

THE BLUE RIDGE SOCCER LEAGUE was founded on the principle of providing the youth of Southwestern Virginia with the opportunity to acquire and develop soccer skills through a higher level of competition. These skills, as well as the individual growth of the players, cannot be nurtured in an environment of confrontation, poor sportsmanship, and verbal and/or physical abuse among spectators, coaches, game participants and game officials. While BRSL cannot dictate the internal administrative rules and regulations of member clubs, it must provide a framework for governing undesirable behavior within which member clubs must administer their teams. Player, coaches, team officials and spectators are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Member Clubs that display an inability to comply with the following policies, procedures, rules, codes of conduct and philosophy will forfeit future playing privileges in the BRSL for ALL of the club's teams.

BLUE RIDGE SOCCER LEAGUE (BRSL) APPROACH TO CONDUCT

- A. It is the intent of the BRSL to manage league conduct issues in the following manner:
1. Provide clear league-wide standards and expectations of appropriate sporting conduct.
 2. Have clearly stated and immediate BRSL Penalties for ANY Send-off's by officials occurring at any BRSL League Game. ALL send-offs of Coaches, Players, Team Officials, and any other BRSL Parent/Guardian or spectator will be penalized.
 3. REQUIRE signed Standards of Conduct forms for Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers and other Team Officials, Parents/Guardians, and Players, and adherence to same.
 4. Require Member Clubs to commit to the BRSL Conduct Standards and the printing, distribution, explanation, and signing, (and retention by Team Manager) of Conduct Code forms by every Parent/Guardian, Coach, Team Official, and Player who is associated with BRSL league competition.

5. Measure the conduct of Coaches/Team Officials, Parents, and Players at all league games by using referee feedback with the BRSL ORANGE CONDUCT CARD evaluations.
 - a. Feedback from the ORANGE cards will be used by the League and distributed in the following manner:
 - i. Feedback will be input and processed weekly
 - ii. The Sportsmanship Rankings of the top 50% of teams in each division will be published on the BRSL web Site and updated weekly.
 - iii. Each Club Representative and Alternate (or other requested club officials) will receive from the Conduct Committee the specific Sportsmanship rankings of ALL of their OWN Club's teams weekly.
 - iv. The Member Club Representative will be notified for all negative ratings for Sportsmanship, Irresponsible Behavior, and for all send-offs related to their club. The BRSL will expect the Member Club to address these issues with the offending party(ies). If the Conduct Committee so requires, feedback as to the action taken by the Member Club may be required.
 - v. The Total League Sportsmanship Rankings will be Distributed weekly to the BRSL Official Scorekeeper, the Executive Board, the League Administrator, and ALL Members of the Conduct Committee.
 - b. Using this feedback we will reward the highest rated team in each division at the culmination of the season as soon as award funding can be developed.
 - c. The BRSL will also be able to identify Coaches/Team Officials, Players, Parents, and Clubs who are NOT meeting BRSL conduct standards and recommend intervention and corrective action by the Member Club. In the absence of appropriate action and feedback (if required) by the Member Club in a timely manner, the BRSL Conduct Committee may review the situation and levy judgment as appropriate. This could include no action, or penalties including suspension from league play, placement in bad standing, fines, and/or other adjudication deemed appropriate to the conduct violation.

6. Provide a widely known (to the BRSL community of Coaches, Players, and Parents) and available conduit of communication to allow reports of poor sportsmanship by anyone with league involvement directly to the league office.
 - a. BRSL will qualify the complaint and will forward the Poor Sportsmanship Report to the Member Club Representative. The Member Club will be asked to investigate and take corrective action regarding the complaint and follow up with the BRSL. This timeframe for response could be as long as 45 days but the BRSL may require faster turnaround.
7. Following the expiration of the timeline submitted to the Member Club for feedback, the Club Representative will be contacted and the Conduct Committee Chair will then decide on the involvement of the BRSL Conduct Committee. The BRSL Conduct Committee may review the situation and levy judgment as appropriate. This could include no action, or penalties including suspension from league play, placement in bad standing, fines, and/or other adjudication deemed appropriate to the conduct violation.
8. The BRSL will make Best Practices available to Member Clubs regarding how they might set up a club committee to handle sportsmanship and conduct complaints that are sent to them.
9. The BRSL will continuously promote the adoption and understanding of good sportsmanship within the league arena

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONDUCT COMMITTEE

- A. Interpreting and enforcing the BRSL rules and Codes of conduct.
- B. Investigating and conducting hearings, as appropriate, to determine, assess, and enforce penalties when violations of BRSL rules, or Codes of Conduct are alleged to have occurred. The Conduct Committee has jurisdiction over rostered players, parents, and all team officials - whether or not they are listed on the roster.
- C. Maintaining records of all send offs for all BRSL participating players, coaches, parents, and team officials. Maintain records of all player yellow cards given during the season.

- D. Reviewing BRSL policies, procedures, rules, and codes of conduct, including the penalties for misconduct, and recommending changes to the BRSL Board of Directors as deemed necessary.

- E. Making certain that every participant, Coach, Team Official, Parent, and Spectator has a known method of reporting irresponsible and abusive behavior to the BRSL.

- F. Notifying Member Clubs in a timely manner of Conduct Code violations by their Players, Coaches, Team Officials, Parents, and Spectators. Following up to make certain that appropriate action was taken by the Member Club, and in the absence of appropriate adjudication by the Member Club, institute appropriate adjudication by the BRSL Conduct Committee.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR / CONDUCT CODES

SUBSTITUTES FOR the BRSL CONDUCT CODE ARE NOT PERMITTED, EVEN if they are SIMILAR TO THE BRSL CONDUCT CODE. THE BRSL Conduct Code documents must be used (the Coaches/Team Manager, the Players/Parents). They are available on the BRSL Website.

BRSL CONDUCT CODE FOR COACHES, TEAM MANAGERS (each Coach, Assistant Coach, and Team Manager/Official must agree to uphold these BRSL behavior standards and sign the below document. The head coach will be held responsible for ALL carded individuals on the team sideline. A form is to be signed by EACH coach, assistant coach, and team manager/official who will be on the sideline at BRSL contests. These forms can be found on BRSL's website.

These signed forms MUST be in the possession of the Team Manager at all BRSL contests or a game forfeit penalty can be levied. Any BRSL Board member or Conduct Committee member has the authority to ask (With just cause) the Coach/Team Manager to produce the signed conduct code forms at any time, before, during, or after the contest. The penalty for not producing ALL signed conduct code forms within 24 hours is the forfeit of the team's last played League game.

SEE Coaches/ Team Manager Code of Conduct -
NEXT PAGE

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

SECTION 13.6

Coaches/Team Managers Expected Standards of Conduct

I understand that it is my responsibility to follow these "Standards of Conduct" and to foster and support these same standards in players, coaches, other team officials, spectators, and parents.

With Center Referee and Assistant Referees before, during, and after a game

1. I understand that the game officials are the symbols of authority and I will treat them with respect and demand the same from my players and our spectators.
2. **Coaches, Assistant Coaches, acting Coaches, and Directors of Coaching are never to approach or engage in conversation with any center referee or assistant referee in an abusive or unreasonably confrontational manner not within the spirit of the rules of conduct during or following any BRS� game for any reason.** Team officials will limit their contact during or following the game to the exchange of BRS� cards.
3. I will not question a game official's judgment calls and understand that I have no recourse but to accept the game officials' decisions.
4. For a "Rule of Law" complaint against a referee, I will put it in writing, get other corroboration in writing, and get it to my club officials within 24 hours.
5. I will NOT step on the field of play during the duration of the game unless invited by the referee.

With All Coaches, Players, and Parents before, during, and after a game

1. I will treat everyone with respect and treat our opponent as guests on our home field.
2. I will speak to opponents on or off the field only with courtesy or to compliment their play.
3. I will not use profanity at any time and will NOT tolerate profanity or taunting behavior (verbal or physical) on or off the field by players, parents, spectators, or other team officials.
4. I will enforce BRS� Policy that ONLY CARDED Players, Coaches, and/or Team Managers are allowed in the coach's technical area on the team side of the field during play.

Other Points of Consideration

1. I will put the physical, emotional, and psychological well being of the player above winning.
2. I understand my status as a role model to my players, parents, and spectators and will exhibit positive behavior at all times befitting such status.
3. I will use positive coaching techniques and never ridicule or degrade a player.
4. I will know the Laws of the Game and see that my players live up to the letter and the intent of these laws.
5. I will maintain the perspective that I am an adult coach and the players are not adults.
6. I will not tie MY EGO or IDENTITY to the success of my team...i.e. Winning.
7. I will lead my players through adversity rather than becoming a "victim" of it.
8. I will remember that "soccer belongs to the players" and put the welfare of the game and the players ahead of my personal gain.

By signing below I agree to abide by these standards of conduct and understand that violation of these pledges can lead to my review and adjudication by my Club and/or the VYSA/WVSA and/or the BRS�. In the absence of the appropriate adjudication of violations of these conduct standards the BRS� may impose individual, Team, or Club penalties.

Signature _____ DATE _____

Name _____
 Printed _____ TEAM _____

BRSL CONDUCT CODE FOR PARENTS AND PLAYERS

One parent/Guardian per family (signing parent/guardian is responsible for educating their spouse/guardian/partner on required conduct) and every player must agree to uphold these BRSL behavior standards and sign the below document. These forms can be found on BRSL's website.

These signed forms MUST be in the possession of the Team Manager at all BRSL contests or a game forfeit penalty can be levied. Any BRSL Board member or Conduct Committee member has the authority to ask (With just cause) the Coach/Team Manager to produce the signed conduct code forms at any time, before, during, or after the contest. The penalty for not producing ALL signed conduct code forms within 24 hours is the forfeit of the team's last played League game.

SEE Player/Parents Code of Conduct - NEXT
PAGE

Player/Parents Code of Conduct

PLEASE NOTE: Two signatures are required, player and one parent/guardian. The parent signing has the responsibility of informing and holding their spouse/partner to these conduct principles.

PLAYERS:

1. Players will refrain from using profanity during games and practices.
2. Players will not engage in disparaging dialogue with referee, teammates, coaches, opponents, or spectators.
3. Players will not, under any circumstances, participate in physical violence or threats thereof before, during, or after any game or practice.
4. Players are prohibited from the use of alcohol or illegal drugs while on the active roster of any BRSL team.
5. Players will obey the laws of the game and play within the spirit of the laws.

PARENTS:

1. Parents agree to support the BRSL, their club, and their team in requiring players to abide by the Players Code of Conduct.
2. Parents will refrain from verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees, opponents and spectators.
3. Parents not use or possess alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons while attending BRSL matches.
4. Parents will support the coach and will refrain from verbal criticism.
5. Team parents are collectively responsible for the behavior of all their team's spectators in accordance with item number 2.
6. By signing, I understand that my privileges to attend BRSL games as a spectator can be suspended for violations of this conduct code.
7. Approach or engage in conversation any center referee or assistant referee before, during or following any BRSL game for any reason.
8. Dispute referee calls or perceived no-calls on the field verbally, either with hand signals or body language, or with loud conversation meant to be overheard by the referees.
9. Communicate in any way with players on the team on the field verbally, either with hand signals or body language, or with loud conversation with other parents on the sidelines meant to be overheard by the players.
10. Approach or engage in conversation with any player from the opposing team following any BRSL game for any reason except to congratulate their play.

Player Signature : _____ *Date* _____

Player Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature : _____ Date _____

Parent Printed Name _____

PLAYERS & PARENTS:

In the event a club fails to uphold and/or adjudicate these *CONDUCT CODE* policies, the BRSL reserves the right to impose sanctions against member Clubs, Teams, or Players.

MEMBER CLUB COMMITMENT TO THE BRSL

An officer of each Member Club MUST sign this document which certifies that their club understands, endorses, and will enforce all BRSL Codes of Conduct and will adjudicate all instances of violations of same regardless of method of notification. Signing this document also certifies that the member club will print, distribute, obtain signatures, and make certain that ALL Coaches, Team Officials, Players, and Parents sign conduct code forms and are in the POSSESSION of the Team Manager at ALL BRSL Contests.

The signed Coach/Team Manager and Parent/Player forms MUST be in the possession of the Team Manager at all BRSL contests or a game forfeit penalty can be levied. Any BRSL Board member or Conduct Committee member has the authority to ask (With just cause) the Coach/Team Manager to produce the signed conduct code forms at any time, before, during, or after the contest. The penalty for not producing ALL signed conduct code forms within 24 hours is the forfeit of the team's last played League game.

SEE MEMBER CLUB COMMITMENT - NEXT
PAGE

Blue Ridge Soccer League (BRSL)

Member Club Commitment to the BRSL Codes of Conduct

As the _____(title of authorized club officer) of _____(club name), I agree that our club will support and uphold the BRSL Codes of Conduct for Parents, Spectators, Players, Coaches, and other Team Officials. I understand that the BRSL requires my club to print, distribute, obtain signatures, and have in the possession of the Team Manager (at ALL BRSL games) a non-altered and signed BRSL Code of Conduct form for every player, parent/guardian of player, coach and assistant coach, and team manager who participates in soccer matches scheduled by the Blue Ridge Soccer League. I further understand that these codes of conduct are to be supported by our club as the expected behavior standard at all BRSL related activities and that violations of these policies will be adjudicated by my club. I also understand that the BRSL reserves the right to impose sanctions against individuals and member teams who do not adequately support these standard and/or clubs that do not appropriately adjudicate these standards.

I certify by signing below that all of the aforementioned BRSL Conduct Code implementation requirements have been met by all Players, Coaches & Team Officials, and Parents as noted for the upcoming BRSL Season, and that signed forms are in the possession of every Team Manager.

Club Officials Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

CLUB _____ *Spring*____ *Fall*_____

Original of this form to be signed and mailed to the Blue Ridge Soccer League office by the Date requested by the BRSL Administrator. Copy of this signed form is to be retained in Club files and also sent to every TEAM MANAGER for each of your Club's Teams. This form MUST be received at the BRSL League office from each club before the FIRST BRSL Scheduled game of league play each soccer Season, BOTH Fall and Spring. Failure to receive this signed document at the league office will result in the suspension of club play. This form must be signed by an authorized officer of your club.

ALL SEND-OFFS (Players, Parents/Spectators, Coaches/Team Officials MUST BE REPORTED to your Club Representative and the BRSL office within 12 HOURS!

A. PLAYERS (Send Offs)

1. A player receiving a red card, or two yellows, from a referee in a BRSL league game will serve a mandatory automatic one- game suspension from play in his/her next BRSL scheduled league game. This FIFA mandatory suspension is to be enforced for all dismissals (red cards) regardless of the reason and will include send-offs for receiving a second yellow card as well as for actions leading directly to the dismissal. The duration of the suspension can be extended beyond one match by the competition authority.
2. Failure of the Team Manager/Coach to report this send-off to the League Office and Club Representative within 12 Hours will result in (a) forfeiture(s) of league game(s).
3. The automatic one-match suspension may only be waived if it is proven that the referee dismissed the wrong player in a case of mistaken identity.
4. In no case may the decision of the referee be modified after play has been restarted or after the game is complete, as is clearly stated in Law 5 of The Laws of the Game.
5. The Conduct Committee may impose additional penalties on the Club, Coach, or Player depending on the severity of the offense resulting in the red card (or two (2) yellow cards. This penalty does not preclude further or additional action by any other soccer governing body.
6. It is the responsibility of the coach of the player to withhold a red-carded player from the next league game and to record the sit-out and obtain the initials of the referee on the appropriate BRSL game card.
7. A player sitting-out a game due to a red card send off may be present at the game but may not wear his/her team's uniform.

B. COACHES And TEAM OFFICIALS (Send Offs)

1. Any coach (Head or Assistant coach) or team official receiving an official send off in a BRSL league game incurs the following penalties:
 - a. The coach or team official is indefinitely suspended from participating in the BRSL
 - b. The coach's or team official's club is fined \$ 50.00
 - c. Depending on the severity of the offense resulting an official send off, the Conduct Committee may conduct an investigation and may impose additional penalties.
 - d. A coach or team official who is indefinitely suspended may not participate in any BRSL activities with their team. A coach or team official may practice with their team; however, they may not be present at any complex at which their team is playing and have no communications with any member of the team, any other adult at the game complex or officials during the duration of the game. This ban on communications includes cell phones and any other two-way communications device. Failure to abide by this rule will result in additional penalties being imposed upon the coach or team official
 - e. To be reinstated after a send off suspension, the coach or team official must submit a letter to the Chairperson of the Conduct Committee explaining why he/she received the send off and how he/she intends to modify his/her behavior to keep from receiving send offs in the future. Blaming the officials is not acceptable. The coach's or team official's letter must be accompanied by a written endorsement from the coach's or team official's club president and a check for \$ 50.00 payable to the BRSL. The Conduct Committee may impose additional requirements for reinstatement.
2. Failure of the Team Manager/Coach to report this send-off to the League Office and Club Rep within 12 Hours will result in (a) forfeiture(s) of league game(s).

**** Any individual sent off during the last game of the season must sit-out the first game of the next season in which he/she participates in the BRSL

**** Any coach or team official who plays a non-carded player will be suspended from the League for one year and fined \$100.00. If the fine is not paid within 10 days of when the infraction occurred the team will be suspended from BRSL play until the fine is paid. The Conduct Committee will rule when or if the coach or team official will be reinstated

C. PARENTS/GUARDIANS and OTHER TEAM-ASSOCIATED SPECTATORS (Send Offs)

1. In the event that any parent, guardian, or team-associated friend or relative of any BRSL player is sent off by an official before, during, or immediately after a BRSL League game, that person will be suspended from attending BRSL games until the following conditions are met:
 - a. DID NOT attend the NEXT Two (2) League games of the team in which the send-off occurred.
 - b. Pays a fine to the League of \$50
 - c. Provides a letter in his/her own hand as to why the BRSL should allow them to be reinstated. Provides a letter from the associated team's Team Manager or Coach that endorses their return and provides a commitment for continued good behavior. Blaming the officials is not an acceptable excuse.
2. Failure of the Team Manager/Coach to report this send-off to the League Office and Club Rep within 24 Hours will result in (a) forfeiture(s) of league game(s).

D. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1. The member club is ultimately responsible for the actions of its players, coaches, team officials, Parents and their team's spectators.
2. These standards and codes of conduct apply before, during and after any games.
3. From time to time the BRSL may require the attendance of coaches, club representatives, and/or other club or team officials at meetings to further review the policies, procedures, rules and codes of conduct of the BRSL. Failure to attend these meetings may result in penalties up to and including suspension from the BRSL.

ABUSE/ASSAULT OF OFFICIALS

Any coach, club or team official, player, parent, or spectator alleged to have abused or assaulted a game official is automatically suspended from all BRSL games pending resolution by the VYSA.

A. REFEREE ABUSE:

1. Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
2. Abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or verbally threatening the referee.
3. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as "I'll get you after the game" or " You won't get out of here in one piece" shall be deemed referee abuse.

B. REFEREE ASSAULT:

1. Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
2. Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting; kicking; punching; choking; spitting at or on; grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

REPORTING SEND OFFS AND MISCONDUCT AGAINST REFEREES.

- A. A team official must report ALL send offs, and/or misconduct against referees to the BRSL administrator within 12 hours after the game in which the offense occurred. This includes ALL send-offs, including Coaches, Assistants, Team Managers, parents, players, and spectator. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game in which the report was not made.**

B. This report must be E-mailed to BRSL's Administrator and your Club Rep within 12 hours of the game where the cards were given.

Include the following:

- 1. Club Name**
- 2. Team Name**
- 3. Location of Game, Other Team Name**
- 4. Date & Time of Game**
- 5. Reason for send offs or misconduct against referees.**
- 6. Game Number**
- 7. Center Referee name**
- 8. Full names of players receiving red cards and yellow cards and quantity**
- 9. Full names of Coach(es), Team Officials, and/or Parent(s)/Guardian/Spectators receiving a sendoff from the referee**

DISCIPLINE by the BRSL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

- A. The existence of the BRSL Conduct Committee with the authority to discipline does not relieve each club of its responsibility to insure that players under its sponsorship will play and learn in a safe and supportive environment. The BRSL expects clubs to take prompt, effective corrective action when it detects problems or when the BRSL brings problems to its attention. The Conduct Committee will defer to club action provided it is satisfied that the action taken is appropriate and timely.
- B. When a club becomes a Member of BRSL it agrees to adhere to the BRSL policies, procedures, rules and codes of conduct. The BRSL form "Soccer Club Commitment to the BRSL Codes of Conduct," must be submitted from each club each year to the BRSL Administrator PRIOR to the First Scheduled league game in Both the FALL and the Spring Seasons. Codes of Conduct forms are on the BRSL website.
- C. Member Clubs that display a continued inability to comply with BRSL policies, procedures, rules and/or codes of conduct will be subject to being placed in BAD STANDING and ALL of the Club's teams will be ineligible to participate in league, State Cup, or tournament play
- D. BRSL Clubs and club and team officials will be held responsible for repeated occurrences of misconduct that show a disregard for conduct guidelines. The club, team, player, team official, or parent could be subject to long-term penalties, up to and including expulsion from the BRSL, and/or financial penalties.

- E. The BRSL Conduct Committee has the obligation to identify unique and/or unusual behavioral problems that are not specifically addressed in these Rules and Procedures and bring these to the attention of the Member Club and expect appropriate action.

CONDUCT HEARINGS

AFTER ALL ATTEMPTS TO ENCOURAGE THE MEMBER CLUB TO ENFORCE AND/OR ADJUDICATE BRSL CONDUCT CODE VIOLATIONS HAVE FAILED, THE BRSL CONDUCT COMMITTEE WILL MEET AND DECIDE THE RESOLUTION

- A. The Chairperson of the Conduct Committee will receive reports of alleged conduct violations, (including phone calls and written communications from referees, coaches, game reports, etc) He/she will review the record of the offense and, if necessary, qualify the credibility and seriousness of the complaint.. If after reviewing all available information, the Chairperson deems that a policy, procedure, rule, or code of conduct may have been violated, they will immediately communicate the Complaint to the Member Clubs Board Representative (or other assigned club conduct representative) by email. With this communication will be a timeline of a requested written report back to the BRSL. If the club representative does not reply in the given timeline, the Chairman will then contact the Club representative and inquire of the situation. If an unsatisfactory response is given, the Chairperson will advise the appropriate club representative in writing that the offense(s) will be brought before the BRSL Conduct Committee for a hearing. The Chairperson will then set a time and place for a hearing of the Conduct Committee.
- B. The Chairperson of the Conduct Committee shall advise the Club Representative of:
- The alleged offense or violation
 - The time and location of the hearing
- C. In order for the Conduct Committee to consider any evidence or evidence in rebuttal, it must be presented in writing (including emails) to the Chairperson not later than one full business day before the hearing.
- D. The Chairperson of the Conduct Committee may collect additional information in writing, in person, or by telephone.
- E. All decisions of the Conduct Committee will be based on the information and evidence available at the time of the hearing.

F. A written decision (including email) will be provided to the President of the BRSL. Copies will be distributed as follows:

1. Club Representative
2. Members of the Conduct Committee
3. Members of Executive Board
4. VYSA, Referee Association, and other BRSL officials as deemed necessary.

PROTESTS / APPEALS / GRIEVANCES

PROTESTS

- A. Protests concerning game situations are not allowed under BRSL policy.
- B. No protests of referee decisions or judgments are allowed.

APPEALS

- A. An appeal from the Conduct Committee may be filed with the Appeals Committee.
- B. Process:
 1. The appealing party, within seven (7) business days of receiving written notice of the committee's decision, must send in a written appeal (by registered mail) to the President of BRSL.
 2. Notice of appeal must include: the nature of the appeal; the remedy requested; the appeal fee; and all supporting documentation.
 3. The fee for an appeal of Conduct Committee decision is \$100.00 payable to BRSL.
 4. The Appeal Committee will meet within fourteen (14) business days of receipt of and appeal unless otherwise ordered for good cause.
 5. If the appeal is upheld, the fee will be returned; if the appeal is denied, the fee will be deposited in the general fund of the BRSL.
- C. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

GRIEVANCES

- A. Any Member Club, Club Officer, Director, Team or Player associated with a Member Club may file a grievance concerning actions of the officers or Board of Directors of BRSL. The party who feels aggrieved of such action and desires to have their grievance heard must file their grievance within seven (7) days of the written or verbal publication of the League action.
- B. The party who feels aggrieved must send:
1. Written grievance citing the nature of the grievance and the remedy.
 2. Check in the amount of \$100.00 payable to BRSL.
 3. Registered mail delivery to BRSL President.
- C. The Board of Directors will hear all grievances.
- D. If the grievance is sustained, the check will be returned; if the grievance is denied, the check will be deposited in the general fund of the League.
- E. The decision of the Board of Directors is final within the BRSL.
- F. If the aggrieved party remains dissatisfied after having exhausted all requirements concerning grievances, or if not having exhausted all requirements concerning grievances, if he/she invokes the aid of the courts of any state or the United States, should the person bringing the action not prevail in such court action, he/she shall than be liable for all expenses incurred by BRSL in defending such including, but not limited to the following:
1. Court Cost
 2. Attorney's Fees
 3. Reasonable compensation for time spent by BRSL employees in responding and defending against allegations in the action, responses to discovery and court appearances.
 4. Travel expenses
 5. Expenses of any special meeting(s) necessitated by the action.

(NOTE: There is difference between a grievance and a protest. Grievances concern League policy; protest concern game situations,)

Protest concerning game situations are not allowed under BRSL policy.

RECRUITMENT

A. BRSL OPPOSES THE RECRUITMENT OF PLAYERS. Players and parents are reminded that any player signing a player commitment form is bound to that team for the entire seasonal year (to include both the Fall and Spring season) unless he/she requests a release. All release requests must be submitted to the Assigned Registrar on the appropriate form, stating the reason for the request for release.

1. BRSL coaches and anyone associated with BRSL clubs (assistant coaches, managers, parents, and directors of coaches) are forbidden from contacting players from another club for the purpose of enticing them to join their team
2. Club representatives must notify the other club representative(s) if a player from another club participates in tryouts for their teams. This does not apply to normal tryout periods in the spring.
3. The Conduct Committee will review written allegations of recruiting policy violations and will determine appropriate disciplinary action.

"Any team PARTICIPATING in BRSL play or being formed for BRSL play, ACTING THROUGH ITS COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND PLAYERS, which ATTEMPTS TO INDUCE ANY PLAYER, listed on a valid team roster of another VYSA team, TO LEAVE HIS/HER TEAM SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE RECRUITED THAT PLAYER."