
HUNTSVILLE ADULT SOCCER LEAGUE

Policies and Procedures

May 2010



8408-A Whitesburg Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

(256) 881-3924

This document is updated on a periodic basis as rules, regulations, and operations change. HASL maintains a web site at www.hasl.org where you may review this document on-line, download an electronic version, or print a paper copy.

Recommended modifications should be made to the League Office at league-office@hasl.org or by calling the Soccer Shop at 881-3924.



**Federation Internationale
de Football Association**



**United States
Soccer Federation**



**United States
Amateur Soccer Association**



**Huntsville
Adult Soccer League**

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1.0 HASL Overview

The Huntsville Adult Soccer League (HASL) is a co-ed soccer league open to players 18 years of age and older. The League was founded in the spring of 1984 and plays two seasons per year consisting of ten matches each season. HASL is registered with the adult division of the Alabama Soccer Association (ASA). ASA is a member of the United States Amateur Soccer Association (USASA) which is a division of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

1.1 Board of Directors

The HASL Board of Directors is made up of a President and a Vice President. Voting rights on league issues extend to the President, Vice President and a representative from each team in the league.

1.1.1 President

Pete Needham

Shop: 881-3924

Home: 881-5641

E-mail: info@petessoccer.com

1.1.2 Vice President

Jacob Noffke

Cell: 479-9247

E-mail: league-office@hasl.org

1.2 Local Registrar

The Alabama Soccer Association (AASA) is based in Birmingham, Alabama. To help ensure a faster turnaround in the registration process, Huntsville has a local person who handles all adult division State registration forms and issues.

Jackie Noffke

Primary: 585-0296

2nd : 479-9247 (Jacob)

E-mail: jackie@southernsoccer.net

Address: 12002 Bell Mountain Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803

1.3 Match Scheduler

The HASL scheduler is responsible for the creation and coordination of the HASL schedule. The scheduler is also responsible for rescheduling of matches and will field scheduling requests. To contact the match scheduler please email scheduling@hasl.org

1.4 Player Rep

HASL keeps a player pool of individual players that want to play in the league but can't find a team. This list is distributed to the captains on a periodic basis. If you wish to join a team send an email to players@hasl.org with your name, age, desired division, and brief playing history.

1.5 Referee Representative

HASL has a dedicated referee representative that deals with all referee communication between the captains, league, and the referee association.

1.6 Referees

Match officials (referees) for league matches are USSF certified and contracted through the North Alabama Soccer Officials Association (NASOA). Per FIFA, the referee's decision on points of fact connected with play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned. Consult FIFA's Laws of the Game (www.fifa.com) if you have any questions concerning the Laws.

WARNING

Any physical or verbal abuse of the referees will not be tolerated and may result in league sanctions.

The referee has the authority to cancel a game for:

- Improper field markings
- Unanchored goals
- Field conditions
- Weather

2.0 League Rules

2.1 Team Eligibility

1. Teams may not have more than four active college players on its roster during any one season. An active college player is defined as any player who has played on a college team during the current year (August 1st through July 30th). Players who have used up their college playing eligibility are not considered an active college player.
2. Each team and all of its players must be registered with USSF. An official USSF roster and individual player passes are required at each USSF sanctioned match.
3. Each team must have an officially designated team representative and alternate.
4. Teams may make roster changes (drop/add players) not to exceed the maximum 25 players. After reaching the designated midpoint of the current season, teams may not drop players from the roster until the current season has been completed. Teams may continue to add new players to their roster not to exceed the maximum of 25 players per roster.

5. Misuse of the roster allows the league to deduct points from the overall standings and results in a (3-0) forfeiture of any games played with ineligible players.
6. Returning teams must produce a \$200 *non-refundable* deposit at the off-season league meeting to ensure their commitment towards playing the coming season. This amount will go towards the team's overall league fees. New teams have a one-week grace period to produce the \$200 deposit.
7. The balance of a team's league fees, including a \$75 performance bond in escrow, is due no later than two weeks before kick-off.
8. Returning teams must roster a minimum of 50% of the previous season's roster to be considered an existing team. If the new roster is under the 50% minimum, the team must drop out of the league and re-enter as a new team, if space is available. This rule may be waived at the league's discretion.

2.2 Player Eligibility

1. Each player must be at least 18 years of age during the current playing season.
2. Any outstanding debts owed by a player or team to HASL from a previous season must be paid before registration can be completed.
3. Players may not transfer from one HASL team to another after reaching the designated midpoint of the current HASL season.

2.3 Match Play

FIFA rules apply for all HASL matches. The following list contains HASL-specific rules over and above the standard FIFA rules. For questions concerning play, refer to FIFA's Laws of the Game (www.fifa.com).

1. Each home team (listed first on the schedule) is responsible for the game balls, field markings, nets and corner flags. The City of Huntsville Recreational Services (COHRS) marks the fields and secures the goals, but this does not release teams of the home team responsibilities ensuring that the fields are ready for play on time.
2. Every team has a ten-minute grace period to show up for a game. If a team does not show within this grace period, it will forfeit the game by a score of 3-0. At the referee's discretion, the referee may choose to allow the game to continue and deduct time from the game in order for the game to be completed in the designated time slot. The referee shall be required to notify the teams of any time adjustment prior to kickoff.
3. Per FIFA Law 4, team uniforms are required including shirts, shorts, socks, shin guards, and footwear. HASL requires that a number, contrasting with the jersey color, be visible on the back of each player's jersey with including the goal keeper.
4. Teams must submit a non-returnable copy of the team roster with jersey numbers to the referee crew prior to the start of the match.
5. Each team will have unlimited substitutions and re-entries. Substitutions may be made by either team at any stoppage in play at the referee's discretion. Regarding injury substitutions, refer to the FIFA's Laws of the Game.
6. Any game terminated for reasons beyond the control of the players and referee shall be replayed if less than 60 minutes of the game has been completed. If 60 minutes or

more of the game has been completed, the score at the time the game terminates will be considered final.

2.4 Send-Offs

All send-offs (red cards) are tracked by HASL and USSF. Outstanding sanctions at the end of one season carry over to the following season. Two send-offs within the same season or one during the last half of one season and the other during the following season requires an automatic two game suspension. Three send-offs within this time span requires a ten-game suspension. Any incident in any league match may be reviewed by the league office for further punitive action.

BE AWARE

Any player sent off for violent conduct automatically receives an additional red card and sanction from the league.

2.5 Match Terminations

Each team is responsible for the actions of its players, managers, and fans. Any team or associated members causing termination of a league match by the referee shall receive no points for the terminated game and may have points deducted from the overall standings. Three points toward the league standings may be awarded to the opposing team for the termination. Any further misconduct may result in expulsion from the league.

2.6 Over 35 Division Rules and Exceptions

At the league's discretion an Over-35 division can be created which will follow the rules outlined below. If not explicitly mentioned in this section, the Over-35 division will follow the other rules and procedures for HASL outlined in this document. The league may choose to disband or reform the division in the future based on the current demand.

2.6.1 Player Eligibility

1. Each male player must be at least 35 years of age during the current season.
2. Female age requirements will be voted on by the team captains as needed.
3. The league office reserves the right to adjust the player eligibility rules on a seasonal basis.

2.6.2 Match Play

The rules for the Over-35 division will follow the Match Play rules outlined in section 2.3. The following list contains Over-35 specific rules above and beyond the rules previously outlined:

1. Slide-tackles shall be prohibited and considered dangerous play. Excessive or repeated slide tackles by any player or team may result in a caution or ejection from the game as determined by the referee.

3.0 Standings

3.1 Division Alignments

3.1.1 Open Divisions

Division standings must be met to ensure six teams are placed in the Premiership, and six teams placed in Division I. Remaining teams will be placed in lower divisions consisting of 6 teams. If too many teams comprise a division, divisions may be added at the discretion of the league office.

3.1.2 Over-35 Division

An Over-35 division may be created or disbanded at the discretion of the league office. This division must comprise at least 4 teams and will be expanded at the discretion of the league office. The Over-35 division will not compete for advancement into the Open Divisions.

3.2 Points System

Each team will receive three (3) points toward its overall standing for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss.

3.3 Promotion / Relegation

With the exception of the Premiership/Division I, the top two teams in each division are promoted to the next higher division for the following season. Likewise, the bottom two teams in each division are relegated to the next lower division for the following season. For Division I, only the top team may be promoted to the Premiership with only the bottom team in the Premiership being relegated to Division I. In the event a team or multiple teams disband in the off-season, the relegation slot(s) in a division are reduced by the number of teams disbanded in that division plus all higher divisions. If the total number of disbanded teams is greater than the number of relegation slots in that division, additional teams are promoted from the lower divisions to bring that division to a total of six teams, with the exception of the lowest division which may have as many teams as the league deems appropriate.

3.4 Tie-breakers

League standings and subsequent tie-breaker situations are determined in the following order.

1. Points
2. Goal Difference
3. Goals For
4. Aggregate
5. Away Goals
6. Coin Toss

4.0 Procedures

4.1 Team Registration

Starting a new team and renewing an existing team follow the same procedures. Initial team registration is done once a year usually at the beginning of the Fall season. The State sets a date that the initial registration must be completed. You can always add players after that deadline date.

Remember, once you send in your information, it can take up to two weeks before your player cards and rosters are sent back to you. Registering early and having all your paperwork in order will help speed up this process. Plan your time accordingly so that your rosters and cards arrive well in advance of your first game.

WARNING

Late fee for missing the registration deadline is \$100.

4.1.1 State Registration and Fees

If you need to contact the Huntsville Registrar (Jackie Noffke), you can reach her by e-mail at jackie@southernsoccer.net or by phone at 585-0296 (c), or 479-9247 (c). **CALL TIMES** 8:00am-12:00pm and 3:00pm-8:00pm (everyday).

NOTE

Please, no phone calls from 12:00-3:00pm. If it is urgent, call 479-9247 between these hours or send an e-mail.

1. Once you have a minimum of 11 players committed to playing on your team, you may begin filling out the necessary registration forms. Forms are available for download at www.hasl.org.
 - Team Roster
2. Write a check, payable to Huntsville Adult Soccer League (or HASL), for a total of the following amounts.
 - \$45 team fee (paid once per year)
 - \$22 per player fee (paid once per year)
 - \$5 transfer fee per player transferring with the exception of players transferring between the Spring and Fall seasons.
 - \$1 for replacement of lost or damaged cards
3. Mail your check and completed forms to:
ASA - Huntsville Registrar
Jackie Noffke
12002 Bell Mountain Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803

The Registrar will produce player cards and a certified team roster. Arrange for pickup of these items with the registrar and check the roster and cards for accuracy and registrar signature..

WARNING

All player cards must have a picture ID, be signed, and laminated to be valid for play. Referees will NOT allow players to participate without a valid player card. Pete's Soccer Shop has a laminator.

4.1.2 Adding a Player During the Season

When adding additional players to your team during the season, player registration forms and money must be turned into the registrar by:

- **Tuesday** evening to be eligible for the following **Sunday** match
- **Thursday** evening to be eligible for the following **Wednesday** match

The paperwork for signing additional players may be received by mail, e-mail, or dropping it off at the registrar's house. Payment is due at the time of the registration request. Please note the **NO EXCEPTIONS** will be made concerning money. So please don't ask.

4.1.3 HASL Fees

HASL fees must be received by the league, at least, two weeks prior to the start of each season. Checks are to be made payable to the Huntsville Adult Soccer League (or HASL) and can be sent with your State registration to the Huntsville Registrar, hand delivered to Pete's Soccer Shop or mailed to:

Pete's Soccer Shop
8408-A Whitesburg Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Your check should be made for a total of the following amounts, as applicable.

- \$825 League fees
- \$75 Performance bond (if you do not have this amount already in escrow).

Each team is required to post a \$75 deposit for no-show forfeits. The deposit shall be returned, in full, if the team shows for every game. For each no-show forfeit, where the league was not notified in sufficient time to cancel the game, \$37.50 shall be deducted from the deposit. If two games have been forfeit, the league will not schedule another game for that team until another \$75 deposit is made to the league.

4.2 Player Transfers

Once a player is registered on a team, all transfer rules apply until the end of the Spring season. The only time a transfer form or fee is not needed is between the end of the Spring season and the start of the Fall season. This is when the State goes through the yearly registration process. If a player transfers from one USSF registered team to another, the following steps must be followed.

1. A transferring player must obtain a Player Release/ from his prior team. An email to the league registrar or signed player release form from the releasing captain of the player can be used.
2. The releasing captain must provide the transferring player's player card to the registrar or the new team captain.
3. A \$5 check, payable to the Huntsville Adult Soccer League (or HASL), must be made as the transfer fee.
4. The new captain then sends the transfer form and the check to the Local Registrar.

NOTE

No transfer is considered complete until the Local Registrar receives both the release and the money.

The League may choose to step in if a releasing captain is unresponsive to transfer requests or if the releasing team is no longer in the league.

4.3 Card Replacement

From time to time, a player's card may be lost or in need of replacement. Players are easily identified in the database through a cross reference of the player's name with the player's card number and/or Date of Birth.

4.3.1 Simple Replacement

If the player has been registered within the current playing year, a new card may quickly be issued after the captain submits a request by phone, e-mail or in person to the Local Registrar. Be prepared to provide the Local Registrar with player identification information. A \$1 replacement fee must be secured before the replacement is complete.

4.3.2 Card Re-Issue

If a player has been registered in the past but not within the current playing year, the player must re-register as a new player. The player must reregister as a new player and pay the \$22 registration fee to the Local Registrar who, in return, will issue the player a new card with new identification number.

4.4 Game Cancellations

Inevitably, the season schedule will be affected by the weather and, in some cases, field conflicts or other technical difficulties. If you are unsure as to whether or not your game is cancelled,

1. Check the HASL web page. It is the primary source of information.
2. Individual players should contact their team captain if there are any discrepancies or concerns.
3. Captains should contact the league office.
4. If you cannot get an official answer from any of these sources, show up to the game as planned. The captains and referees will make the final decision on the field.

4.5 Schedule Changes

Schedule changes at the league's discretion can be made at any time. A schedule change requested by a team must be submitted a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the game to be considered. The league will consider exceptions to this policy only for games rescheduled due to weather or field availability

These deadlines are to provide enough time to notify referees and resolve any possible field/scheduling conflicts. Your request may or may not be allowed depending on the feasibility of the necessary adjustments. To request a schedule change,

1. Contact the captain of the opposing team and clear any changes with that captain.
2. If the schedule change requires the cooperation of other teams, you must get approval from the affected captains.
3. If everyone affected is in agreement on the change, contact the league office and request the schedule change.

Teams canceling a scheduled match must reschedule the match within two weeks of cancellation or else the league will step in and determine the new play date. If the league steps in, both teams must accept the leagues' decision without argument. All rescheduled matches must be played by the league designated season end date. If the match cannot be rescheduled, a forfeit will be assessed against the team who originally cancelled the match. In the case that both teams mutually wish to reschedule a match and the match cannot be rescheduled, the match will not be played and neither team will receive points in the overall standings.

4.6 Field Problems

The city soccer fields are provided through the COHRS Adult Program of which HASL is a member. If your game is being played on any of the city fields and a problem arises such as the lights (for a night game) are not turned on, the lights fail during the game, or the gates to a field are locked, you can call the Merrimack Park staff at **883-3903** for assistance.

4.7 Insurance Claims

Every player registered in HASL through the Alabama Soccer Association has emergency insurance should the player not have any insurance. Players with insurance must go through their primary insurance before trying to use this *soccer supplemental* insurance. This insurance is meant to help reimburse uninsured players for their medical expenses. The deductible is high and the players must pay for all their medical costs up-front. They may be reimbursed through this insurance after the emergency has passed.

Regardless of which insure will be used, should an injury occur on the field, make sure the referee crew is notified. Request that the injury be included in the match report. Many insurance companies require a match report be provided showing that the injury occurred on the field of play before making any payments.

Should you need to file with this soccer supplemental insurance, contact the League Office (league-office@hasl.org) to obtain the insurance forms.

4.8 Communications

4.8.1 Regarding Officials or Venues

Official player/team complaints, suggestions, or comments regarding the officials or the playing venues must be submitted by the team captain, and in writing, to the league office at Pete's Soccer Shop or through e-mail at *league-office@hasl.org* (preferred). Complaints will be reviewed by the league for legitimacy and viability. If approved by the league, HASL will take the complaint to the NASOA board or the City of Huntsville as appropriate with the full backing of HASL.

4.8.2 Regarding HASL

Player/team complaints, suggestions, or comments regarding HASL may be delivered by anyone, in writing, to the league office at Pete's Soccer Shop or through e-mail at *league-office@hasl.org* (preferred).

5.0 Acronyms

ASA	Alabama Soccer Association
COHRS	City of Huntsville Recreation Services
FIFA	Federation Internationale de Football Association
HASL	Huntsville Adult Soccer League
NASOA	North Alabama Soccer Officials Association
USASA	United States Amateur Soccer Association
USSF	United States Soccer Federation