



George Best Castlereagh League Rules

CHILD SAFETY

1. The GBL upholds all child protection guidelines and rules as laid down by the I.F.A Child Protection.
2. All clubs/teams must and are expected to adhere to these rules.
3. The object of the GBL is first safety, second fun, third skill development and last competitiveness.
4. There are many other competitive leagues players can participate in if this is the objective.
5. Our paramount concern is for the safety and welfare of children participating in the league and as such red cards are issued for their protection.
6. Any Red Cards issued and all warnings causing a player to be substituted are to be reported to the GBL by the players respective Coach's at the same time of match scores. Failure to do so will be deemed a disciplinary matter.
7. Violent conduct constitutes an immediate Red Card and will implement Disciplinary Sanctions.
8. At any given game, 2 or more red cards issued to a team will mean the game be terminated immediately and the points or game awarded to the opposing team.
9. Shin guards are mandatory for all players at all practices and games. Shin guards will be worn inside the socks. Mouth guards are recommended, especially for players with orthodontic appliances or braces, but are not required. Jewellery (watches, necklaces, ear rings, etc.) is prohibited.
10. If a child cannot play without the use of foul language, he obviously cannot respect his opponents so please do not play him in your team.
11. If a player is found to have spat at another player he will be immediately banned from playing in any GBCYL competitions.
12. The GBL reserves the right to ban any team, player, coach, or spectator who does not participate in the true spirit of the league or by bringing the League into disrepute.

GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

Registration

Pre Season

1. Each club must submit to the League via online registration a list of players to be used and coaches in the ensuing season. Each players application must include a passport sized and styled photograph and all the content boxes must be completed. An Original Birth Certificate or Passport must be produced to support any registration at the following managers meeting.
2. Preseason registrations are open until 3rd Friday in August and are accepted on a non fee basis.

Post Season

1. Registration reopens 1st week September
2. Additional player online registration up to a maximum of 21 players per squad will only be accepted up until the third Friday in January, with no exceptions. After the initial preseason registration, should additional players or coaches be registered, there will be a charge of £2.50 per additional registration after the preseason window.
3. Where players are registered after the preseason window - managers must supply a copy of identity to the registrations officer registrations@georgebestleague.org visa registered post or email and be in receipt of his new registration card before a player can play.
4. If a player plays in a match without the updated registration card being exchanged, the team will be deducted the points and the player banned. It is the managers responsibility to ensure that the player has been verified and accepted before including in his line up.
5. Any GBL committee member can verify a players details if produced in their presence prior to posting or delivery of the said documentation to speed up provisional registration but the clearance

and issue of registration cards lies with the registration officer.

6. The Original Birth Certificate or Passport must still be produced to support any application at the following managers meeting.
7. Failure to produce either of these items will mean forfeiture of all games that the individual or individuals played. These individual or individuals will remain suspended until confirmation is shown and this only at another subsequent managers meeting.
8. Only players born on or before the 31st December (male or female) of the relevant year may play, no exceptions. Any club wishing to check the date may contact the GBL.
9. All clubs must exchange Player/Coach/Photographer ID cards before the commencement of each game, the checking of cards should be undertaken by team/GBL official only.
10. In the event that a complaint is lodged or presented to the GBL, only Official Complaints made through the teams official representative will be heard.
11. Permission for photographic records to be taken at any game must be gained from the opposing team by a club/team official and once permission has been given, only then by GBL, club or team assigned/designated photographers only.
12. Where photographs are to be taken to promote the GBL, this shall only be carried out by a GBL designated photographer.

Games

1. Each game will last 60 minutes and will consist of 2 x 30 minute periods with a 5 minute half time interval.
2. The home team is responsible for the provision of a size 4 Football for the game.
3. This ball will be as designated by the GBL.
4. Games will kick off at the times and venues that have been previously issued by the GBL unless decided differently; at monthly fixture issue or by mutual agreement by both teams involved and fixtures coordinator.
5. If any game is scheduled to kick off on a Saturday on a GBL designated pitch, then the game must kick off on time. Lateness will only create a roll on effect on later fixtures. If any team is not ready and on the pitch 15 minutes after their designated kick off time, then they are at risk of points forfeiture. Teams wishing to claim this decision must contact the League phone from the venue at the time and the GBL will make a decision on the outcome. Persistent late offenders shall be dealt with in accordance with Disciplinary Procedures.
6. In the event of abandoned game, normally the result will stand if 45 minutes at least have been played. The GBL Committee may subsequently decide that the game be replayed at a later date after deliberation of the reasoning of the initial abandonment.
7. Unless a Referee has been designated by the GBL the away team will be deemed responsible and refereeing shall only be undertaken by GBL designated coaches. Only Official Referees designated by the GBL will be due payment. This payment will be made prior to the game on the match day and be split between both teams.
8. Where any Team has to use an Official from their club to referee, this Official must be approved by the League, have his registration completed by the League and his subsequent League issued registration card must be shown at all games where he is officiating.
9. Illegal or improper throw-ins will be re-taken from the touchline by the same person of the same team. Since an objective of the GBL is to teach the game of football, Coach's and/or referees should/shall take the time to instruct the player taking the throw in on proper technique and where he went wrong previously.
10. Coach's may stand on either side of the pitch, however, spectators, subs and parents must stay on their own side of the pitch. A distance of 2 meters between themselves and the actual touchline should be maintained at all times by parents and spectators.
11. A coach/manager from a team has permission to stand on the line of the opposing team only if they have a registration card supplied by the league and that the card be visible to other coaches/managers. Cards will also be issued to a team for photographers which must also be visible if someone is taking photographs on behalf of the team and prior permission has been sought from the opposing team.
12. All clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their Coach's, players, spectators and parents. The

GBL will not tolerate any form of misbehavior including the use of foul language. All such incidents will be fully investigated by the GBL and the team punished in accordance the Disciplinary Procedures.

13. The GBL must be informed of all results within 60 minutes from the completion of the game. In all instances the team deemed to be the home team is responsible for doing this and no excuses will be accepted. This can be done either by phone text or by email 07761755500 / gbcyl@o2.co.uk
14. Any Red Card, final warning or serious incident must be reported to the league on the day that the game took place.
15. Violent conduct will warrant a straight Red card.
16. It will be the Referees judgment to advise a coach's if one or more of his players are on their final warning and the coach's decision whether or not to substitute any player to reduce the impact at any subsequent Disciplinary Proceedings.
17. All teams shall be awarded 3 points for a win and 1 point for a draw.
18. Pass back to the keeper is allowed.
19. In the event of bye balls, the keeper is allowed to restart the game by kicking the ball from his hands.
20. All teams will be responsible for the laying of a 'spectator line' whether this be with cones or rope 2 meters back from their side of the pitch. All spectators must remain behind this line and only coaches allowed in front of this but coaches will refrain from standing on the pitch.
21. In the event of any Cup game being tied after normal time, extra time of 5 minutes each way will played, then a penalty shoot out of 5 penalties, followed by a sudden death shoot out to determine the winner.

Meetings

GBL meetings shall take place on the last Friday of each Month except when otherwise decided by the GBL Committee. All clubs must have 1 representative in attendance at each meeting. Failure to do so shall be dealt with in accordance with Disciplinary Procedures.

Fees & Fines

1. All pitch fees and fines must be cleared at each monthly meeting otherwise clubs may not be allocated fixtures and/or pitches until payment is made.
2. Referees fees will be split equally between both teams and paid on the day directly to the referee.

Postponements

1. Any team wishing to have a free week on any particular Saturday must be inform the Fixtures Coordinator 5 weeks before the date otherwise the points will be awarded to the opposition unless the fixture is fulfilled.
2. Postponed games shall be re scheduled in conjunction with the Fixtures Coordinator. Where it is not possible to re schedule for a Saturday, mid week games are acceptable but suitable realistic traveling times should be programmed in for the traveling team.

Racism

The GBL will not under any circumstances accept any form of behavior which may be deemed as sectarian/racist or abusive. Any Club club/team found guilty of such behavior will be dealt with in accordance with Disciplinary Procedures.

GENERAL LEAGUE RULES DISAPLININARY

1. Non production of players ID cards

- Forfeiture of the points or game.
- Second offence Forfeiture of the points or game and £15.00 fine.
- In addition, the GBL may consider additional sanctions up to and including expulsion from the League for not abiding by these conditions.

2. Playing illegible player

- The GBL will consider all sanctions up to and including immediate expulsion from the League.
3. **Late Game start.**
 - Possible Points deduction and awarded to opponents.
 4. **Verbal abuse of an official.**
 - Points deduction.
 - In addition, the GBL may consider additional sanctions up to and including expulsion from the League.
 5. **Threatening behaviour to an Official whether player, coach or supporter.**
 - The GBL will consider all sanctions up to and including immediate expulsion from the League.
 6. **Absentee from Managers meeting**
 - £20.00 fine.
 7. **Match reports - Late or non report**
 - £20.00 fine.
 8. **Miss represented report (i.e.; non report of incident)**
 - Up to £50.00 fine.
 - In addition, the GBL may consider additional sanctions up to and including expulsion from the League depending upon the severity.
 9. **Spectator use of foul / unacceptable language.**
 - First offence £25 Fine.
 - Second offence £50 Fine plus forfeiture of points or game.
 - Third offence £100 Fine, forfeiture of points or game.
 - For all the above sub sections. the GBL reserves the right to consider all sanctions up to and including immediate expulsion from the League.
 - Non compliance will mean immediate forfeiture of all points or games.
 10. **Bringing the League into Disrepute**
 - The GBL will consider all sanctions up to and including immediate expulsion from the League.
 11. **Racist or Sectarianism abuse**
 - Immediate expulsion from the League.
 12. **Non payment of fines**
 - Immediate exclusion from GBL games.
 - In addition, the GBL may consider additional sanctions up to and including expulsion from the League.

REFEREEING POLICY

The "Laws of the game" shall be as published by F.I.F.A (www.fifa.com) with modifications for Youth play as stated herein or as adopted by the GBL.

The purpose of this policy is also to make clear that verbal abuse of referees is as unacceptable as verbal abuse is of players by players, coach's or spectators and to adopt basic standard sanctions for improper conduct. Foul language from anyone, player, club official or spectator is not acceptable and is treated as abuse.

1. The referees on the field of play are the sole judges of what actions or infractions are likely to cause injury. Their authority in this regard shall extend to players clothing, equipment or accessories (jewellery, splints or casts, untied shoelaces, etc...) that may cause injury to the player or to others. Referees have the authority to stop a player, even if it produces unfair advantage, to correct an unsafe condition.
2. Lack of skill and coordination in young players can lead to unintentional contact, sometimes resulting in injury. This type of contact may be penalised in order to impress upon players the importance of playing under control at all times. Players are responsible for avoiding this type of contact. Coach's are responsible for helping to enforce these rules.
3. Deliberate or flagrant contact fouls will always be punished in accordance with the general "Laws of the game".
4. The referee shall advise a coach/s when their player is on a final warning and it is the coach's choice to substitute before the issue of a Red Card. The exception to this rule will be a straight Red

for violent conduct.

5. It is never acceptable to abuse referees verbally or otherwise, in any situation. The GBL will not tolerate any verbal or other abuse or criticism of a referee by any player, coach or spectator. Abuse includes, but is not limited to, foul language, any verbal or non-verbal conduct which questions the referees authority, derides the referee or questions his/her judgment in making/not making calls during the game. Should such abuse occur, the incident will be reported immediately to the GBL who will implement Disciplinary Sanctions for Referee Abuse.
6. Any Official referee receiving or witnessing abuse whether verbal or otherwise will warn the relevant or both Teams Coach's when deemed necessary that if the abuse continues he will take the immediate appropriate action, up to and including Red Carding and directing the offender or offenders to leave the field of play, leave the immediate vicinity of the ground, suspend, or terminate the game.
7. Violent or even the threat of violent conduct of any kind will warrant a straight Red card!
8. Official Referees shall report any incident of referee abuse to the GBL within 24 hours of the incident or incidents and sanctions will be imposed immediately.
9. There are appropriate avenues for coaches or spectators to share concerns about the quality of officiating, the field of play is not one of them and is deemed a disciplinary matter.
10. Only a club official registered as a League Referee can step in and take the place of an Official Referee. When an Official Referee is in attendance he shall take precedence.
11. Where it is not possible for the GBL to provide an Official referee for any game, the away team shall be responsible for refereeing or arranging an official to referee the game. If the home team intends to offer the services of an official referee, they should contact the away team 3 days in advance to insure that the away team has not already arranged an official referee. Only an Official GBL League registered referee is entitled to a referee fee.
12. Where a team supplies a referee whose refereeing standards fall short of the expected level of refereeing and whose involvement constitutes foul play of any kind will also be deemed a disciplinary matter.
13. Referees are the only judge of what constitutes unfair advantage. The referee is allowed to ignore a foul if stoppage of the game would take advantage away from the fouled team. The referee may indicate the "play on" sign when this occurs and caution the offending player later, but is not obliged to do so. The "Laws of the game" are again explicit on this point.
14. During the game if a player becomes injured the referee may allow the teams first aid representative immediate access to the injured child and it is his decision whether to continue the game play/move whilst the player is attended to. If play/move is allowed to continue, on stoppage of the move/play, the referee will then evaluate the situation properly himself along with the team's first aid representative. The injured players first aid representative must await referees instruction before entering the field of play. Offside is probably the least understood law of soccer. A player in an offside position need not be penalised unless, in the opinion of the referee, he or she is interfering with the play of an opponent, or is seeking to gain an advantage by being in the offside position. Off Side is a judgement call and depends on whether or not the player has intentionally placed himself/herself in an unfair position of advantage.
15. The "Laws of the game" are intended to provide that the games are played with as little interference as possible. In this view, it is the duty of the referee to penalise only deliberate violations of the Laws. Constant stoppage of play for trifling or doubtful infractions spoils the flow of the game and confuses players, coaches and spectators.
16. Exception to this is to be taken when unsafe conditions are detected, or in the case of unintentional contact as explained previously. Referees are not obligated to explain decisions to the satisfaction of players, coaches or spectators. However, since an objective of the GBL is to teach the game of soccer, referees are encouraged to sufficiently explain to a player why he/she is being penalised to prevent repeat offences.
17. Cancellation of games due to inclement weather or pitch conditions shall be primarily at the discretion of the Referee or Council employed ground staff not a Team Coach.
18. Absolutely no play shall take place when lightening is seen. In the event of a cancellation due to inclement weather/unplayable pitch conditions, after consultation with the GBL Fixtures coordinator

and if no Saturday slots are available, coach's may re schedule catch-up games at their own discretion but the League may not be able to supply referees for these occasions. The GBL Fixtures coordinator should be made aware immediately of these games and at least 7 days before the game is to take place.

19. The GBL operates a roll on roll of substitute policy; there shall be no limit to the number of substitutes allowed during a game. Substitutions are permitted at the following times:
 - A stoppage in play.
 - At half time.
 - A substitute may not enter the field of play until signalled to do so by the referee.
 - Roll on roll of shall mean teams being able to utilise all their registered squad for a game, the re entry into a game of previously substituted players is allowed.
20. Foul language is not acceptable, the player/s will be warned in the presence of his/her/their coach, if the player/s is/are allowed to remain on the field of play and his/her/their foul language continues it will lead to the player/s being Red carded. Both these situations come under Disciplinary Sanctions and as such are to be reported immediately.