



Golden Cleats
Official League Rulebook



1. Payment

1.1. Down Payment - Teams

- 1.1.1. The only way that a team can reserve a spot in the upcoming season is if a down payment is made and there are still open spots remaining for teams to register.
- 1.1.2. Failure to complete the down payment will not guarantee participation in the upcoming season.
- 1.1.3. A spot is guaranteed for a team only upon confirmation from Golden Cleats management.

1.2. Down Payment - Individuals

- 1.2.1. Full payment from individuals must be received before the start of the season in order to have the possibility to participate in the upcoming season.
- 1.2.2. Golden Cleats management will actively search for the individual's placement on a team.
- 1.2.3. Only upon Golden Cleats management's confirmation that a player will be guaranteed to participate in the season.

1.3. Remaining Payment - Teams

- 1.3.1. The balance of the full amount is required to be paid maximum three (3) weeks after the start date of the season at 11pm of the deadline date (e.g. If the season starts August 28 2018, full payment must be made latest September 18 2018).
- 1.3.2. Golden Cleats Management will send weekly payment reminders to team captain before the deadline.

1.4. Payment Deadline Not Respected

- 1.4.1. If payment deadline has passed (11:01pm of the deadline date), Golden Cleats Management reserves the right to kick out team.

1.5. Teams that have been kicked out

- 1.5.1. Teams that have been kicked out will no longer have the right to participate in the regular and playoff matches of the respective season.
- 1.5.2. Kicked out teams will be immediately and mathematically eliminated from playoff contention.



1.6. *Accepted payment methods*

1.6.1. Accepted methods of payment are:

- a) Cash
- b) Direct E-Transfer to goldencleatsmtl@gmail.com
- c) Cheque
- d) Credit card (Visa, Master Card, American Express)
- e) Other payment method allowed by Golden Cleats Management

2. **Priority for League Participation**

2.1. *Priority to participate in the league will go to full teams who made the required payment(s).*

2.2. *Individual players may be placed on an open roster spot by Golden Cleats Management.*

2.3. *Golden Cleats Management reserves the right to disallow teams from participating in the season based on objective reasoning (Failure to perform payment in prior seasons, late on payments, aggressive behavior and failure to comply with player conduct rules).*

3. **Refund Policy**

3.1. *For Individuals*

- 3.1.1. Individual players will receive full refund if no open roster spot has been found for them OR the individual does not accept to play for a team chosen for them.
- 3.1.2. Individual has to notify Golden Cleats Management about not wanting to play for a chosen team minimum seven (7) days prior to the start of the season.
- 3.1.3. No refund will be provided for individual players
- 3.1.4. No refund is provided to any individual player following the 7 days before season starts for any reason (displeased with teammates, playing time, quality of the games, etc.)

3.2. *For teams*

- 3.2.1. No refund or exchange (playing in another season instead of the one registered for) will be provided or allowed for teams.
- 3.2.2. No refund of down payment or of any other payment, even if team defaults on payment and gets removed from current season.



4. New Teams Joining League Following the Start of the Season

- 4.1. *Any new team that joins the league division following the start of the season will need to receive permission and confirmation from Golden Cleats Management.*
- 4.2. *The only way that a new team can join a season that is already ongoing is if another team defaults on payment or disobeys to the player conduct rule, resulting to an expulsion.*
- 4.3. *A new team will be allowed to participate in the playoffs if they meet the following requirements:*
 - a) Plays a minimum of 50% of the regular season matches.
 - b) Pays remaining balance of team that originally defaulted.
 - c) Has the minimum number of players registered and present for minimum 50% of the games without declaring forfeit.
- 4.4. *A new team may not be provided with jerseys right away and may need to bring their own jerseys for their first couple of games.*
 - 4.4.1. Jersey must be the same color of the team that defaulted on payment or
 - 4.4.2. A jersey color that is approved by Golden Cleats Management
 - 4.4.3. Wearing colored jerseys is mandatory.
- 4.5. *Any new team must sign and abide by the Player Conduct Rule.*

5. Player Conduct Rules

- 5.1. *ZERO verbal or physical abuse will be tolerated on and off the field towards:*
 - a) Players
 - b) Referees
 - c) Golden Cleats management
 - d) Facility personnel
 - e) Fans
- 5.2. *Players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by acting with integrity and showing consideration to others.*
- 5.3. *Players are expected to present themselves sober to their matches.*
- 5.4. *Failure to abide and respect these rules will result in an automatic suspension.*



5.5. *Golden Cleats Management reserves the authority to disqualify a player for the season for any serious misconduct.*

6. Photography/Videography

6.1. *Any photography or videography can be used for promotional purposes by Golden Cleats Management.*

6.2. *Captains of the teams will be advised before the season start date that photos/videos will be taken of players before, during or after a match.*

6.3. *It is the captain's obligation to pass on the message to his or her players about photos/videos being taken.*

6.4. *If a player opts to not have his or her photos/videos used for promotional purposes, he/she must advise Golden Cleats Management before the start of the season.*

7. Jersey Policy

7.1. Golden Cleats Management will offer teams the possibility to use Golden Cleats jerseys for a \$150 deposit.

7.2. *The deposit will need to be made prior to the start of the season.*

7.2.1. Deposit by the team will need to be made before the jerseys are handed over.

7.2.2. Deposit can be made by direct e-transfer, cash, credit, and cheque.

7.3. *The jerseys will remain the property of Golden Cleats throughout the entire season.*

7.3.1. Jerseys will remain the property of Golden Cleats unless purchased by the team.

7.3.2. Jerseys can be purchased for \$150 tax included.

7.4. *If not purchased, the jerseys will be lent and will require for the team captain to sign the Jersey Contract Agreement.*

7.4.1. The teams that choose not to buy or lend jerseys need to present themselves with a t-shirt with the color that represents the team.

7.4.2. No jerseys will be handed out to ANY player if the deposit hasn't been made.

7.5. *The Jersey Contract Agreement include the following clauses:*

a) No mutilation of the jerseys (torn, cut, destroyed)



- b) No stains permitted on the jersey
- c) No drawing is permitted on the jersey
- d) Lost jerseys will require a fee to be payed
- e) Jerseys must be returned at the end of the season

7.6. Failure to respect the clauses will allow Golden Cleats Management to hold captain of the team liable

7.7. For each mutilated, stained or lost jersey, a \$15 charge will be deducted from the \$150 deposit (e.g. if 2 jerseys are lost or mutilated, \$120 out of \$150 of the deposit will be returned to the team captain)

7.8. At the end of the respective season, Golden Cleats Management will return the deposit to the captain of the team (with possible deductions due to not respecting clauses in the Jersey Contract Agreement).

7.8.1. Deposit will be returned once all jerseys have been given back.

7.8.2. Team captains have seven (7) days following the end of their season to return ALL jerseys.

7.9. A total of twelve (12) jerseys will be provided to the team captain.

7.9.1. Of the 12 jerseys, 11 will be player jerseys and 1 will be a goalie jersey.

7.9.2. Goalie and player jerseys must be different colors.

7.10. Players MUST wear their jerseys to the matches.

7.10.1. If a player does not wear their jersey for their match, personal statistics will not be counted (NO EXCEPTION).

7.10.2. Players must wear their jersey with their original number, otherwise stats will not count for that match (unless if stated otherwise by Golden Cleats Management).

7.10.3. If a team does not have Golden Cleats jerseys, they must bring their own (must be the right color jersey).

8. Match Rules

8.1. Equipment

8.1.1. Protection (shin and tibia guards) are not obligatory but are recommended to be worn by players.



- 8.1.2. Glasses, necklaces and earrings are not recommended to be worn in game.
- 8.1.3. Golden Cleats will not be held accountable nor liable for bodily injuries occurring because a player did not wear protection.
- 8.1.4. Golden Cleats will not be held liable for broken material (earrings, necklaces, glasses).

8.2. *Start time for matches*

- 8.2.1. Players must show 15 minutes before their match start time for attendance.
- 8.2.2. The matches consist of two 27-minute halves that are played in real-time which means the clock will not stop when the ball is out of play (except under exceptional circumstances as decided by the main referee).
- 8.2.3. Halftime will consist of a 1-minute break.
- 8.2.4. The latest the referee will start a match is 4 minutes after the announced start time of the match.
- 8.2.5. The referee must end the game 5 minutes prior to the start of the next game.

8.3. *Match forfeits*

- 8.3.1. Minimum 5 players have to be on the field at the start of the game
- 8.3.2. Players must be ready to play when referee starts match (jersey and equipment already worn).
- 8.3.3. Players cannot be on the sideline preparing for the game when referee starts match.
- 8.3.4. If the minimum number of players are not on the field 4 minutes after the stated start time of the match, the team will be starting off the match with a 1 goal deficit (1-0 for opposing team).
- 8.3.5. If after 10 minutes the opposite team does not have the required number of players to start the match, the team will be down by a 2-goal deficit.
- 8.3.6. If after 15 minutes the stated start time of the match the opposite team does not have enough players on the field ready to play, the referee will call the match a forfeit.
- 8.3.7. Failure to have the minimum required number of players on the field and ready to play will result in a forfeit.



8.3.8. Forfeited matches will result in an automatic loss and a 3-0 match score against forfeited team.

8.4. *Player Conduct and Suspensions*

8.4.1. Players will be cautioned (yellow card) for the following reasons:

- a) Player persistently infringes the laws of the game
- b) Player shows dissent with the decision of the referee
- c) Player is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct
- d) Referee reserves the right to demand for the player to be substituted off for a 2-min cool-off.

8.4.2. Players can be shown a red card for the following reasons:

- a) Violent conduct and serious foul play
- b) Foul or abusive language
- c) Second yellow card
- d) Intentionally impeding a clear goal opportunity in the penalty area by handling the ball.

8.4.3. If a player from a team has been sent off with a red card, the team must remain with a player less (6 players if one red card has been shown) for the remainder of the match

8.4.4. A player shown a red card during the match is MANDATORILY missing their next match.

8.4.5. Depending on the severity of the offense, Golden Cleats Management reserves the right to suspend the player for a longer period (2+ matches).

8.4.6. Any severe offense (physical abuse of referee or players) will result in a **minimum 3 match** suspension.

8.4.7. Golden Cleats Management reserves the right to expel a player from its league if continued foul/abusive behavior is shown.

8.5. *Substitutions*

8.5.1. Unlimited substitutions are allowed in a match.

8.5.2. Substitutions are allowed to be on-the-fly (does not require for referee approval).

8.5.3. There is no limit to how much time a player can spend on the field.



8.6. Kick-Offs and Throw-Ins

- 8.6.1. The home team kicks off the first half and the away team will kick off the second half.
- 8.6.2. Once the ball goes out of bounds from line between the corners and the net, the goalie has to kick-off the ball from inside of his crease.
- 8.6.3. If the ball goes out from the side lines, a player has to throw-in the ball.
- 8.6.4. Proper method of throwing in a ball has to be in conform with FIFA throw-in regulations.
- 8.6.5. Both feet have to be on the ground and player has to be facing the direction in which the throw-in is performed (cannot throw the ball in sideways).
- 8.6.6. Full extension of the arm has to be done in order for a throw-in to be proper.

8.7. Determining Home and Away Teams

- 8.7.1. For each regular season match, teams will be classified as either the home or away team.
- 8.7.2. Teams will play 50% of the regular season matches as the home team and 50% of their regular match games as the away team.
- 8.7.3. For each weekly regular season match-up, the home team will be the team that is listed first in the match-up and the away team will be the team listed second in the match-up (for example, a match-up listed as FC Barcelona vs Real Madrid, FC Barcelona will be the home team and Real Madrid will be the away team).
- 8.7.4. For playoffs, the top-seeded regular season team will be the home team throughout the entire post-season (Example: 2nd vs 3rd, the 2nd place team will be the home team).

8.8. Jersey Color Disputes

- 8.8.1. In the adverse event of two teams wearing similar colored jerseys and there is a claim that there is difficulty to distinguish between the two teams, the complaint must be made to the referee PRIOR to the start of the match.



8.8.2. If referee deems that there is great difficulty in distinguishing the two teams, the away team will have to swap jerseys or wear pinnies (provided by GCM).

8.8.3. Referee has absolute and final say about whether the away team will have to change jerseys.

8.9. Individual Points

8.9.1. Individual statistics tracked include

- Games played
- Goals scored
- Assists made

8.9.2. The winner of the Golden Boots Award will be the player with the most points at the end of the season (Goals and Assists).

8.10. Team Standings

8.10.1. Teams are ranked by the number of wins, losses, and ties they get during the regular season.

8.10.2. Wins count as 3 points in the standings.

8.10.3. Ties count as 1 point in the regular standings.

8.10.4. Losses count as 0 points in the regular season standings.

8.10.5. If at the end of the season 2 teams have the same number of points, the tiebreaker between the two teams of who will finish first is the team who has the higher positive goal difference.

8.11. Mixed League

8.11.1. There must always be a minimum of 2 girls for each team on the field (min. 4 girls in total)

8.11.2. If a team does not have 2 girls, they can ask the opposing team if they would like to play with one girl on the field instead.

8.11.3. If a team has 0 girls for their game, then it is an automatic forfeit.



9. Referee Conduct

9.1. Responsibilities

- 9.1.1. Soccer referees are the official time keepers of the match. Upon kickoff, the referee must keep track of the time played and two-minute penalties.
- 9.1.2. Soccer referees must also keep track of individual player statistics (goals, assists, yellow and red cards).
- 9.1.3. Soccer referees must show up on time for the games and must be in proper uniform at the start of the game.
- 9.1.4. Referees need to be dressed appropriately and equipped with the necessary, whistles or colored cards that are necessary for the regulation of game play.
- 9.1.5. Golden Cleats Montreal Soccer will not provide any equipment or referee attire of any kind. It is the sole responsibility of the referee contractor.
- 9.1.6. Men and women referees have various minimums they must meet based on the level of fitness, competition and experience.
- 9.1.7. To be a soccer referee, individuals should have a firm grasp of the game and its rules and laws. FIFA, along with the International Football Association Board (IFAB) has set forth the laws of the game of soccer.
- 9.1.8. A referee is responsible for the regulation of all elements of each particular game. He must enforce all the rules and regulations that have been set for whatever game, competition or tournament that are being officiated.
- 9.1.9. A referee must also make important calls to signal any player whose actions have been in direct violation of these rules, and determine the action that must be taken in order to fairly and correctly move on with the game.
- 9.1.10. It is the responsibility of the referees to research and be familiar with the individual players of the games they are refereeing. This will allow the referees to anticipate any potential



problems that could occur during games, giving them time to create a plan of action they can use if faced with these problems.

9.1.11. This also allows referees to ensure that each player on the field is eligible for play.

9.2. Referee Conduct

9.2.1. All referees must abide by the conduct rule.

9.2.2. Zero verbal or physical abuse will be tolerated from the referee towards other referees and the players, and vice-versa.

9.2.3. All physical or verbal abuse towards anyone will result in subsequent consequences and may result in termination of the contract between Golden Cleats Montreal and the referee.

10. Trophies and Awards

10.1. Regular Season Trophy

10.1.1. A trophy will be awarded to the team who finishes the regular season with the most points.

10.1.2. If 2 or more teams are tied with points at the end of the season, the tie-breaker will be which team has the most wins.

10.1.3. If that is still tied, the trophy will go to team that has the most positive (highest) goal differential, and then it will be decided by least amount of losses.

10.2. Golden Boot Trophy

10.2.1. The Golden Boot trophy will be awarded to the player with the most GOALS at the end of the regular season.

10.2.2. If 2 players are tied in goals, the tiebreaker will be which player has the most points, and then it will be the most goals per game and then points per game, in that specific order.

10.3. Most Valuable Player (Defender and Goalkeeper)

10.3.1. The MVP trophy will be awarded to the player with the most skill and who contributed the most to his team's success.



10.3.2. The trophy will not necessarily be awarded to the player who scored the most goals or most points in the league.

10.3.3. Factors such as leadership, positive attitude, charisma, and presence to each match will be key determinants for the recipient of this award.

10.4. Championship Trophy

10.4.1. This trophy will be awarded to the team that wins the playoffs.

10.4.2. To win the playoffs, a team must first qualify for the playoffs by scoring enough points. They will then have to beat their quarter-final, semi-final and final opponents to win the championship trophy.

11. Eligible Players for Teams

*11.1. Teams must submit a list of players participating in the season **minimum 2 days** before the start of the season*

11.1.1. Team captains must submit a list of their players to Golden Cleats Management 2 days before the start of the season.

11.1.2. The list must contain all injured players as well who are looking to participate in the league at a future date in the season.

11.1.3. Captains will have up to 5 weeks into the season to update the list of players (for example: if season starts October 26, the captain will have until November 30 to update sheet).

11.1.4. After that date, sheets will be locked and no other changes will be allowed to be made.

11.1.5. A maximum of 18 players can be included on the sheet, including the injured reserve and goalkeeper.

11.1.6. Jersey numbers of players need to be included and cannot be changed after 2 weeks of start of the season.

11.2. Player Playoff Eligibility

11.2.1. In order for a player to be eligible for playoffs, he must play a **MINIMUM of 50%** of the regular season matches.



11.2.2. No exceptions will be made for players who did not fill the quota.

11.2.3. Only injured reserves can be eligible for playoffs even though they did not play at least 50% of the regular season matches.