

9/10/15

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **General info about the League**

#### **Where is the office?**

Our office is located at 1820 San Pedro NE, just north of the intersection of San Pedro and Constitution.

#### **What are the office hours**

Normal office hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Thursday evening office hours from 5:30 to 6:30. The office isn't open on Friday at all. We are not open on Thursday nights during the winter if we are not playing. Generally, we don't do Thursday night hours in December and January.

#### **How do we contact the league other than going to the office?**

You can call our charming office staff during office hours at 505-346-0831. If they are waiting on someone at the office, they deal with that first. You can e-mail the office staff at [aslsoccerstaff@gmail.com](mailto:aslsoccerstaff@gmail.com). You can contact Mike Edwards at [aslsoc@swcp.com](mailto:aslsoc@swcp.com).

#### **How do we change the team representative?**

Notify the office that you will have a new team representative and change the Team Contact information in your Team folder. You can have as many people serve as Team Contact as you want and they will have access to your Team Folder. The new team representative is responsible for all of the information provided at the preseason meeting and must attend the next preseason meeting in prior to the spring season.

## **Registration**

### **How do I register players during the season**

Players can register at any time during normal office hours and be eligible to play as soon as they've completed the registration process. That process includes having your team upload your information and picture into the team folder,.

That leaves two steps. Every player needs to complete an online waiver annually. The link to access the waiver site is in the upper right corner of the front page of our web site. It asks for the same information in your player folder and will immediately send notification to the player and the league office that you have completed the waiver. You need to use the same name on the waiver that you use in the player folder. We have no way of telling that you normally employ multiple versions of your name in your daily life.

We have a limited online payment system. Players who elect to pay for the fall AND spring season can access an online payment system that is described in the team and player registration instructions on the web site. Players who wish to pay only for the fall season need to make payment at the office in person.

As soon as you've completed the payment and waiver process, you're ready to play. You don't have to be registered by some x number of days before a game to be eligible.

### **How do I transfer to another team?**

League rules allow a player to transfer once per season and stop the transfer process at the halfway point of the season. That means players can transfer to another team through the 5<sup>th</sup> game of the fall season and the 4<sup>th</sup> game of the spring season. A player must sit out a game after completing the transfer. To transfer, a player must complete the following steps:

1. Return the current player passcard
2. Obtain a signed Player Release form from the team representative of the team from which the player is transferring
3. Complete the same process in item 1 to be added to the new team's folder.
4. Pay a \$10 transfer fee
5. The League holds the player passcard for the next game regardless of the player's story that he didn't play the previous game

### **Can I play on multiple teams?**

In the fall and spring season for Sunday play, you can play on one men's team, one coed team, and one women's team. Which means you can play on a men's team and a coed team or you can play on a women's team and a coed team. You cannot play on two men's teams, two coed teams, or two women's teams.

Anyone can play on Wednesday night coed teams. It has no connection to Sunday play.

In the summer, if you are qualified, and you should look at the summer soccer folder, you can play on multiple coed teams, as the teams play Monday through Thursday night. In order to play in the recreational divisions, you can't be a registered player in the Men's first division from the

previous fall/spring competition. You can get a better answer to this in the summer soccer folder on the left side of the front page of the web site.

**What is the age definition for Over 30, Over 40, and Over 48 play?**

You actually must be 30 or 40 or 48 years old when you register to play. You cannot play because this is the year you turn 30 or 40 or 48. You must actually have celebrated that magic birthday, hopefully by doing something your friends posted on YouTube.

**What if I lose my passcard?**

You cannot play without a passcard. If the referee reports that your card was lost by the referee crew, we will replace the card at no charge. If we have no such report, a replacement card can be obtained for \$10.

**What if we have a coach is not a registered player?**

If you have a coach who is not registered as a player on your team, that person needs to come to the office and get a coaching card. There is no charge. If someone claiming to be the coach elects to get involved with the referee and that person has not checked in and presented a coach's card, that person is referred to as a "fan." If a "fan" causes a problem at your game, your team is responsible and can face up to the posting of a \$1,000 bond to continue playing.

**Do you reduce the registration fees during the season?**

Yes. We reduce the fee after the midpoint of the season. Because we pay an annual fixed fee of \$25 for USSF membership and player accident and liability insurance, the fee reduction is not always half.

## **Payment for Registration**

### **How Can I Pay to Register?**

We accept payment at the office in cash, check or credit or debit card.

### **Can I pay Online?**

Our registration system allows for a limited online payment system. The limitation is that it allows only one payment value. For fall and spring, we start in the fall by setting that value at the cost for players who wish to register and pay for both the fall and spring season. A player who wishes to pay only for the fall season must pay in person at the office. In the spring, the payment amount will be set for returning players from the fall season who are paying for spring season. Players who are making their initial payment for spring season will need to do so in person at the office.

### **Can I call the office and give them my credit card number?**

No. We aren't staffed to have people do that. Also, us having your credit card number puts you at risk of other people obtaining it and is a violation of our contract with our credit card processing company, First Data.

### **How do I get a refund?**

As soon as you register, we pass \$25 on for your state and national affiliation fees, your insurance, and our time to register you. **The remainder is refunded on a pro-rata basis based on when you return your passcard to the office and complete the drop and refund process.** We don't process any refund until your passcard is returned and refunds are made only to the person whose name is on the passcard. We do not refund to the team rep or anyone else. If you elect to pay for someone else to play soccer, that's a transaction between the two of you.

### **What happens if we use an unregistered player or someone else's passcard?**

Fairly simply, if you get caught using someone else's passcard, we suspend you and everyone else who is responsible, including the Team Representative, from the league for a full year and prohibit any of the responsible parties from serving in the role of team representative permanently. If you attempt to enter the game using someone else's passcard or cannot produce ID proving you are the person on the passcard, the referee is directed to retain the passcard and report the incident to the league. The Executive Committee will then take the appropriate action based on the circumstances.

### **How do I register my child on my team?**

First, you need to understand this is not a youth soccer league. It's an adult league and there are no shortages of opportunities for children to play soccer at the youth level in Albuquerque and the surrounding area. If you insist on your child playing, then the child's parent or guardian must sign the registration form and liability waiver. If the child also plays youth soccer in a league

other than AYSO or high school, you need to contact NM Youth Soccer Association to obtain a permission form to complete to insure that their youth soccer eligibility is maintained.

ASL no longer registers players younger than 16 in any competition.

### **How Many Players Can We have at a Game?**

There is no limit on the number of players who can be on your game roster. Frankly, when we did have a limit, this was usually not a problem based on the number of players who may actually show up at any given game.

## **Field Information**

### **Why do we play so far out of town?**

The simple answer is that's where the fields are. The simpler answer is that the city and county have generally elected not to build recreational facilities for adult soccer. In the early 1980s, they completed Arroyo del Oso soccer fields at Wyoming and Spain. In 2014, they brought the new fields on line at North Domingo Baca Recreation complex northwest of Paseo del Norte and Wyoming. In 2014, we lost use of the three field complex at St. Pius High School when the Archdiocese elected to terminate the joint use agreement.

We don't use the neighborhood fields in the city because of the historical behavior pattern of our players when we have used them.

In addition, we actually are owners of the complex in Bernalillo, which means we control the use and maintenance of the fields, which is why they're in better shape than the fields in town generally are.

During the summer, we go through a fascinating tour of finding enough city and APS fields that are available to play coed and Over-30 soccer on weeknights in June and July. We COULD play on nice fields at the soccer complex in Bernalillo. However, it would cost more money and the teams have expressed no interest in paying the extra money to play on those fields that we use in the fall and spring.

### **Can our team request certain times or locations for our games?**

Within reason, yes. If you want your team's games to be coordinated with another team, we will do our best to accommodate that and most likely all of your games are going to be at the complex in Bernalillo because we have more fields to work with there. It takes the better part of a week to put the schedule together. It is not done by simply typing in the team names and pushing a button.

### **What if it rains or snows?**

We use two separate complexes and some individual fields in the city of the fall and spring season.

The League officers make the determination whether we will play on Arroyo del Oso and the other city fields. Because the fields are fairly far apart, weather conditions at one may be significantly different than the other. We inspect all the fields if weather is bad.

The manager of the complex in Bernalillo will also inspect the fields there. When we've accumulated that information, we post it on the rainout phone line at 341-5015. We may only postpone early games, so it's important that you actually listen to the full message, as conditions may change such that we can play games later in the day.

If games are postponed, we aren't going to send you a makeup game date, time and location on the same day. For complete details on how we make those decisions, please see the Cancelled Games policy in the ASL Policies folder on the web site.

Further, if the entire day is cancelled, as it was for example, on September 15, 2013, that weekend is gone and not made up. There is a fully explanation in a written policy in the Team Representative Notebook folder that you should read.

### **What if we want to postpone or reschedule our game?**

There is a policy in the Team Representative Notebook folder with details on rescheduling games. Please check that so we don't wear you out repeating it here.

### **How do we get a practice field?**

The League has a users permit with the City of Albuquerque that provides us access to certain City and APS fields. It does not include any high school fields or any fields located at private schools.

You are not guaranteed space at a field and every field will likely have a lot of people on it. That's because there are a lot more children and adults engaged in sports than the city has arranged facilities to accommodate. We include your field request to the city. If a park monitor shows up and asks for your team name, you should provide your team name and that you are an ASL team. If you have not provided us your requested practice field, you will not be on the list the park monitor has and will be asked to leave. If you have scheduled practice time and location with the League, you and your players are covered under the accident insurance policy if you are injured at practice. Playing indoor or in another league is NOT considered practice.

### **What do we do with the nets at the end of the day?**

If you are the last team on the field at Arroyo Del Oso or the other city fields in the spring and fall, each team takes a net down and puts it in the duffle bag. Each team also collects two of the corner flags and leaves them with the bag. We pay someone to deliver and pickup nets each week so your team doesn't have to pick them up and deliver them back to the office. If the person we pay has to take the net down because your team doesn't, then we send you a letter or e-mail fining you \$25 and give the money to the net person. If you don't pay the fine, we suspend your team until you do.

At the complex in Bernalillo, don't do anything. They stay up all the time.

## **Game Procedures and Rules**

### **Are we required to submit a game roster?**

Yes. Please go to the folder titled Team Representative Notebook and there is an article on Day of Game procedures that steps you through everything you should do each week.

### **What happens if I don't bring by passcard to a game?**

You don't play. No card, no play. This is one of the reasons we don't post the cell phone numbers for the league officers in order to avoid having you call us ask us to tell the referee it's OK for you to play without a passcard. It's not.

### **What happens if we forfeit the game at the field because we don't have enough players or our passcards?**

If you forfeit a game because you do not have enough players or your passcards, you are fined \$50 and it's due by Saturday of the next week. Further, we do not schedule the game for a makeup. If you wish to pay for a crew of referees to come out and your opponent agrees to play a makeup game, that's between the two teams.

### **What is the score if the game is a forfeit?**

The score I entered as a 1-0 victory for the winning team.

### **What is the slide tackle rule in coed?**

In the coed divisions, slide tackling is dangerous play for all games. It is to be punished by the awarding of an indirect kick. If the referee, for whatever reason, is not calling this, it is your responsibility as literate adults to inform the players engaging in this behavior to stop, including your teammates. "Tackling" the ball is defined as a play on an opponent to attempt to cause them to lose possession. Falling down is not a slide tackle nor is diving by the goalkeeper to make a save.

### **Are we required to have numbered uniforms?**

For fall and spring play, yes, you need professionally applied uniform numbers. In addition, all the numbers must be different and all of your uniform shirt with the exception of the goalkeeper must be the same. That does not include taped on numbers or magic marker numbers. Any of the soccer stores can apply numbers for you at a very reasonable price. If you con the referee into letting your players play with duplicate numbers, taped on numbers, or handwritten numbers, we don't pay the referee for the game. As we will be advising the referees of this policy, they will likely be more forceful in following our policy now

### **How do I know what uniform color the other team wears?**

We request that each team provide us their primary uniform shirt colors. Most do. To find your opponents uniform colors, go to the folder titled Teams on the left of the front page, click the link and then click the team link. It will show the uniform colors the team wears. If it doesn't, contact us so we can get it updated. Worse yet, if you discover it isn't right, PLEASE contact us so we can fix that. Sometimes the team rep forgets to update or a team changes team reps and the person in charge of the folder may not know that they can change it.



### **Who changes uniforms if they don't clash?**

The home team does. We have pullover jerseys available to borrow **and return** at the office and the ASL field manager, Jack Houston, has them at the complex. For those of you who don't bother to check until you get to the field, Jack's cell phone number is 480-5392. If you have the problem at ADO or other city fields, you're out of luck if you didn't make arrangements in advance.

### **What is the policy on game start times?**

Game time is forfeit time. If one team has seven players dressed and checked in, which means ready to play, at game time, and the other team does not, then the team that is ready to play can elect to take a forfeit, or wait for the other team to accumulate 7 players and get ready. The referee will shorten the game by as much time as that takes. When each team has seven players, the referee starts the game. The referee should not continue to delay the game and the players who arrive late can check in late.

If your team elects to take the forfeit, then pack your stuff up and leave. The referee cannot demand that you play the game and the referee gets paid regardless. If your team elects to wait for the other team and play a shortened game, you waive your right to appeal the results.

### **How many male and female players do we need for coed?**

Sometimes we seem to have confusion regarding the number of men and women that can be on the field at any given time during an ASL coed game. In order to reduce that confusion, we are providing a handy little table below that tells you how many women can be on the field at any given time and how many men can be on the field at any given time. Each of these tables assumes that no one has been sent off for a red card, in which case your team plays short by the gender of the person sent off. If the person red carded is a substitute who was not in the game, it is irrelevant as to how the players on the field are counted, because nothing has changed on the field. While we attempt to make this as easy as humanly possible, we may yet have problems, so please show this to the referee if there is any dispute.

If your team has more than 6 men, meaning one is playing goalkeeper, the remaining men are allowed to stand on the sideline and act as "substitutes." The game should not be canceled because your team has too many men. If your team has more than 6 women (assuming it has 5 men), the remaining women are also allowed to function in the role of "substitute." Again, the game should not be canceled because you have too many women.

Please note that the goalkeeper may be either male or female. Excluding the goalkeeper, you may have a maximum of 5 men on the field. Excluding the goalkeeper, you may up to ten women on the field. FIFA Laws mandate that you may have no more than 11 players on the field.

### **If your team has less than five female players, here are your allowed combinations:**

1 woman and 5 men + goalkeeper = 7 players total

2 women and 5 men + goalkeeper = 8 players total

3 women and 5 men + goalkeeper = 9 players total  
4 women and 5 men + goalkeeper = 10 players total  
5 women and 5 men + goalkeeper = 11 players total

**If in the extremely unlikely event you have more women than men, here are your allowed combinations:**

1 man and 10 women, including goalkeeper = 11 players total  
2 men and 9 women, including goalkeeper = 11 players total  
3 men and 8 women, including goalkeeper = 11 players total  
4 men and 7 women, including goalkeeper = 11 players total  
5 men and 6 women, including goalkeeper = 11 players total

## **Player Accident Insurance**

### **Do have insurance if we get injured?**

Every player who is properly registered is covered with an accident policy as part of the League's insurance coverage. The coverage details and claim forms are available at our web site or by contacting the office. The insurance only covers injuries incurred for participation in sanctioned practice (meaning you reserved a field for practice through the ASL registration process) and ASL games. It does not cover injuries incurred if you play in Ligo Latino, Libertadores Soccer league, Albuquerque Futsal, Eduardo's league, or any of the indoor facilities. Each of those leagues is eligible to join NMSSA and participate in the same insurance program we do and all have elected not to offer you that coverage.

## **The standings and game results**

### **How do I read the standings?**

We keep the following team statistics:

**Pts** – Points is the number of points your team has with a win getting 3 points and tie getting 1 point.

**GP** – Games played

**W** – Games won (by your team, obviously)

**T** – Games tied

**L** – Games lost

**GF** – Goals for your team, the number of goals you've scored

**GA** – Goals scored against your team

**GD** – Goal differential, the number of goals your team scored minus the number of goals your team allowed the other teams.

**TC** – Total cautions, the number of yellow cards for your team

**TE** – Total ejections, the number of red cards for your team

**GF:GA** – Goals for divided by goals against. An interesting statistical measure for your ASL fantasy league team.

### **What if our standings are wrong?**

Since the player insurance program doesn't cover therapy for lowering your self esteem, then probably you need to let us know and we can go in and look at the referee report, since that's the basis for the results tallied in the standings. Probably the referee either made a mistake entering the score (and got it reversed) or didn't completely enter the score. As you know how computer systems work, for example, leaving a score box blank is not the same as entering "0," which is probably the most common mistake. E-mail us and we can get it fixed. Please be aware that we do not consider an incorrect score a life-threatening emergency. We'll get to it.

## **Misconduct and Appeals**

### **What happens when I get a red card?**

As soon as you are sent off, you collect your belongings and immediately leave the field and you don't return. If you do return, the referee is directed to terminate the game and file a report at the office. You then meet with the Executive Committee and we determine what additional actions will be taken regarding your behavior.

The following suspensions and fines are levied for red cards:

Reds cards issued for 2<sup>nd</sup> yellow card, denying a goal scoring opportunity by handling the ball or fouling, foul language directed at another player, spitting at anyone other than the referee:  
\$10 fine and 1 game suspension

Serious Foul Play:  
\$25 fine and 2 game suspension

Violent Conduct or Referee Abuse:  
\$50 fine, \$50 bond for one year, 3 game suspension

### **How do I know why I got a red card?**

We think you know why you got a red card. After you leave, the person in charge of the team can ask the referee when he or she goes to get the passcards after the game. You don't need to stay to ask.

### **How do I protest my red card?**

You have three days after your game to file a protest at the office. That means if your game is on Sunday, as most are, you have until close of business at 2 p.m. on Wednesday immediately following your game (or close of business three days after your game if the game is not on Sunday) to file a written protest and paying a \$25 protest fee. Anyone can file the protest for you and pay the fee, so your claimed inability to get to the office does not extend the deadline.

Sending an e-mail to the league demanding that your red card be overturned isn't a protest and generates no action whatsoever.

Each season the league will establish a weekly hearing schedule for the Appeals and Disciplinary committee to hear the appeals. The A&D Committee is comprised of current and former players who sit on hear the appeals.

### **What happens if I don't pay my fine or bond after I get a red card?**

Due to the miracle of computers, we enter your fine and bond in your player record and generally will present you a bill when you come back to register in five years thinking that we've forgotten

about it. We don't. And you don't register until you pay the fine or bond in addition to the registration fee.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Is it OK to treat the office staff like dirt?**

No. They get paid \$10 an hour to make your life easy. They don't make policy decisions. The League officers handle that. If you don't like the rules, the fees, your red card or the fact that soccer was free where you lived last year, then come in on Thursday night and you can tell a real live officer in person. Pending that, we'd appreciate you showing common courtesy to the people behind the counter. If that's too much to ask, we'll arrange a meeting with you or your player and the Executive Committee and assist you in finding you a different soccer League to play in.

### **I've called the office every minute for the last half hour and no one has answered the phone. How come?**

The office staff deals with people in the office first. If they don't answer when you call, leave a message and they'll call you back. They fully realize that your call is the single most important event in soccer on the planet. In fact, they realize it on your first try. By your fourth try, you're simply acting like a jerk and you need to stop.