

BLUE RIDGE CLASSIC LEAGUE

Field Policy & Standards

WHY FIELD STANDARDS?

In accordance with the BRCL's commitment for the optimum soccer learning environment for soccer Players, BRCL Member Club's will be Required to be in compliance with specific field Standards. These standards were developed and adopted by the BRCL Member Club Board for Fall 2004 going forward and have been updated annually, as appropriate. Any exception to field size ranges below will only be approved in extreme hardship situations. The BRCL must provide the proper size and quality fields for our players to safely play and effectively learn and enjoy the game of soccer.

ALL OF THE STATED BRCL FIELD STANDARDS MEET THE USYSA AND VYSA GUIDELINES FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY. Member Clubs can look at this document as bringing the BRCL up to the accepted standards of play, a must for the continuing improvement of our league for all of the Youth Soccer Players that we collectively serve. The BRCL requests that all Member Clubs elevate field development to top priority to provide fields that meet or exceed these standards.

It is also critical that Member Clubs Assign the correct person as BRCL Field Coordinator. The club-assigned BRCL Field Coordinator must have the time, the understanding of field needs, the political acumen to deal with the City or County or association from which you obtain fields, and the follow-up skills to make field access happen. The BRCL Field Coordinator will be the person to whom we look to throughout the year for compliance of the stated BRCL standards as well as managing all other aspects in regards to the fields.

Responsibilities of the BRCL Field Coordinator:

1. Review and understand these Field Policy and Standards and Field Dimensions
2. Communicate the necessity of meeting these standards to their Club officers and Board
3. Negotiate with field providers and plan for the provision of the necessary quantity, size, and quality of fields for each participating age group in their club for each playing season in the BRCL Seasonal Year.
4. Provide the Completed BRCL Field Information Form to the league prior to the stated Deadlines
5. Oversee field lining and layout and check that each provided field meets the field size and lining criteria contained in the BRCL Field Diagrams prior to the start of the BRCL season.
6. Provide ANY exceptions to this Field Policy by email to the BRCL VP Operations by (Sept 7 and Mar 7). - Check for VP Operations email on www.brclsoccer.org under Contacts and Committees
7. Club Field Coordinator is responsible (working with their Club) for developing and managing a timely process deciding IN-SEASON WEATHER-RELATED Club field Closures inclusive of prompt and TIMELY notification to ALL HOME and VISITING TEAMS of ANY Field Closures for any Reason during the season.
8. Review ALL Home Field Directions for completeness and accuracy and provide complete corrected NEW Directions by email to the BRCL Administrator (BRCLsoccer@cox.net) BEFORE THE FIRST LEAGUE GAME or throughout the year as necessary. If a game is cancelled because the visiting team got lost due to poor Field Directions, the home team is responsible for paying ALL of the Referee Fees. Every attempt will be made to reschedule the game.
9. Club FIELD COORDINATOR is Responsible for Maintaining all club-provided fields in Compliance with all BRCL field Standards throughout the seasonal year.
10. Club Field Coordinator must agree to BRCL Field Policies on behalf of their club AND SIGN the Commitment on the BRCL Seasonal Field Information Form.
11. Make Certain that each Field Name and/or Number is used for the entire season and that the field clearly identified by signs at the field site for visiting teams
12. The Field Coordinator is to satisfactorily answer and address any and all Field-Related complaints Promptly

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| AGE GROUP | PLAYERS | FIELD DIMENSIONS | GOAL SIZE |
|------------|---------|--|-------------------|
| U-9, U-10 | 6 V 6 | Length 45 yards (min) - 60 yards (max) Width 35 yards (min) - 45 yards (max) | *6 feet x 18 feet |
| U-11, U-12 | 8 V 8 | Length 60 yards (min) - 80 yards (max) Width 45 yards (min) - 55 yards (max) | *6 feet x 18 feet |
| U-13 & Up | 11 V 11 | Length 100 yards (min) - 130 yards (max) Width 55 yards (min) - 100 yards (max) | 8 feet x 24 feet |

***Goal Size Exceptions must be obtained Through the BRCL VP OPERATIONS (example 7'x21' goals for U10 through U12 age groups) FULL COMPLIANCE EXPECTED by Fall 2005.**

SHAPE: All fields must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

FIELD DIMENSIONS: See above table and see BRCL Field Diagrams as to field layout. All of the measurements for lining all age group fields are included in the BRCL Field Diagrams.

GOALS: Goal size as above table and sizes are also on the BRCL Field Dimension Diagrams. Goals must be secured to the ground by use of stakes, sand bags or other acceptable means to avoid injuries, and meet FIFA standards.

Both goalposts and the crossbar have the same width and depth, which do not exceed 12 cm (5 ins). The goal lines are the same width as that of the goalposts and the crossbar. Nets may be attached to the goals and the ground behind the goal, provided that they are properly supported and do not interfere with the goalkeeper.

The goalposts and crossbars must be white.

SIDELINES: Players and coaches will be located on one side of the field, and spectators will be located on the opposite side of the field. Areas should be marked as designated in the BRCL Field Diagrams. Coaches and Team Managers are responsible for educating all parents, players, guest spectators, and Team Officials of these guidelines and compliance to these guidelines.

SPECTATOR AREA: Sidelines should have spectator lines painted on the ground, minimum 2 yards back from the touchline, where space permits, per BRCL Field Diagrams. Lines should be painted on the ground. Flat cones will also be acceptable. All spectators should stay behind this line and are not allowed beyond it into the penalty box area or along the end line.

TEAM/COACH (TECHNICAL AREA): Coaches and assistants must remain within the team technical area on their side of the halfway line on the "team" side of the field. Coaches are responsible for anyone on their side out of these positions and any interference with play of the ball or game. Coaches and assistants must be carded with the VYSA and cards must be presented upon request of the game or league official.

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SAFETY: Fields must present safe playing conditions. If a referee does not allow a game to be played because of unsafe field conditions (non-weather related), and the unsafe conditions are confirmed by the League, the home Club will pay a fine of \$50 for that cancelled game and each subsequent game scheduled at that field that is cancelled until the unsafe conditions have been corrected (or an alternative safe field provided) and verified by a League official. In the interim, until the field is deemed "SAFE for SOCCER" all of home team games scheduled for the "Closed" field will have to be rescheduled to be played at the corresponding "away" location of their competitor. Moreover, the Home Club will be responsible for ALL of the Referee Fees paid to the referees in the event of any cancelled game.

Corner Flags: Each field should have flags placed on the corners of the field by the home team per BRCL Field Diagram. A flagpost, not less than 1.5 m (5 ft) high, with a non-pointed top and a flag is placed at each corner.

Field Conditions: Fields should be free of holes and debris, such as sticks, cans, glass, etc. to avoid injuries. Grass should be cut and maintained appropriately.

Field Markings (Lines): The field of play is marked with lines. These lines belong to the areas of which they are boundaries. The two longer boundary lines are called touch lines. The two shorter lines are called goal lines. All lines are not more than 12 cm (5 ins) wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. The Lines **MUST** be visible to the players and care should be taken to check field lining during the season so that they are clear and visible.

FULL FIELD AVAILABILITY DEFINITION

- A. To qualify as an available field for BRCL play, the playing field must be available for BRCL play for all of the following time frames on all of the Weekends that the BRCL schedules League Play:
 - a. Saturday and Sunday 1:00 PM to Dark
- B. Should a field NOT be available for the needed time windows your club can provide another field to supplement for this unavailable field time to be able to qualify as a full field.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE FULL FIELD AVAILABILITY

- A. The Club that doesn't provide full field availability will find that their teams will have more away games than home games

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IF A FIELD DOES NOT MEET BRCL FIELD POLICY AND STANDARDS

1. ALL Exceptions to BRCL Field Standards must be approved by VP Operations by (Mar 7 and Sept 7 PRIOR to the BEGINNING OF EACH SEASON). We do not anticipate approving any field size waivers. Goal Size Waivers can be granted by the BRCL VP OPERATIONS at his/her discretion.
 - a. All field and goal exceptions will be posted on BRCL website by the VP-OPS as non-compliant by club, by field. Posting will be done to avoid protests and to notify all teams in advance to exceptions in League policy.
2. Violation of the BRCL Field Standards will not be a matter with which to protest the outcome of a game in ANY case. If the violations of BRCL Field Standards are considered grievous and repetitive, the E-Board may take action against the Member Club, including fines, forfeits, and Bad Standing.

NOTIFICATION TO LEAGUE OF BRCL FIELD STANDARDS EXCEPTIONS

1. Any Coach, Team Manager, BRCL Member Club official, or Board Member may communicate a violation of BRCL Field Standards to the attention of the League. This is to be done by an email to the League Administrator (BRCLsoccer@cox.net), copying also their own BRCL Club Representative.
 - a. The League Administrator will forward complaint to the VP Operations who will forward complaint to the Club Board Representative and the Club Field Coordinator.
 - b. The Club Field Coordinator will have until the next scheduled games (or a date deemed reasonable by the VP OPS based upon the date of notification) at that field to either:
 - i. Bring the field into compliance with the BRCL Field Standards
 - ii. Prove that the field IS in compliance
 - iii. The VP OPS must be notified by email of this compliance BEFORE the next scheduled games and decide what actions that needs to be taken.
 - c. Failure to bring the field into compliance with BRCL Field Standards within the VP Operations specified period will result in home games being moved to away fields, and if away fields are not available, possible forfeitures.

MEMBER CLUB FIELD FORMULA

| TEAM AGE GROUPS | TOTAL NUMBER of TEAMS | *NEEDED FIELD(S) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| U-9, U-10 | **5 or <5 | 1 |
| U-11, U-12 | **5 or <5 | 1 |
| U-13 thru U-19 | 5 or <5 | 1 |
| U-13 thru U-19 | *** > 5 thru 10 | 2 |

Note: *Appropriate Field Availability Expected to be considered a field
 ** Greater than five teams in this age group will require a second field
 ***If you have 6 or 7 teams in U-13 thru U-19, Partial additional field availability may be considered by VP Operations.