

Rules of Play:

Republic Parks & Recreation Soccer League is an instructional program designed to help encourage youth to participate in sports activity and enjoyment.

I. Equipment

- a. Teams must wear matching colors with jerseys displayed outside or over any jackets. Team colors must differentiate from the opposing team. In the event teams have similar colored jerseys and neither team has an alternate jersey, colored pennies will be provided for the away team. All goalkeepers shall wear colors that distinguish him/her from the other players and from the referee.
- b. Shoes, shin guards, and tall socks covering the shing guards are required for all players.
- c. Earrings, bracelets, watches, all jewelry, and hoods are prohibited and shall not be worn during play.

II. Kick-off Procedure

- a. The team that wins the toss of a coin decides which goal to attack in the first half or to take the kick-off. Depending on their choice, the opposing team will in turn take the kick-off or decide which goal to attack.
- b. For the second half, the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals. Whichever team did not kick-off to start the game will kick-off to start the second half.
- c. After a team scores a goal, the kick-off is taken by their opponents.
- d. For every kick-off:
 - All players, except the player taking the kick-off, must be in their own half of the field of play.
 - The opponents of the team taking the kick-off must be on the opposite side of the field and outside the center circle.
 - The ball must be stationary on the center mark.
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
 - The player taking the kick-off may not touch the ball a second time until it is touched by another player on either team. In the event of a double touch in 7U and younger divisions, a warning will be issued and the same team may retake the kick-off one time. In 9U and older divisions the kick-off will be awarded to the opposing team.
 - A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.

III. Substitutions

- a. For U6 and younger divisions, substitutions are unlimited and may be made on the fly at anytime during the duration of the game.
- b. For U7 and older divisions, substitutions are unlimited and can be made at any stoppage of play with permission of the referee. The desired substitute must be at the centerline ready to enter at the time of the stoppage or the referee may not allow the substitution to take place except in the case of injury.
- c. The referee has the authority to not allow a substitution if he/she believes that allowing the substitution will adversely impact the flow of the game or is being used as a tactical time-wasting ploy.

IV. Goalkeepers

- a. The goalkeeper may touch the ball with their hands inside the penalty box.
- b. Attacking players should not kick or attempt to kick the ball when the keeper has possession. One hand touching the ball constitutes possession by the keeper. This includes when a keeper has a hand on the ball on the ground.
- c. Goalkeepers have 6 seconds to release the ball after completion of a save. In U9/10 and younger divisions, the ball should be released from the hands. Drop kicks are not permitted in U9/10 and younger divisions. In U11/12 and older divisions goalkeepers may release the ball from their hands or a drop kick.
- d. Goalies may not use their hands when receiving the ball directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate or when intentionally passed by a teammate.

V. Restarts

- a. 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 until the referee sounds the whistle.
- b. In 5U and younger divisions to maintain the flow of the game and maximize play time, the referee will block the ball from leaving the field of play when possible and when necessary, restart play by gently rolling the ball back onto the field of play.
- c. In the 7U division a kick-in is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline. The ball should be placed on the touchline. The player must have both feet outside the field of play when taking the kick-in.
- d. In 9U and older divisions a throw-in is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline. To complete a proper throw in, a player must have both feet on the ground outside the field of play and have both hands on the ball to deliver from behind and over their head. In the 9U division, an improper throw-in will receive direction from the referee and one re-throw. In 11U and older divisions, an improper throw and after a second attempt in the 9U division, an improper throw will result in a turnover to the opposing team.
- e. A goal kick is awarded to the defending team when the ball passes over the goal line and was last touched by an attacking player. When taking a goal kick, the ball must be stationary and kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is kicked. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player. In the U8 and younger divisions, a double touch will result in an explanation from the referee and a re-kick. In U9 and older divisions, a double touch will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team.
- f. A corner kick is awarded to the attacking team when the ball passes over the goal line and was last touched by a defending player. The ball must be placed in the corner arc and kicked by an attacking player. Opponents must remain 10 yards from the corner arc until the ball is kicked. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player. A double touch will result in an indirect free kick to the opposing team.
- g. For any other stoppage outside of normal gameplay, fouls, or misconduct, a dropped-ball will be used to restart play.

VI. Offside

- a. Offside will be called in U9 and older divisions.
- b. A player is in an offside position if:
 - any part of their head, body or feet is in the opponents' half **AND**
 - any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent.
- c. A player is not in an offside position if level with the second-last opponent.
- d. Offside is called when a player is in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched by a teammate and the player in the offside position becomes involved in the active play by:
 - touching or receiving the ball **OR**
 - interfering with an opponent by preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball or attempting to play or challenge the opponent for the ball **OR**
 - gains advantage by being in an offside position to play the ball or challenge an opponent when a ball rebounds off a goalpost, crossbar, or opponent making a deliberate save.
- e. A player is not offside when receiving a ball directly from a goal kick, throw-in, or corner kick.
- f. If an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick where the offence occurred.

VII. Fouls & Misconduct (Direct, Indirect, and Penalty Kicks)

- a. In the U8 and younger divisions there will be no Penalty or Direct Free Kicks. All infractions will result in an indirect free kick. In U9 and older divisions Direct, Indirect, and Penalty Kicks will be awarded. Direct and Indirect Free Kicks will be taken from the place of the infraction with the exception of kicks awarded to the attacking team within the penalty area, which will be moved to the nearest point outside the penalty area.
- b. An indirect free kick must touch another player (offensive or defensive) before a goal can be scored. An indirect free kick is awarded if a player:
 - plays in a dangerous manner
 - impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
 - slides in U8 and younger divisions without any contact being made
 - is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures or other verbal offences
 - intentionally heads the ball in U11/12 and younger divisions
 - prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball
 - commits any other offence for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player
- c. A direct free kick may be kicked directly into the goal. A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless, or using excessive force:

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- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
- tackles or challenges including slide tackles
- trips or attempts to trip

Or when a player commits any of the following offenses:

- a handball offence (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)
 - holds an opponent
 - impedes an opponent with contact
 - kicks or attempts to kick the ball while it is in the possession of the goalkeeper
 - bites or spits at someone
- d. A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offense inside their penalty area. When taking a penalty kick:
- The ball must be stationary on the penalty mark.
 - The player taking the penalty kick must be clearly identified.
 - The defending goalkeeper must remain on the gal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, without touching the goal or net, with one foot on or touching the goal line until the ball has been kicked.
 - The players other than the kicker and goalkeeper must be at least 10 yards from the penalty mark, behind the penalty mark, and outside the penalty area.
- The kicker must play the ball forward and may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player (offensive or defensive).
- e. At the referee's discretion, play will not stop when doing so would cause the offended team to lose a clear advantage or goal scoring opportunity.
- f. The referee has the authority to take disciplinary action as necessary. The yellow card communicates a caution and the red card communicates a sending-off.

VIII. Coaches & Players

- a. All teams must turn in an online team roster at the time of registration. ALL players MUST complete individual online registration and roster verification before they will be deemed eligible to play and added to the team roster. 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. See the age 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. All players U7 and older will be required to complete team check-in with the referee at the start of every game. Concerns regarding age division and roster should be brought to the attention of the Soccer Supervisor.

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- b. Players may only play on one team in an age division. Players are allowed to play in two different age divisions. Requests for guest player approval may be submitted to the Soccer Coordinator. A team found using a player who is on another roster in the same age division without completion of guest player approval will forfeit that game and the player will be suspended for the next two games.
- c. All players on a team must have the same color uniform jersey. Numbers are not required in U8 and younger divisions. Numbers are required in U9 and older divisions.
- d. New players may not be added after the first game has been played without approval from the Soccer Coordinator and completed Roster Verification Form.
- e. There will be no protests on the final score or a judgement call by an official.
- f. Coaches may walk onto the field for U4 – U6 divisions, but may not enter the goal area or coach from the endline next to the goal. Coaches should move out of the way to avoid interfering with game play. If coaches are interfering with game play, they will be asked by the referee to coach from the sideline.
- g. Coaches in U7 and older divisions must coach from the sideline designated by their player bench. They should not cross the midfield line or coach from the endline.
- h. If a coach or player is ejected from the game, he or she will be suspended for the next scheduled game.
- i. 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.

IX. Parents & Spectators

- a. All fans and spectators are expected to stay on the designated spectator side of the field. Spectators are not permitted on the side with player benches or endlines.
- b. All fans and spectators should sit or stand a minimum of 6 feet from the sideline to avoid interfering with play or the path of the officials.
- c. There will be absolutely no taunting of officials or players.
- d. All concerns should be addressed to the Soccer Supervisor.