

READING BERKS JUNIOR SOCCER LEAGUE

END OF THE SEASON PLAYOFFS

Rules Of Competition

1. Age and Eligibility

- A. Participation in the Reading Berks Junior Soccer League (RBJSL) end of the season playoffs is open to the top four teams in Travel I divisions U9-U19 boys and girls from the Fall season.
- B. Secondary players are eligible to play in the RBJSL playoffs provided their primary team does not have a game at the same time.
- C. Failure to follow this rule could result in suspension of the player/coach, fines according to RBJSL By-Laws and Constitution and possibly forfeiture of games in which the player played illegally. For official ruling of a secondary player, refer to the Secondary Player Status rule listed in the coach's manual on www.RBJSL.org.
- D. If the secondary player's primary team has a game the same day but is after the secondary team game, the player may play in the secondary game provided the player then plays for the primary team later in the day. Failure to play in the primary team game results in the player being ineligible for the secondary team game and will result in a forfeit for the secondary team. Any question regarding this rule must be reviewed with the RBJSL Board prior to the game.

2. REGISTRATION

- A. Each team's head coach and players need to report to the registration area at least 30 minutes prior to their first game as listed on the playoff schedule. If your team makes it to the finals, you must check in 30 minutes prior to the final game as well. **Coaches are to bring the following to registration:** Players, player and coaches passes (electronic version will be used), copy of the current stamped roster, and game report form with players' uniform numbers. Player and Coaches passes will be collected at registration and returned after the game once the official game card is returned to registration with both coach's signatures and the referee's signature. If there were any yellow or red cards issued to any players and/or coaches during the playoffs their passes will be held on to till either the December RBJSL meeting or after the player or coach has served a possible suspension for wrong doing.
- B. For Semi Final games the home team will be the 1st and 2nd place teams and the visiting teams will be the 3rd and 4th place teams for each game.
- C. For Final games the winner of the 1v4 game will be the home team and the winner of the 2 v 3 games will be the visiting team.
 - a. Example: 1v4 1=home, 4=visitors winner of this game is home team for the finals
 - b. Example: 2v3 2=home, 3=visitors winner of this game is the visiting team for finals.
- D. The referees will be given a game card to be completed by the referee and signed by both teams' head coaches. This card is to be collected at the conclusion of the game. If the card is not collected by the playoff staff, the referee is then responsible for returning this game card back to the registration table so scores can be published and proper records can be kept.

3. Laws of the Game

- A. All games shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws, except as specifically modified by these rules.
- B. Substitutions (unlimited and allowed to return)
 - a. U9 and U10 can substitute at ANY stoppage of play.
 - b. Throw in – team taking throw-in, other team can also substitute if the team taking the throw-in is also substituting (piggyback)
 - c. Goal kick – either team
 - d. After scoring a goal – either team
 - e. Injury – one for one

4. Duration of Games and number of players

A.	Year	Ball	Minutes
a.	Under 17-19	5	90 (Two 45 minute halves, 5 minute half)
b.	Under 15 & 16	5	80 (Two 40 minute halves, 5 minute half)
c.	Under 13 & 14	5	70 (Two 35 minute halves, 5 minute half)
d.	Under 11 & 12	4	60 (Two 30 minute halves, 5 minute half)
e.	Under 9 & 10	4	50 (Two 25 minute halves, 5 minute half)
f. All games will be played with a running clock. The referee may stop the clock for serious injuries. All decisions of this nature are made by the referee on the field and are final.			
g. U9/U10 – 7v7			
h. U11/U12 – 9v9			
i. All other age groups – 11v11			

5. Field and Game Equipment

- A. Players must have unique numbers on the back of their uniforms. There are no repeated numbers per team.
- B. Players are required to wear shin guards in accordance with FIFA laws of the game.
- C. Home team for each game is pre-determined on the game schedule. Home team is the first team listed.
- D. Visiting team is to change uniform color if both teams are of the same colors.
- E. Teams must be at the field 15 minutes before the scheduled start. If games are running ahead of schedule your team may be asked to start their game early.
- F. Home team decides which goal to attack. Visiting team will get kick off.
- G. Home team is responsible for providing the game ball.

6. Conduct

- A. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the spirit and letter of the law. Displays of temper or dissent are cause for ejection from the game and surrounding field area.
- B. Players, coaches, and team officials ejected from a game by the referee shall be ineligible for the next scheduled game. Players receiving red/yellow cards or coaches who have ejected from a game will in addition have the manner referred to Reading Berks Junior Soccer League.
- C. Teams will be assembled on the player's side of the field only. NO spectators will be allowed on the player's side of the field.
- D. All Travel coaches must have a validated "Coaches Pass" for each game. Although a team may have more than two coaches registered and holding passes, only two are allowed on the sidelines, for U11 and older, with the team during any game and only three coaches allowed on the sideline with any U09 and U10 Teams.
- E. In the event a single referee system is used, the person running the sideline flag is not permitted to coach or talk to the players during the game.

F. Alcoholic beverages, smoking, dogs, or open flames are NOT permitted on any of the playoff locations. Please make sure all participants and any visitors are aware of this rule. The local police department can and will be called if this rule is broken.

7. Determining Division Playoff Teams

- A. RBJSL board has the final interpretation of these rules and will determine the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place teams.
 - B. The regular season is a nine (9) or an eight (8) game schedule. Some divisions/teams may be required to play an extra game (10th) due to an odd number of teams in a division or for any other reason. Only nine (9) or eight (8) games, depending on what was agreed upon before the season, will be used to count toward the point total. The extra game (10th game) will be pre-determined by RBJSL prior to the beginning of the season and will not count in points for the team playing the additional game. RBJSL will not identify which is the additional game during the season that will NOT count toward the point total. Any cards or ejections served during the additional game will be applied as stated below in section 7.E.b.
 - C. The top four teams in each division (only T1) will participate in the End of Season Playoffs. Divisions that have a Flight A and Flight B will send four teams from each Flight. The top team in each Flight will play the fourth place team in the same Flight. The 2nd and 3rd place team in each Flight will play each other from the same Flight. Winners of these games will play the other winner within the same Flight. The top two teams from each Flight will play each other for the championship.
 - D. The following criteria will be used to determine the first through fourth seed.
 - E. After applying the criteria from 7.E.b below, the team with the most points will be the first seed, team with the second most points will be the second seed, team with the third most points will be the third seed, and the team with the fourth amount of points will be the fourth seed.
 - a. Point Standings - Most points
 - a) Three (3) points for a win
 - b) One (1) point for a tie.
 - c) Zero (0) points for a loss
 - b. **NOTE: 1 Point** will be deducted from the teams total point standings for each of the following:
 - a) A Coach or Assistant Coach was ejected from a game during the regular season.
 - b) The same player receives a red card, or two yellow cards in any game during the regular season.
 - c) A parent or fan ejected from a match as reported in referee game reports.
8. In the event of a tie within a division after applying 7,E,b. above, whether it is for first, second, third, or fourth place, the following criteria shall be used to determine the seeding. The top four (4) teams as determined by these rules will advance to the playoffs.
- A. Head to Head competition (In the event of a tie among more than two teams, this criteria will be omitted)
 - B. Least Goals allowed
 - C. Most Bonus points
 - a. Bonus points examples:
 - a) Team winning 3-0, 6-3, 8-0, 5-1 all receive 3 bonus points
 - b) Team winning 2-0, 3-1 5-3 all receive 2 bonus points
 - c) Teams winning 1-0, 2-1, 5-4 all receive 1 bonus point

- D. Most shutouts {0-0 ties do not count}
- E. Most Wins
- F. Team with fewest red/yellow cards during the season.

9. Failure to show and forfeits

- A. There will be no grace period. Any team not ready to play at the scheduled start time will forfeit that game.
- B. For 11v11, a minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team and the game may be played. For 9v9 a minimum number of players is 6, for 7v7 a minimum number of players is 5. If a team has less than the minimum number of players present at the scheduled start time, that team will forfeit.
- C. If a team is the cause for termination of a game, that team will be considered to have forfeited that game. The opposing team will record a win and move on to the semi-final or final game or be considered the champion.
- D. Case of inclement weather, the Playoff Committee will have the authority to change games as follows:
 - a. Relocate or reschedule any game(s).
 - b. Change the duration of any game(s).
 - c. Preliminary games terminated by game or playoff officials after one half of play shall be considered official at of the time of termination.

10. General

- A. Under no circumstances whatsoever will the Playoff Committee, Reading Berks Junior Soccer League, or EPYSA be responsible for any expenses incurred by any team.
- B. The Playoff Committee's interpretation of the rules shall be **FINAL**. The Playoff Committee has the right to add or change these rules up to the start of the playoffs if deemed necessary for any reason. If changed, all teams will receive updated rules before their first game is played.
- C. The Playoff Committee reserves the right to decide on all matters pertaining to these playoffs.

11. Tie Breaker format for preliminary and final rounds.

- A. At the end of regulation play, two 5 minute sudden death overtime periods. Home team decides which goal to defend and the visiting team kicks off. Teams exchange ends of the field after the first period. If a game is still tied, then follow item 11B-D.
- B. Referee decides which goal to be used for the penalty kicks.
- C. Coin toss to decide who kicks first. The home team calls the coin toss. Winner decides who kicks first.
- D. Penalty Kicks – format as follows:
 - a. PLAYERS CHOSEN (from now on will be called eligible players) MUST BE ON THE FIELD AT THE END OF THE 2ND OVERTIME PERIOD.
 - b. Prior to Penalty Kicks, if one team has more players on the field at the end of the 2nd overtime period, the teams shall reduce players to an even number. Example: team A has 11 players and team B has 10 players, team A will remove one player from the penalty kick competition and only 10 players will participate. Once the penalty kicks begin there will be no more reducing.
 - c. Teams choose five players from eligible players on the field at the end of the overtime play. All five players rotate to take a turn. The team with the most goals after all five players from each team have taken their turn will be the winner of the game. However, if teams are still tied the teams will go into sudden death penalty kicks. We begin with the remaining eligible players (who did not already take a penalty kick) that were on the field at the end of the 2nd overtime period. The winner will be decided when one team scores a goal and the other team does not. When ALL the eligible players have taken

a turn we will begin another round of single kicks, with the eligible players, to determine a winner. This will continue until a winner is determined.

12. Referee fees for all games

- A. ALL playoff games will have a center referee and 2 assistant referees.
- B. Teams are responsible for paying the following fees for the first game you play. You will need to bring money for the 1/2 the center referee and one of the assistant referee(s).
 - a. Center Referee: Both teams pay $\frac{1}{2}$ the fee
 - b. Assistant Referee: Each team will pay one of the AR's the full fee.
- C. RBJSJL will pay the referee fees for all other games.

D. Game Fees	Age	Center	AR	AR	Each Team Pays
a.	09-10	34	19	19	\$36.00
b.	11-12	43	31	31	\$52.50
c.	13-14	49	35	35	\$59.50
d.	15/16	57	39	39	\$67.50
e.	17/19	64	45	45	\$77.00