



## Soccer Rules, Regulations, & Guidelines Fall 2019

### League Structure

Division	Ages	Format	Goalie	Minimum # of players	Maximum # on Roster	Ball size
<b>3U</b>	3 Year Olds (born in 2016)	4 x 4	No	2	8	3
<b>4U</b>	4 Year Olds (born in 2015)	4 x 4	No	2	8	3
<b>6U</b>	5 & 6 Year Olds (born in 2013-2014)	5 x 5	Yes	3	9	3
<b>8U</b>	7 & 8 Year Olds (born in 2011-2012)	6 x 6	Yes	4	11	3
<b>10U</b>	9 & 10 Year Olds (born in 2009-2010)	7 x 7	Yes	5	12	4
<b>12U</b>	11 & 12 Year Olds (born in 2007-2008)	9 x 9	Yes	5	15	4

### Guidelines

1. Republic Parks & Recreation Soccer league is an instructional program designed to help encourage youth to participate in sports activity and enjoyment. The goal is to help them enhance their athletic skills.
2. The 3U and 4U division games will consist of a 20 minute instructional skills session followed by two 8-minute periods with a three-minute break between each period. The 6U division games will consist of three 10-minute periods with a three minute break between each period. The 8U division games will consist of two 15-minute halves with a five-minute half time. The 10U and 12U division games will consist of two 20-minute halves with a five-minute half time.
3. Teams must have at least 2 players (3U & 4U) and 3 players (6U) and 4 players (8U) and 5 players (10U & 12U) to be able to play. If a team does not have enough players present at game time a forfeit will be declared. If at any time during the match a team has less than the minimum players to start or continue the game, that team will forfeit the match to the opponent. A 5-minute grace period will be given for the first scheduled game of the day only. The match can be played for recreational purposes only after the forfeit has been declared.
4. Teams must wear matching colors with jerseys displayed outside or over any jackets. Team colors must differentiate from the opponent. In the event teams have similar colored jerseys and neither team has an alternate jersey, colored pennies will be provided to the team listed as the visitor. All goalkeepers shall wear colors that distinguish him/her from the other players and from the referee (Blue/Yellow pennies may be provided when necessary). Shoes, shin guards, and tall socks covering the shin guards are required for each player. 3U and 4U will play with no goalie.
5. All coaches & players of both teams must shake hands after each game. Remember to always encourage players.
6. In 6U and older divisions, only coaches & players may sit on the side of the field designated as the team side marked with benches for players. Each team should have no more than three coaches on the bench during games. Parents and spectators should sit on the side of the field designated as the spectator side marked with bleachers.
7. For 3U, 4U, and 6U there is a free substitution rule, which means that substitutions can be made at anytime during play. For 8U, 10U, and 12U substitutions can be made during stoppages when the ball has went out of bounds. Substitutes should stand out of bounds at the midfield line and wait until signaled by the referee to enter the field. In all age divisions, each player should play at least 50% of every game (we recommend 75%). Each child will be expected to have the opportunity to play every position before the season ends (Goalie is optional).

### Rules

1. Start of play-The game shall be started with a coin toss. The winning team shall determine kickoff or choice of field side. The kickoff shall initiate play at the start of each half and after goals. Teams alternate kickoff for each half. The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground in the center of the field of play. The defensive team may not enter the center circle until the ball is kicked. The ball shall not be deemed in play, nor time started, until it has moved its circumference into the field of play in any direction. (The ball does not have to go forward and may be played backwards into the teams own defensive half.) If the ball is not kicked the minimum distance, the ball shall be replaced on the center of the field of play and re-kicked by the same team. After the kickoff, any player except the one who kicked off may play the ball. The kicker may not play the ball until it has been played by another player on either team. In the event of a double touch, the referee will signal and the ball shall be replaced in the center of the field of play and re-kicked by the same team. A goal may be scored directly from a kick-off.
2. A goal is 1 point and is scored when the entire ball passes legally beyond the goal line, between the goal post and under the crossbar.
3. Offsides will be called on 10U and 12U games.
4. Ball in and out of play – The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed a goal line or touchline whether on the ground or in the air. The ball is in play at all other times, including:
  - A. When it rebounds from a goalpost or crossbar and remains in play

- B. When it touches an official or line judge in the field of play
  - C. Until an official sounds the whistle
  - D. After a free kick or kickoff travel the circumference of the ball
5. Free kicks-All free kicks are to be indirect. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. No free kicks may be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal box. (This applies only to free kicks and not regular game play.)
  6. There shall be no penalty kicks or direct kicks.
  7. Fouls & Misconduct: Referee to explain All infractions to the offending player.
    - Penalty – Indirect Kick
    - A. Intentionally trips or attempts to trip an opponent
    - B. Intentionally kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
    - C. Intentionally pushes or holds an opponent
    - D. Intentionally charges into an opponent
    - E. Kicks or attempts to kick the ball while it is in the possession of the goalkeeper. One hand touching the ball constitutes possession by the keeper. This includes when a keeper has a hand on the ball on the ground.
    - F. Handling the ball with hands: In 4U & 6U divisions hand touches will be called only in the event that they are in the discretion of the referee intentional or interfering with the play of the opposing team. In the event of brief and unintentional infractions, the referee will remind players to not use their hands, but allow the flow of the game to continue. In 8U, 10U, and 12U divisions handling infractions will result in an indirect free kick.
    - G. Heads the ball intentionally in 10U and below age groups.
    - H. Goalie touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw in taken by a teammate
    - I. Goalie touches the ball with his hands after it has been intentionally passed to him by teammate (The goalie is allowed to kick a ball that is passed him by a teammate, but is not allowed to pick it up. At the referees discretion, a ball that is unintentionally played to the keeper or a deflection off a teammate may be picked up with the hands.)
    - J. If an opponent unfairly distracts or impedes the person taking the throw in
  8. Throw ins and kick ins- In 8U and older divisions, a throw in is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, whether on the ground or in the air. A second throw-in is allowed if a player commits a foul on an initial attempt. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw. A proper throw-in consists of three things: a player has each foot on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line, uses both hands, and delivers the ball from behind and over his or her head. If a foul is committed on this additional throw-in attempt, the ball will be awarded to the other team. In the 6U division, kick ins will be awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, whether on the ground or in the air. The ball will be placed on the line closest to where it went out and kicked into play. In 3U and 4U divisions for the safety of players and the flow of the game, the referee will redirect balls from going out of bounds when possible. When the ball does go out of bounds, they will quickly roll it back into play so that play can continue.
  9. Goal kicks are awarded to the defending team when the entire ball crosses the goal line, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by the attacking team. The goal kick may be taken by any player on the defending team. Goal kicks may be taken from any point in the goal box. Opponents must be outside the penalty box when the ball is kicked. The defensive team may have players inside the penalty box when the kick is taken. The ball must cross out of the penalty box before players on either team may touch it. In the event the ball stops without crossing out of the penalty box, the kicker touches it twice in a row, or a player touches it before it has crossed out of the penalty box the referee will signal and the ball will be replaced to the goal area and a re-kick will be awarded.
  10. Corner kicks shall be awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either in the air or on the ground, having last been touched by the defending team. Players of the defending team shall be at least six yards from the ball until it has been kicked. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.
  11. The goalie may touch the ball with their hands inside the penalty box.
  12. All players are allowed to play the ball in the goalie box and penalty box.
  13. No slide kicks for the 8U division and below. No slide tackling in any division.
  14. Coaches may walk onto the field for the 4U and 6U division, but may not enter the goal area. Coaches should move out of the way to avoid interfering with game play.

### **Coach & Player Conduct**

1. If a coach or player is ejected from the game he or she will be suspended for the next scheduled game.
2. If a coach or player is ejected twice from a game in the same season, he or she may be removed from the league for the remainder of the season.
3. If a player kicks or intentionally strikes another they will be ejected from the game.
4. If a player or coach uses foul, abusive, or negative language he/she will be ejected from the game.
5. Players will be ejected for repeat intentional dangerous play.
6. Unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct will result in ejection from the game.
7. All players are to stay on their own side.
8. All coaches should encourage their players to display positive attitudes at all times.
9. All concerns should be voiced to the Soccer Supervisor and not to the referee.

### **Team Rules**

1. All teams must turn in a team roster before the deadline date. All players must be at least 3 years old by the start of the first game. Players younger than age 3 are not permitted to play in the league. Age divisions are determined by birth year. See the chart to determine correct age division. Players are allowed to play up one year. Players may not play up more than one year without prior approval from the Recreation Coordinator. Players will not be allowed to play down an age group.
2. Players may play on only one team in an age division. Players are allowed to play in two different age divisions. A team found using a player who is on another roster in the same age division will forfeit that game and the player will be suspended for the next two games.
3. All teams must have the same color uniform jersey. Numbers are not required. Pennies will be available for each game for those teams that do not have uniforms.
4. All games will have officials provided by the Recreation department to call the game.
5. No teams will be allowed to add on new players after the first game has been played.
6. Score will be kept in the 8U-12U age divisions.
7. There will be no protests allowed on the final score or a judgement call by an official.

### **Spectators Rules**

1. All family members and friends of players entering the fields are expected to conduct themselves in the proper manner.
2. Everyone will be held accountable for his/her own actions.
3. There will be absolutely no taunting of officials or players.
4. Abusive language from players, coaches, or spectators will not be tolerated.
5. No one, except players and officials will be allowed onto fields at anytime while games are taking place.
6. Spectators are expected to stay on the designated spectator side of the field. Spectators are not permitted on the side with player benches.
7. Violation of rules 1-6 could result in removal from the game.

### **Rain Delay & Postponement**

-For all rain delays – the officials and recreation department will meet and determine whether the game should be played or rescheduled.

-If a game is in progress and it begins to rain, the official score and time will determine if the game should be called complete or continued on a later date.

-For information regarding cancellation of games due to bad weather, people should sign up for text alerts and/or call the **cancellation line at 732-3555.**