



2017 FALL SEASON SCHEDULING INFORMATION BOYS/GIRLS U-14, AND GIRLS U-15 thru U-19 AGE GROUPS

This document outlines the scheduling information needed by teams for the coming MRL season. Be sure to read through this document so that you are familiar with all aspects of the scheduling process.

Scheduling will be done by the respective teams within your assigned division. It is our hope that teams will be able to schedule their matches within their division on their own in a coordinated manner following the process outlined herein and in the Scheduling Email sent to each team within a division.

A Division Scheduling Coordinator (DSC) will be appointed from within your division to coordinate scheduling within your division. **Club Directors of Coaching, the Head Coach of a participating team within the division, or a Full-time Club Administrator are expected to be selected as the DSC for your division.** Generally, this person will be someone who has scheduled MRL games in the past and understands the nuances in scheduling on a regional basis. The DSC's role is to facilitate and guide the process and all duties cease when the schedule is finalized.

It is strongly recommended that team coaches or Club DoC's be involved as the point person for a team in the scheduling process as experience has shown that early all team parent administrators (sometimes known as managers) either have their own selfish agendas that conflict with a team's/club's interests or are incapable of coordinating scheduling as per MRL guidelines.

Premier I and Premier II Teams and Divisions: you will have until Tuesday, August 1, 2017 Noon ET to complete your division schedule via a collaborative effort or the MRL may create your division schedule with no regard for team availability or travel

All others: you will have until Monday, August 7, 2017 Noon ET to complete your division schedule via a collaborative effort or the MRL may create your division schedule with no regard for team availability or travel
Further, the lack of participation by a team in the process may result in fines to the team and club assessed by the MRL Commissioner and/or the acceptance of the division schedule without non-participating team's approval.

All Fall Season play may begin on Friday, August 11, 2017

Fall Season games are to be played on or before Sunday, November 12, 2017

thru U-19/20 Fall Season games are to be played on or before Sunday, November 26, 2017

The four 2017 Fall Season **Must Be Available to Play** weekends are on September 9-10, September 16-17, September 23-24 and September 30-October 1. Teams are excused from MRL play on these weekends due to state cup conflicts. However, it is the responsibility of teams, affected by their inability to play on Must Be Available to Play Weekends, to be flexible in being able to schedule MRL games on other weekends during the Fall Season. A team's requirement to be available to play on these MRL weekends ceases once the division schedule is agreed to by the teams. The purpose of the Must Be Available to Play Weekends is to insure common play dates. MRL allows flexibility in scheduling providing all teams in a division agree to scheduling flexibility.

(Note: Those teams that are unavailable to play due to state cup conflicts must be available to play on all other non-state cup weekends throughout the MRL season). Of course, teams within a division may agree not to play on the Must Be Available to Play Weekends as per their in-division scheduling.

MRL Scheduling--GROUND RULES and PROCEDURES—2017 Fall Season

The **Fall Season Girls MRL College Showcase Event** will be held at Sportscore Two in Rockford IL. on Saturday thru Monday, October 7-9, 2017. This event is open only to Premier I and Premier II team in the Girls U-15, U-16, U-17 and U-18 age groups and participation by teams in these tiers is required. Teams will be required to play one MRL match on Saturday and one MRL match on Sunday. Scheduling two matches in a day will not be permitted and playing a third MRL match on Monday is optional. More information will be available to teams during the MR Scheduling process.

An additional per team fee of no more than \$300 per team will be charged to cover costs associated with this Showcase event which will be payable by teams after the Premier I and II tiers in each age group are finalized.

GROUND RULES

- The Goal is to come out of this process with your MRL schedule for the 2017 Fall Season. Each game should be assigned a site and a host organization designated for such site. The MRL is cognizant that teams, primarily with opponents from within their own state association, may opt to play One-Offs (or Self Schedule Games--i.e. teams set their own date, time and location). There is no limit on the listing of One-Offs (Self Schedule Games). However, the designation of which games are One-Offs (Self Scheduled Games) must be firmed up. Once it is agreed that certain games shall be One Offs/Self Schedule Games, then those games must be confirmed (site, date, time) by no later than August 25, 2017. (See Scheduling Policy for sanctions if games are not confirmed by August 25, 2017).
- TRAVEL--A reminder from the MRL 2017 Fall Season Information Sheet: *“All teams understand that this is a Regional League and that teams may travel hundreds of miles to participate in MRL games. The determination of game sites is based in part due to home locations of teams within a division and field availability. Teams understand that they may not play any home games”*
- COACHES--*“Teams should understand that due to the nature of scheduling of games for teams from across the region that scheduling games for the benefit of a single coach who coaches multiple teams should not be expected. Time conflicts will occur for those coaches that coach multiple teams on MRL weekends and the MRL, as well as the other teams within a division, are under no obligation to assist these coaches with their conflicts.”*
- For purposes of hosting, the MRL has divided the Hosting of games into four types of categories:
 - A) ONE-OFF HOSTING (SINGLE GAME) One field—one game
 - B) GROUP HOSTING (MID-SIZE, MULTIPLE TEAMS, MULTIPLE GAMES)
One to three fields—multiple games
 - C) GROUP HOSTING (LARGE-SIZE, MULTIPLE TEAMS, MULTIPLE GAMES)
Four or more fields—multiple games
 - D) MRL HOSTED EVENTS (MULTIPLE TEAMS, MULTIPLE GAMES)
Games hosted by MRL at neutral sitesSee the 2017 Fall Season Game Hosting Guidelines document for more information.
- The MRL does not prohibit teams from scheduling more than one game per day if the teams so agree.
- If scheduling two games in one day, MRL Rules stipulate that efforts be made so that a minimum of three hours rest occur between games (from the end of the first game to the start of the second).
- Also, in situations where teams agree to play three games in a weekend, teams understand that their opponents may not play a similar schedule of games for that particular weekend. Teams should understand that if they agree to play three games in a weekend, that their opponents and other teams participating that weekend may not play an equal number of games and have equal rest between games. For example, in situations where opponents have different amount of rest in the same day between games, (in order) the host team or local team(s) should be the team(s) scheduled with the least amount of rest.
- Team(s) may agree to play four games in a weekend due to exceptional circumstances as agreed to with the MRL Commissioner.
- In the event that there is a conflict where teams are unable to agree to a mutually agreeable date for their game, teams should apply the concept that State Cup Games are the ONLY games that take precedence over availability for MRL games.

MRL Scheduling--GROUND RULES and PROCEDURES—2017 Fall Season

- All games that are to be played between teams from the same club must be played during the first one-third of each team's season or the game will be considered a No-Contest. No consideration will be made for games that are postponed. These games must be played within the first third of a team's schedule. For example, in a 9 game season, this game must be 1st, 2nd or 3rd game of each team's season. For 6, 7 or 8 game season, this game must be the 1st or 2nd game of each team's season.
- The MRL hosted sites are listed on the availability sheets for each division. **These are not required dates and sites and are merely offered to teams as an option in scheduling games.**
- Fall Season play may begin on August 11, 2017. All games are to be played on or before November 26, 2017 except for Under-14 where play must be played on or before November 12, 2017. Waivers to these dates may be permitted only if all teams in a division agree in writing to extend the season and with the approval of the MRL Commissioner; or by special approval by MRL Commissioner.
- Fall Season MRL teams **must be available to play** on the following weekends (September 9-10, September 16-17, September 23-24 and September 30-October 1). Teams are excused from MRL play during these weekends only for State Cup play on those particular days (Note: Those teams that are unavailable to play due to state cup conflicts must be available to play on all other non-state cup weekends throughout the MRL season). P1 and P2 teams in U-15 through U-18 age groups are also required to play on October 7-9(10) at the MRL Fall Showcase in Westfield.
- There is risk involved in scheduling matches on grass fields. Do not expect hosts to guarantee that games will be played as field and weather conditions may deem fields unplayable and/or closed.
- Once the schedule is finalized teams are released from the Must be Available weekends requirement.

PROCEDURES

- Once the DSC is appointed by the MRL, the DSC is to collect and confirm the availability of each team during the season's weekends.
- DSC to confirm the host site information as provided by teams within the division. Teams should reconfirm that a host team has the number of fields available necessary in order to play games at the same time and provide for equal rest time in situations where teams agreed to play two games in one day. Teams should also reconfirm the playing surface of each field. Teams should confirm if games are scheduled on grass or turf (synthetic), as well as fields with any floodlights. Hosts are not obligated to secure back up turf fields as delays or postponements due to weather or field conditions cannot be controlled. All teams understand that there is a risk of postponement. **Host pays for all costs associated with hosting. In situations where the host team has to move games from grass fields to turf fields, the host team is responsible for costs associated with such hosting. Visiting teams are under no obligation whatsoever to pay for such costs.**
- Utilizing the scheduling match-up template provided to the DSC, place sites and dates agreed to by teams next to game match-ups. **Game times for all games except those to take place at MRL hosted sites and any one-offs should be determined before the schedule is finalized.** It is expected that game start times and rest time between games played on the same day shall be equal (unless otherwise noted). **If field changes require game time changes and un-equal rest time between games, the hosting team (followed by other local teams) shall be required to accept a schedule with the least rest time between games (unless agreed upon by the other participating teams). In other words, hosting team shall have no scheduling advantage in regards to rest.** If game times are not determined, the host team has the right to schedule matches as they deem appropriate, pending MRL approval.
- **In situations where games are scheduled for MRL hosted sites, the MRL shall have the sole authority to determine game times (as multiple divisions will be playing on-site for these weekends).** If a group of teams are scheduled to play two games in one day, game times should be designated as AM-for the series of games to be played first in the day; and PM-for the series of games to be played later in the day. This does not necessarily mean that AM games will be played in the morning. Games may start as early as 7:15 am. The MRL is not required to fulfill any special time requests for games scheduled at MRL hosted sites.

MRL Scheduling--GROUND RULES and PROCEDURES—2017 Fall Season

- Teams may designate games to be One-Offs (Self Scheduled)—date/time/site of these games to be scheduled by August 25, 2017 or the game may be considered a No Contest Game (see Scheduling Policy).
- Matches are scheduled on grass fields with no turf back-ups at MRL hosted sites in Rockford and Muscatine. There are no field costs to the teams for playing matches at MRL hosted weekend sites. The MRL hosted weekends for the 2017 Fall Season are:
 - Rockford IL (Sportscore II—12 grass fields/6 synthetic fields—remember that there is a \$60 per team per weekend parking fee for these weekends) on September 9-10 and September 16-17;
 - St Louis MO (Lou Fusz Soccer Complex-8 synthetic fields) on September 16-17—out of town teams at this site must use the MRL hotel provider or face a substantial fine from the MRL; all out-of-town teams must stay in hotels provided through local hotel provider
 - Muscatine IA (Muscatine Soccer Complex-8 grass fields/1 synthetic field) on September 23-24;
 - Westfield IN (Grand Park--7 all-weather synthetic fields) on September 23-24—out of town teams at this site must use the MRL hotel provider or face a substantial fine from the MRL; all out-of-town teams must stay in hotels provided through local hotel provider
 - Overland Park KS (Overland Park Soccer Complex—up to 12 all-weather synthetic fields) on September 30-October 1.MRL retains the right to move any matches scheduled by two local teams, as defined solely by the MRL, off of the MRL hosted sites at anytime.

At MRL sites, please know that field sizes vary from 105 to 120 yards in length and 60 yards to 75 yards in width. **Fields at MRL hosted sites are available on a first finalized, first to secure basis as fields are limited.** The MRL is not required to fulfill any special time requests for games at MRL hosted sites.
- The MRL also has access to fields on a weekend to weekend basis at the Hallmark Sports Complex in Hebron IN; however teams must provide the hosting administrative duties at this site. Hallmark has fields available on a weekend by weekend basis—DSC's should check with MRL Commissioner for availability **before** making any commitments to games at Hallmark. The MRL is not required to fulfill any special time requests for games scheduled at MRL hosted sites.
- MRL games may be scheduled during other US Youth Soccer sanctioned competitions during Fall Season weekends. Games must be played under MRL rules and are subject to approval by the MRL. Teams and host organization will be held responsible for MRL rules compliance in these situations. Teams should know that scheduling matches at such events essentially strips MRL teams of all scheduling rights including but not limited to re-scheduling. Extra fees may also be charged.
- All games that are to be played between teams from the same club must be played during the first one-third of each team's season or the game will be considered a No-Contest. No consideration will be made for games that are postponed. These games must be played within the first third of a team's schedule. For example, in a 9 game season, this game must be 1st, 2nd or 3rd game of each team's season. For 6, 7 or 8 game season, this game must be the 1st or 2nd game of each team's season.
- Once a schedule is submitted to the MRL, the MRL Commissioner will distribute a note to all teams confirming that the schedule has been received and that teams have agreed to the schedule.
- **After the deadline date, the MRL has the authority to accept a schedule without approval of the schedule by all teams in a division if a team(s) fails to actively participate in the scheduling process or a team(s) fails to comply with availability on must be available to play weekends (as determined solely by the MRL Commissioner).**



2017 FALL SEASON SCHEDULING POLICY

SCHEDULE

Once a division schedule is posted on the MRL website www.usyouthsoccer.org/mrl, it shall be considered official. Changes are permitted at the discretion of the MRL Commissioner due to transcription errors, inaccurate information provided to the MRL or other cause as determined by the MRL Commissioner.

Other than One-Offs (self schedule games - see below) the dates and sites are final. If game times are posted, then they are confirmed (final) -- otherwise game times listed as TBA or am/pm are still being confirmed. As confirmations occur on game times, they will be posted.

MRL games must be played under MRL Rules.

ONE-OFFS (SELF SCHEDULE GAMES) —

DEADLINE TO SCHEDULE IS AUGUST 25, 2017

Games listed as TBA for the site, date and time are considered One-Offs (Self Schedule Games). The two teams are to mutually agree upon a **date, site and time** for the game and communicate the agreed upon date, time and site for the game to the MRL for posting. The designated host team is to secure referees.

The deadline to establish game dates for One-Offs (Self Schedule Games) is August 25, 2017. The MRL Commissioner is to be notified in writing of the game date, time and site as agreed to by the teams. If the game is not finalized by this date the game may be considered a NO CONTEST GAME and the game will be recorded as played but with no score and thus each team earning zero (0) points for the contest. Failure to schedule One-Offs by August 25, 2017 may result in fines assessed against teams.

GAMES BETWEEN TEAMS FROM SAME CLUB

All games that are to be played between teams from the same club must be played during the first one-third of each team's season or the game will be considered a No-Contest. No consideration will be made for games that are postponed. These games must be played within the first third of a team's schedule. For example, in a 9 game season, this game must be 1st, 2nd or 3rd game of each team's season. For 6, 7 or 8 game season, this game must be the 1st or 2nd game of each team's season.

NO CONTESTS

Games deemed to be No Contests will be recorded as a game played but with no score and thus each team earning zero (0) points for the contest.

CHANGING CURRENT GAME SITE, DATE AND/OR TIME

Teams are permitted to change current game date, time and/or site provided that such change is made more than 7 days prior to a scheduled game and in accordance to the following procedures:

- (1) The team seeking to make the change contacts its opponent. Opponent must mutually agree on the game change in order for the change to occur. **(NOTE: in a weekend where teams are playing multiple games and teams within a division and are seeking to move a game off of the weekend, provided that the game being changed does not improve the competitive status of teams in a weekend with such determination made solely by the MRL Commissioner, then the teams may proceed in requesting a game change).** When notifying the MRL of any game changes, such communication must also be sent to all teams involved.
- (2) If mutually agreed, contact the MRL with the request including the revised game date, time and site; and then
- (3) MRL confirms the change by posting the revised game on its website.
- (4) Host team contacts local referee assignor with the change(s) at least 7 days prior to original game date. Also, Referee assignors are to be advised a minimum 7 days prior to the date of a rescheduled game or they are not required to fulfill the request for referees.

If your opponent does not agree to a change then the game is scheduled to be played as posted.

Additional procedures on game changes....

--Any game date, time or site change made **within 7 days of a scheduled game** shall result in a \$100 scheduling fee payable to US Youth Soccer Region II-MRL. Full payment of referee fees may also be required for the game on the original game date and time even if game is changed.

--Any games that are forfeited within 7 days of a scheduled game date and time shall result in the offending team paying (1) the full referee fees for the forfeited game, (2) an additional \$250 forfeiture fee payable to US Youth Soccer Region II-MRL and (3) any field fees that may have been incurred by the host as determined by the MRL Commissioner.

--Minor changes to fields and time made within 7 days of the original scheduled game date and time are permitted only as follows:

Field change is less than or equal to 10 miles

Time change is less than or equal to 30 minutes

For all Game Changes, both teams must confirm that they are agreeable to the change and that full details are forwarded to the MRL Commissioner for approval.

POSTPONED GAMES (Procedures and Payment of Referee Fees)

Due to Closing of Field, Field Conditions or Inclement Weather (One Off)

If games are postponed the day of the game due to inclement weather, the participating teams will reschedule the game as if it were a One-Off (Self Schedule) game. Teams will have 7 days following the date of postponed game to reschedule the contest. Failure to re-schedule may result in the game considered a NO CONTEST GAME, as described above. MRL may allow teams past the 7 day deadline to reschedule if circumstances warrant. If referees are present at the scheduled game date, time and site and no notification of referees has occurred then full referee payment is required.

Due to One Team Attempting to Postpone (or Change Game) Without Opponent's Approval

In the event that a team arbitrarily postpones a game, without the consent of the opposing team, the game will be treated as a forfeit. Please know that teams that forfeits any game will be relegated one tier for the following season. Team forfeiting a game must also comply with payment or referee fees and forfeiture fee.

Due to One Team Failing to Adhere to MRL Rules regarding Player Passes

In the event that a team is found to failing to adhere to the MRL Rules in regards to Player Passes (i.e. failure to bring player passes to game), the team in non-compliance shall forfeit the game. Full referee fee payment is required.

Due to Field Conditions or Inclement Weather (as part of a series of division games during a weekend)

In situations where multiple games are being played at one site within a division, and games are postponed during the first day of competition (i.e. Saturday), the postponed games are to be scheduled to be played the following day (i.e. Sunday) if possible with such determination made solely by the MRL. A team committing to play games at a site with multiple games commits to play for the entire weekend (Saturday/Sunday). Any game changes should receive MRL approval. If the postponements occur on Sunday, then the teams will have 7 days following the date of postponed game to reschedule the contest. Failure to re-schedule shall result in the game considered a NO CONTEST GAME, as described previously in this policy. MRL may allow teams past the 7 day deadline to reschedule if circumstances warrant.

Due to a Team having to compete in a State Cup Game

In situations where a team must postpone a MRL game due to participation in its State Cup competition, that team bears the responsibility of having to be flexible in rescheduling the MRL game. Such flexibility includes but is not limited to travelling to play the match. If the postponement occurs within 7 days of the MRL scheduled game, then the team forcing the postponement shall be responsible for both team's Scheduling Fees and any applicable referee fees

***Should you have any questions on scheduling please direct them to the MRL Commissioner
Policy may be revised at any time by the MRL Executive Committee or Commissioner***