



# FUSSA



## Tournament & League By Laws Rules & Regulation

Revised 10/10/11

### AFFILIATION/ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 The Fiji-US Sports & Social Association Soccer Tournaments & League Competition shall be open to all Fiji American clubs affiliated with the Association.
- 1.2 The Fiji-US Sports & Social Association shall host amateur soccer Tournaments & League Competition and affiliate with the United States Soccer Federation and FIFA via the California Soccer North Association for the benefit of the registered teams and players.
- 1.3 The Fiji-US Sports & Social Association's Board of Directors, Executive Committee, officials, members and affiliates shall only act as facilitators of sports Tournaments & League Competitions and will not be responsible or liable for any loss, damage and/or injury incurred to anyone. The Fiji-US Sports & Social Association's Board of Directors, Executive Committee, officials, members and affiliates shall be held irreproachable against any claims, lawsuits, demands, and/or liabilities. FUSSA does not carry or provide medical insurance coverage.
- 1.4 All Players (EXCEPT UNDER 1.5) must be of Fiji American heritage and be residents of the United States (i.e. born in Fiji or an immediate descendant of a Fiji born immigrant).
- 1.5 Each Club shall be allowed to register SIX (6) foreign (non-Fijian heritage) players of which only FOUR (4) shall be allowed to play on the field at any given time. Teams will only be allowed to release three and add three non-Fijian heritage players per tournament/league game.
- 1.6 All Clubs/teams must be in good standing with FUSSA; pay an annual non-refundable affiliation fee of \$100 (excluding new teams who shall pay a \$200 non-refundable fee), prior to being allowed to re-affiliate and register to participate in FUSSA events.
- 1.7 Teams failing to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special General Meeting (SGM) shall be fined \$50 (except under grave and tragic circumstances) as determined by the Executive Board.
- 1.8 All team/club monetary obligations including fines, dues, registration fees, bond and/or outstanding debt must be paid in full before the FIXTURES DRAWING OR PRIOR TO THE START OF A LEAGUE MATCH. Additionally players must pay all monetary obligations including fines, dues, registration fees, bonds and/or other outstanding debt before entering the field. Failure to pay will result in an automatic loss of the game and will not be subject to a protest.
- 1.9 All teams, officials (elected or appointed), players and supporters must be in good standing with FUSSA to associate with or participate in FUSSA events.
- 1.10 Participation in FUSSA sanctioned events is a privilege (not a right) and any verbal or physical threats, in addition to threats of civil action or lawsuits by any member or non-member will be considered seriously inappropriate and all parties concerned will be disbarred from all FUSSA sanctioned events.

### REGISTRATION/RELEASES

- 2.1 All players must register with California Soccer North prior to participating in any Fiji-US Sports & Social Association Soccer Tournament & League Competitions unless otherwise directed by the FUSSA Executive Committee or Board of Directors. All players must present their ID cards, sign the roster and obtain a wrist band from the Tournament Director prior to being allowed to play. No Hand Band No Play.
- 2.2 All players must sign the provided team slip, wear a hand band prior to entering the field of play and keep the hand band on at all times while playing unless otherwise directed by the FUSSA Executive Committee, Board of Directors or Tournament Directors.
- 2.3 All teams shall add or Voluntarily release any number of players but have no more than a maximum of 25 registered players per Tournament & League game. All Transfers/Drops/Releases of Fijian and non-Fijian heritage players must be given to the FUSSA Secretary during meetings or to the Tournament

- Director at the Fields. Teams with over 25 players will be fined \$100 per tournament/league game and be subject to further disciplinary action if deemed necessary.
- 2.4 Players shall register and play for one team only. Any player registering for more than one team will be fined \$100. Clubs/Teams are directed to verify each player's signature on their California Identification Cards/Drivers License as Clubs/Teams will be liable for the \$100 fine if the player is registered with two teams and signatures do not match.
  - 2.5 Player transfers/releases shall be limited to \$100 only (\$50 paid to the Association & \$50 to the releasing Club). Since the Fiji-US Soccer Association is an amateur organization, all monetary contracts between players/clubs/officials shall be deemed null & void and club properties are the responsibilities of the clubs. Should a claim prevail the Club shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency/small claims court to file their complaints.
  - 2.6 Players shall be granted one release per season and pay a \$100 transfer/release fee if they re-register to play for another team within a given season. In addition only one player per team per tournament or two league games shall be granted a transfer release to another team for a maximum of three (3) player transfer releases per team per season. Please note that Voluntary releases are unlimited (as mentioned in Section 2.3) while Transfer releases are limited to three (as mentioned herein Section 2.6) per season.
  - 2.7 Release requests must be presented (in writing) at the Tournament Fixtures or League Meeting. The \$100 release fee to FUSSA (\$50 FUSSA/\$50 prior club) must be paid before the player is released. NO RELEASES WILL BE ENTERTAINED AFTER THE FIXTURES/LEAGUE MEETING OR AT THE FIELD. And No player releases shall be entertained or approved prior to the beginning of the last Winter League Pool match until after the Winter League playoffs are completed.
  - 2.8 Clubs/Teams notifying the Association of a breakup and/or not participating in two or more tournaments/league games shall be deemed dissolved and all players shall be released without penalty except that the player will have to re-register and pay the \$100 transfer/release fee.
  - 2.9 Clubs/Teams, players and/or officials registered with the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association shall not play or participate in any non-sanctioned Fiji-US Sports & Social Association event except for religious or cultural purposes. Failure to do so will result in fines and suspensions including further disciplinary actions as deemed necessary.
  - 2.10 Teams fielding/playing players who are registered with other FUSSA or FSAC teams shall be fined \$100 per incident and shall automatically lose the game in which the player has played and the matter will not be subject to a protest.
  - 2.11 Professional, Semi Professional or College players of Fiji or Foreign heritage (as mentioned in Section 1.4, 1.5 & 2.3) shall be classified as Visiting players and as such must produce their Professional, Semi Pro or College ID Cards to the President/Acting President prior to registering and playing for one team only. Visiting Player Registration Forms shall be provided by FUSSA at the Field. NO CARD NO PLAY & ALL FUSSA LEAGUE/TOURNAMENT RULES INCLUDING RELEASE PROCEDURES APPLY.
  - 2.12 Inter-association player transfers/releases between FUSSA and FSAC shall be \$150 (\$50 paid to the releasing Association & \$50 to the releasing Club and \$50 to the accepting Association).
  - 2.13 FSAC players who have not registered and played in the preceding summer tournament season with FUSSA shall pay a \$150 bond to play in the FUSSA Winter League for a maximum of 3 players per team per winter league season. The \$150 bond will be refunded at the AGM upon completion of the player registering and playing for a FUSSA team in the forthcoming Summer Tournament Season.

## **PARTICIPATION**

- 3.1 Tournament participation fees of \$220 for one day and \$295 for two day tournaments (excluding the North American Cup) must be paid prior to the drawing of the fixtures.
- 3.2 League game participation shall be determined by the Association and may range between \$65-\$100 per team per game (depending on the cost of the fields and referees).
- 3.3 Fixtures will not be drawn for Teams failing to pay on time. It is the team's responsibility to pay off all fees and fines prior to the fixtures drawing.
- 3.4 Teams not participating in FUSSA event shall pay \$200 (exception-immediate family member tragedy). Other waivers for nonparticipation must be received (in writing) no later than one month from the tournament date.

- 3.5 League games canceled due to a tragedy must be rescheduled and played as determined by the Association or a \$100 fine will be assessed on the canceling team.
- 3.6 Fixtures shall be drawn the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Wednesday prior to the Tournament except under extreme & extra ordinary circumstances.

#### **ASSOCIATED COLORS**

- 4.1 Each team shall register their uniform colors and an alternate uniform as necessary.
- 4.2 All uniform shirts/jerseys must be numbered beginning from #1.
- 4.3 Goal keepers must wear colors which distinguish them from other players and officials.
- 4.4 Should teams have matching uniforms (colors) a coin flip shall determine which team will use an alternate colored uniform
- 4.5 The National Colors of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association, its members and affiliates, shall be red, white and blue as depicted by the flag of the United States of America.

#### **DURATION OF MATCHES**

- 5.1 Tournament matches shall be 60 minutes (or less if deemed necessary) and divided between two 30 minute periods). In case of time constraints the Executive Board of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association reserves the right to reduce the duration of the matches.
- 5.2 The duration of a League game shall be 90 minutes, divided between two 45 minute periods. In case of time constraints or other extra ordinary circumstances, the Executive Board of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association reserves the right to reduce the duration of the matches.
- 5.3 All matches shall start at the scheduled time. A grace period of **ONLY** 10 minutes shall be given for the first game only. TEAMS shall be subject to a \$100 fine should they fail to enter the field once the referee has blown the whistle.
- 5.4 Failure to report for a game will result in the referee terminating the match and reporting it to the President/Acting President of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association. The Executive Committee of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association shall retain absolute authority (under extreme and extra ordinary circumstances only) when deciding to award the match by default to the opposing team, however, it shall also have the authority to resolve the matter as deemed fit for the benefit of the game should it deem necessary.
- 5.5 Each team shall field at least 7 players to start off a match.
- 5.6 After each game the teams will be given a maximum of 30 minutes and minimum of 20 minutes break.
- 5.7 Under extreme conditions, extra ordinary circumstances and/or other genuine reasons beyond its control, the Executive Committee of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association shall have the right to postpone the games and/or the tournament/league games.

#### **REFUSAL TO COMPLETE A MATCH**

- 6.1 Teams shall not be allowed to walk off the field of play during the duration of the play. Any team failing to observe this shall forfeit the points in favor of the opposing team and be fined a minimum of \$50 per game, payable before their next game. All teams are expected to complete their games (and then if necessary file a protest)
- 6.2 The Executive Committee of the Fiji US Sports Association shall have the discretion to re-draw the fixtures, prior to the beginning/kick off of a tournament/league game if a team under tragic and extraordinary circumstances is in mourning and cannot attend.

#### **TOURNAMENT MODE OF PLAY**

- 7.1 The tournament system of play shall include pool games (as determined by the fixtures) with the pool winner and/or runner up qualifying for the elimination playoffs.
- 7.2 In a Knockout Tournament elimination/ knockout rules will play.
- 7.3 During pool play the following point system shall apply: Win- 3 points; Draw- 1 point; Loss – 0
- 7.4 The team with highest points will be the winner in the pool.
- 7.5 Should 2 pool winners with equal points be eligible to qualify for the semi finals (upon completion of pool play), then the winner and runner-up will be decided by a flip of the coin.
- 7.6 Should more than 3/4 teams in a pool have equal points the pool winner and/or the R/up will be decided by a shootout between the teams, with the first two teams picked from a hat shooting penalties first.

- 7.7 Should one team be the pool winner and 2/3 teams have equal R/Up points then the R/Up will be decided by a shootout between the teams, with the first two teams picked from a hat shooting penalties first.
- 7.8 The semi-finals and the final will be played on a knockout basis. If the teams are tied at the end of the match, then the penalty shootout rule will apply.
- 7.9 The winner of Pool A will play the runner up Pool B and the winner Pool B plays the runner up of Pool A. Other formats shall be approved & determined by the Board. Pool winners will be given preference to play in their own field but the Tournament Director has the right to change venues if deemed necessary.

#### **LEAGUE COMPETITION MODE OF PLAY**

- 8.1 The League Competition will be played on a round robin/pool play basis where teams will play against each other as determined by the Executive Board. After the completion of the round robin/pool play competition the top teams will advance to the elimination playoff rounds.
- 8.2 League standings will be based on the following results/scoring system: Three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss. Any team that forfeits a game will be assessed a minus one (-1) point for that game.
- 8.3 In the event of a tie in the final league standings the following tie breaker formula, in the order shown, shall be used to determine the winner: (a) Total points (b) Goal Scored (c) Goal Against (d) Goal Difference (e) Head to head season results (f) Flip of a coin.
- 8.4 After the League round robin/pool play results are finalized, the rankings will remain the same until the play-offs are completed. The top ranked team will play the lowest seeded team. Other formats shall be determined by the Executive Committee & approved by the Board of Directors prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- 8.5 FUSSA shall maintain a complete, accurate and updated League Championship Table on its website.
- 8.6 In the event that there is a tie in any play-off game, two ten minute, overtime periods will be played to determine a winner. If a tie still exists after overtime, five (5) penalty shots are to be taken. If there is still no winner, a system of sudden death penalty shots will be utilized.

#### **SUBSTITUTES**

- 9.1 The number of substitutes shall be unlimited during tournament/league games.
- 9.2 The substitute should be from the list of players listed on the team slip provided to the match official prior to the commencement of the match. **NO CARD NO PLAY.**
- 9.3 Players who are over 40 years old can at their own risk of injury and loss, fill in for teams who have less than 14 players on their roster at the field. FUSSA will not be liable for any loss, damage and/or injury incurred as mentioned in Sections 14.1 thru 14.5 of these by laws.

#### **TEAM OFFICIALS (Recognition & Responsibilities)**

- 9.3 Only two officials/delegates per team, approved and in good standing with FUSSA (namely the manager and the president) as mentioned herein will be recognized and be allowed to entertain their concerns, problems and grievances in writing to the President/Acting President of FUSSA only. The names of the delegates must be submitted to the Secretary of FUSSA at the AGM.
- 9.4 All Tournament/League concerns, problems and grievances must be written and given to the President/Acting President. Should a prompt resolution be requested, the matter will be forwarded to the available quorum of the FUSSA Executive Committee for immediate deliberations.
- 9.5 All Other disputes including concerns, problems and grievances must be written and forwarded to the Secretary for consideration in a timely fashion. The decision of the FUSSA Board of Directors shall be final and binding and will not be subject to further review.
- 9.6 Any official, team spectator and/or player abusing or using physical or verbal aggression against a member of the Executive Committee including the President/Acting President/Tournament Directors and/or referees shall be suspended immediately and further disciplinary actions including fines will be decided at the next Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association.

- 9.7 All FUSSA Executive Committee officials shall have the same privilege of enjoying all FUSSA events as guests of the Association. Should a need arise for the Executive Committee to resolve or regulate an issue (Protests/Disciplinary matters), the President or Acting President shall activate the full quorum of the available Committee to resolve all matters needing immediate attention.
- 9.8 The President or Acting President shall preside over, notify and activate the Executive Committee regarding all WRITTEN protests and disciplinary action that may need immediate resolutions at the Field.
- 9.9 The Tournament Director shall act as Field Coordinators and be responsible for overseeing that all tournaments are organized according to the Association's requirements and all FUSSA Tournament by-laws are followed.

### **PROTESTS**

- 10.1 All protest shall be made in writing stating the reasons of protest and lodged with the President or Acting President of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association within 15 minutes of completion of the match to which it relates. All protest must be accompanied by a refundable fee of \$50.00.
- 10.2 Once the protest is received all parties involved in the protest shall be given 10 minutes to respond to the protest allegations and as such present all defendant's (players/officials), evidence and witnesses to the available quorum of the FUSSA Executive Committee within the ascribed 10 minutes.
- 10.3 The resolution will be deliberated upon by the Executive Committee of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association according to the FUSSA by laws and all decisions of the Executive Committee of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association shall be final and binding. NO APPEALS TO THE FUSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE ENTERTAINED AT THE FIELD, even if new evidence becomes available.
- 10.4 No protest against the decision of the referee in respect to the Laws of the game shall be entertained.
- 10.5 Protests lodged shall be allowed to be withdrawn within 15 minutes and the \$50.00 shall be refunded. After 15 minutes no protest will be allowed to be withdrawn.
- 10.6 When a protest is granted the \$50.00 shall be refunded along with 3 points and 2-0 goals to the winning team. However if the team has scored more than 2 goals, the actual goals scored will count.

### **CAUTIONS/ DISMISSALS**

- 11.1 Where two cautions (yellow cards) are recorded against a player in a match resulting in a automatic red card, he shall automatically be suspended for the next match
- 11.2 A red card will constitute a one game minimum suspension to be served during the following game and a \$25 fine.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- 12.1 The Executive Committee of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association shall decide upon any and all further disciplinary action be it necessary, up to and including a fine (up to \$250 per individual action) and/or suspension from the tournaments/league competition.
- 12.2 Any player, official and/or spectator using physical or verbal aggression toward the referee, other players, spectators and/or officials will be banned from the tournament/league competition and will face further disciplinary action including fines (up to \$250) which will be dealt with by the Executive Committee/Board of Directors of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association and if necessary the matter will be forwarded to the Police.
- 12.3 Teams and their officials must be responsible for their team officials, players & spectators behavior both on and off the field. The teams shall be liable for any fines or disciplinary action for any misbehavior.
- 12.4 Alcohol will NOT be allowed within 100 yards from the END of the perimeter/boundary of the sports field, park, play ground, parking lot and/or the entire sports complex unless otherwise permitted by local city & park ordinances. Players, officials, fans and spectators found consuming alcohol within these limits shall be subject to fines of up to \$250 including further disciplinary actions and suspensions from FUSSA and Local Law Enforcement agencies will also be contacted for enforcement.
- 12.5 All clubs/teams shall be responsible for maintaining a clean area in and around the field. Teams not picking up their garbage shall be subject to fines between \$100-\$250 per incident. It is the responsibility

of the club/team to bring garbage bags and dispose of their trash in designated areas or take it with them out of the soccer field.

- 12.6 Any and all decisions of the Board of Directors of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association will be final and will not be subject to review or further appeal.
- 12.7 All team fines, tournament dues, league fees, additional penalties and/or monetary obligations must be paid off before the kickoff of any (tournament/league) game. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture/loss of the immediate game(s) with loss of points and will not be subject to protest.
- 12.8 Players fined for infractions must fully comply with their disciplinary sanction and pay their fines prior to playing again. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of the immediate game(s) with loss of points and will not be subject to protest. Should the player not return to the team (except during suspensions) the team shall be liable for the fines at the end of the season.
- 12.9 The following disciplinary guidelines shall apply for all violations beyond a red card infraction:
  - I) First Offense: Minimum 2 games suspension & \$50 fine per incident/offense up to a life ban & \$250 fine.
  - II) Second Offense: Minimum 1 Tournament suspension & \$100 fine per incident/offense up to a life ban & \$250 fine.
  - III) Third or More Offenses: Minimum 2 Tournament suspension & \$250 fine per incident/offense up to a life ban & \$250 fine.

### **TEAMS/RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 13.1 New teams will be allowed to submit applications for participation but the final decision will be reviewed by the Executive Board of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association and a decision will be rendered within 21 days. The deadline for new team acceptance will be prior to the beginning of the second tournament except under extra ordinary circumstances.
- 13.2 All new teams shall be subject to the following rules: approval at AGM, pay \$200 affiliation fee, plus \$250/\$500 bond for one/two years probation, colors shall not be in conflict with other existing teams, no more than 3 players shall be registered from an existing team, CSAN player cards required before first tournament and/or league game (which ever comes first).
- 13.3 Should teams not abide by the rules and regulations of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association, the Board of Directors may impose a bond, fine and/or suspension on a team, player, official and or spectator if it deemed necessary for the safety and betterment of the games.
- 13.4 Teams (and/or the officials responsible) not returning trophies prior to the applicable tournament date or league championship game, shall be fined \$250 and be subject to civil proceedings if necessary.
- 13.5 All affiliation fees and bond money shall be subject forfeit should a team not complete the season, wish to withdraw from the Association or face other disciplinary action.

### **GENERAL**

- 14.1 Regulations, rules and by-laws not appropriated herein shall be resolved and implemented by the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association from time to time as deemed appropriate. The Board of Directors Fiji-US Sports & Social Association shall have the right to make any and all changes, adjustments and modifications to any tournament/league competition as deemed necessary for the betterment of the games. The decisions of the Board of Directors of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association will be final and binding
- 14.2 Teams, players, officials and non-members must ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and with full responsibility understand that the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association events are being held to promote and foster a medium for Sports & Social enrichment among all participants and it is a privilege for members to participate in these events. **FUSSA DOES NOT CARRY MEDICAL INSURANCE AND RECOMMENDS PARTICIPANTS TO SECURE THEIR OWN MEDICAL INSURANCE.**
- 14.3 Teams, players, officials spectators and non-members must FULLY UNDERSTAND that: (a.); SPORTING ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death; (b.); these Risks and dangers may be caused by one's own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the soccer matches/Tournaments, the condition in which the Tournament or games take place, or the negligence of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, members and officials; (c.); there may be

other risks & errors, social and economic losses either not known or not readily foreseeable at this time; and teams, players, officials, and non-members must FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES that may incur to them as a result of their participation in the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association sanctioned events.

- 14.4 Teams, players, officials, spectators, members and non-members must AGREE AND WARRANT that participation in Fiji-US Sports & Social Association Tournament's & soccer games are voluntary and participation viewing, or observing the FUSSA events are based on an individuals own free will and FUSSA along with its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, members, officials and affiliates are not liable for any loss, damage and/or injury incurred.
- 14.5 Teams, players, officials, spectators, members, and non-members by participating in an Fiji-US Sports & Social Association sanctioned event HEREBY RELEASE, discharge, indemnify and covenant not to sue the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association, its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, officers & members, sponsors and affiliates from all liability, claims, demands, losses or damages on any account caused or allege to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association events organizers or officials, and further agree that if, despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, anyone on their behalf, makes a claim against the Fiji-US Sports & Social Association its officials members, they shall HOLD HARMLESS, all parties mentioned herein from any and all litigation, expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, demands, cost or civil judgments which any may incur as a result of such claim.

**All TEAMS & CLUBS understand that the Fiji US Sports & Social Association Events and other events organized by FUSSA are being held to promote and foster a medium for Social, Cultural and Sports enrichment among all Fiji-Americans. All TEAMS & CLUBS acknowledge and understand on behalf of themselves and their Club/Team that participation in these events is voluntary and of one's free will and FUSSA, its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, officials, members and affiliates are not liable for any loss, damage and/or injury incurred. All TEAMS & CLUBS hereby irrevocably agree to indemnify FUSSA, along with its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, officials, members and affiliates and hold them irrefragable against any injuries, claims, lawsuits, demands, and/or liabilities.**

**All TEAMS & CLUBS have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that they have given up substantial rights by joining FUSSA and participating in FUSSA events and have freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and with full responsibility intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability for their team, players, spectators, officials and/or third parties.**

Rev 10/10/11