will be assessed a \$300 fine for non-participation in the PGCBGC playoff/championship formats.
- C. Football - Refer to Game Rules (lack of restraining ropes, first aid kits, specified game balls).
- D. Soccer - Refer to Game Rules (lack of restraining ropes, first aid kits, etc.).

IX. GAME OFFICIALS

The cost of game officials is paid by the PGCBGC for all but the following:

- A. The cost of second (or more) officials in any game where extra officials are requested by a club.
- B. Cost of officials for Volleyball Program.

X. BILLING

- A. Membership Dues: Each Club Treasurer (where known), or President will ensure each registrant's dues are paid upon a club's submission of any teams into PGCBGC's Sanctioned Programs. These bills must be paid in advance before the beginning of the season.
- B. Sports Bills: Each participating unit club will be mailed a bill, as soon as possible after the completion of a sport, by the PGCBGC Office, which is known as the "Sports Bill". These Sports Bills may contain charges for officials for forfeited games, extra officials (when requested), fines, duplicate ID Cards, and other charges that might be outstanding.
- C. ALL CLUBS MUST PAY THEIR OVERDUE SPORTS BILLS AND ANY MEMBERSHIP BILLS PRIOR TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ANY OTHER SPORT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. FAILURE TO DO SO, WILL EXCLUDE THEM FROM PARTICIPATION IN THAT SPORT.
- D. Should any club have financial problems and find it impossible to pay their bill, they are requested to immediately contact the Executive Director.

XI. STANDINGS

- A. Line-up sheets and scores must be submitted to the PGCBGC Office within 48 hours after each game. When Sports Supervisors are present, they will fulfill this responsibility. They will collect line-up sheets after the game and provide them to the PGCBGC Office.
- B. League Standings will be updated and posted no later than Friday following the week's games.
- C. For standings to be reported accurately, the Sports Supervisor or the keeper of the game book (home team) must report scores within the 48-hour time frame. Also, teams can "Report your Scores," to the PGCBGC scorekeeper by email - scorekeeper@pgparks.com.
- D. EACH team must submit a line-up sheet following every game indicating the players participating. Failure to submit a line-up sheet will result in forfeiture of games.
- E. The best win-loss record will determine Division winners as reported by league standings.

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- i. A win equals 2 points and ties are 1 point. There are no (zero) points for a loss.
- ii. If an unequal number of games have been played, then the winner or berth will be determined by winning percentage.
- iii. If teams are still tied after applying these criteria, then the following tiebreaker procedures for division championships and playoff berths will be used:
 1. Head to Head competition (best win-loss record between tied teams)
 2. Point differential in head to head competition between the tied teams (points scored minus points against)
 3. Point differential for all league games

XII. POSTPONEMENTS

- A. No game shall be postponed unless:
 - i. School Function - a written verification from the School (on their stationery) is required for special school functions when THREE or more team members are involved. This WRITTEN verification must be RECEIVED by the PGCBGC office at least two business days prior to the scheduled game.
 - ii. The Sports Specialist and/or the Executive Director may authorize a postponement due to circumstances they deem extenuating.
 1. The program specialist will reschedule all postponed games due to reasons listed above or weather cancellations. Reschedules are emailed and posted to our website in bulletin format to all coaches and commissioners.
 2. Coaches are only called if the reschedule is less than one week away. It is the commissioners' responsibility to call all coaches to make sure they have received their reschedules.
 3. Commissioners should check with the Sports Office on a weekly basis to make sure information is complete.

XIII. PLAY-OFFS

- A. For AAA leagues with (2) two divisions, the first (4) four teams in each division will be eligible for the playoffs.
- B. For AA leagues with (2) two divisions, the first (2) two teams in each division will be eligible for the playoffs.
- C. For single divisions in the AAA and AA Leagues, playoffs will be limited to (4) four teams in the AAA league and (2) two teams in the AA league. This may vary depending on the number of teams in the Division.
- D. There will be **NO** playoffs for Recreational (A) League teams.

XIV. LEAGUE CLASSIFICATIONS

- A. There will be two league classifications for participation in the PGCBGC programs. The leagues will be:
 - i. AAA (Competitive)
 - ii. AA (Developmental).
- B. If necessary, a third league will be formed – A (Recreational) if a sufficient number of teams wish to participate at that level.
 - i. For a Recreational (A) team, the club must have a team in either the Competitive or Developmental League in the same age group.
- C. Unit clubs shall submit their team league designation requests with the Sport Questionnaires for each PGCBGC Sanctioned Sport. For competitive balance and the structural integrity of the league, there will be a fair representation of AAA and AA teams in all age groups. Unit club requests for team designations will be reviewed, determined and scheduled accordingly by the PGCBGC Sports Office and Sports Specialists.