



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YOUTH SOCCER RULES

Jackson Area YMCA

SPORTSMANSHIP

Coaches are responsible for team members and spectators supporting their team, before, during, and after the game. The referee will warn any coach or player displaying unsportsmanlike conduct. If the conduct does not improve then it shall be the referee's decision to eject that coach or player from the game. If a coach fails to control his parents who are exhibiting bad sportsmanship after a warning from the referee, it will be the referee's decision to forfeit the game in favor of the other team. If a coach is having problems handling a parent's conduct, please let your official and Program Director know immediately.

The referee has control of the game; his/her decision is final. Any abusive language or undesirable conduct by a player, coach, or spectator will result in the disqualification of a player, coach, or team. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their teams and spectators.

Any excessive, abusive, or inappropriate behavior on the part of a player, coach, or spectator will result in a conference with the Sports Director and possible DISMISSAL from the YMCA Youth Sports program without refund.

DIVISIONS & EQUIPMENT All players must wear their YMCA soccer jersey. Players/teams are encouraged to wear matching shorts. Black is the preferred color, but teams may wear other colors as long as all players have the same color. Soccer cleats or gym shoes are permitted but no toe cleats and no metal cleats. Players are required to wear shin guards, preferably under the socks. No jewelry is allowed for the child's and other players' safety.

TEAM ASSIGNMENT POLICIES The Program Director will put all rosters together. Teams are grouped by friend request, coach request, then schools and take into consideration ages across teams. No player shall switch teams without the approval of the YMCA Program Director and affected coaches.

PRACTICES & GAMES There should be one scheduled practice each week per team. Players are encouraged to notify their coaches prior to being absent from games and practices. Game duration for each division will be as follows:

6u: two 16 minute halves

9u, 12u: two 20 minute halves

Half time will be 5 minutes in length.

Games will have a running clock and will only stop for an injury. (No time outs)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Players and coaches are encouraged to show up at least 15 minutes prior to game time.

Every coach and team is responsible for assisting in cleaning up the playing field and sideline area after each game. Encourage your parents and players to assist in clean up.

Every coach is responsible for his/her own conduct first and foremost, followed by the conduct of his or her players and parents. REMEMBER as a YMCA coach you are a role model for the kids and extension of the YMCA's missions and values.

For safety, no coaches, players, or spectators are allowed behind the goal lines during the game. One coach (per team) is allowed on the field in the 6u division, but cannot stand in the goalie box or in front of the goal.

YMCA officials will try to do their best to officiate all games in a correct manner. Please do not challenge them during the game. Profanity and other forms of abuse towards referees, coaches, parents or players will not be tolerated.

The YMCA properties and off- site programs are considered to be SMOKE FREE!

GAME RULES

Referee

There will be one or two referees per field. In the case that there is not a referee, coaches should step in and perform the duties of the referee.

All rule infractions should be briefly explained to the offending player.

There are no linesmen referees for these leagues since offside is not called.

Players

There will be no forfeits. If the standard amount of players for each division is not available for each team then both teams will play with the same number of players on the field.

Teams may not play with more players than what is stated for their division.

Kick Offs

Opponents must start outside the center circle while the kick-off is in progress. All players must remain behind the centerline until the ball is kicked.

A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-off. If the ball goes directly into the goal without touching another player on a kick-off, the defending team will play the ball in off of a goal kick.

A coin flip will determine which team will kick off. Possession of the ball and teams will alternate at the half. All players must remain behind the centerline until the ball is kicked.

The kickoff must move off the line and be passed to a teammate.

In case of an injury, the game play restarts with a drop ball in which one player from each team stands opposite the other. The referee drops the ball between the two players, who try to win possession for his or her team.

Penalties

All kicks from infractions will be taken as direct kicks (ball can be kicked directly in goal from spot of kick, unless from defensive half). Hand balls are considered infractions if considered intentional or effects the path of the ball, and include the entire arm.

All defenders lining up to stop direct kicks must be so many yards off the ball (5 for 6u grade and 10 for 9u 12u).

No slide tackling is allowed at any time for 6u Division. Players should try to play on feet at all times. (9u and up slide tackling is allowed.)

Any infractions by the defensive team inside the goalie box (9u and up division) results in a penalty kick. Penalty kicks are taken from 15' from the goal line. Shooter gets one touch. Goalies may move side to side but not forward off the line. Ball is live once touched by the shooter.

Repeated infractions may result in verbal warnings by the referee, forced to substitute, or removal from the game. In severe circumstances are players removed from the league.

Substitutions

Coaches can substitute freely during each half of the game on dead ball situations and/or after a goal is scored. A substitution can be made for an injured player. Coaches should do their best to provide equal playing time for all players as much as possible. Each player should play at least half of each game.

Out of Bounds

The whole ball must cross the whole line in order to be out of bounds. If any part of the ball is touching the line, it is still in play.

Any ball out of bounds on the sidelines is a throw-in. Throw-ins must be with 2 hands over head and both feet in contact with the ground.

Any ball out of bounds on the end lines results in either a goal kick (ball last touched by offensive team) or corner kick (ball last touched by defensive team).

Goals kicks are taken from the top of either the goal box or dead zone.

Corner kicks are considered to be direct kicks.

Dead Zone (6u division ONLY)

No player is allowed in the goal restriction area. This will be marked by a 5 yard arc from the goal line extending out in front of the goal. Goal kicks will take place from the top of the goal arc. If a defender touches the ball inside the restricted area it is a free kick for the offensive team at half field. If an offensive player touches the ball inside the restricted area it is an automatic goal kick for the defensive team. If the ball stops in the restricted area, a free kick will be awarded to the team who did not last touch the ball (i.e. if the offense kicks the ball and it stops in the restricted area it is a goal kick for the defense from the top of the arc. If the defense kicks the ball and it stops in the restricted area, it is a free kick for the offensive team at half field).

Goals

No goals can be scored from behind midfield. The whole ball must cross the whole goal line to count as a goal. NO scores will be kept. NO league standings will be kept.

After a goal is scored then a kick-off is given to the defending team at half field.

All Players age 10 years of age and under shall not head the ball directly from the air in any match or competition, nor shall these players practice heading the ball in any organized team setting.

If a player age 10 or younger deliberately heads the ball in a match, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction. If the heading occurs within the penalty area, the referee shall move the ball outside the penalty area and award an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

Players age 11 and age 12 shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition. These players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session, but coaches shall monitor this practice so that no single player heads the ball more than 25 times per week, regardless of setting.