

# La Liga Leones Negros

## Soccer Rules 2026 / 2027

---

### Rule 1 – Notification of Annual Managers Meeting

At least two weeks prior to either of the managers meetings, an email will be made to all managers of record and other interested parties who wish to compete in the upcoming season. This mailing may include the following:

- A. Time, date, location, and agenda of the managers meeting.
- B. Fee schedule for the coming season.
- C. Details on filling team applications and registration deadlines.
- D. Any upcoming items to be aware of, vote on, or any items that need to be reviewed.

### Rule 2 – Material Provided When Filing Applications, or at LNL

Each manager shall be provided with the following:

- A. Match roster instructions.
- B. Where to find the LNL bylaws and constitution.
- C. Where to find the LNL rules of competition.

### Rule 3 – Deadline for Team Application and Payment of Fees

- A. Applications and fees are due by the date and time which the board set during each registration window.
- B. Applications and payments received after this time are subject to a \$100 late fee. The number of teams allowed to participate in LNL sanctioned matches shall be determined by the executive committee based upon the date of receipt of registration fees, team and manager conduct in prior seasons and availability of resources.
- C. If a team has not fully paid a season's registration fee by the time and date above, that team will not be scheduled for that season. This requirement can be waived by the president of LNL.

### Rule 4 – Distribution of Schedules

Prior to the start of league play the following will be made available to the managers:

- A. Schedule of matches.
- B. List of team names and uniform colors.
- C. Addresses of fields.
- D. List of managers with phone numbers.

### Rule 5 – Player Registration and Player Cards

Individual player registration is conducted at the La Liga Leones Negros website. By registering with LNL the player agrees to abide by the rules of the United States Soccer Federation and the LNL. The player registration is property of the LNL and must be surrendered on demand to any match official or LNL officer.

To be eligible to play in a LNL sanctioned match, a player must be at least 18 years of age and hold a valid LNL player card, and have their name appear on a match roster prior to the start of match play. The match roster must be presented to the referee prior to the start of the match. The player registration card must be presented to the referee prior to the player participating in the match.

- A.** All player cards issued are valid until expired or revoked by the LNL or until a player has been suspended by either association.
- B.** Renewal for existing cards may be obtained at LNL above.
- C.** New player cards may be obtained by filling out individual player registration forms and returning them to the LNL with the appropriate fee. Proof of identity will be required prior to the issuance of the player registration card. No player shall be issued more than one (1). Any player caught falsifying any information in order to obtain a card while under suspension from LNL participation is subject to permanent expulsion from LNL.
- D.** Players may register during business hours at the LNL.
- E.** A player may not play in two league matches on different teams within the same division inside of a five-day time period. LNL rosters are limited to 20 players at any one match. LNL championship match rosters may have an unlimited number of eligible players.
- F.** A player must check in or play in (5 matches) of the teams scheduled matches to be eligible for that teams championship match.
- G.** A team's roster is frozen for the last (2) matches of the (fall and spring) season (including makeup matches). Meaning no new players can play in the 9th or 10th match without playing in at least one of the previous 8 matches.

## **Rule 6 – Uniforms**

- A.** When both teams in a match are wearing the same or similar colors, the home team shall change to alternate, numbered shirt. Upon the request of the visiting team, the referee must require the home team to change to dissimilar colors before beginning the match.
- B.** For premier teams all of a team's players shall wear the same uniforms: shirt/jersey, shorts, socks. If a team is found to be in repetitive violation of this uniform requirement, LNL may enforce penalties under rule 15.
- C.** Failure of the home team to change is grounds for forfeiture of the match.
- D.** Goalkeepers may not wear similar colors to the field players of either team.
- E.** If a team changes colors from the colors declared on their application, they must notify the LNL and the managers within their division, in writing or via email, stating what their new colors are.
- F.** Numbering of uniforms: all players uniforms (home or alternate), except the goalkeepers, must be numbered. No two players may wear the same number on their respective uniforms. The fine per unnumbered shirt is (\$5.00) per shirt. Tape is not acceptable as numbering on a shirt. Use of an unnumbered pinnie is okay provided that the number can be seen through the pinnie.

## **Rule 7 – LNL Match Preparation (Prior to the Match)**

- A.** Cards: Players must present, in person, to the referee their valid LNL player card. The referee will match the picture with the player and inspect for a valid card. The referee will also inspect the players equipment, which shall include:

1. A numbered shirt, shorts, shoes, shin guards completely covered by socks.
2. No player may wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or others. The match referee has total authority to determine compliance with this rule. Players that do not comply may not play.

**B.** Matches should begin at the scheduled time. A 15 minute grace period after the scheduled time of the match is allowed for a team to assemble the minimum of seven players. When a team has seven players with valid player I.D. card present, the match may begin.

**C.** Field condition protest must be made prior to the start of the match to the referee, who will note that the match was played under protest and notify the opposing team.

*"In case of extreme weather conditions (such as high temperatures, or poor quality alerts), referees are empowered to ask the teams before the match if they want to insert hydration breaks (no more than two minutes long) approximately 30 minutes into each half. Those breaks will not add more time to the halves: for example, if a match is already being played as a 42-minute halves (due to having started 6 minutes later than scheduled match time), the two minutes of hydration breaks in each half will result in each half consisting of 40 minutes of actual playing time. LNL does not specify exact conditions (i.e., temperatures over 90 F) during which hydration breaks should be considered but asks referees to error on the side of comfort and safety."*

Rosters: At the beginning of the match, each team manager will submit to the referee an approved roster form provided by OASA. Each roster shall contain the following: the date of the match, the match number, the home team, the visiting team, the name of the field, birthdate, name and shirt number of each player. The fine for improperly completed or illegible roster is twenty five dollars (\$25.00) for the first offence. A second offence may result in forfeiture of the match. Failure to provide identifying information for a player on the roster will be grounds for the referee to exclude the player from the match.

LNL will be responsible for:

1. Goal nets. Failure to provide will result in a twenty dollar fine (\$25.00).
2. Regulation corner flags. They must be at least five (5) feet high with a flag or pennant not smaller than 10" wide by 5" high. Bicycle safety flags are acceptable. Failure to provide corner flags will result in a fifteen dollar fine (\$15.00).
3. Exceptions: For the first 3 matches of the season, new teams entering the league may ask the manager of the opposing team (a minimum of five days in advance of the match) for use of that team's nets. It is the responsibility of the home team, in any case, to install the nets and corner flags.

## **Rule 8 – LNL Match Play (During the Match)**

**A.** Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions for both teams will be allowed at any dead ball situation, subject to the discretion of the referee, and provided that the player entering the field has properly presented themselves to the referee prior to the match.

**B.** Late arriving players: There are no arrival time restrictions for late arriving players, as long as they have been declared for the match on the roster prior to the start of play and present their card to the referee before entering the match.

**C.** Forfeiture will be defined as not competing in a match for any reason, including not having enough players at match time, refusing to abide by the referees decision; refusal to take the field, or leaving the field of play before the end of the match. Forfeiture may be punished by a fine.

**D.** LNL will schedule matches, at LNL discretion, based on fields available. In some instances, teams may have matches scheduled on dates, times, and fields that are not to their choosing. A team not showing up for a scheduled match shall have that match recorded as a forfeit. See rule 15 and rule 8. An agreement

between two teams to postpone a match may not be considered forfeiture as long as the match scheduler is notified two weeks (14 days) prior to the match, by fax, email, or written. Request for match changes should be communicated to the match scheduler. LNL will make an effort to reschedule the match at a time convenient for both teams, and the referees. LNL will also make every attempt to secure a field. If possible, a one hundred and fifty dollar (\$150.00) rescheduling fee must be paid before the match is rescheduled to the leagues paypal account. If rescheduling is not possible, the match will stand. Although a forfeit loss may be assessed, the forfeiting team will not be fined.

**E. Incomplete match.** If a match is stopped before half time, the referee will note the time, reason, and the score when the match is stopped during or after halftime the match will be considered complete and the score at stoppage of the match will be the final score of the match. The referee does not have the authority to determine the outcome of the match. The referee will submit a match report and the executive committee will determine the match outcome. If a match is stopped, at any time, due to fighting, the team responsible for the fight will lose the match and in addition the losing shall have three (3) points subtracted from their point standing for the season. Any protest of the match score or outcome may be protested according to LNL rule 11. Judicial protest by a team.

**F. Conduct of team supporters.** All teams are directly responsible for the actions of their supporters before, during, and after the match. The team manager will be presumed to control the team supporters. The referee may terminate the match if the team manager refuses or fails to control the team supporters during the match when requested to do so by the referee. An incident involving a teams supporters will be reviewed by the judicial officer. Disciplinary action may be taken against them, individual players, the manager and the coach. Such action may include, but is not limited to: suspension, fines, bonding, probation or dissolving of them.

**G. Shortened matches** if a match begins late, the referee can subtract time from the match in order to ensure that the match is played within the time scheduled. The match shall be shortened with equal time intervals being deducted from each half. The referee shall announce this decision to the team managers and the amount of time he intends to deduct from each half prior to the start of the match. If the match delay results in a starting time which is unreasonably late, the referee has the authority to terminate the match without following the procedure.

**H. Premiere teams:** during any match a team is required to have a designated captain on the field at all times. This player shall be wearing a captain's band on their arm, and he is the only one to confer with the referee during the course of the match. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a twenty dollar (\$20.00) fine for the team. Three (3) failures will result in a point taken from that team in addition to paying the sixty dollar (\$60.00) fine.

## **Rule 9 – Team Managers Duties**

Team managers are responsible for the following:

- A.** Maintain a record of team members names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- B.** Forward LNL communication marked for distribution to all players.
- C.** Supply team members with current copies of the rules.
- D.** Supply the referee at each match a completed official team roster.
- E.** Do not allow unregistered, suspended, expelled or illegal players to play. Violation of this provision may be cause for suspension or expulsion of the manager from further LNL participation.
- F.** Report match scores. Each manager is responsible for reporting the correct score to LNL.

- G.** Submit referee evaluation reports after each match.
- H.** Be financially responsible for any property in the teams possession.
- I.** Ensure acceptable behavior from the team and its supporters during and after matches. Remove players from the team who violate LNL rules.
- J.** Officially represent the entire team in matters such as financial matters, judiciary matters and match protest.
- K.** Enforce the LNL rules of competition, and cooperate with all judicial inquiries and investigations concerning team misconduct, including providing relevant and accurate information concerning players, spectators and other persons who violate those rules.
- L.** If a team changes managers the league must be notified in writing or via email within ten (10) days.

### **Rule 10 – Disciplinary Actions Against Players**

LNL reserves the right to review the conduct of every participant and to determine the appropriate sanction to be imposed in the case of player misconduct. Sanctions include, but are not limited to suspension from matches, bonding, fines, and requiring participation in remedial courses and supplying services prior to reinstatement in good standing.

- A.** Each player who is sent off (red carded) from a match will be suspended for at least one additional match week. The exact penalty imposed is determined by the judiciary officer or hearing board for each offence.
- B.** Suspensions are for LNL match weeks, a week that a team has a match. If the team has a bye in a given week, the suspension would carry over to the following week. If the suspension spans seasons, it would carry over for as many weeks as necessary. Suspensions from competition for violation of rules will apply only to LNL matches, but OASA usually honors suspensions across all affiliated leagues. A suspended player may actually miss additional matches on other OASA affiliated leagues.
- C.** A player or team manager may appeal an original ruling of the judiciary officer or a hearing board to a special appeal committee. No executive member who participated in an original decision shall be eligible to sit on the appeal committee for that offence. At this appeal hearing the LNL president or their designate will entertain testimony from the referee, the petitioner or other concerned parties. Each is entitled to arrange for a representative to testify on their behalf. Based on the evidence presented, the appeal committee may uphold, overturn, or amend the original decision. An appeal request must be made in writing, mailed and postmarked within 7 days of the original decision and be accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) appeal fee. The appeal fee is not refundable.

### **Rule 11 – Judicial Protest by a Team**

A team may protest the outcome of a match or a team fine to the judiciary officer provided that the protest is made within two days (48 hours) of the day of the match. Grounds of protest shall be limited to misapplication of the FIFA laws of the game, USSF regulations, and OASA rules of competition. In no event will a judgement call by a referee be a reason or ground for protest of a match outcome.

- A.** The judiciary officer shall issue a ruling.
- B.** The manager may appeal the ruling of the judiciary officer to a special judiciary hearing. At this hearing the LNL president or their designate will entertain testimony from the referee, the petitioner or other concerned parties. Each is entitled to arrange for a representative to testify on their behalf. Based on the evidence presented, the LNL president may reverse or amend the prior decision. An appeal to the special committee must be made in writing, mailed and postmarked within 7 days of the first decision, and be

accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) appeal fee.

**C.** The manager may appeal the decision of the special judiciary committee to the Oregon Adult Soccer Association (OASA). The appeal rule must be in writing and be accompanied by an OASA appeal fee of twenty five dollars (\$25.00). The appeal must be made within 72 hours of the LNL special judiciary committee. The OASA will inform the manager of the time and place that the appeal will be heard.

**D.** Protests regarding field conditions or similarly colored shirts must be made to the referee and the opposing manager before the match is played.

## **Rule 12 – Promotion and Regulation**

**A.** Promotion and regulation is determined according to the total number of points earned by the respective teams during the previous season.

1. Match scoring will be as follows:

- Win = (3) points; Tie = (1) point; Loss = 0 points

- Forfeit wins are scored as three points for the winner; zero points for the forfeiting team. The scoreline will be shown as 1-0. However, the winning team will not receive credit for the goal as a 'goal scored'.

2. Promotion and regulation is subject to executive committee discretion, acting on behalf of the best interest of the LNL promotion determined:

- The last team in the first and second and third division are relegated to the next lower division.

- The first teams in the fourth, third and second division are promoted to the next higher division.

3. Declining promotion or regulation: If a team places first in its division, that team must accept promotion to the next higher division for the next season in order to be eligible to play in the district championships; failure to accept promotion precludes the team from playing in the district championship for the next season. A team may decline promotion by contacting the president of the LNL not later than the following managers meeting and stating the team's intent. The executive committee reserves the right to honor or deny the teams request if it is deemed to be in the best interest of LNL.

**B.** Ties: Ties are resolved by the executive committee in the following:

1. Wins by forfeit. Teams will not receive credit for any 'goals scored' in a forfeit win. No team may break a tie in the standings if they have a better goal differential caused by a regulation win with 'goals scored' against an opponent, while the team they are tied with was required to take a forfeit win against the same opponent, with no credit for 'goals scored'.

2. Goal differential: subtracting the 'goals against' from the 'goals for' equals goal differential. The maximum goal differential accrued by a team in one match is three.

3. The most 'goals for' will have a better standing.

4. The team that won the matches between tied teams will have the better standing.

**C.** Cross-over matches: 'cross-over' matches are matches between teams of the different leagues. The result of a cross-over match will count as a 1-0 win for both teams, regardless of the score, and points are included in the league standings. If one team forfeits the match it will count as a win for the non-forfeiting team and a loss for the forfeiting team.

## **Rule 13 – Post Season or Tournament Play**

**A.** Any competition or tournament requesting LNL sponsorship must receive permission prior to the beginning of play. Application for sanction must be made to the LNL executive committee and should

include a list of the participating teams and tournament rules. If teams from outside the OASA will be participating, those teams must furnish traveling papers from the state organization with which they are affiliated. These are required to ensure that if the team is involved in any activity that is unlawful or violent that the OASA will have recourse against the team or players. No team shall use the LNL name without permission.

**B. Traveling Teams:** All LNL teams participating in competition outside the LNL must obtain traveling papers from the OASA. These papers indicate that the team is a member and in good standing with the OASA and that all fees have been paid.

### **Rule 15 – Team Fines and Penalties**

A team is a single entity of registered players and qualified to participate in LNL competition. Any punishment imposed against a team by LNL is enforceable against any successor team. A 'successor team' is any team enrolled for LNL competition comprised of five or more players of a team previously punished or sanctioned by the LNL. Players will not be allowed to avoid a sanction imposed by the LNL by partial disbanding and reorganizing of the team.

**A. Fines:** Fines must be paid within 15 days of the day that they are imposed to the team by the judiciary officer. Should a fine remain unpaid at the end of a scheduled season, or prior to a division championship, that team or its successor team will be prohibited from all USSF, OASA and LNL competitions until the fine is paid in full. When the fine is assessed for the forfeiture of a match, and LNL successfully collects that fine from the forfeiting team, LNL will make every effort to apply that fine as a credit against the next season's registration fee of the team that was forfeited to.

**B. Cumulative Points:** Teams that accumulate their respective divisions penalty points during any 10 match season (fall and spring) will be fined four hundred dollars (\$400.00). Premier division penalty point limit is 25 points. All other division penalty point limits are 15 points. 1 point is attributed per yellow card, 2 points for red card.

**D. Non-Cooperation during inquiries and investigations:** Any team which does not comply with reasonable request for information during the course of an LNL judicial inquiry, including but not limited to identifying players or spectators who are accused of referee assault or abuse, or who fails to take affirmative steps to prevent such assault or abuse, may be punished by suspension from the LNL for such periods of time as may be deemed appropriate by the judicial officer. They may also be punished by fine, bond or any other sanction available to the LNL in order to enforce compliance with LNL, OASA, and USSF rules and regulations.

### **Rule 16 – Alcoholic Beverages or Illegal Substances at LNL Matches**

**A.** Players, managers, and team supporters shall not consume alcoholic beverages or illegal substances before, during, or after a match while on the premises of LNL sanctioned matches. Violation of this rule shall be noted by the referee on his match report. Public urination, whether or not screened by foliage, is also a violation of this rule.

**B.** A manager or player in the LNL may report the use of illegal substances to any executive committee member. At the next meeting the executive committee shall summon the alleged user of an illegal substance to a hearing. If this player or manager is found to have used an illegal substance before, during, or after the playing of a match. The player or manager shall be suspended for a minimum of one (1) year.

**C.** Players, managers, and team supporters shall not possess, use, or brandish, display, or threaten to use, brandish, or display any object or thing which may be utilized or construed to be utilized as a weapon or

dangerous instrumentality at any sanctioned match. Any player or manager doing so, or allowing any team supporter to do so, shall result in the immediate suspension of that team from further competition pending further judiciary action. The LNL reserves the rights to permanently refuse to allow any such person or team from participating in LNL sanctioned matches for a lifetime.

## **Rule 17 – Divisions**

**A.** The Open Division: shall be composed of players 18 years of age and older.

**B.** The Over 30 Division: shall be composed of players 30 years of age and older.

**C.** The Over 40 Division: shall be composed of players 40 years of age and older. Due to the nature of competition in the over 40 division, slide tackles are not allowed. A slide tackle is to be punished with the award of a direct free kick to the team tackling was committed against. With this in mind the referees are asked to strictly enforce this rule, and if slide tackle is committed with unnecessary force, is dangerous or from behind a card (yellow or red, as appropriate) is to be issued to the offending player.

**D.** The over 50 division shall comprise players 50 years of age and older. In addition to rules 1–16, the over 50 division shall adhere to the following modifications: Due to the nature of the competition in the over 50 division, slide tackles are not allowed. A slide tackle is to be punished with the award of a direct free kick to the team that the tackle was committed against. With this in mind the referees are asked to strictly enforce this rule, and if the slide tackle is committed with unnecessary force, dangerous or from behind, a card yellow or red as appropriate is to be issued to the offending player.

**E.** The over 60 division shall be composed of players 60 years of age and older. In addition to rules 1–16 the over 60 division shall adhere to the following modifications: Due to the nature of the competition in the over 60 division, slide tackles are not allowed. A slide tackle is to be punished with the award of a direct free kick to the team that the tackle was committed against. With this in mind the referees are asked to strictly enforce this rule, and if the slide tackle was committed with unnecessary force, is dangerous, or from behind, a card yellow or red as appropriate is to be issued to the offending player. Rule 5e does not apply 'a player may not play in two league matches on different teams within the same division inside of a five day period'.

**F.** The over 65 division shall comprise players 65 years of age and older.

---

Information on this document should be deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. All rights reserved. Information appearing has been produced by or obtained primarily from the LNL and its representatives and from Oregon Amateur Soccer Association. LNL is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of representative information. Such information has been provided by independent third parties who are solely responsible for such content. Adopted by La Liga Leones Negros.