

# GREATER AKRON AMATEUR SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DEFINITIONS

**COACH LICENSE:** All coaches need to be licensed to coach in GAASA. A new coach to GAASA has a 1-year grace period (i.e. consecutive season fall/spring or spring/fall) to obtain a coach license. **Beginning fall 2011 all coaches must have a minimum of a U10/12 license. All coaches with lesser coach licensed have 1 year from August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011 to obtain the minimum requirement.**

**COACH REGISTRATION FORM:** A Coach Registration Form must be submitted at the beginning of fall for the seasonal year or in the spring for coaches that did not coach in the preceding fall.

**COACH MANUAL:** Available on the GAASA website at [www.gaasa.org](http://www.gaasa.org)

**DIVISIONS:** The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association has many divisions available for teams at all levels of ability. There are several levels of competitive for each age group. Girls may play on a boy's team or on a girls-only team. Boys may only play on boy's teams. If girls play on a boy's team, the girl to boy ratio on a boy's team cannot be more than 50% of the total number of players on the team; in the event of an uneven number of players, the ratio is rounded down for the number of girls permitted to play on the team. A player may only be rostered to one declared team in GAASA.

Each level of play offered increases in difficulty, and/or the level of skill of the players. For example: Youth Classic 1 is the very top division, the teams are highly competitive and the players relatively skilled. Classic 2, 3, etc. is still very competitive, but the players are not as experienced or skilled. Please make every effort to place your team according to skill. The league will not tolerate placing teams in lower divisions in order to play on a certain day or to assure a winning record.

For more detailed league policy governing players/teams/divisions please refer to the Coach Manual.

**FIELD AVAILABILITY** is supplied by clubs registering any team for play in the league and the necessary scheduling information is contained in the team declaration form on the league website. A field permit letter should be presented on team registration day for each field the club is using. Should a club submit a field for play without a permit and the use of the field

becomes compromised as a result, the club automatically forfeits any claim to home games for that season and may be subject to further sanctions, which may include, but not be limited, to monetary fines.

## **GAME SCHEDULING & RESCHEDULING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Coach requesting the reschedule must contact the opposing coach. They need to agree on a new date and time. (Please check field availability.)

Once a new date and time is agreed on then each coach must contact their club rep who handles inputting the reschedule request.

The club rep for the requesting coach will enter the request into the system and the club rep for the opposing coach will then go into the system and verify the request. A friendly phone call to the club rep to let them know the request is entered and they can now go in and verify.

Once verified, the VP Girls/Boys will then final approve the request.

Once the VP Girls/Boys final approves the request, the change will reflect on the schedule

A confirmation email will be sent out to the coaches.

Tom Pickett will also be notified of these changes and will notify the referee assignors. (Please remember that if your game is verified the night before, you most likely will not be assigned a ref in time).

The VP's will only leave the reschedules request pending for 2 weeks. After that time the requested game will be deleted from the system.

Any team(s) that reschedules a game without the permission of the league will result in the following:

1. Both teams double-forfeiting by a score of 0-0 (no points)
2. An automatic 4-game suspension for both coaches involved
3. Forfeit of both club bonds

If a club bond is revoked, the bond must be replenished within five (5) days from the time the club is notified. Failure to replenish the club bond within the five (5) days will result in all scheduled games, of all teams for the offending club being recorded as a forfeit from the time of notification until such time as the club bond is replenished.

No reschedule fee is charged for reschedules due to weather, referee no-shows, or schedule conflicts due to a GAASA league or third party problem.

Coaches who reschedule games on their own must understand that the game is not sanctioned (approved by the league), and the insurance provided by Ohio Youth Soccer Association North is NOT in effect. This opens up possible litigation to the coach, the club and the league. **DON'T DO IT!**

**INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION** occurs only once a year and new player fees are paid only once a year. A nominal processing fee is charged for a player returning for the spring season. New individuals may be registered either in the fall or the spring. An individual must pay full-year fees even if he/she registers in the spring or transfers from one club to another from fall to spring. A player is considered an official member of a team; on the date he/she plays their first game for that team after registration. The league requires team registration for both the fall and spring seasons. Individuals are not considered registered until the GAASA Registrar receives the player's registration form and payment. The individual will be an official *player* when the individual is listed on the roster, the GAASA Registrar has accepted all documents, and the individual is approved to play by the GAASA Registrar. Until that time, the individual is not considered a player, is not to play or practice, and, if injured, the injuries will not be subject to coverage by insurance. It is the responsibility of every club, coach, manager, team representative, club representative, individual and parent to make sure that registration is timely, correct, and complete prior to practices and games. **Player's age must be within 2 years of the team's declared age. Exceptions may be allowed with GAASA Board approval only.**

GAASA now allows up to 22 players to be rostered on a team for team ages 13 and up however only 18 can dress for any one game.

**LATE REGISTRATION:** Players or coaches may be added after player registration dates using the updated information posted on the Gaasa.org website. Payment must accompany all late registration.

Any passes lost and needing to be remade after the final deadline will incur a \$25 late fee per pass.

**MEDICAL INSURANCE CLAIMS:** Please be aware for both youth players/coaches that your fees provide for secondary medical insurance. If a player is injured in a GAASA team practice or game, contact the OYSAN at 330-659-0989 to have a claim form mailed to you.

No GAASA player is permitted to participate in any other outdoor soccer activity that is not affiliated with and sanctioned by Ohio Youth Soccer Association North or recognized United

States Youth Soccer State Association. Any player participating in any unaffiliated soccer activities may be required to submit a sworn, notarized affidavit with any insurance claims stating that the injury for which the claim is being filed was actually sustained while participating in a GAASA activity.

**NEW UP TO DATE INFORMATION** must be supplied on all forms used for registration.

**NO PASS / NO PLAY / NO APPEALS:** This is an absolute and can only be circumvented as the result of a league oversight and only then with proper documentation from the league authorizing the player to participate in league activities.

**OFFICIAL PASSES, ROSTERS and REFEREE GAME ROSTER/REPORTS:** In order to be official for USYSA game rosters must be stamped by the GAASA Registrar or a GAASA Deputy Registrar. Deputy registrars may be appointed by the GAASA Registrar to verify individuals listed on rosters. These Deputy registrars may sign a roster but only the GAASA Registrar signature and League stamp is valid on a player pass. Only color pictures accepted. Every player must have stamped laminated player pass to participate in any GAASA sponsored game. No referee will permit a player to play without a pass, no matter what the reason. The referee has the final authority on this matter on the field and his decision cannot be appealed or questioned. In addition, there must be a registered coach with a coach's pass present for each team for the entire duration of each game. The league strongly advises that each team roster the maximum number of coaches.

The GAASA stamp must appear on the Referee Game Roster / Report to be valid. A forfeiture of the game may occur without this stamp on the report.

**PLAYING UP ON YOUTH TEAMS:** Please see the Playing Up chart on GAASA website for a visual description.

Definition 1: No player may register or be rostered on more than one Greater Akron team at any one time. Younger players may roster on an older team (maximum 2 years) for the season but older players may never be rostered on a team younger than their age group unless a medical situation exists (example: down's syndrome, mental retardation). Documentation is needed from a physician for these cases and approved by the GAASA board.

Definition 2: A legally registered player may play up on a team as many times as he/she wishes but limited to 3 times on any single team in his/her home club in an older age group and same classic level or higher.

If a player is caught playing a fourth time on a team, the penalty is as follows: 1) the team with whom they played that 4<sup>th</sup> game will forfeit the game and the 2) coach who allowed the player to play up may be suspended for two games. This counts toward the 4-player transfer limit (3 for the State rule) for spring season. If this occurs, either by choice or accident, THE COACH OR CLUB REGISTRAR must notify the GAASA Registrar.

**PLAYOFFS:** For ALL teams qualifying for playoffs, additional fees apply.

**REFEREE NO-SHOWS IN A SCHEDULED OR RESCHEDULED GAME:** In an effort to deal with referee no-shows in a timelier manner, both coaches are asked to notify their division commissioner (ON THE SAME DAY THAT THE GAME OCCURRED) in the event of a scheduled referee no-show or if a volunteer referee is used. The division commissioner is to record this information when submitting the game scores on the league website in the appropriate box. A volunteer referee will be paid the normal referee fees for the game.

**RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:** All coaches (whether head coaches, assistant coaches or managers) must register annually for the risk program using the OYSAN website. Confirmation of registering must be presented the League Registrar at the time of registering with a team in GAASA.

**ROSTER / TEAM NAME:** A roster is submitted for the fall season and the **TEAM NAME** must follow through to the spring season. Each roster must have the name of the CLUB in the space provided and the name of the TEAM in the space provided. No Team name duplication is permitted. If this occurs, the registrar will **assign** a new name at the on-site registration table. **Team names cannot change between the fall and spring seasons.** If for some reason for the Club or Team name changes, then new player fees and new team fees will apply for that team during the spring season.

**SoccerWorks® ONLINE SOFTWARE:** SoccerWorks Online Software is now being made available for member club use. Clubs no longer need to have additional software to run this program. SoccerWorks Online has been designed by Keri Sarver for GAASA and is available by accessing the GAASA.org website. For new clubs to GAASA a request must be made for access to SoccerWorks. This online version will be the only version accepted for use by GAASA. This software will be populated with your club's current season of declared data once this data has been established.

**TEAM DISBANDMENT:** If a youth team disbands between the fall season and the spring season it is the ruling of OYSAN that all of these players must complete transfer forms when moving to a new club for the spring season or choosing not to play for spring season.

**TEAM PLACEMENT:** GAASA reserves the right to move any teams within classic levels. Past records of teams and coaches, the ways in which a club conducts tryouts, the number of players available in the base from which the club draws players, the number of players on the team who are younger than the age group and other such factors, along with the recommendations of the club all play a role in determining where a team will be placed.

Do not attempt to form your teams or request placement based on tentative play days, which may be changed by the league during the scheduling process without notice.

**TEAM REGISTRATION** Team registration will commence on the date posted as long as the team has been declared on the GAASA website during the designated date announced. The team shall have declared its intention to play for the season, announced team play day conflicts, home field and field conflicts. With proper notice, reschedules are allowed for USSF activities, but teams will be charged a reschedule fee if they fail to declare a conflict at the time of registering the team(s). See also paragraph regarding game scheduling and reschedule policies and procedures.

**DUAL CARDING:** Dual carding no longer exists within leagues associated with OYSAN except for those players who were dual carded prior to July 31, 2013.

**TRANSFER RULES:** The GAASA rule states that no more than 5 players can be dropped and/or replaced from a fall registered team from one club to another, and requires a completed transfer form. However, players can always be added to open roster spaces up to the roster limit. There are no limits on changes within a club, which are also considered transfers, and require completed transfer forms. No players may be added after the final registration deadlines for each season. If your team plans to enter State Cup or tournaments, then the OYSA-N rules apply.

Any transferred player must also have a new pass made to reflect the new club he/she has transferred to. The pass that reflects the club where the player came from is to be sent to the registrar with the signed transfer form.

**USSF and US Youth Soccer** rules are followed by GAASA as to seasonal year and player registrations. Registration and rostering are two different acts; registration is the act of signing up to play and paying money, rostering is the assignment of players to a team. USYSA and OYSAN rules state that a team rostered in the fall is considered a team for one full seasonal year (both fall and spring playing seasons) and that players belong to that team for the whole year unless transferred according to GAASA and OYSAN rules. In addition, the rules forbid players who have been rostered on a team in the fall from trying out for new teams during the seasonal year without prior permission.

**U9 players rostered** will play as follows: U9 Classic 1 players will play games as a traveling team as in previous seasons. U9 Classic 2 and below will play games traveling only within their quadrants or closest quadrant.

**U9-10-11-12 RULE:** It is the rule of GAASA that all U9, U10, U11 and U12 players be rostered so as to play age appropriate on the small field. However in some cases, it is necessary to roster these players on an older team. GAASA has adopted the small-sided U9 and U10 teams of 6v6, and U11 and U12 teams of 8v8. The league also reserves the right, in the interests of competition, to allow younger teams to play above their age designation (i.e. U10 to U11 or U12 to U13).

**U15 PLAYERS PLAYING ON A U14 TEAM** is permitted for the fall season. As a reminder, the maximum of five (5) U15 players may continue on the U14 team they were assigned to from fall to spring of the same seasonal year. The U15 player may not transfer to another U14 team, but may transfer to a U15 team or higher. These players **MUST** be in the eighth grade and not rostered on their high school team at any level. The age designation of this team will be U15 but they will be allowed to participate in GAASA's U14 division.

For spring season the only exception to the addition of a U15 player to a U14 roster is if the team is new to the league and its roster consists of at least 51% of players who were not previously registered for play in the immediately preceding season. Additionally the maximum number of U15 players is limited to three and they must not have been registered for play in the immediately preceding season. The eighth grade policy applies as well.

The acceptance of the league for U15 players extends only to GAASA league play and does not ensure that these teams would be able to participate at events outside of league play.

**U19 PLAYERS** are permitted to play on U18 high school teams with the following rules: each player must submit current proof of their status as a currently enrolled high school student at the time registering on the team (the most recent report card would be one means of proof). Teams are limited to no more than two players on a team and there can be **NO** U14 age players on the team. This team needs to be declared as a U19 team in order to add a U19 player. The acceptance of the league for U19 players extends to the GAASA league play only and does not ensure that these teams would be able to participate at events outside of league play.

*These definitions may be modified or clarified at any time during the soccer seasonal year.*