



# Heartland Premier League Rules

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# **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

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## **1.1 NAME OF THE LEAGUE**

The league shall be named The Heartland Premier League. Every premier team from the Heartland Soccer Association will participate in the Heartland Premier League. Recreational teams will participate in the Heartland Soccer League.

KPSL is the top tier premier league at Heartland Soccer, which include ages U11 to U18/19 in Divisions 1 through 3.

Historically, these divisions have been designated as the KPSL Champions League and A-League. All Teams seeking to qualify for State Cup and Jr. State Cup through USYSA are required to register to play in the KPSL divisions and required to register all players through USYSA, which includes KSYSA and MYSA.

## **1.2 MISSION**

To ensure the best possible competitive play between the equally matched teams to aid in the development of the Kansas City area premier soccer teams.

## **1.3 MANAGEMENT OF THE LEAGUE**

The League shall be managed and operated by the staff of Heartland Soccer Association.

## **1.4 AFFILIATION**

The Heartland Premier League is affiliated with the Member clubs of Heartland Soccer Association, a member of the Kansas State Soccer Association.

## **1.5 CONTACT INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

All members of the Heartland Premier League shall have contact information on file with the Heartland Soccer Association. Contact information must include team administration and coach information. The information must include valid e-mail addresses for each party.

## **1.6 LEAGUE OFFICE**

The league office is located at 9161 W 133<sup>rd</sup> St. Overland Park KS 66213  
Phone: 913.888.8768

## **1.7 LEAGUE WEBSITE**

The league website can be found at <https://www.heartlandsoccer.net>

## **1.8 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR**

The HSA staff and board shall have the final authority in all matters not specifically provided for by these rules and policies.

## **SECTION 2: TEAM APPLICATION & ADMISSION**

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### **2.1 TEAM AND COACH ELIGIBILITY**

All teams affiliated with US Youth Soccer are eligible to apply for registration into the Heartland Premier League. All player and team registration shall be in accordance with the current US Soccer and KSYSA regulations unless otherwise specified.

HSA reserves the right to refuse admittance or acceptance into any HSA event, including the Heartland league, tournament and/or any other event upon notice of bad standing and/or suspension from all US Soccer youth sanctioning bodies: USYSA, US Club Soccer, AYSO, USSSA and SAY soccer.

All premier and recreational coaches must have a minimum of a USSF 'F' license, or a grassroots license to coach teams in the Heartland League. All coaches must pass a background check prior to being eligible to coach in the Heartland League.

### **2.2 REGISTERING PLAYERS AND TEAMS WITH US SOCCER**

Each club or team is responsible for registering their teams with US Soccer and for obtaining the US Soccer Registration Forms from their designated Registrar or from the Heartland Premier League or KSYSA websites.

### **2.3 LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

The Heartland Premier League will offer competition for Boys and Girls teams from U9s through U19s. High School aged girl's teams will play in the fall season and high school aged boy's teams will play in the spring season.

### **2.4 GOOD STANDING**

Each participating team must be in "good standing" with the league and with US Soccer.

### **2.5 APPLICATION DEADLINES**

All applications to participate in the Heartland Premier League must be received along with full payment on or before the registration deadlines established by the Heartland Premier League and the Heartland member clubs.

### **2.6 APPLICATION PROCESS**

All teams must register directly by submitting an on-line registration form on the Heartland website.

### **2.7 ACCEPTANCE & PLACEMENT OF TEAMS**

Decisions concerning a team's admittance into the Heartland premier League will be as objective as possible. The decision will be based on facts such as previous league records, state cup records and tournament records. If all else is equal, then a subjective point of view will be considered.

## **2.8 SEEDING PROCEDURE**

The Heartland Premier League Seeding Committee will pre-seed all teams and provide up to 1 week for coach's challenges to the seeding presented. Once the final seeding is posted, there will be no changes.

## **2.9 ACCEPTANCE OF THE HEARTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE RULES**

All teams applying to participate in the Heartland Premier League agrees to accept and abide to the Heartland premier League rules and policies and any decisions made by the league administrators. Lack of knowledge of these Heartland Premier League rules will not relieve any coach, team official, parent or player of a team participating in the league or seeking entry into the league, from the responsibilities and possible penalties herein. All clubs, team officials, parents, and players participating in the Heartland Premier League agree that they are bound by these rules.

## **2.10 LEAGUE FEES**

All league fees will be due by the announced due date for all divisions. If fees are not paid by the announced due date, the offending team/club may not be eligible to play in the league and may forfeit all games until all fees are paid in full, unless arrangements have been made and approved by the Heartland Premier League.

Once accepted the application fee is non-refundable.

Any team dropping out of the league will not be reimbursed for games missed nor will they be allowed back the following season.

## **2.11 RETURNED CHECKS**

The Heartland Premier League shall charge a \$100 service fee for all returned checks.

## **SECTION 3: TEAM ROSTER & FORMATS**

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### **3.1 TEAM ROSTER**

An official State roster must be sent to the league office prior to the team's first game of the season. Failure to provide the roster prior to the first game will result in an automatic forfeit of the matches until the roster has been completed unless the delay was caused or has been excused by the League. Any time a roster is changed during the season a new State Roster must be submitted to the league office. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit.

All teams are responsible for adhering to the roster requirements that are in place within their respective state. Punishment for not adhering to team registration policy will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and could lead to game forfeits or refusal of acceptance.

Any player that is double rostered must be listed with a Primary and Secondary status next to their name when the rosters are submitted to the office, prior to the Fall season.

Seeding is not done based on double rostered players but there is a strict 2 division rule in place, so please be aware of that before rostering your players.

Under Missouri Youth Soccer (MYSAs) sanctioning agreement and guidelines, ALL Missouri based teams (all ages and divisions) registering for the league season must be registered through MYSA. This includes teams not planning on participating in the State Cup. A Missouri based team is a team where 51% or more of their players are domiciled in Missouri.

### **3.2 ROSTER SIZE & GAME DAY ROSTER**

The roster size is determined by the team's home state. Each team must submit a "gameday roster" to the referee prior to each game.

The League will adhere to the following maximum "game-day" roster limits:

7v7 Game day	14 Players	(KS 12, MO 14)
9v9 Game day	18 Players	(KS 16, MO 18)
11v11 Game day	18 Players	(KS 22, MO 22)

*The purpose of this rule is to allow teams to have the ability to have the same number of players on game days. (For example, Missouri Youth Soccer currently allows 18 players on their official State roster for U11s and U12s while Kansas only allows 16). Teams may not add players to their official State roster to make-up our maximum "game day" roster limits, but they will now have the option of adding "guest players". In divisions (usually U13-U19s) where State Associations allow more than 18 players to be rostered on a team, only 18 players may be dressed for a Heartland Premier League game.*

### **3.3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility of players shall be in accordance with US Soccer and KSYSA regulations, unless otherwise specified and approved by the League.



### **3.4 GUEST, MULTIPLE ROSTER PLAYERS & CLUB PASSES**

A maximum of three guest players are allowed per team per game, except for U15 Divisions. Those divisions will have a 5-guest player limit during their gender specific high school seasons. Boys will have a 5-player limit in the Fall only and girls in the Spring only. Teams may not exceed the maximum number of players allowed on the game day roster by adding guest players. Players may only play for one team within a subdivision, i.e., they may not dual roster or guest play with another team in the same sub division. Players may guest play or dual roster “up”, but not “down” within their age group. For example, a U14 Division 2 primary rostered player may guest play with a Division 1 team, but not with a Division 3 team. That player may NOT play in any division lower than Division 2 in his/her own age group. A player primary rostered to a team that is older than his/her actual age group may guest or dual roster with a team playing in highest division of his/her actual age group. For example, an actual U14 player who is primary rostered to a U15 team may play as a guest or dual roster player with a U14 Division 1 team. Once a player has played a game for their primary roster team, they are not permitted to change their primary status and play for a lower division team within the league for that season. They are also not permitted to play for a second team within that division during that season.

Players can only double roster or guest play up to 2 divisions within an age group. E.G. A U10 D4 primary rostered player, can only guest play or be secondary rostered to a U10 D2 team and no higher. Players can guest play or be secondary rostered up to the next age group without limitations. Club pass rules for 11v11 teams will mirror the double roster/guest player rules. There will be no club pass rosters accepted by the league for 9v9 and below. The teams (11v11) using the club pass system must submit all rosters with the players being used on multiple teams, clearly marked as to which is their primary and secondary team. For all club pass teams, the team must carry a laminated, league approved roster to coincide with their player pass cards to each game clearly indicating the name of each player designated to that team for HSA league play. All guest player forms must be taken to the game and submitted to the referee. Failure to do so will result in the player being excluded from the game and possibly a forfeit.

Rosters containing the same player that are using different registration platforms must be clearly marked as to which team is the player’s primary and secondary team. For example, if the player is playing on a USYSA roster and a USSSA roster.

### **3.5 PLAYER & COACHES PASSES**

To participate in the League, each player and coach must have a valid (laminated and signed by an official of their home state) US Youth Soccer player pass. The player & coaches passes must be brought to every game along with the game day roster. The match officials will check-in the teams prior to kick off. Should a team not have the player/coaches passes available prior to the game, they will have until the end of the half-time period to produce them. Teams not able to produce the passes at that time will forfeit the match.

### **3.6 AGE DIVISIONS**

Age limitations shall be in accordance with US Soccer regulations except as modified by the Heartland Premier League. Proof-of-birth shall be provided upon request.

### **3.7 PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS**

Players may not play on more than one team (as a guest player or registered player) in the same sub-division. See rule 3.4 above for more details on playing on multiple teams.

### **3.8 PLAYER TRANSFERS**

Players registered to a team are bound to that team for the entire seasonal year unless he/she requests and is granted a transfer/release. All additions and deletions of registered players to the official State roster at any time during the year will be deemed as transfers. A team may add an unregistered player to their roster at any time. A transferred player will not be eligible to play on a team in their original division or a division lower for that season.

### **3.9 FORMATS**

U9-U10 teams will play 7v7 with 3 referees scheduled per game.

U11-12 teams will play 9v9 utilizing the 3-man referee system.

U13 and above teams will play 11v11 with a 3-man referee crew.

### **3.10 PROMOTION/RELEGATION**

All promotions and relegations are done at the discretion of the seeding committee. There is no automatic promotion or relegation format.

## **SECTION 4: OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

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### **4.1 REPORTING OF SCORES**

Referees will submit the game cards with the match result. On completion of the game, the referee and ARs will verify the score and sign the game card. Coaches do not need to sign the game card, post-game. Coaches may e-mail us with an “incorrect score”. Link can be found on our website.

### **4.2 GAME DAY ROSTER CARDS**

Both teams must complete a game day roster form and provide it to the referee prior to each game. Game day roster forms will be included in the coach’s packets. Please refer to rule 3.04 for more information on game day rosters.

### **4.3 WEATHER HOTLINE**

Every reasonable effort will be made to play all games. However, in cases of inclement weather updates will be available on the Heartland League website and by calling the hotline number 913-307-3684.

### **4.4 SCHEDULE REQUESTS**

All scheduling requests must accompany the team registration. We will attempt to schedule around all requests provided on the registration form. Requests made after submitting the registration form is subject to our re-scheduling policies.

### **4.5 RESCHEDULING POLICY**

Please note as of fall 2019 there is now a \$50 charge for a reschedule. The team requesting the reschedule is eligible for paying the fee.

The only exception to the reschedule fee is if, by chance, you request a day off and our schedulers make a mistake and schedule you for a game. There is no cost for the reschedule correction. Weather related cancellations will be automatically rescheduled to the ‘rainout weekend’ which is designated for all weather related (as well as unplayable or unavailable fields) reschedules. There are no fees for these reschedules. You can’t request the ‘rainout weekend’ off for conflict dates. If your game is rescheduled to the ‘rainout weekend’ and you wish to reschedule it, the fee will apply. There are no exceptions so, as a courtesy, please do not ask the staff.

1. You must first contact the opposing team manager and/or coach.
2. Both coaches will need to agree on an available re-schedule date that suit both teams. Do not send in online form until both teams agree on a date.
3. Once you have agreed on a date, BOTH teams must fill out the on-line reschedule form and submit it. BOTH teams must agree on a date before sending in the reschedule form.
4. Upon receiving the re-schedule request, Heartland will confirm the request with both teams by e-mail, giving them the date, time and field.
5. The game will then be posted on our website with the new information.

6. If the opposition will not agree to the reschedule, the game will be played on the original date and location or it will be regarded as a forfeit.

### ***RE-SCHEDULE POLICY***

- We have a flexible re-scheduling policy and will work with teams to the utmost of our abilities.
- A valid reason must be provided for a re-schedule. Re-scheduling games causes issues/concerns for both teams, managers and families. Abusing this system will create an adjustment to our flexible re-scheduling policy. Valid reasons would include participating in a new tournament, shortage of players due to ACT tests etc. Missing a coach or key player would NOT be considered a valid reason!
- Any changes that need to be made during the season must be received a minimum of 10 days prior to the original game date. Games will not be rescheduled if the request is received less than 10 days prior to the scheduled game date. No Exceptions!
- Note, requests may only be submitted by the team manager and coach. Both teams must submit the requests at least 10 days before the originally scheduled game.

## **4.6 FORFEITS**

Forfeits shall be recorded with a score of 3-0. In the case of a double forfeit, both teams will record a 0-3 loss to their records.

The minimum number of players that must be on the field to avoid forfeit are:

11v11	Minimum of 7 players
9v9	Minimum of 5 players
7v7	Minimum of 4 players

## **4.7 RAIN-OUTS AND FORFEITED GAMES**

All weather cancelled games will be rescheduled to the rain out weekend at the end of the season. Teams have the option to reschedule away from the rain out weekend if time permits. Should any team be unavailable to play on the rain out weekend and have not rescheduled the game, that team will forfeit said game. There is no option to request the rainout weekend as a conflict date.

Teams that cannot make a scheduled game must notify both the opponent and our office. Team contacts are located on the website. If contacting our office after hours, send an email to [info@heartlandsoccer.net](mailto:info@heartlandsoccer.net). If a team fails to notify their opponent and they show up for the game, you will be charged a \$100 no-show fee.

## **SECTION 5: RULES OF PLAY**

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### **5.1 THE BALL**

U12 and younger divisions will use a size 4 ball. U13 and older divisions will use a size 5 ball. The home team (listed first in the schedule) shall provide the match ball.

### **5.2 PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

The jersey of all players, except for the goalkeeper must contain a visible number, unique from the other members of the same team. No jewelry may be worn. Hard casts must be covered and be deemed safe for opposing players by the match officials.

Shin guards are mandatory for all players.

In case of a color conflict, the home team (listed first in the schedule) shall change colors.

### **5.3 DURATION OF THE GAME**

Under-9 and Under-10    2 x 25-minute halves

Under-11 and Under-12   2 x 30-minute halves

Under-13 and Under-14   2 x 35-minute halves

Under-15 and Under-16   2 x 40-minute halves

Under-17, 18 and 19     2 x 40-minute halves

All games are considered final if at least half the game is completed. If the game is stopped prior to half time due to weather conditions, the complete game will be replayed.

### **5.4 SUBSTITUTION**

Except as noted, substitutions shall be “unlimited”. The team in possession may substitute at any time after any dead ball situation (corner kicks, free-kicks, throw-ins etc.) However, teams not in possession of the ball can only substitute after these situations provided that the team in possession is also substituting. Free substituting is allowed for both teams after goals, goal kicks and at half time.

The substitutes must be at the centerline ready to enter before the referee will allow the substitution to take place.

The referee has the authority not to allow the substitution if he/she believes that the procedure will stop the flow of the game or is being used as tactical time-wasting play.

It is suggested (but not mandatory) that all substitutes in the U13 and above age groups wear a different color shirt or pinney when not on the field of play.

### **5.5 POINT SYSTEM**

Each team will be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

## **5.6 TIE-BREAKERS**

If at the end of the league season a tie breaker is needed the following criteria will be utilized:

Head to head (not used if more than two teams are involved in the tie)

- A. Goal difference (i.e. goals scored minus goals allowed)
- B. Most goals scored
- C. Most shut-outs
- D. Fewest goals allowed
- E. Sudden death Penalty Kicks

## **5.7 DELAY OF KICK OFF**

If a game is delayed due to the tardiness of a team, players, coach or manager, a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes of "grace" time shall be awarded. After fifteen (15) minutes if the team is still not able to start the game, it shall be declared a forfeit. The grace period might be adapted if the team that is late has a valid reason. See rule 4.6 above for minimum number of players necessary to start a game.

## **5.8 PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS**

Players and coaches will set up on the opposite side of the field from all spectators. This will be mandatory at all HSA locations.

## **5.9 HEADING RESTRICTIONS AT U11**

Per US soccer recommendations there will be no deliberate heading at U11 and below.

*When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.*

## **SECTION 6: 7v7 RULES**

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### **6.1 FIELD DIMENSIONS**

The maximum field length will be 50 yds and the minimum length will be 30 yds.  
The penalty spot will be 8 yds from the goal line.

### **6.2 FOULS**

Players must retreat 8 yds from any dead ball situations.

## **SECTION 7: DISCIPLINE & CODE OF CONDUCT**

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### **7.1 RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

All coaches and other team officials shall be subject to all rules pertaining to misconduct. Any other individuals who may be reasonably construed as being associated with a team shall be subject to the jurisdiction and authority of The League. Any coach or team official can be held responsible for any individual associated to their team at any match.

### **7.2 PROFANITY**

Profanity and unsporting conduct by any individual will not be tolerated either on or off the field.

### **7.3 COMPENSATION**

No player shall receive any compensation for services rendered to a team or receive any promises of compensation.

### **7.4 SMOKING & ALCOHOL**

There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or smoking in the soccer parks.

### **7.5 REFEREE AUTHORITY**

The referee(s) are in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time they arrive at the game site until they depart. The referee(s) is empowered to:

- i. Rule on what equipment is considered playable
- ii. Issue Yellow or Red cards to players and coaches during that entire period

The referee may terminate a game for coach, players, or spectator misconduct. Teams causing the termination will forfeit the game. Referees will show red cards to coaches during league games.

### **7.6 PARK RULES**

All Park rules where games are played shall be respected and obeyed.

### **7.7 RED CARDS & SUSPENSIONS**

To help team discipline and sportsmanship, players or coaches are subject to match suspensions according to the following:

- A. Any player or coach that is ejected from any league match due to striking, punching, hitting, kicking, spitting, or any action that reflects harmful intent shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) sanctioned games.
- B. Any player, coach or fan verbally abusing a referee during any league match as documented on the Referee's Report of the match shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two (2) sanctioned games.
- C. Any player receiving a red card or coach being ejected, in any league match other than the circumstances listed above shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of one (1) sanctioned game.



- D. The Heartland Premier league administrators shall have the right to add additional or reduce the number of matches in a suspension without a hearing. This could include but not be limited to any derogatory comments of a racial nature.

Players or coaches that are ejected from a game, for whatever reason, shall serve their suspension at the next sanctioned event(s) for that team.

Failure of a coach/player/team official to remain out of sight and out of sound after being ejected may result in a forfeit.

**Any coach that is ejected from a game this year is liable to sanctioning at the league and state level. They will be assessed a \$25 fine by HSA and a further \$75 fine by KSYSA, these must be paid before the coach has their card returned and is eligible to coach that team again. This is in addition to any game suspensions. Also, any coach receiving 3 ejections in one calendar year will not be eligible to coach within the HSA/KPSL premier league for the next season.**

Any player, coach, or manager, who participates in a match while under suspension, shall cause his or her team to forfeit that match and will be subject to additional penalty.

During a coach's suspension he/she must not be within sight nor sound of the game that they are suspended for.

An ejected coach will only be suspended from coaching the team that he/she was coaching when he/she was ejected.

Any parent that is ejected from a game must remain out of sight and sound of the field.

Failure to do so could lead to the referee terminating the game and resulting in a forfeit win for the opponent.

## **SECTION 8: PROTESTS**

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### **8.1 DEFINITION**

A protest is a formal written objection of any violation of established rules policies or procedure. Protests will only be accepted regarding illegal players, there will be no protests regarding referee decisions.

### **8.2 WHO CAN FILE A PROTEST**

Only a coach or team-administrator can file protests. Only those teams involved can file a protest. Third parties, i.e. coaches/administrators from other teams, cannot file a protest on a specific game.

### **8.3 FILING PROCEDURE**

A protest must be filed in writing with the league commissioner and must include:

- i. Details of the complaint
- ii. A listing of the players that are deemed to be illegal.
- iii. A statement of the desired resolution

All protests must be filed within 72 hours of the incident.

No protests will be heard on referee judgment calls.

### **8.4 DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

- A. All matters of concern to the HEARTLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION Disciplinary Committee must originate from the referee's game report or from a formal protest submitted in writing by the offended party.
- B. Any player, team official or spectator alleged to have been guilty of any violation of the laws of the game, the bylaws, rules and regulations of the association or any misconduct detrimental to the game, shall be subject to appropriate penalty as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- C. The HEARTLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the association Executive Director and a committee of three (3) people.
- D. The league administrators shall notify the player/coach of any penalty or suspension determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- E. The decision of the HEARTLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION Disciplinary Committee shall be promptly sent via U.S. Mail. Verbal notification may supplement but shall not supplant this responsibility.
- F. Any, club, team, or individual not wholly satisfied with any decisions made by HEARTLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION has the right to appeal to the Kansas Youth Soccer Association District I Appeals and Protests Committee. This appeal must be in writing and must be received by the District I Commissioner within ten (10) days of the decision handed down by the League. The appeal must be accompanied by a fee of \$75.00.