

# NEW COACH ORIENTATION

WELCOME!

### **Points of Contact**

- General:
  - info@eppremierleague.com
- Rosters, Registrations, IDs, Club Pass, etc.
  - registrar@eppremierleague.com
- Schedules, Conflicts, Requests
  - schedules@eppremierleague.com
- On-Field Issues

Field Managers

• (915)861-5790 **COACHES ONLY** 



## OFFICE AND HOURS

- OFFICE: 5929 Cromo Dr. Suite A, El Paso, TX, 79912
- Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 12pm-6pm



### TEXT MESSAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Text EPPLCOACH to (844)903-2393
- Text message announcements and important info



### **IMPORTANT DATES/CALENDAR**

- The link to the important dates document can be found on our website under the "LEAGUE INFO" tab.
- HERE



### **COACH RESOURCE PAGE**

- The COACH resource page on the EPPL website is full on useful information that will guarantee your success in our league.
- EPPL Rules
- Coach Handbook
- Helpful Videos
- And MORE!
- CLICK HERE



### What is EPPL's mission

• To create a competitive league that will help young soccer players from the El Paso, Juarez, and Las Cruces border plex develop, compete, and excel in the beautiful game all while providing a safe and friendly environment for players, parents, and coaches so that they can all focus on the most important aspect of the game: Having fun!

Development FIRST!



# LEAGUE STRUCTURE





# **Competitive Divisions**

#### Premier:

- Most competitive division. (only one per age group)
- Ages: U9-U19
- Awards:
  - Trophy and Medals for Champion and Finalists.
  - Medals for Third Place, and participation medals for teams that do not place in ages U8-U10
- Individual Players Awards:
  - MVP Award: Awarded to the Champion team Head Coach.
  - Golden Boot Award: Awarded to the player with the most goals in the season.
  - Best GK Award: Awarded to the goalkeeper of the team with the least number of goals against.
- Team Awards:
  - Champion Teams will be awarded a CHAMPIONS t-shirt commemorating their season's success.



# **Premier Division Important Info**

- Not only COMPETITIVE teams but also DEDICATED teams.
- Uniform and numbers rules will be enforced WEEK 1
- Top goal scorer tracking
- Premier Division Champions in the US Club Regional Competition



# **Competitive Divisions**

### Championship:

- Second Tier division (may be multiple per age depending on number of teams)
- Ages: U6-U19
- Awards:
  - Trophy and Medals for Champion and Finalists.
  - Medals for Third Place, and participation medals for teams that do not place in ages U5-U10

#### Recreational Division

- Strictly Recreational and Developmental division for teams that are just starting out. (May be multiple per age depending on number of teams)
- Ages: U5-U10
- Awards:
  - Participation medals for all players.
  - No champion crowned
- There will be referees on the field to officiate games to maintain a game-like experience for player so that they can continue to develop. However, scores will not be kept.



# Promotion and Relegation!

• Teams will move up and down from competitive divisions based on final standings in order to achieve fair and purposeful competition.



## **EPPL Structure**

- THE EPPL (CITY WIDE):
  - League designed to promote development and competition for the best teams across the city/region.
  - Games at BOTH the WSSC and ESSC. (Roughly half and half of a teams' schedule)
  - ALL PREMIER DIVISIONS play in The EPPL (City Wide) league. (U9-U19)
  - ALL 11v11 Age Groups (U13-U19) will play in The EPPL (City Wide) league. (Bothe Premier and Championship)



### **EPPL Structure**

### • EPPL WEST:

- League designed for younger and more developmental teams that want to play only in their area of the city.
- Games mainly at the WSSC. (Only westside of town.)
- Championship and Rec. Divisions (U5-U12)



### **EPPL Structure**

### EPPL EAST:

- League designed for younger and more developmental teams that want to play only in their area of the city.
- Games mainly at the ESSC. (Only eastside of town.)
- Championship and Rec. Divisions (U5-U12)



# Important Processes

- Roster Process
- Scheduling Process









- Roster
  - Official League Roster
    - Players are automatically added to roster once they register and choose the team.
    - Player's information, documents, and pictures are verified.
    - Only players that have completed, submitted, and paid the registration fee for the league will be approved to play. Once approved they will appear on the ROSTER PDF.
    - If you are missing any players that you know have registered or need to make any changes. You must send us an email to registrar@eppremierleague.com
- Numbers
  - Rosters must include numbers that match uniforms for PREMIER AND CHAMPIONSHIP divisions.
- Freeze Dates
  - Rosters will freeze the WEDNESDAY prior to week 1 at 6pm
  - Rosters will freeze on the THURSDAY of every game week at 6:00 pm. THERE WILL BE NO GAMEDAY CHANGES!
  - All coaches must be added to the league roster. MAXIMUM 3 per team.
- NO BUSINESS ON THE FIELDS! If you do not make a change, do not expect us to approve a player on the field.

## **ROSTER PROCESS**

- If you get a new player or need to make a change to your roster it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to let our registration team know in order for them to make the change or update.
- Ex. A new player arrives at you club on Monday. You ask them to register before the weekly deadline. Once registered you send and email to registrar@eppremierleague.com letting us know there needs to be an update to the roster. We add the player and must wait for the player to be approved by US Club. I suggest checking back the next day to check on the status. Once player is approved by US Club, we will approve them as well and they should now appear on your **ROSTER PDF**, and the player will be allowed to play.
- The first step to any change or update is always emailing registrar.

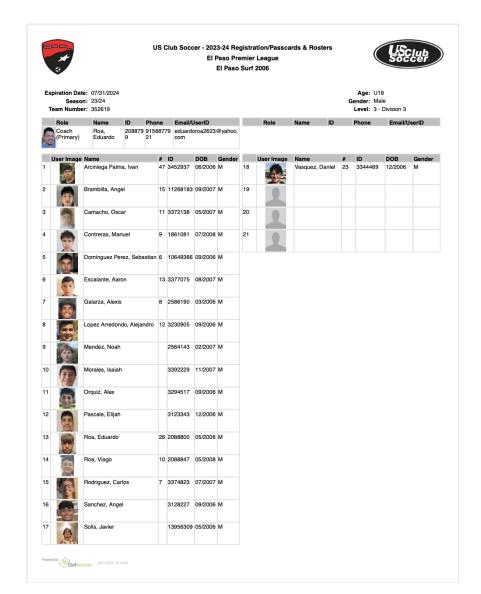


### HOW TO ACCESS ROSTER PDF

- Knowing how to access your ROSTER PDF is a key to your success in the league. This is where you can see which players have been approved to play for your team.
- A link to an article as well as a video on how to access the Roster PDF can be found on the COACH resources page.



### **CHECK IN DOCUMENT EXAMPLES:**







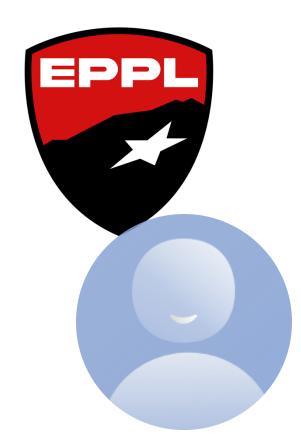
### **CLUB PASS**

- WHAT IS A CLUB?
  - Enrolled by the same account
  - Have the same uniforms with the same club logo
  - Have one designated club "registrar" responsible for all roster change communication.
- League officials have the right to deny teams a "club" designation if they find the group of teams does not function as a club.



### **CLUB PASS**

- More detailed information on Club Pass can be found on eppremierleague.com
  - A player may not play in two teams in the same AGE GROUP regardless of CP designation.
    - Girls may play in their ALL-GIRLS division then CP to the boy's division in the same age.
  - A player may only play in their age group as their primary team, and then CP up to an older age group.
  - U8 and U10 exceptions
  - If a player is playing in a RECREATIONAL Division, they may only CP to other RECREATIONAL Division teams.
- Players that wish to participate will be able to sign up for Club Pass via a link on our website.
- SCHEDULES WILL NOT BE MODIFIED TO ACCOMMODATE CP PLAYERS!
- Coaches will email their Club Pass Player Sheet to <a href="registrar@eppremierleague.com">registrar@eppremierleague.com</a>. This sheet can be downloaded on our website.



# Schedules, Requests, Cancellations & Forfeits

- Schedules:
  - Schedules will be posted for week 1 and 2.
  - Once we are all settled in, we will post the rest of the season.
  - Schedules are subject to change, upon approval. We hope we can all be understanding and work together.
- Black Out Date Requests:
  - Schedule Black Out dates must be requested using the form provided on the COACHES page before the stated deadline.
- EVERY TEAM HAS TWO SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUESTS



# Schedules, Requests, Cancellations & Forfeits

- Schedule Change Form: Once the schedule is published, you can request a change using the form provided on the **COACHES** page.
  - Every team will have 2 (two) emergency schedule change requests
  - Coaches can use their emergency schedule change request if changes are requested **72hrs or more prior to gametime**.
    - If team does not have any more available emergency requests, schedule will not change, and game will be lost via forfeit if the team does not show up to play.
  - Games cancelled within 72 hrs. and 48 hrs. of game time will be attempted to be rescheduled if the team has remaining emergency requests. If game is rescheduled, requesting team must pay referee fee for re-scheduled game. If game cannot be rescheduled, the game will be lost via forfeit if the team does not show up to play.
  - Games cancelled within 48 hrs. of game time will not be rescheduled and will be lost via forfeit if the team does not show up to play.



# Schedules, Requests, Cancellations & Forfeits

#### Forfeits:

- If you know you will not make a game, please notify league officials ASAP.
- If a coach wants to purposefully forfeit a game for any reason, the referee will announce the game as a forfeit at half field.
- If BOTH coaches agree, the game can be played as a SCRIMMAGE WITH NO REFEREE(S).
- NO CALL NO SHOW:
- Teams that do not show up to play a game will automatically lose the game via forfeit and will incur NO CALL-NO SHOW fees.
  - A NO CALL NO SHOW fee is equal to referee fee plus a \$30 fine.
  - Team will not be allowed to play until fee is paid.
- A team or club that consistently forfeits games without notifying will no longer be accepted to participate in the EPPL.



### **PLAYOFFS and FINALS**

- FINALS WEEKEND IS FINALS WEEKEND
- ONCE POSTED, Play-offs will not be rescheduled. If you will travel during playoffs (NOT FINALS) and you let us know before the black out deadline. We will try our best to accommodate to avoid forfeits during playoffs.



## COACHES REQUIREMENTS

- Per US Club Soccer Policy, all adults who will serve as a coach or team manager at any participation level must complete the coach requirements and obtain a US Club Soccer ID staff card. For more assistance and information please visit the Coaches Resource page on the website eppremierleague.com
- YOU WILL NEED YOUR PHYSICAL COACH ID CARD PRESENT AND VISIBLE AT ALL GAMES IF YOU WANT TO COACH ON THE SIDELINES!
- Please check the league calendar to see which date you MUST have your ID present.
- If a coach is not present with an ID after the stated date the game will be lost via forfeit
- Coach with ID must be present ALL GAME!



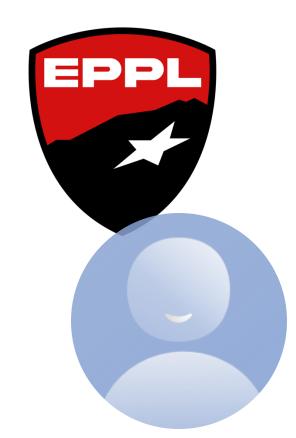
# **GAME DAY!**





## **GAMEDAY**

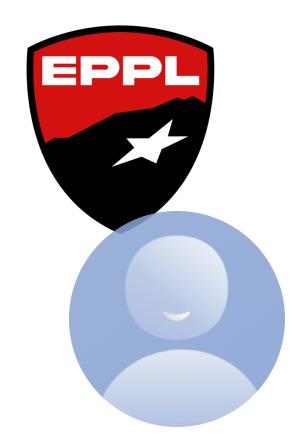
- Before game day, make sure to check your ROSTER PDF to make sure all your players are approved to play.
- Be ON TIME! A 10-minute courtesy period, after that the game will be forfeited.
- GAMEBALL!
  - A penalty kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the beginning of the match if a team fails to present a game ball. The game ball must be presented AT GAME TIME. THERE IS NO COURTESY PERIOD FOR A TEAM NOT HAVING A GAME BALL.
- PICTURES
  - WOULD YOU ACCEPT ONE OF YOUR PLAYERS PICTURES IF THEY WERE ON ANOTHER TEAM?
  - Players whose pictures are not clear and identifiable may be denied playing time.



### **GAMEDAY**

### PLAYER CHECK IN

- For player check in a coach may present Physical/Virtual ID Cards, or Roster PDF as means of player identification. Whatever form the coach presents MUST match the Referees' GAME REPORT!
- The coach must present one of these documents to the referee. The referee AND the other teams head coach will check every player using the information on the game report and the pictures on the coaches' document (IDs or Roster)
- If there is an issue with a player, a field manager must be called before the player in question is allowed to play. HOWEVER, the game must start as scheduled.
- If a player is not on the Referees' game report they will not be allowed to play.







- Uniforms and Numbers
  - ALL NUMBER RULES WILL BE ENFORCED ON THE STATED DATE (CHECK CALENDAR)
  - PREMIER DIVISION IS ENFORCED WEEK 1!
- Premier and Championship Divisions:
  - All players on team MUST have the same uniform.
    - In cases where a player does not have a uniform yet, they must use a solid color jersey that matches the rest of the team.
    - If a player only has one jersey but forgot their other, they may wear a penny over the jersey as long as the number matches.
  - All players must have a Jersey number, and that number must match the OFFICIAL GAME REPORT.
    - Jersey number must be permanent (screen printed, heat pressed, etc.)
    - A goalkeeper may have "GK" as their jersey number.
    - If a player has different numbers on different jersey, you may input both numbers (ex: 10/13)
  - Any player that does not comply with these rules will not be allowed to play.
  - If a coach is told a player cannot play and decides to play them anyway, the match will be subject to forfeit
- Recreational
  - All players on team MUST have the same uniform.
    - In cases where a player does not have a uniform yet, they must use a solid color jersey that matches the rest of the team.
  - REC Division teams are NOT required to have jersey numbers
    - Teams should try their best to get into the practice of having their jersey numbers so that they can be ready for more competitive divisions.



### **JERSEY AND NUMBERS** GUIDE



**TEAM UNIFORM** 





PRACTICE JERSEY **OR PREVIOUS JERSEY** OF THE SAME COLOR



SOLID COLOR TSHIRT OR **JERSEY** 











**AWAY JERSEY** WITH PENNY OVER IT (FORGOTTEN JERSEY\*)





JERSEY OR TSHIRT WITH OTHER DESIGNS OR COLORS

**CESAR SOSA** 



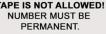




CORRECT JERSEY NUMBER MATCHES **GAME REPORT** 

















WRONG NUMBER: PLAYER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY

A uniform or number issue NEVER results in a forfeit. Any player that does not comply with these rules will not be allowed to play. If a player is already on the field, the coach will be asked to remove the player and they may not re-enter until they comply.



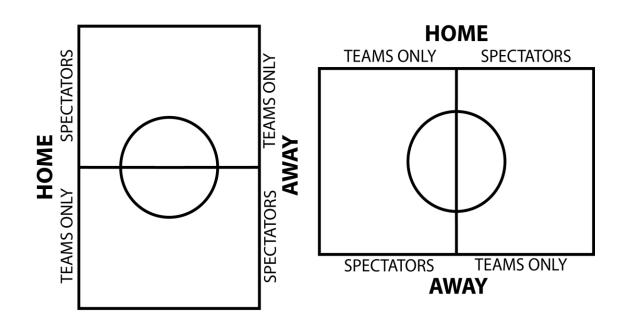
# Spectator/Team Seating

- Teams and Spectators are expected to set up in their assigned area for all EPPL matches.
- Make sure you and your spectator groups have this information to avoid any confusion.
- HOME team will set up on the NORTH or WEST side of the field regardless of field size.
- Home and Away teams will set up on opposite sides of the field.





### Seating Arrangment



HOME TEAM WILL SETUP ON THE WEST OR NORTH SIDE OF THE FIELD.

The official map will also show where Home and Away will setup.



## Coach Behavior/Consequences

- Coaches will be held to the highest standard and we expect every single coach to behave in a manner that aligns with the values of this league. Coaches will be respectful, supportive, and will do their best to promote good sportsmanship and fair play, so that in return they may instill in their players the same values.
- In the event that a coach is being disrespectful, rowdy, or showing poor sportsmanship the following will apply:
  - Coach will be given a verbal warning along with a yellow card.
  - If behavior continues, the coach will be shown a red card asked to leave the field.
  - If coach does not leave, the game will be forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score.
  - If no other coach is present with a valid ID, the game will be lost via forfeit.





## Spectator Behavior/Consequences

- Spectators are expected to behave in a manner that aligns with the values of this league. Parents will be respectful, supportive, and will do their best to promote good sportsmanship and fair play.
- In the event that a parent or group of parents are being disrespectful, rowdy, or showing poor sportsmanship the following will apply:
  - Referee will verbally warn head coach and ask them to control their spectators.
  - If behavior continues, coach will be shown a yellow card (caution)
  - If behavior continues, head coach will be shown a second yellow card, subsequent red card, and will be sent off.
  - Game will continue if coach leaves, and spectators improve their behavior. If those two things do not happen, game will be stopped and forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score or match type.
  - If no other coach is present with a valid ID, the game will be lost via forfeit.



## Incidents Involving Violence

- Zero Tolerance for Violence
  - There will be a zero tolerance for violence in this league!
  - Any team that engages in physical violence will be subject to player suspensions, point reductions, and a team suspension from the league. No refunds will be given.
- Pitch Invasion
  - Any pitch invasion by a spectator or coach to incite or participate in violence will result in a forfeit for the offending team.
- PLEASE READ MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON THE OFFICIAL RULES.



# Greivances





### REFEREE GRIEVANCES

- Referee protests will be handled through our Referee Grievance Protocol that can be found on our website.
- The form must be filled out and emailed to <u>info@eppremierleague.com</u> so that we can keep tabs on refs and ensure the best experience for everyone
- Only serious and concrete grievances will be taken into consideration.
- No referee will be fired or suspended on the first offense!
- We will not tolerate any threats against referee!
- **Important Grievances:** 
  - Does not check IDs
  - Does not know rules
  - Is rude or disrespectful



# Coach/Spectator Complaints by Ref or other EPPL participants

- Referees and other EPPL participants will also have the right to let EPPL staff know if a coach or group of spectators are continuously rude and disruptive.
- If a complaint is filed against a coach or spectator group, the following will apply:
  - Coach/Spectators will be observed by EPPL staff at a separate game to ensure complaint hold merit. If EPPL staff decides the complaint has merit a 1<sup>st</sup> warning will be issued.
  - If issue persists, and another complaint is filed, coach will receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> official warning.
  - If issue persists, and another complaint is filled, the coach or spectators will be suspended for 1 game.
  - If issues persists, and another complaint is filled, the coach or spectators will be suspended for the remainder of the season.



# CHEATING





## **Cheating/Protests & Consequences**

- There will be no tolerance for cheating in this league. A team caught cheating will suffer the following consequences:
  - On the **first** offense, the offending team will be removed from the season, and an email will be sent out to all participants notifying them of the team's removal. No refunds will be given.
    - THIS INCLUDES PURPOSEPLY PLAYING A PLAYER NOT ON THE ROSTER AND OVER AGE PLAYERS!
  - If there is a **second** offense, the entire club will be removed from the season. No refunds will be given.



# Cheating/Protests/Consequences

- Player Protests
  - Player Protests must be handled at the site of play and must occur before the game, at half time, or right after the game before signing the game report.
  - If a coach has reason to believe a player is not eligible, they may approach the referee and ask to see the player's ID and check it against the game report.
- Formal player age protest
  - Do not be a part of the problem
  - Make a formal protest via email to formally protest a players age.



### **CLOSING**

- Remember the **DEADLINES**
- Get your Coach IDs done ASAP
- Control your parents
- NO BUSINESS AT THE FIELDS!
- GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!
- FAIR PLAY!
- LET THE KIDS PLAY!

