



EPPL COACH'S HANDBOOK

2023 Fall EPPL Season

WELCOME TO THE EL PASO PREMIER LEAGUE

MISSION STATEMENT:

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 they can all focus on the most important aspect of the game: Having fun!

ADMINISTRATION:

Teresa Sosa
League Director and Scheduler
teresasosa@cobrassoccerevents.com

Cesar A. Sosa
League Director and Registrar
cesarsosa@cobrassoccerevents.com

Cesar J. Sosa
Field Operations Director

Alejandro Felix
afelix@eppremierleague.com

POINTS OF CONTACT:

For General Information: info@eppremierleague.com

For Roster, Registrations, IDs, etc.: registrar@eppremierleague.com

For Schedule Requests, Issues, and conflicts: schedules@eppremierleague.com

For on field issues or to contact Alejandro: afelix@eppremierleague.com

OFFICE AND HOURS

Address: 661 S Mesa Hills Dr. Suite 102 El Paso TX 79912
Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 2pm-6pm

2023 EPPL FALL Season CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUNE 30– REGISTRATION OPENS FOR TEAMS AND PLAYERS FOR THE 2023 FALL SEASON
- AUGUST 3– **LAST DAY FOR TEAMS** TO REGISTER (AFTER THE DEADLINE TEAMS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED ON AN “AS NEEDED” BASIS)
- AUGUST 4-5 – **MANDATORY COACHES MEETING** HELD ON BOTH DAYS TO ENSURE EVERY COACH CAN ATTEND.
- AUGUST 5-6 – PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES (ALL REGISTERED TEAMS WILL BE SCHEDULED)
- AUGUST 12-13 - PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES (ALL REGISTERED TEAMS WILL BE SCHEDULED)
- AUGUST 17 – LAST DAY FOR PLAYERS TO REGISTER IN ORDER TO PLAY WEEK 1
(AFTER THIS DEADLINE A \$5 LATE FEE WILL BE ADDED TO ALL REGISTRATIONS)
- AUGUST 19 – **SUNBOWL FLAG FOOTBALL EVENT* (No longer kick-off date)**
- AUGUST 26 – WEEK 1 FALL 2023 SEASON KICK-OFF!
- SEPTEMBER 2 – LABOR DAY WEEKEND. NO GAMES. (SOME GAMES MAY BE PLAYED ON WEEKNIGHTS)
- SEPTEMBER 9 – NO GAMES. COPA ALIANZA. (SOME GAMES MAY BE PLAYED ON WEEKNIGHTS)
- SEPTEMBER 16 – WEEK 2. **ALL UNIFORM AND COACH ID RULES WILL BE FULLY ENFORCED STARTING THIS DAY.**
- SEPTEMBER 23 – WEEK 3
- SEPTEMBER 30 – WEEK 4
- OCTOBER 7 – NO GAMES. FALL INTERSESSION.
- OCTOBER 14 – WEEK 5
- OCTOBER 21 – NO GAMES. 17TH ANNUAL COBRAS INTERNATIONAL CUP (SOME GAMES MAY BE PLAYED ON WEEKNIGHTS)
- OCTOBER 28 – WEEK 6
- NOVEMBER 4 – WEEK 7
- NOVEMBER 11- WEEK 8/MAKE UP WEEK
- NOVEMBER 18 – PLAYOFFS BEGIN
- NOVEMBER 25 – NO GAMES. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
- DECEMBER 2-3 – FINALS
- DECEMBER 8-10 – 2023 EL PASO CHRISTMAS ANGEL CLASSIC

ROSTERS

At the EPPL we strive to create a more independent environment where coaches and managers have more control over their rosters. This independence comes with a certain level of responsibility! Please remember that it is your responsibility to make sure every player that should be on your team is on the event roster.

Please remember only players that are on the league EVENT ROSTER will be allowed to play league games. These players will appear on the Official Game Report that referees will use at the game.

Step 1: Check your LEAGUE ROSTER.

- Log into your Got Sport account and click on the TEAM MANAGEMENT tab.
- From here click on the team you are working on.
- Select the 2023 FALL EPPL SEASON as the event.
- Players that select your team during the registration process will automatically appear here. So, if you are missing any players, it is either because they have not registered or selected the wrong team
- **Send a list of your missing players to registrar@eppremierleague.com**
- Once all of your players are on the roster, let our registration team know via email.

Step 2: We will go in and approve every player one by one, checking pictures, proof of birth, and eligibility. Once your players have been approved you may check your **Roster PDF or Virtual Cards** to see which players have been approved.

You can check your Roster PDF or Virtual Cards by:

- Log into your Got Sport account and click on the TEAM MANAGEMENT tab.
- From here click on the team you are working on.
- Select the 2023 FALL EPPL SEASON as the event.
- From here click on the DOCUMENTS AND IDS tab
- Here you will see buttons for both documents.
- **THE PLAYERS THAT APPEAR HERE ARE THE ONLY PLAYERS APPROVED TO PLAY!**

Step 3: (OPTIONAL) If you will be using any Club Pass Players please fill out the Club Pass form, found in the Club Pass section under the Registration Tab, and email it to registrar@eppremierleague.com

To ensure there are no issues regarding rosters later in the season and that every eligible player is allowed to play each weekend we will be “freezing” rosters. You will still be able to make changes to rosters whenever you may need to, however they will need to be made by EPPL staff. This way we can avoid roster issues on gameday by ensuring any changes you need to make are made and approved before you show up to play on game day.

**ANY CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE MUST BE EMAILED TO
REGISTRAR@EPPREMIERLEAGUE.COM**

**PLEASE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING REGARDING
ROSTERS CONTACT US AT REGISTRAR@EPPREMIERLEAGUE.COM AND WE WILL SET UP A
MEETING TO HELP YOU!**

CLUB PASS

What is the CLUB PASS?

The Club Pass is a special designation that can be given to a player to allow the player to play for multiple teams within their own club.

What is the goal of CLUB PASS?

The goal of Club Pass is to provide players, that have high level skills, the opportunity to play a year up and develop more by taking on older players and more competition.

What is the cost?

The Club Pass has a cost of \$45 dollars per player per extra team they wish to play on aside from their primary team where they would have already paid the original registration fee.

Rules and Limitations

- A player can only play for another team within their own club and may not use the CP designation to play for a team outside their club. *This does not refer to the league "club" to which all players belong to*
- A Player may play for any team within their club if they meet the age requirements. In other words, they can play in their age group and up, never down.
- **UPDATE FALL 2022**** 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 and then CP to the boys division in their same age.
 - A player may only play in their age group as their primary team, and then CP up to an older age group.
 - If a player is playing in a RECREATIONAL Division, they may only CP to other RECREATIONAL Division teams.
- Any player not assigned a CP designation may not play for more than one team.
- ***IMPORTANT* We cannot guarantee that the schedule will accommodate the needs of a CP player.**

COACH 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 epremierleague.com

YOU WILL NEED YOUR PHYSICAL COACH ID CARD PRESENT AND VISIBLE AT ALL GAMES IF YOU WANT TO COACH ON THE SIDELINES!

- Step 1: Visit the Coaches page under the Resources tab on the website epremierleague.com. Here you will register and pay for the Coach's ID card.
- Step 2: Log into your Got Sport Account
- Step 3: Select the "Dashboard" Tab on the banner menu
- Step 3: Go through all your requirements completing each one following the on-screen instructions. Videos are provided on the Coaches page under the Resources tab.
- Step 4: Once you have completed all requirements and paid for your membership, you will receive your Coach ID card.

GAMEDAY

- What do you need for gameday?
 - BE ON TIME FOR YOUR GAME!
 - Teams will receive a 10-minute courtesy period if they are not present or do not have enough players to start a match. The 10-minute courtesy period starts at the scheduled game time. At the end of the 10-minute courtesy period, if the team is not ready to start, the game will be forfeited.
 - **Your Coach ID card must be present and visible**
 - Virtual/Physical ID cards or Roster PDF for pregame check-in. **MUST MATCH OFFICIAL GAME REPORT**
 - All of your players must be wearing "matching" uniforms **WITH NUMBERS.**
 - A game ball that is the correct size for the age group

- A penalty will be awarded to the opposing team at the beginning of the game if you do not have a ball.
 - Teams and Coaches are to sit on one side of the field with spectators on the opposite side of the pitch separated by the half field line. Please refer to the EPPL Map to see where you should be sitting and where to tell your parents to sit. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure your parents are sitting in the correct spot.
- RULES OF THE GAME
 - **- 4v4**
 - BALL SIZE: 3
 - EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE 1 GAME BALL
 - GOALKEEPER: NO
 - OFFSIDE: NO
 - HEADERS: DELIBERATE HEADING IS NOT ALLOWED. AN INDIRECT FREEKICK WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM AT THE SPOT OF THE OFFENSE
 - PK'S: NO
 - *ALL FOULS WILL BE AWARDED AN INDIRECT KICK ON THE SPOT OF THE FOUL*
 - NO PLAYER SHALL SLIDETACKLE
 - **PENALTY ARC**
 - THE PENALTY ARC WILL SERVE AS A REFERENCE POINT SIMPLY TO PREVENT PLAYERS FROM STANDING WITHIN THE ARC PERMANENTLY.
 - Coaches should encourage their defensive players to stand outside the arc.
 - **- 7v7**
 - BALL SIZE: 4
 - EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE 1 GAME BALL
 - GOALKEEPER: YES
 - HEADERS: DELIBERATE HEADING IS NOT ALLOWED. AN INDIRECT FREEKICK WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM AT THE SPOT OF THE OFFENSE. UNLESS THE FOUL IS WITHIN THE GOAL AREA IN WHICH CASE AN INDIRECT KICK WILL BE AWARDED OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA.
 - PK'S: NO
 - *ALL FOULS WILL BE AWARDED AN INDIRECT KICK ON THE SPOT OF THE FOUL. UNLESS THE FOUL IS WITHIN THE GOAL AREA IN WHICH CASE AN INDIRECT KICK WILL BE AWARDED OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA.
 - BUILD OUT LINE: YES
 - DURING A GOAL KICK OR WHEN THE GOALKEEPER HAS THE BALL IN THEIR HANDS, ALL OPPOSING PLAYERS MUST BE BEHIND BUILD OUT LINE. A GOALKEEPER CANNOT DROP-KICK OR PUNT THE BALL OUT. ONCE THE BALL IS IN PLAY OPPOSING TEAM MAY CROSS THE BUILD OUT LINE
 - BUILD OUT LINE-OFFSIDES: YES
 - A PLAYER CANNOT BE PENALIZED WITH AN OFFSIDE BETWEEN THE HALFWAY

LINE AND THE BUILD OUT LINE. A PLAYER CAN BE PENALIZED WITH AN OFFSIDE BETWEEN THE BUILD OUT LINE AND THE GOAL LINE.

- PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED TO SLIDE TACKLE

○ **- 9v9**

- BALL SIZE: 4

- EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE 1 GAME BALL

- (U11) HEADERS: DELIBERATE HEADING IS NOT ALLOWED.

AN INDIRECT FREEKICK WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM AT THE SPOT OF THE OFFENSE. UNLESS THE FOUL IS WITHIN THE GOAL AREA IN WHICH CASE AN INDIRECT KICK WILL BE AWARDED OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA.

- (U12) HEADERS ARE ALLOWED

- PK'S: YES

- OFFSIDES: YES

• **Behavior and 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:

1. The coach will be asked to leave the field.
2. If coach does not leave, the game will be forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score.

- Parent Behavior/Consequences

□ Parents 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:

1. The parent will be asked to leave the field
2. If parent does not comply, all parents from that team will be asked to leave.
3. If parents do not leave, the game will be forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score and game type (regular game, playoff game, final)

- Zero Tolerance for Violence

□ There will be a zero tolerance for violence in this league!

□ Any team that engages in physical violence will be suspended from the league and no refunds will be given.

- Referee Protests
 - 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 info@eppremierleague.com so that we can keep tabs on refs and ensure the best experience for everyone

- Cheating/Protests/Consequences
 - Cheating
 - There will be no tolerance for cheating in this league. A team caught cheating will suffer the following consequences:
 1. On the first offense, a team will lose the game in which the offense takes place, plus all previous games.
 2. If there is a second offense, team will be suspended from the league and no refunds will be issued.
 3. In case of a third offense, the coach responsible will be suspended from this league indefinitely.
 - Protests
 - 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 AGE PROTESTS must be sent to info@eppremierleague.com with all available evidence.

- **ZERO VIOLENCE AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS.** Due to recent unfortunate circumstances, EPPL has instilled the following: Any violence whatsoever by a player, coach, or spectator against a match official will result in the immediate ejection of the team involved from the league. No refunds will be issued.
- **PITCH INVASION.** Any pitch invasion by coach or spectator will result in the offending team forfeiting the game regardless of match type (i.e., Final) Please inform parents and spectators

CONCLUSION

- Our main goal this season is to ensure that all our players can compete and develop in a positive, fair, and fun environment! Let us all help create that environment!
- Please go over this handbook and be properly prepared for your games!

- If you have any questions or need help with anything, please do not hesitate to reach out. Contact us at info@eppremierleague.com