

Boys & Girls Club of Albany

OUTDOOR SOCCER RULES

All rules will be the same as high schools with the following exceptions:

1. Duration of game will be:

- 1st & 2nd Grade League.....50 minutes
- 3rd & 4th Grade League.....50 minutes
- 5th & 6th Grade League.....60 minutes
- 7th & 8th Grade League.....70 minutes

2. Substitution of Players:

Coaches have to substitute all reserves at the halfway point of each half of play. This will be the only time substitutions will be allowed unless a player is injured. Players who miss practices repeatedly or break other rules can be disciplined by not being allowed to compete in a game or being allowed to play less than ½ of the game.

3. Size of Squads:

1st -4th leagues: Games will be played with 7 players on each team. Roster size will be 12 per team.
5th-8th leagues: Games will be played with 11 players on each team. Roster size will be 15 per team.
Teams will be allowed to compete with less than the required number of players without forfeiture of the game.

4. Ball size:

The 1st & 2nd grade league will use the #3 ball
The 3rd – 6th grade leagues will use the #4 ball
The 7th & 8th grade league will use the #5 ball

5. Conduct of Players, Coaches, & Parents

The coach at half time or after the game should discuss all questions regarding the referee's decisions. Repeated harassment of referees by the players, coaches, or fans will result in forfeiture for the offending team.

6. Offside Rule:

The offside rule will be disregarded by the referees in the 1st & 2nd grade leagues.

7. Shin guards are required.

8. Slide Tackling is allowed only at the 7th & 8th grade level.

- A. All players on both teams (except the goalies) must refrain from using their hands, arms, or shoulders in advancing the ball. If the ball accidentally strikes a player on the arm or any part of the arm, there is no penalty called.
- B. If the ball passes the end lines either a goal kick (the offensive team last touches the ball) or a corner kick (if the defending team touches the ball) ensues. A goal kick may be taken by any player. The ball must remain within the goal box in order to be put back into play.
- C. If the ball passes completely over the sidelines, the team that did not last touch the ball starts the play again with a throw-in. Throw-ins must be performed with both feet on the ground and both hands via behind the back technique.
- D. There are nine major fouls and seven minor fouls for which a direct free kick or penalty kick is called. They are

Major

- a. Kicking
- b. Tripping
- c. Jumping
- d. Charging violently
- e. Charging from behind
- f. Striking-automatic ejection
- g. Holding
- h. Pushing- other than goalie
- i. Hand ball

Minor

- a. Inappropriate conduct
- b. Constant Law infringement
- c. Dissent
- d. Field entry w/out consent
- e. Deliberately fouling
- f. Dangerous play
- g. Players change shirt #'s

E. All other fouls resulting in indirect kicks: such as fouls include offsides, obstructing an opponent who is trying to play the ball, dangerous play (usually high leg kicks around other players) and unsportsmanlike conduct. An indirect kick means that at least one other player (on either team) must touch a kick before a goal is allowed.

F. All kicks (direct or indirect) may be taken immediately as soon as opponents are 10 yards from the ball without any further signal from the referee.

G. A player is in an offside position when nearer the opposing team's goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played, unless:

- 1. That player is in his/her team's half of the field of play
- 2. There are 2 opposing players between that player and the opposing team's goal line
- 3. An opposing player last touched the ball
- 4. The ball is received directly from a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, or dropped ball

5. If not involved directly in play, as soon as enter playing area imminent. (This rule doesn't apply to 1-2 grade)

H. Drop balls occur when a referee can't decide who last touched the ball that went out of bounds.

I. Referees are in complete charge of a game and have the discretion of not calling a foul if the attacking team (in his/her opinion) still has the advantage to score goal. Referees can give a "Yellow Card" or a warning to any player, coach, or fan for any unsportsmanlike conduct, and a "Red Card" or expulsion from the game for continued poor conduct.

J. Substitution of Players:

Coaches must substitute all reserves at the halfway point of each half of play. This will be the only time substitutions will be allowed unless a player is injured. Players who miss practice repeatedly or break other can be disciplined by not being allowed to compete in the game or being allowed to play less than ½ of the game. In the second half, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th grade teams may substituted on kick-offs and when their team has possession of the ball out of bounds.