



EPPL COACH'S HANDBOOK

2024 EPPL FALL Season

WELCOME TO THE EL PASO PREMIER LEAGUE

MISSION STATEMENT:

To create a competitive league that will help young soccer players from the El Paso, Juarez, and Las Cruces border plex develop, compete, and excel in the beautiful game all while providing a safe and friendly environment for players, parents, and coaches so they can all focus on the most important aspect of the game: Having fun!

ADMINISTRATION:

Teresa Sosa
League Director and Scheduler
teresasosa@cobrassoccerevents.com

Cesar A. Sosa
League Director and Registrar
cesarsosa@cobrassoccerevents.com

Cesar J. Sosa
Field Operations Director

Alejandro Felix
EPPL Manager
afelix@eppremierleague.com

POINTS OF CONTACT:

For General Information: info@eppremierleague.com

For Roster, Registrations, IDs, etc.: registrar@eppremierleague.com

For Schedule Requests, Issues, and conflicts: schedules@eppremierleague.com

For on field issues or to contact Alejandro: afelix@eppremierleague.com

OFFICE AND HOURS

Address: 661 S Mesa Hills Dr. Suite 102 El Paso TX 79912

Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 2pm-6pm

ROSTERS

At the EPPL we strive to create a more independent environment where coaches and managers have more control over their rosters. This independence comes with a certain level of responsibility! Please remember that it is your responsibility to make sure every player that should be on your team is on the event roster.

Please remember only players that are on the league event PDF ROSTER will be allowed to play league games. These players will appear on the Official Game Report that referees will use at the game.

Step 1: Check your LEAGUE ROSTER.

- Log into your Got Sport account and click on the TEAM MANAGEMENT tab.
- From here click on the team you are working on.
- Select the 2024 EPPL FALL SEASON as the event.
- Players that select your team during the registration process will automatically appear here. So, if you are missing any players, it is either because they have not registered or selected the wrong team
- **Send a list of your missing players to registrar@eppremierleague.com**
- Once all your players are on the roster, let our registration team know via email.

Step 2: We will go in and approve every player one by one, checking pictures, proof of birth, and eligibility. Once your players have been approved you may check your **Roster PDF or Virtual Cards** to see which players have been approved.

You can check your Roster PDF or Virtual Cards by:

- Log into your Got Sport account and click on the TEAM MANAGEMENT tab.
- From here click on the team you are working on.
- Select the 2024 EPPL FALL SEASON as the event.
- From here click on the DOCUMENTS AND IDS tab
- Here you will see buttons for both documents.
- **THE PLAYERS THAT APPEAR HERE ARE THE ONLY PLAYERS APPROVED TO PLAY!**

Step 3: (OPTIONAL) If you will be using any Club Pass Players, please fill out the Club Pass form, found in the Club Pass section under the Registration Tab, and email it to registrar@eppremierleague.com

To ensure there are no issues regarding rosters later in the season and that every eligible player is allowed to play each weekend we will be “freezing” rosters. You will still be able to make changes to rosters whenever you may need to, however they will need to be made by EPPL staff. This way we can avoid roster issues on gameday by ensuring any changes you need to make are made and approved before you show up to play on game day.

**ANY CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE MUST BE EMAILED TO
REGISTRAR@EPPREMIERLEAGUE.COM**

THE DEADLINE TO REQUEST CHANGES ARE EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM

**PLEASE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING REGARDING
ROSTERS CONTACT US AT REGISTRAR@EPPREMIERLEAGUE.COM AND WE WILL SET UP A
MEETING TO HELP YOU!**

CLUB PASS

What is the CLUB PASS?

The Club Pass is a special designation that can be given to a player to allow the player to play for multiple teams within their own club.

What is the goal of CLUB PASS?

The goal of Club Pass is to provide players, that have high level skills, the opportunity to play a year up and develop more by taking on older players and more competition.

What is a CLUB (in regard to CP)?

A club is a group of teams that:

- a) Are enrolled by the same account (person).
- b) Have the same name and uniform that displays the "Club Logo"
- c) A club MUST have a single "registrar" responsible for roster change communication.

League Officials reserve the right to deny a player CP status if they find the two teams do not belong to the same club.

What is the cost?

The Club Pass has a cost of \$50 dollars per player per extra team they wish to play on aside from their primary team where they would have already paid the original registration fee.

Rules and Limitations

- A player can only play for another team within their own club and may not use the CP designation to play for a team outside their club. *This does not refer to the league "club" to which all players belong to*
- A Player may play for any team within their club if they meet the age requirements. In other words, they can play in their age group and up, never down.
- A player may not play in two teams in the same AGE GROUP regardless of CP designation.
 - Girls may play in their ALL GIRLS division and then CP to the boys division in their same age.

- A player may only play in their age group as their primary team, and then CP up to an older age group.
- U8 4v4 players may CP to U8 7v7
- U10 7v7 players may CP to U10 9v9
- If a player is playing in a RECREATIONAL Division, they may only CP to other RECREATIONAL Division teams.
- Any player not assigned a CP designation may not play for more than one team.

IMPORTANT We cannot guarantee that the schedule will accommodate the needs of a CP player.

SCHEDULE

- **Schedules are subject to change**, upon approval. We hope we can all be understanding and work together.
- **PLAYOFF SCHEDULES WILL NOT BE MODIFIED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE A PLANNED TOURNAMENT DURING PLAYOFFS AND LET US KNOW BEFORE **AUGUST 7TH**, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE.**
- **FINALS WEEKEND SCHEDULES CANNOT BE MODIFIED AS THE LEAGUE ENDS THAT WEEKEND.**
- Requests:
 - All schedule requests should be emailed to schedules@epremierleague.com prior to August 7th. Any request made through any other platform will not be considered.
 - **Any requests sent in after the deadline will count as emergency schedule change request**
- **Cancellations/Changes:**
 - Every team will have 2 (two) emergency schedule change request
 - Coaches can use their EMERGENCY schedule change request to make game changes if changes are requested 72hrs or more prior to gametime.
 - If team does not have any more available emergency requests, schedule will not change, and game will be lost via forfeit.
 - Games cancelled within 48 hrs. of game time will be attempted to be rescheduled if the team has remaining emergency requests. If game is

rescheduled, team must pay referee fee for re-scheduled game. If game cannot be rescheduled, the game will be lost via forfeit.

- Games cancelled within 24 hrs. of game time WILL BE LOST VIA FORFEIT and will not be rescheduled.
- **Forfeits:**
 - All forfeits will be subject to cancellation fees.
 - If a coach wants to purposefully forfeit a game for any reason, the referee will announce the game as a forfeit at half field.
 - If BOTH coaches agree, the game can be played as a **SCRIMMAGE WITH NO REFEREE(S)**.
 - **NO CALL – NO SHOW:**
 - Teams that do not show up to play a game will automatically lose the game via forfeit and will incur cancellation fees.
 - **A cancellation fee is equal to referee fee plus a \$30 fine.**
 - Team will not be allowed to play until fee is paid.
 - A team or club that consistently forfeits games without notifying will no longer be accepted to participate in the EPPL.
 - Teams that purposefully do not show up to a game(s) will incur cancellations fees and will be subject to suspension from the league.

COACH REQUIREMENTS

Per US Club Soccer Policy, all adults who will serve as a coach or team manager at any participation level must complete the coach requirements and obtain a US Club Soccer ID staff card. For more assistance and information please visit the Coaches Resource page on the website epremierleague.com

YOU WILL NEED YOUR PHYSICAL COACH ID CARD PRESENT AND VISIBLE AT ALL GAMES IF YOU WANT TO COACH ON THE SIDELINES! THIS REQUIREMENT WILL BE ENFORCED STARTING **SEPTEMBER 28TH!**

- Step 1: Visit the Coaches page under the Resources tab on the website epremierleague.com. Here you will register and pay for the Coach's ID card.
- Step 2: Log into your Got Sport Account

- Step 3: Select the “Dashboard” Tab on the banner menu
- Step 4: Go through all your requirements completing each one following the on-screen instructions. Videos are provided on the Coaches page under the Resources tab.
- Step 5: Once you have completed all requirements and paid for your membership, you will receive your Coach ID card.

GAMEDAY

- What do you need for gameday?
 - BE ON TIME FOR YOUR GAME!
 - Teams will receive a 10-minute courtesy period if they are not present or do not have enough players to start a match. The 10-minute courtesy period starts at the scheduled game time. At the end of the 10-minute courtesy period, if the team is not ready to start, the game will be forfeited.
 - **Your Coach ID card must be present and visible**
 - Virtual/Physical ID cards or Roster PDF for pregame check-in. MUST MATCH OFFICIAL GAME REPORT
 - A game ball that is the correct size for the age group
 - A penalty will be awarded to the opposing team at the beginning of the game if you do not have a ball.
- Uniforms and Numbers
 - **NUMBER RULES WILL BE ENFORCED STARTING SEPTEMBER 28TH!**
 - **PREMIER DIVISION IS ENFORCED WEEK 1!**
 - Premier and Championship Divisions:
 - All players on team MUST have the same uniform.
 - In cases where a player does not have a uniform yet, they must use a solid color jersey that matches the rest of the team.
 - All players must have a Jersey number and that number must match the OFFICIAL GAME REPORT.
 - Jersey number must be permanent (screen printed, heat pressed, etc.)
 - Any player that does not comply with these rules will not be allowed to play.
 - Recreational

- All players on team **MUST** have the same uniform.
- In cases where a player does not have a uniform yet, they must use a solid color jersey that matches the rest of the team.
- Teams should try their best to get into the practice of having their jersey numbers so that they can be ready for more competitive divisions.



JERSEY AND NUMBERS GUIDE



TEAM UNIFORM



✓

PRACTICE JERSEY OR PREVIOUS JERSEY OF THE SAME COLOR



✓

SOLID COLOR TSHIRT OR JERSEY



✗

AWAY JERSEY OR ANY OTHER NOT OF THE SAME COLOR



✓

AWAY JERSEY WITH SAME COLOR PENNY OVER IT (FORGOTTEN JERSEY*)



✗

JERSEY OR TSHIRT WITH OTHER DESIGNS OR COLORS

CESAR SOSA #13



✓

CORRECT JERSEY NUMBER MATCHES GAME REPORT



✗

TAPE IS NOT ALLOWED! NUMBER MUST BE PERMANENT.



✗

NO JERSEY NUMBER: PLAYER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY



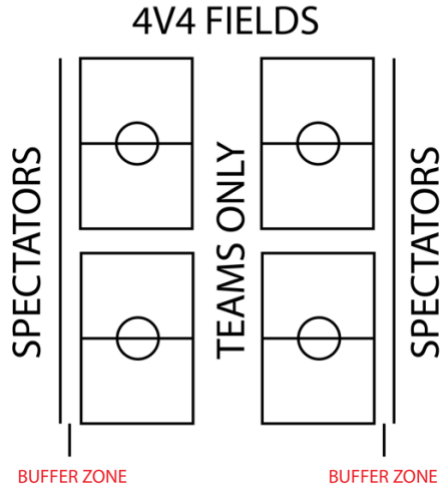
✗

WRONG NUMBER: PLAYER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY

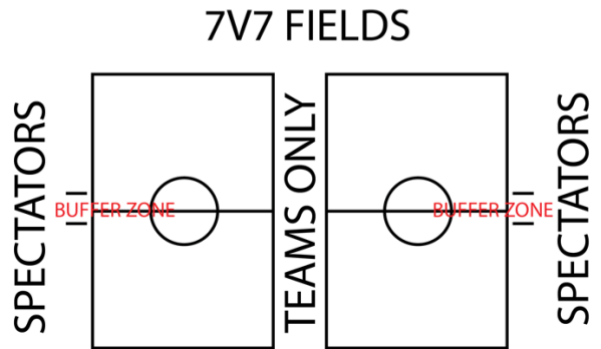
A uniform or number problem **NEVER** results in a forfeit. Any player who does not comply with these rules will simply not be allowed to play. If the player is already on the field, the coach will be asked to take them out and they cannot re-enter until they complies with the rules.

- Where do Coaches and Parents go?
 - Please refer to the EPPL Map to see where you should be sitting and where to tell your parents to sit. It is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure your parents are sitting in the correct spot.

4v4 FIELDS



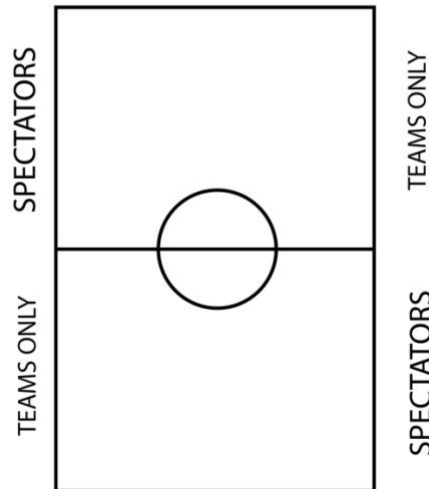
7v7 FIELDS



9v9/11v11 FIELDS



9V9/11V11 FIELDS



HOME AND AWAY SIDES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE EPPL MAP

4v4

- BALL SIZE: 3
 - EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE 1 GAME BALL
- GOALKEEPER: NO
- OFFSIDE: NO
- SLIDE TACKLING: PLAYER ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SLIDE TACKLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
- HEADERS: DELIBERATE HEADING IS NOT ALLOWED. AN INDIRECT FREEKICK WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM AT THE SPOT OF THE OFFENSE.
- **ALL FOULS WILL BE AWARDED AN INDIRECT KICK ON THE SPOT OF THE FOUL.**
 - *EXCEPTION: Handball inside the Penalty Arc.*
- PENALTY ARC
- THE PENALTY ARC WILL SERVE AS A REFERENCE POINT SIMPLY TO PREVENT PLAYERS FROM STANDING WITHIN THE ARC PERMANENTLY.
- COACHES SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR DEFENSIVE PLAYERS TO STAND OUTSIDE THE ARC AND PARTICIPATE IN THE GAME.
- HANDBALL INSIDE PENALTY ARC:
 - IF A PLAYER DELIBERATELY USES THEIR HANDS TO AFFECT A PLAY, A PENALTY KICK WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM. PENALTY KICK WILL BE SHOT FROM THE NEAREST POINT ON THE CENTER CIRCLE WITH NO GOALKEEPER.

7v7

- BALL SIZE: 4
 - EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE 1 GAME BALL
- GOALKEEPER: YES
- HEADERS: DELIBERATE HEADING IS NOT ALLOWED. AN INDIRECT FREEKICK WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM AT THE SPOT OF THE OFFENSE. UNLESS THE FOUL IS WITHIN THE GOAL AREA IN WHICH CASE AN INDIRECT KICK WILL BE AWARDED OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA.
- PK'S: NO
- **ALL FOULS WILL BE AWARDED AN INDIRECT KICK ON THE SPOT OF THE FOUL. UNLESS THE FOUL IS WITHIN THE GOAL AREA IN WHICH CASE AN INDIRECT KICK WILL BE AWARDED OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA.**
- BUILD OUT LINE
 - DURING A GOAL KICK OR WHEN THE GOALKEEPER HAS THE BALL IN THEIR HANDS, ALL OPPOSING PLAYERS MUST BE BEHIND BUILD OUT LINE. A GOALKEEPER CANNOT DROP-KICK OR PUNT THE BALL OUT. ONCE THE BALL IS IN PLAY OPPOSING TEAM MAY CROSS THE BUILD OUT LINE
 - BUILD OUT LINE-OFFSIDES: YES
 - A PLAYER CANNOT BE PENALIZED WITH AN OFFSIDE BETWEEN THE HALFWAY LINE AND THE BUILD OUT LINE.

- A PLAYER CAN BE PENALIZED WITH AN OFFSIDE BETWEEN THE BUILD OUT LINE AND THE GOAL LINE.
- PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED TO SLIDE TACKLE

9v9

- BALL SIZE: 4
 - EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE 1 GAME BALL
- **(U11)** HEADERS: DELIBERATE HEADING IS NOT ALLOWED. AN INDIRECT FREEKICK WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OPPOSING TEAM AT THE SPOT OF THE OFFENSE. UNLESS THE FOUL IS WITHIN THE GOAL AREA IN WHICH CASE AN INDIRECT KICK WILL BE AWARDED OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA.
- **(U12)** HEADERS ARE ALLOWED
- PK'S: YES
- OFFSIDES: YES

Behavior and Consequences

1. COACHES

- Coaches will be held to the highest standard and we expect every single coach to behave in a manner that aligns with the values of this league. Coaches will be respectful, supportive, and will do their best to promote good sportsmanship and fair play, so that in return they may instill in their players the same values.
- In the event that a coach is being disrespectful, rowdy, or showing poor sportsmanship the following will apply:
 - 1 Coach will be given a verbal warning along with a yellow card.
 - 2 The coach will be shown a red card asked to leave the field.
 - 3 If coach does not leave, the game will be forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score.
 - 4 If there is no other coach present with a valid and present coach ID, the game will be forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score or match type

2. Parent Behavior/Consequences

- Parents are expected to behave in a manner that aligns with the values of this league. Parents will be respectful, supportive, and will do their best to promote good sportsmanship and fair play.
- In the event that a parent or group of parents are being disrespectful, rowdy, or showing poor sportsmanship the following will apply:

1. Referee will verbally warn head coach and ask them to control their spectators.
 2. If behavior continues, coach will be shown a yellow card (caution)
 3. If behavior continues, head coach will be shown a second yellow card, subsequent red card, and will be sent off.
 4. Game will continue if coach leaves, and spectators improve their behavior. If those two things do not happen, game will be stopped and forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score or match type. If there is no other coach present with a valid and present coach ID, the game will be forfeited by the offending team regardless of the score or match type
- Behavior towards EPPL Staff:
 - EPPL staff is here to provide a service to you and your team. This service is a privilege and not a right. Any person that verbally assaults, harasses, or threatens an EPPL staff member will be subject to suspensions for both themselves and, if applicable, their player.
 - “WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE TO ANYONE”
 - **EJECTIONS/DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:** USCS rules prohibit any coach, spectator or player ejected from a match, or suspended by the proper authority, to be within sight or hearing distance of the field of play during their suspension. A coach, spectator or player receiving two cautions (yellow cards) in a single match is considered to have been given an ejection (red card). A player who has been ejected (sent off), shall not be replaced.
 - Coaches or players that receive 2 cautions (yellow cards) and are sent off, will be ejected from that game but may participate in the team’s next game.
 - Coaches or players shown a direct red card will be ejected from that game and will be suspended for the team’s next game.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENCE:

PLAYERS:

- A player who has been ejected for **VIOLENT CONDUCT** shall not be allowed to participate in the next **TWO** scheduled matches (subject to review by the League committee).
- **FIGHTING** will not be tolerated for any reason. Players sent off for fighting (striking or attempting to strike another coach, team official, player or spectator) will receive a minimum TWO game suspension and are subject to a longer suspension based on severity of aggression and pending league official’s decisions.

- Referees will do their best to identify players that are involved in violent conduct and only those players will be punished. If violent conduct turns into a larger altercation the whole team will be subject to disciplinary actions.
- If, in the opinion of the Center Referee, a match must be terminated due to violent conduct, the offending team forfeits that match. If no offender can be clearly identified the game will be called a **NO CONTEST** and no winner will be named regardless of match type or score. (INCLUDING PLAYOFFS AND FINALS)

FIGHTS OR UNCONTROLLED VIOLENT SITUATIONS:

- In case of a violent situation within the field, coaches with valid IDs and Referees are the only authorized adults that may enter the field to control the situation.
- If a parent or spectator enters the field, it will be considered a FIELD INVASION.
- If spectators engage in a fight before, during, or after a match the offending team forfeits that match. If no offender can be clearly identified the game will be called a **NO CONTEST** and no winner will be named regardless of match type or score. (INCLUDING PLAYOFFS AND FINALS)
- If spectators engage in a fight the entire teams spectators will be subject to suspension based on severity and pending league officials' decision.

ZERO VIOLENCE AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS. Due to recent unfortunate circumstances, EPPL has instilled the following: Any violence whatsoever by a player, coach, or spectator against a match official will result in the immediate ejection of the team involved from the league. No refunds will be issued.

PITCH INVASION. Any pitch invasion by coach or spectator to incite or participate in violence will result in the offending team forfeiting the game regardless of match type (i.e., Final) Please inform parents and spectators.

Referee Protests

- Referee protests will be handled through our Referee Grievance Protocol that can be found on our website.
- The form must be filled out and emailed to info@eppremierleague.com so that we can keep tabs on refs and ensure the best experience for everyone

Cheating/Protests/Consequences

Cheating

Use of illegal/overage player, or any cheating whatsoever, will not be tolerated in the EPPL and all cases will be subject to suspension from the league indefinitely pending league official's decision. Any team caught cheating will lose the game in question plus

all previously played games. There will be no refunds for any team or its players who are caught cheating.

Protests

- Protests must be handled at the site of play and must occur before the game, at half time, or right after the game before signing the game report.
- If a coach has reason to believe a player is not eligible, they may approach the referee and ask to see the player’s ID and check it against the game report.
- Formal AGE PROTESTS must be sent to info@eppremierleague.com with all available evidence.

AGE	BIRTH YEAR	FORMAT	COST/PLAYER	MIN. GAMES	BALL SIZE	GAME DURATION	MAX PLAYERS
U5	2020	4v4	\$85	8	3	4/8 min.	8
U6	2019	4V4	\$85	8	3	4/8 min.	8
U7	2018	4V4	\$85	8	3	4/8 min.	8
U8	2017	4V4	\$85	8	3	4/8 min.	8
U8	2017	7V7	\$85	8	4	25	14
U9	2016	7V7	\$85	8	4	25	14
U10	2015	7V7	\$85	8	4	25	14
U10	2015	9v9	\$90	8	4	30	18
U11	2014	9V9	\$90	8	4	30	18
U12	2013	9V9	\$90	8	4	30	18
U13	2012	11V11	\$90	8	5	35	22
U14	2011	11V11	\$90	8	5	35	22
U15	2010	11V11	\$90	8	5	35	22
U16	2009	11V11	\$90	8	5	35	22
U17	2008	11V11	\$90	8	5	35	22
U18	2007	11V11	\$90	8	5	35	22
U19	2006	11V11	\$90	8	5	35	22
*2024/2025 SEASON							

CONCLUSION

- Our main goal is to ensure that all our players can compete and develop in a positive, fair, and fun environment! Let us all help create that environment!
- Please go over this handbook and be properly prepared for your games!
- If you have any questions or need help with anything, please do not hesitate to reach out. Contact us at info@eppremierleague.com