



EPPL COACH'S HANDBOOK

Updated: 02/07/2023

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

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

EPPL SPRING 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
updated: 01/09/2023

FEBRUARY 11 - FRIENDLY MATCHES (OPTIONAL)

FEBRUARY 17 - REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR TEAMS. AFTER THE DEADLINE WE WILL ONLY ACCEPT TEAMS TO FILL IN AVAILABLE SPOTS.

FEBRUARY 18 - FRIENDLY MATCHES (OPTIONAL)

FEBRUARY 25 - NO LEAGUE GAMES "SPRING KICK OFF TOURNAMENT" LAS CRUCES, NM

MARCH 1 - REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR PLAYERS. \$5 LATE REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE APPLIED AFTER THIS DATE AND PLAYER WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY WEEK 1.

MARCH 4 - WEEK 1 FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON (HS AGE TEAMS WILL START AT A LATER DATE)

MARCH 11 - NO LEAGUE GAMES - SPRING BREAK

MARCH 18 - WEEK 2

MARCH 25 - WEEK 3

APRIL 1 - WEEK 4

APRIL 8 - NO LEAGUE GAMES - EASTER HOLIDAY

APRIL 15 - WEEK 5

APRIL 22 - WEEK 6

APRIL 29 - NO LEAGUE GAMES "COPA DE CAMPEONES TOURNAMENT" EL PASO, TX

MAY 4 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER/ROSTER FREEZE (NO MORE CHANGES TO ROSTER AFTER THIS DATE)

MAY 6 - WEEK 7

MAY 13 - WEEK 8

MAY 20 - PLAY OFFS/MAKE UP GAMES

MAY 27 - NO LEAGUE GAMES – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

JUNE 3-4 - LEAGUE FINALS (LAST DAY OF PLAY FOR ALL AGES)

JUNE 10 - LAS CRUCES SUMMER CHALLENGE

- THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO DOUBLE GAME WEEKENDS
- THERE MAY BE WEEKNIGHT AND/OR SUNDAY GAMES FOR SOME AGE GROUPS
- DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*** **ALL TEAMS ARE GUARANTEED 8 GAMES DURING THE SEASON (INCLUDING PLAY OFFS) *****

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. Please make sure that YOU set up your league rosters and make sure they reflect the players that will be playing in the league.

Step 1: Edit league roster on Got Sport. Please make sure you ADD JERSEY NUMBERS on the official roster as they will be needed for pre-game check in. For any questions or help please visit the Coaches Resources page on the website eppremierleague.com or contact us at registrar@eppremierleague.com

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.

Step 3: Once you have set up your league roster you can check which players have been approved by looking at your virtual cards and/or your Roster PDF

- Access this under the “Documents and IDs” tab within the event roster.
- For help on accessing virtual cards and/or Roster PDF please visit the Coaches Resources page on the website eppremierleague.com or contact us at registrar@eppremierleague.com

Step 4: (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

**** Club Pass Player MUST be added by EPPL Staff. If you add a player to you roster that is meant to be Club Pass, we will delete them and they will not be able to play.**

UPDATE FOR SPRING 2023: To ensure there are no issues regarding rosters later on in the season and that every eligible player is allowed to play each weekend we will be “freezing” rosters after week 3. After week three 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.

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.
 - A player may only play in his age group as his 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 eppremierleague.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 eppremierleague.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 ANOTHER PLAYER, EVEN IF SLIDETACKLE IS CONTESTING THE BALL

- SLIDETACKLING MAY BE ALLOWED IF THERE ARE NO OTHER PLAYERS AROUND I.E. TO SAVE A BALL FROM GOING OUT OF BOUNDS.

- **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.

- - **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.
- **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@epremierleague.com