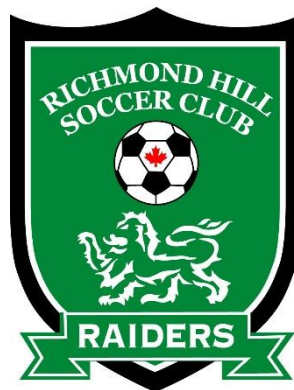


Richmond Hill Soccer Club

Outdoor Adult Leagues Rules & Regulations

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Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author(s)
January 17, 2025	1.0	Initial draft	Rules Committee
May 12, 2025	1.1	Removal of references to Men's Select	Rules Committee

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide all members with an understanding of how the Adult In-House League operations of the Richmond Hill Soccer Club (the Club) are conducted. In particular, it describes registration procedures and the playing rules that are used for the Division organized by the Club.

Members can refer to the Club Library of documents for further information on Club operations:

1. RHSC By-Laws
2. RHSC Policies and Procedures
3. House League Rules and Regulations
4. Competitive Team Policies and Procedures

A definition of terms used in any of our documents can be found in the Club Definitions document.



Club Definitions

Any member who has questions or concerns about the Club can submit an email to info@richmondhillsoccer.com.

2 Registration

Registration into the adult program is either team or individual player based, dependant on the tier level or the choice of the team.

2.1 Division Tiering

Within the Adult program there will be Tiers formed so that teams are playing against appropriately competitive opponents.

1. Teams will be tiered based on previous season performance and at the discretion of the Recreational Coordinator.

2.2 Team Registration

1. Teams may register as a team, or players may register individually and be placed on a team by the Club.
2. All teams must have a designated Team Contact who is responsible for registration, fees, communication with the Club and game management.
3. The Team Contact must attend any pre or post season meetings hosted by the Club.
4. Team Contacts must sign the RHSC Code of Conduct.
5. The Team Contact must enter the team into their League on the Club's online system by the Entry Deadline.
6. Teams must submit application to the Club by April 1st of the current season. Spots will not be held. Leagues may fill up prior to the application deadline.
7. Team registration does not guarantee Tier placement.
8. Teams entering after the deadline will be charged a late fee of \$100.00.

2.3 Team Withdrawals & Bond Refunds

Situation	Details	Refund Information
Refund request received up to and including March 31st.	Written notification is received up to and including March 31st.	Receive a refund less a \$75 administration fee.
Refund request received after the 31 st of March.	Written notification is received after the 31 st of March.	No refund or credit will be issued.
Team is removed from the Division by the Club.	A Team is removed from the Division by the Club due to discipline, breach of Club Policies.	No refund or credit will be issued.

2.4 Player Registration

1. All Players and Team Officials must be registered through the Richmond Hill Soccer Club (RHSC) League Management system. Players will then be further registered by the Club into the Ontario Soccer's (OS) computerized system. Players will be rostered to their respective teams in the League database by Club officials.
2. A Player must be registered twenty-four (24) hours prior to playing in any League game.
3. All players must have current photo ID to bring to every game, as described in section 3.8.

4. Teams must have a minimum of 9 players registered by April 30th of the current season.
5. Teams cannot roster new players if less than 2 games remain in the regular season.
6. may roster up to 20 players.
7. A Team found guilty of using an ineligible player shall forfeit the game to their opponent, with a 3-0 score being recorded, and may be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the Discipline Committee.
8. The Discipline Committee shall rule on all disputes with regard to player registration, and the Committee's decision will be final.

2.5 Player Withdrawals & Refunds

All requests to have a Player withdraw from a program must be made in writing clearly stating the Player's name, the age and Team currently registered with (if known) and the reason for the withdrawal. All requests must be emailed, mailed, or delivered to the Club. Withdrawal and refund requests will not be handled over the telephone.

Submission of a refund request does not guarantee a refund. Please allow four to six weeks for refund processing. Note that non-attendance does not constitute a notice of withdrawal.

Consideration for refund requests will be given according to the following guidelines:

Refund policy for all RHSC programs	Outcome
'Act of God': Program is unable to run for all or a portion due to events outside of the control of the Club.	The Club will assess the full program and financial impact prior to issuing response.
Written notification received up to four weeks before the start of the season or first program session. Season start for Outdoor: April 1 Season start for Indoor: November 1	Receive a refund less a \$50 administration fee from the fees paid to date.
Written notification received from four weeks before the start of the season or first program session.	Receive a refund less a \$75 administration fee from the fees paid to date.
Written notification is received up to 2 weeks after the start of the season or program session.	Receive a refund less a \$75 administration fee, PLUS a pro-rated deduction based on number of weeks into the program or season.
Written notification is received 2 weeks after the start of the season or program session.	No refund or credit will be issued.
A player cannot be accommodated due to divisions being full, insufficient enrolment in a program, or other reasons as determined by the Club.	A full refund will be made.
A player is removed from the program by the Club due to discipline, breach of Club Policies or other issues.	No refund or credit will be issued.
Written notification is received. A doctor's note must accompany the request for withdrawal for a refund to be considered.	A pro-rated refund of the club registration fee for any games remaining as of the date the refund request is received, accompanied by a doctor's note.
RHSC Account credit is unused, with no account activity after 2 years.	Credit note will expire after 2 years of account inactivity and the credit will be added to the RHSC Hardship fund.

3 Playing Rules

Unless stated otherwise in this document, standard FIFA rules are to be followed.

3.1 Referees

1. All participants must respect the Referee.
2. The Referee's decision is final.
3. The Club will not tolerate the abuse of any Game Official, for any reason.
4. The Club will do its best to assign referees to all games, pending referee availability.
5. Each Coach/Team Representative must sign the Game Sheet prior to the start of the game.
6. Other Adult Leagues: Referees are paid by the Club.
7. In the event that a Referee does not show up to officiate a game the game will be rescheduled.

3.2 Uniform

1. Players must wear their full uniform provided by their Team Contact. This includes the proper numbered shirt, shorts and socks. The Away team jersey must not clash with the Home team jersey colour. An alternate jersey must be available. Players not in the correct uniform will not be allowed to play.
2. Players must wear shin guards for the duration of all practices and games.
3. Shoes appropriate to the season and facility must be worn. E.g. outdoor cleats shoes. Under no circumstances are metal studs to be worn.
4. No jewellery of any kind can be worn except for medical ID bracelets.
5. No headwear may be worn except for the following cases:
 - a. The goalkeeper may wear a soft brimmed hat.
 - b. A headscarf can be worn on the field as long as it is not attached to the jersey and it does not pose any danger to the player wearing it or any other player on the field. It can only be worn by female players. The head scarf should match the colour of the uniform if possible.
 - c. Turbans / patkas / keski are permitted; however, the head covering must be safe and not pose a danger to the wearer or other participants.
 - d. It is the responsibility of the wearer to ensure the covering is safe.
6. Players are allowed to wear a soft cast made of soft lightweight padded materials as long as it does not present a danger to the individual or any other player. The referee will make the final decision as to the acceptability of any cast.
7. Ontario Soccer has stipulated that players can wear an insulin pump on the field as long as the player has a medical note stating the necessity for it and it does not present a danger to the individual or any other player.

3.3 Ball Size

Each Home Team is responsible for providing a size 5 game ball.

3.4 Number of Players

1. A maximum players allowed on the field during the game:
 - a. 11 vs 11: eleven, one of whom must be the goalkeeper
 - b. 7 vs 7: seven, one of whom must be the goalkeeper

2. A maximum number of players can dress for the game as follows:
 - a. 11 vs 11: 20 players
 - b. 7 vs 7: 16 players

3.5 Location of Players, Team Officials & Spectators

Spectators are to remain on the opposite side of the field from the technical area of Coach/Team Representatives and Players. Nobody is allowed to stand behind either goal line.

3.6 Game Duration

The duration of games is as follows:

1. 11 vs 11 games: 2 X 45 minute halves,
2. 7 vs 7 games: 2 X 35 minute halves.

Playoff games may be shortened when multiple games are played within one weekend.

3.7 Fair Playing Time

In recreational divisions, Coaches/Team Representatives must make every effort to ensure each player receives a fair amount of play in every game. Exceptions to this rule include situations where a player becomes injured or ill during a game or is removed for discipline.

3.8 Player Identification

1. If requested, all Coach/Team Representatives must produce the current photo ID before they are eligible to play in each game. Valid forms of ID include Driver's License, Student Card, Passport, Ontario Identification Card. The ID cannot be expired and must be present – copies or images of ID are not acceptable. Social media profiles are not acceptable.
2. One representative of each team has the right to inspect the opposing team's identification against the opposing team's game sheet, with the supervision of the referee. It is not the responsibility of the referee to inspect the ID.
3. Teams may inspect opponents' identification before commencement of the game or during half time up until the end of the half time break.
4. Players arriving after half time must show their ID to be allowed to play.
5. No additional names may be added to the game sheet that is generated by the Club's online system. Only players whose names appear on the game sheet may take part in the game.
6. It shall be the responsibility of the Coach/Team Representative to notify the Referee of any discrepancy. The Referee shall record such comments in his report to the league and shall have the player against whom the complaint is lodged sign the back of the team sheet. The game may continue, if both teams are in agreement. The team with the accused player will be contacted for discipline following the Club's receipt of the referee report.
7. Save for provision of proof to the contrary, a player whose name appears on the game sheet shall be deemed to have played. Players who do not play in the specific game must have their name removed from the game sheet before the end of the half time period.
8. Playing an ineligible player will result in forfeiture of the game.

3.9 Substitutions

1. Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage in play upon notification of the referee.
2. There is no limit to the number of substitutions a team may make.
3. An injured player may be substituted. Other players cannot be substituted at the same time.

4. Referees must be made aware of substitutions otherwise a caution (yellow card) may be issued to the offending players.
5. All substitutions will be at the referee's discretion.

3.10 Grace Period

1. A grace period of fifteen minutes will be allowed in the event that a team has less than the following players at the appointed kick-off time.
 - a. 11 vs 11: 7 players
 - b. 7 vs 7: 5 players
2. The defaulting team shall forfeit the game and the points will be awarded to the opposing team. The score shall be recorded as a 3-0 score in favour of the opposing team. Both teams are still responsible for paying the referees.
3. In the event that both teams have less than the minimum required players
 - a. No points will be awarded to either team.
 - b. The game will not be rescheduled.

3.11 Game Sheets

1. The Lead Referee will be responsible for providing the game sheet. No names may be added to the game sheet.
2. A complete game sheet is considered to include full name of each player, the shirt number, the game date, the game number, the kick off time and the location.
3. The Referee shall give each team a copy of the opposing team's game sheet prior to the beginning of the game if player card are being inspected.
4. The Referee shall sign the game sheet and ensure its completion and shall enter his remarks and observations as deemed necessary. He shall follow up with a prompt and detailed game/discipline Referee report as stipulated by the rules of OS.
5. Up to twenty (11vs11) or sixteen (7vs7) players shall be listed on the game sheet and dressed for the game. Players not playing must be stricken off the game sheet. Team officials who are not players must be listed on the game sheet.
6. Only designated team officials and players listed on the game sheet shall be permitted to sit on the bench.

3.12 Standings

1. Standings will be kept for all leagues.
2. Determination of League Winners:
 - a. Each team will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss.
 - b. At the end of the regular season the league winner shall be the team with the most points.
 - c. If the teams are tied on points, the following shall be used to determine the winner (in descending order only):
 - i. Team with most points from head to head play.
 - ii. Team with the best goal differential.
 - iii. In the event that teams are still tied, FIFA kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine a winner at a time and location to be determined by the League Committee.

- iv. In the event that a shootout cannot be arranged, positions will be decided by a coin toss or draw.

3.13 Playoff Tiebreaker

1. During all playoff rounds, in the event that teams are tied after regulation time, FIFA kicks from the penalty mark will be used to determine a winner.
2. If FIFA kicks cannot be completed due to weather or facility issues, they will be rescheduled by the Club.

3.14 Game Reporting

1. It is the responsibility of the Referee to submit game results, reports, cautions and dismissals within 48 hours in the Club's online system.
2. Team Officials should report if a referee was not present at their game.
3. Games where referees do not show will be rescheduled.

3.15 Game Cancellations

1. All games will be played as scheduled unless:
 - a. The fields have been closed by the City of Richmond Hill.
 - b. The Referee calls the game due to weather, discipline or unforeseen circumstances.
2. If games are cancelled and when possible, the Club will send an email to affected Coaches/Team Representatives or post a message on the Club's website by 4:30 pm on weekdays. In the event that no posting is on the website, all players are asked to attend the game.
3. Weekend games will be left to the discretion of the referee as they are played outside of regular office hours.
4. Games cancelled when the first half has been played will be considered final and will not be rescheduled.
5. Games cancelled due to field closures or inclement weather will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Club.
6. Games cancelled at the field by the Referee must be reported to the Club by the Referee within 48 hours in order to be considered for rescheduling.

3.16 Game Rescheduling

1. Team Coaches/Representatives may request to reschedule a game with 48 hours written notice.
2. The Club reserves the right to deny the request for rescheduling if the request is deemed frivolous or if the game in question is too close to the end of the season.
3. In all cases of a reschedule, the Club will provide a suggested replay date and time that is subject to the approval of both teams. Failure to respond by the deadline in the notification email will be taken as acceptance of the offered date.

3.17 Severe Weather Policy

Thunder & Lightning Policy

In the event of thunderstorms, the following safety rule applies:

"If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning."

- Upon hearing thunder, all players, officials, and spectators must immediately vacate the field and seek shelter in a safe location.

- Programs are not to be restarted under any circumstances once suspended for thunder or lightning.
- This is in alignment with the Canada Soccer Severe Weather Policy.

Extreme Heat

- During games played when the humidex exceeds 30°C, referees must allow for ample water breaks and substitutions to ensure player safety.
- Programs will be rescheduled if the forecasted Humidex exceeds 40°C at the program's scheduled start time.

Air Quality

Air Quality will be assessed based on the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) at 4:30 PM on weekdays.

Adult Programs (U19+):

- Programs will be rescheduled if the AQHI is 8 or higher at 4:30 PM.
- On weekends, the decision to play will be made on-site by the Referee.

Final Notes

Participation in our programs is voluntary, and individuals are encouraged to use their own discretion in determining whether to take part. Each person is responsible for assessing their own health, comfort, and safety before participating.

The Club reserves the right to make final decisions regarding cancellations or rescheduling for any reason affecting safety or logistics. All participants are expected to respect and follow the instructions provided by Club officials and referees regarding weather-related decisions.

4 Code of Conduct

1. All participants agree to abide by the Code of Conduct contained in the RHSC Policies and



Outdoor Adult
Rules and Regs v1.1
Procedure s v2.1, November 12, 2024.

5 Discipline

The RHSC follows Ontario Soccer guidelines for misconduct offenses. Most discipline can be handled by Discipline by Review (DBR). In a DBR case, the RHSC's discipline panel will review the infraction and mete out discipline. In more complicated or serious cases the panel will call involved parties in for Discipline by Hearing (DBH).

1. A Discipline Panel is in place to adjudicate league misconduct and infractions. The Panel consists of a chairperson and 2 committee members.
2. In all cases of alleged physical assault on a Game Official, by a Player or Team Official, he/she shall be suspended immediately until the case has been dealt with by the Discipline Panel.
3. A Player who receives a red card must leave the field immediately. All Players receiving a red card will automatically receive a one game suspension, unless the card is appealed and reviewed by the Panel. Player may receive further disciplinary action in line with their offence.
4. A player may appeal a red card within 48 hours of the game.
5. Players may be subject to game suspensions for accumulated cautions.
6. All suspensions will appear on the game sheets for impacted games.
7. Any Team Official ejected from a game must attend a hearing by the Discipline Panel. Notification of hearings is made by email or telephone.
8. Every Team is responsible to the League for the actions of its Players, Team Officials and Spectators and is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent spectators from abusing, threatening, or assaulting Game Officials, Club Officials and Players.
9. Anyone found guilty and subsequently penalized by the Discipline Panel, has the right to appeal the decision to the appropriate Panel of the York Region Soccer Association in accordance with their Policies and Procedures on Appeals.
10. Any Player, Coach or individual under suspension as a result of disciplinary action, shall not be allowed to participate in any soccer games until the suspension has been served.
11. Anyone subject to a Discipline by Hearing must attend in person.

5.1 Request for Appeal of Discipline by Review

Within 48 hours of receiving a decision a player can request an appeal of decision by review. Upon requesting an appeal, a \$75 fee must be paid. The appeal fee will be waived if relevant video evidence is provided.