

SCHEDULING

Participation Forms, Team Fees, Field Information Forms, and Player Registration Fees are due to the BRSL office in July (Fall) and Feb. (Spring). Due dates will be posted on website, Timeline, and Club Reps will be notified at BRSL meetings. Game schedules for BRSL teams will be distributed in August (Fall) and March (Spring).

A. FIELDS:

- Each Club (Member) is required to make available a home field for every five (5) teams playing in BRSL. The amount of times the field (s) must be made available for use depends on the number of teams playing on the field (s) and the age of the teams.
- It is desirable that Clubs be able to schedule at least two games on the same field or two games back to back on adjacent fields, on the same day, Saturday and/or Sunday.
- Fields must provide safe playing conditions.
- Each Member Club will be advised of the Field Requirements in conjunction with the Field Information Forms that are sent out prior to each season.

B. PLAY DATES and "No Play Dates":

- Normally, the Fall schedule of games will commence on the Saturday and Sunday following Labor Day. The Spring schedule will commence the third Saturday in March.
- Regular season games **WILL NOT** be scheduled on the following dates:
 1. Labor Day
 2. Columbus Day Weekend
 3. Thanksgiving Weekend
 4. Easter Weekend
 5. Memorial Day Weekend
- STATE CUP games will take precedence over league games. Intent to enter State Cup Must be included on the Participation Form.
- Team Requested "No Play Dates". Each team is allowed 2 no play dates in a season to provide more flexibility in playing more tournaments or not playing on a given weekend due to any activities, etc. One No Play Date represents one date not one weekend.

C. CANCELLATIONS

- Games may be cancelled for weather related conditions which result in field closure by the home club and when the referee declares the field unplayable due to field or weather conditions.
- Coaches or Managers MAY NOT arrange a cancellation of a game between teams.
- Failure to play a game as scheduled will result in a forfeit. Coaches or Managers cannot arrange forfeits with other coaches or managers.

D. PENALTIES FOR FORFEITS

- BRSL FORFEIT PENALTIES Exist to STRONGLY DISCOURAGE ARBITRARY and UNNECESSARY GAME CANCELLATIONS which keep the players from the field, to maintain order and fairness in the BRSL Division Standings, and to minimize reschedules.
- This Policy is NOT meant to be punitive to Clubs or Teams who make every effort to comply with BRSL Policy
- Games, which are cancelled for the aforementioned Legitimate Reasons, MUST be PLAYED as a RESCHEDULED Game within the same season.
- The Home Team Manager is responsible for initiating and coordinating the communication for the Reschedule with the Visiting Team Manager. It is the responsibility of the Home Team Manager to notify the BRSL Administrator in writing of the Rescheduled game Date/Time/Field that is replacing the Cancelled Game within 9 calendar days of the Originally Scheduled Game which was cancelled. Failure to notify the Administrator within 9 calendar days of the original game date could result in a forfeit for both teams AND the Administrator may reschedule the game at his/her will.
- If either or both of the Teams is unwilling or reluctant to reschedule a cancelled game, the unwilling or reluctant party as determined by the BRSL Administrator will be charged with a forfeit. If both parties are unwilling and/or reluctant to reschedule the game, BOTH teams will be charged with a forfeit.

- The BRSL Forfeit Policy assigns EQUAL WEIGHT to BRSL-Scheduled Division Games, BRSL-Scheduled Inter-Divisional Games, and BRSL-Scheduled Friendly Games, and all violations of this policy are applied equally to all cases.

A Team that forfeits a game due to failure to play is subject to the following Penalties:

Fines:

\$150.00 per FORFEIT. Teams declining to travel as scheduled must contact their opponent by 8:00pm Thursday prior to their scheduled match to allow the home team time to cancel referees. Away team can be charged full referee fee for notifying the home team after 8:00pm Thursday off their inability to play as scheduled.

**3rd Forfeit: (within same season) Suspension for the remainder of that seasonal year*

**The 3rd Forfeit will be considered as a Withdrawal from League Play and subject the Member Club to the \$200 League Withdrawal Penalty. (BRSL Policies & Procedures Section 9.1, Fees, C.)*

The BRSL Administrator will notify Club Representatives and the Team Managers of all fines by email. If there is a conflict concerning a fine, the Conduct Committee will rule on the conflict. Club must pay the fines. Failure to pay will result in Club not participating in BRSL competition the next season. Fines must be paid within 30 days from the date of the offense.

E. RESCHEDULES:**1. All teams are to play their games as scheduled unless:**

- Rainout, unsafe field, or referee postponements.
- State Cup **Must** be noted on the Participation Form .
- Mandatory School / Religious activities which results in a team being unable to field at least 11 players (U-13 - U-19). 8 players (U-11, U-12) or 6 players (U-9, U-10). **This schedule change request must be made fourteen (14) days in advance in writing to the BRSL Administrator.**
- The only time a reschedule for a tournament will be granted is for a tournament cancellation or if a team is not accepted to the tournament. Documentation is required and submitted to the scheduler. Tournaments applied for must be under published no play dates.
- Field Problems: In the event that a scheduled venue becomes unavailable.
- When no referees show for game and NO "Emergency Referees" can be found to allow the game to be played (See Section 11.3, Law 5 Referees in this Manual). When one referee shows - follow BRSL policy (Section 11.4, Law 5 Referees)
- Extraordinary situations may also create a justifiable reason for a reschedule request. These requests will be handled at the discretion of the League Administrator and/or the BRSL Executive Board. The team that makes the reschedule request will assume any financial obligations the League incurs as a result of this reschedule.

2. To reschedule a game follow the procedure published by the League Administrator/Scheduler at the beginning of each season.

3. Adherence - Because of the complexity of the BRSL schedule, adherence to these rules is necessary. Failure to comply with these rules will result in forfeiture and/or fines for the affected games.

F. RESCHEDULE PROCEDURE:

Automatic League Approval- Matches cancelled by the field coordinator (or a club official acting as the field coordinator) due to rain or other unplayable field conditions are automatically approved for reschedule. A reschedule request to the league for a rainout is not necessary. The home team's field coordinator needs to make their field closure decision by 9:00am on game day.

1. **The Home Team's Field Coordinator** (or designated club official) is responsible for notifying the assignor by 10:00am of matches cancelled due to weather or unplayable field conditions. The assignor needs to know the field(s) and time(s).
2. **The Home Team** is responsible for notifying the visiting team by 10:00am that the match is cancelled.
3. **The Home Team contacts the Visiting Team** about reschedule dates and then checks field availability with their club. The field link in your team's schedule provides a field schedule. Teams must honor the other team's no play dates. Team no play dates are published on BRSL's website (www.BlueRidgeSoccerLeague.org), click on the "Team Manager" menu.
4. **Within 9 calendar days of the cancelled match, the Home Team emails BRSL Administrator** (Administrator@BlueRidgeSoccerLeague.org):
 - (1) **the game number**
 - (2) **each team's name as it appears on the online schedule including gender**
 - (3) **the new game date, time and field.**

When BRSL's Administrator updates the online schedule, each team's contacts, the home team's field coordinator and assignor are notified via email of the reschedule information.