



# ADULT SOCCER RULES

## SPRING 2026

OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## GOVERNING BODY

The governing body consists of the Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department.

## REGISTRATION

Team registration (online only): \$550.00 per team and must be paid at the time of registration. The deadline is Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Individual Player Contract (online only): Deadline to complete is game 3 of season.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Team Manager meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18 at 6 p.m. at Oconee Veterans Park. Official team rosters are due at this meeting.

## LEAGUES AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. **Co-Ed League A** (8v8) All players must be 18 years or older to participate.
- B. **Co-Ed League B** (8v8) All players must be 18 years or older to participate.
- C. Participants may only participate on ONE Co-Ed team per season. They may not play in both A & B leagues.
- D. Any person under a collegiate or professional soccer contract will not be allowed to play.
- E. Any person playing for a high school soccer team in the current school year will not be allowed to play unless they have fully completed their season.

## TEAM ROSTERS & PLAYER CONTRACTS

- A. Each team must complete a team roster to participate in the league. Every player must complete, sign and submit a player contract before he/she is eligible to play.
- B. Team rosters must be turned in at the Team Manager Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.
- C. Team managers may add to the roster until kickoff of **Game 3 of the regular season.**
- D. Team rosters are limited to 16 players.
- E. Player contracts for added players must be completed online.
- F. Any player removed from a team roster cannot be added to another team's roster.
- G. **Any illegal player will be removed from the program, the manager suspended for a minimum of one game, and the game in which the illegal player participated will be recorded as a loss.** In addition, any prior game(s) in which the illegal player participated will result in a forfeit.
- H. Falsifying a player contract will result in suspension from the league.
- I. **Players must bring a photo I.D. to every game to verify identity. Photo I.D. must be a government issued form of identification (driver's license, passport, etc.). Failure to do so will result in ineligibility to play in games.**

## PLAYER CONDUCT

All participants are governed by the Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department Code of Conduct.

**Profane language or display of unsporting conduct will not be tolerated in the program.** The following additional provisions shall apply:

- A. Players, coaches, managers, and spectators are expected to demonstrate a good sporting attitude and courteous behavior.
- B. Persons failing to demonstrate appropriate conduct or behavior will result in an immediate warning or prompt ejection from the game, depending on the severity of the incident.
- C. If a person is warned regarding their misconduct (including arguing the judgment of match official), the next offense will result in prompt ejection from the game.
- D. Any person ejected from the game must leave the park premises.
- E. Any person ejected from a game will also be suspended from their next scheduled game.
- F. If the offending act is flagrant, involves a fight, or if the unsporting conduct continues after ejection, the person will be suspended from the league, including tournament play.
- G. Failure of an ejected player to leave park premises will warrant a forfeiture of the game.
- H. If a player or manager receives a suspension for the next game on the last game of the season, the suspension will roll over to the first game scheduled the following season.
- I. Any player, manager and/or spectator who does or attempts to do bodily harm to an official will be immediately ejected from the game, suspended from the league, banned from Parks and Recreation parks and facilities, and may have criminal charges filed against him/her. The Governing Body will determine the length of time for banned suspension.
- J. **First Ejection** – The individual will be suspended for the remainder of the game, the next scheduled game and must leave the park premises immediately.
- K. **Second Ejection** – The individual will be suspended for the season, including any postseason tournament play and must leave the park premises immediately.
- L. Alcohol, smoking, vaping, and other tobacco products are not permitted on OCPRD property.
- M. Unattended children may become a safety issue. Players are discouraged from bringing younger children to the field unless they are supervised.
- N. **When a team is up with 7 goals or more, supervisors reserve the right to end the game based on player conduct**

***Note:*** Any person ejected or suspended from a game must leave the premises. If person is unable to leave premises, the person must be “out of sight, out of sound”.

## SPORTSMANSHIP RATING

- A. After each contest the officials & field supervisor will award a score to each team based on the behavior, actions, and attitudes exhibited during play. Behavior before, during, and after contests will be a factor for each team's rating.
- B. The league coordinator or OCPRD Administration may provide input which could alter an assigned rating.
- C. It is the responsibility of the league coordinator and managers to inform players about the rating system.
- D. Ratings will be given based on a scale of 1-5. Teams must have a rating of 2.5 or higher to be eligible for a post-season tournament.

## UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

- A. Players must wear like colored jerseys with the same shade of color.
- B. All jerseys must have a manufactured, permanently affixed number on the back at least six (6) inches in height.
- C. No duplicate numbers are allowed.
- D. Players may not change jerseys after the line-up is turned into the official.
- E. Closed-toe shoes are mandatory. Cleats are recommended but not required.
  - Metal or detachable cleats are not allowed.
- F. Proper shin guards are required. Shin guards should be completely covered by socks.
- A. Players may not wear anything that can be potentially dangerous, i.e., metal cleats, jewelry, etc.
  - Official and/or field supervisor determine what is dangerous and what is not.
- B. Game balls will be provided by OCPRD.

## LOCAL RULES/GAME PLAY

All games will be played according to **FIFA Laws of the Game** except where local rules supersede:

- A. **Number of Players:** Each team will have eight players on the field and a maximum of 8 substitutes eligible to "sub in and out".
- B. **Playing Time:** Two halves of twenty-five minutes each will be played with a half time break of five minutes. If regulation time ends and the score is tied, the game will end in a draw for all regular season games.
- C. **Overtime (Tournament games only):** During the post-season tournament, five-minute overtime halves (2) will be played in the "Golden Goal" format. If overtime ends and the game is still tied, penalty kicks will decide the result. Any player on the roster will be eligible to take penalty kicks. Each team will be given 5 PKs. If the score is tied at the end of the shootout, sudden death penalty kicks will come into play.
- D. **Substitutions:** Subs may be made on team possession throw-ins, goal kicks, kickoffs, and yellow cards. Teams may also sub if the team in possession does so. No substitutions are allowed on corner kicks or free kicks. Players must alert the referee when substituting and wait on his/her signal to enter the field of play. Failure to do so may result in a yellow card for the offending player(s). There are no restrictions on the number or frequency of substitutions.
- E. **Goal Kicks:** The goalkeeper may either dribble the ball in from the goal line (but cannot then pick up the ball with his/her hands) or may take unlimited steps (within the area) from the goal line and throw the ball in. The keeper has 6 seconds to put the ball into play. Punts and drop-kicks are not allowed by goalkeepers.

- F. **Fouls:** In accordance with FIFA laws, fouls will result in a direct or indirect free kick. If a foul is committed in the penalty area, it will result in a penalty kick unless it would normally result in an indirect free kick (obstruction, keeper handling a backwards pass, keeper taking too long to distribute the ball).
- A corner kick is not considered to be a free kick and in accordance with FIFA regulations, it is permissible to score directly from a corner kick.
  - Two Line Rule infringements result in an indirect free kick. (see below).
  - Distance at free kicks: At any free kick, corner or kick-off, no opposing player may stand closer than six yards to the ball.
- G. **Two Line Rule:** The ball may not pass forward two consecutive lines in the air, except on throw-ins. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the point where the ball crossed the second line.
- H. **Slide Tackling:** Slide tackling is not allowed in OCPRD's adult soccer leagues. Violations may result in a yellow card if officials deem the tackle a dangerous play. Sliding by goal keepers is permitted when making an attempt at the ball, however officials will give a card if they consider the slide a dangerous play (studs up, do not touch the ball, etc.). Sliding to keep possession of the ball when no opposing player is near is not considered a slide tackle. Official determines if opposing players are close enough to the ball for slide to be considered dangerous.
- I. **Red Cards:** All players receiving a red card must leave the fields immediately unless permission is given by the league coordinator.
- Referees are instructed to call a game early if any team receives 3 red cards in the same game. The game will be recorded as a 2-0 victory to the other team unless the team was winning by more than 2 goals. If so, the result will stand with the score as it was when the game was called.
  - In the Co-Ed league, if a player receives a red card and is ejected from the game, that team must continue to play without either a female or male depending on which player received the red card.
- J. **Yellow Cards:** Players receiving a yellow card must be substituted. The player may re-enter the game at the next substitution opportunity. Any player receiving 3 or more yellow cards in the same season may be spoken to by the league coordinator. At the league coordinator's discretion, any player receiving three or more yellow cards in a single season may be suspended for one or more games.
- K. **Forfeits:** Teams must have 5 players at game time to avoid a forfeit. At the discretion of the official and/or the league coordinator, a team may be given a five-minute grace period if less than 5 players are present for the kickoff. After the five-minute grace period, the team must forfeit if less than 5 players are present.  
Any team forfeiting two (2) games in a season will not be eligible for the tournament. Any team forfeiting three (3) games in the season will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season without refund.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER AND RESCHEDULING GAMES

**Inclement Weather Hotline**.....706-769-3965 (option 2)

- A. In case of rain or wet grounds, after a game has begun, the field supervisor will decide if the grounds are playable.
- B. In the event of **inclement weather**, one half constitutes an official game. Games that fail to make it to halftime will be treated as a suspended game and will resume later at the exact point stopped.
- C. The team manager will be notified of any rescheduled games and will be responsible for notifying all players on his/her team.
- D. Rainout games will be scheduled according to the day and field availability and not according to specific days of the week the league played on during the season.

## FIELD SUPERVISION

OCPRD staff will be supervising all scheduled games. After consulting with officials, OCPRD staff have the authority to cancel any game if hazardous or unsafe conditions exist. OCPRD staff also have the authority to warn or eject any person(s) for demonstrating inappropriate conduct or behavior as outlined in the Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department Code of Conduct.

## PROTESTS

The Team Manager must lodge a legal protest with the official during the regulation game informing the official that the game is being played under protest. The match official shall in turn notify the opposing manager. The official shall also mark the time and game information when the protest was made.

The Team Manager has 24 hours to submit a written protest to the Adult Soccer League Coordinator of Oconee County Parks & Recreation Department during office hours for official review. If a game is on Friday night, the protest must be turned into the office by noon on Monday.

No protest will be accepted based on an official's judgment. Each protest must outline the events as they transpired and must cite specific rules and sections to justify the protest. The governing body will rule on each protest properly submitted and send the protesting manager a written ruling within 5 – 7 business days.

### TYPES OF PROTESTS:

- A. Misinterpretation of a playing rule – protest must be made at nearest stoppage.
- B. Illegal player – protest must be made while they are in the game and before the officials leave the playing field.
- C. Ineligible player – protest can be made any time.

## LEAGUE PROVISIONS

### A. Coed Leagues: Ages 18 and older

- a. 8 players on field. Maximum of 8 substitutes.
- b. At least 2 female players must be included in the 8 players on field. In addition, a minimum of 1 female player is needed to avoid a forfeit.
- c. In the case of PKs, kicking order must alternate; Male, Female, Male, Female, etc.

## LEAGUE STANDINGS & TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Standings are calculated based on a point system applied to regular season games. A postseason single-elimination tournament will follow the regular season. Tournament brackets will be seeded based on each team's total end of season points.

- Win = 3 points
- Tie = 1 point
- Forfeit = recorded as a 5-0 win
- Goal Differential can be affected by a **maximum** of 5 per game.

### Tie-Breaker Criteria

- 1) Any team that has forfeited a regular season game automatically drops the tie.
- 2) Head to Head Record
- 3) Goal Differential
- 4) Coin Toss

***\*Teams with a sportsmanship rating lower than 2.5 will be ineligible for postseason play.***