

Gardner Parks and Recreation Department

Youth Soccer By-Laws

Age Groups	# of Players	Field Dimensions	Goal Size
Kindergarten and Under	3 v 3	60' wide x 90' long	4' x 6'
1 st /2 nd Grade	5 v 5	90' x 120'	4.5' x 9'
3 rd /4 th Grade	6 v 6	100' x 150'	6.5' x 12'
5 th /6 th Grade	7 v 7	120' x 180'	6.5' x 18.5'
7 th /8 th Grade	5 v 5	120' x 180'	6.5' x 18.5'

General Rules

1. At all ages, no player may play the ball while they are lying on the ground. Also, if goalie is touching the ball with at least one hand then no play is allowed on the ball.
2. All players are to play at least 50% of the game.
3. Unlimited subs are allowed, however, no subs are allowed on penalty kicks.
4. You may sub a player on corner kicks, goal kicks and for any 1 player that is issued a yellow penalty card. If a player is thrown a red penalty card then that player must leave the game at that time and no subs are allowed until the next stoppage of play.
5. The referee(s) assigned to the game is responsible for calls on his/her field.
6. The soccer seasons will run 7 weeks in the fall, and 7 weeks during the spring. All teams will play one game per week. The season may run longer and teams may possibly play more than one game per week if weather dictates makeup games.
7. If there is any blood on a player or a player's uniform then the uniform must be changed and the player cleaned up before returning to a game.
8. It is recommended that each coach carry a first aid kit at all practices and games.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. RED cards will be issued if a coach or parent is showing unsportsmanlike conduct (No exceptions). Coaches will have 1 minute to leave the field or the team must forfeit the game, the coach and or parent may not attend the next game.
2. A yellow card is a warning.
3. A red card is a penalty situation, the player will not be able to play the next game
4. If a fans/ parents actions cause a disruption to the game, coaches will be yellow carded and will be asked to calm the individual. If the disruption is severe enough, the fan/ parent will be asked to leave the playing field area.
5. A coach's first violation will be a yellow card.
6. A coach's second violation will be a red card and the coach will have 1 minute to leave the playing field area. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game and the coach will be suspended for the next scheduled game.
7. ANY individual that steps onto the field during play to approach an official will result in a red card for the offending teams coach.
8. Players will be yellow carded on a first violation.
9. Players will be red carded on the second violation and will have to leave the game at that time. No subs will be allowed until next stoppage of play.
10. Officials will keep record of all yellow and red cards that are issued.

Clothing

1. Shin guards are required for all players on the field. The shin guard must be covered up with pants or socks with no bare plastic exposed
2. Shoes may be tennis shoes or cleats but cleats are not allowed on the sides of the soles or on the toes.
3. Stocking caps, gloves and sweats under the uniform are allowed
4. Mouthpieces are allowed but not required
5. No jewelry of any kind is allowed on the field.
6. Goalies may wear a ball cap on sunny days where the sun causes a problem for the goalie

Kindergarten and Under Specific Rules

1. Games will consist of 2- 15 minute halves, with a running clock.
2. Games will be contested as 3 v. 3 with no goalie.

3. Teams will use the #3 size ball.
4. There will be a 5 minute halftime.
5. One coach per team will be allowed on the field at all times.
6. In Kindergarten and Under, no corner kicks allowed – Goal kicks will occur only when ball goes out on the end of the field.
7. Bicycle kicks are not allowed.
8. Slide kicks or tackles are not allowed.
9. There will be no off sides penalties called.
10. There will be no penalty shots.
11. There will be no direct free kicks.
12. A player may not make a play on the ball while they are on the ground. Also, players may not play the ball if it is in the goal box. The referee will whistle the play dead.

1st/2nd Grade Specific Rules

1. Games will consist of 2- 20 minute halves, with a running clock.
2. Games will be contested as 5 v. 5, with a goalie counted as one of the 5.
3. Teams will use the #3 size ball.
4. There will be a 5 minute halftime.
5. One coach will be allowed on the field at all times.
6. Bicycle kicks are not allowed.
7. No slide kicks or tackles are allowed.
8. There will be no off sides penalties called.
9. There will be no penalty shots.
10. There will be no direct free kicks.
11. A player may not make a play on the ball while they are on the ground. Also, players may not play the ball if it is in the goalies halo, or direct area under goalie. If the goalie is reaching for a ball, it is not playable by field players; a goalie does not have to have complete possession for this to apply. Example: If the goalie's hand is on the ball it is not playable by field players.
12. The 2nd throw in must be allowed until thrown in correctly, both teams may sub on a throw in at the same time.
13. The 6-second goalie rule will be enforced and consist of the following:
 - a. Goalkeepers will be allowed a maximum of 6 seconds to play the ball.
 - b. Official's discretion will determine if the goalkeeper is in compliance with this rule.
 - c. Penalty for infraction: Indirect kick at spot of foul.
14. 1st/2nd Grade Cherry Picking Rule – there will be a dash line 2 feet into the goal box, players standing in front of the goal on the shooting team will not be allowed to approach the goal without the ball, if the players on the shooting team crosses the dash line before they receive the ball, the play will stop and an indirect kick will be given to the defending team, no players from the shooting team in front of the goal or goalie to setup cherry picking, must stand at dash line.

3rd/4th Grade Specific Rules

1. Games will consist of 2-20 minute halves, with a running clock.
2. Games will be contested as 6 v. 6, goalie counts as one of the 6.
3. Teams will use the #4 size ball.
4. There will be a 5 minute halftime.
5. One coach will be allowed on the field for the 1st game only, after that no coaches are allowed on the field.
6. No bicycle kicks are allowed.
7. No slide kicks or tackles are allowed.
8. Off sides penalties will be enforced.
9. There will be no penalty shots.
10. There will be no direct free kicks.
11. A player may not make a play on the ball while they are on the ground. Also, players may not play the ball if it is in the goalies halo, or direct area under goalie. If the goalie is reaching for a ball, it is not playable by field players; a goalie does not have to have complete possession for this to apply. Example: If the goalie's hand is on the ball it is not playable by field players.
12. Teams will get one (1) throw in attempt with feet on the ground, if a player's foot is lifted, it will result in a turnover and the other team will obtain possession. Only the team with possession of the ball may sub on a throw in.
13. The 6-second goalie rule will be enforced.
 - a. Goalkeepers will be allowed a maximum of 6 seconds to play the ball.

- b. Official's discretion will determine if the goalkeeper is in compliance with this rule.
- c. Penalty for infraction: Indirect kick at spot of foul.

5th/6th Grade Specific Rules

1. Games will consist of 2-25 minute halves, with a running clock.
2. Boys games will be contested as 7 v. 7, goalie counts as one of the 7. **Girls will be contested as 5 v. 5.**
3. Teams will use the #4 size ball.
4. There will be a 5 minute halftime.
5. Slide kicks will be allowed if no intentional contact is made on an opposing player, and as long as the attempt is not coming from behind the player.
6. Off sides penalties will be enforced.
7. Penalty kicks will be taken.
8. Teams will get one (1) throw in attempt with feet on the ground, if a player's foot is lifted, it will result in a turnover and the other team will obtain possession. Both teams may sub on a throw in.
9. The 6-second goalie rule will be enforced.
 - a. Goalkeepers will be allowed a maximum of 6 seconds to play the ball.
 - b. Official's discretion will determine if the goalkeeper is in compliance with this rule.
 - c. Penalty for infraction: Indirect kick at spot of foul.

7th/8th Grade Specific Rules

1. Games will consist of 2- 25 minute halves, with a running clock.
2. Games will be contested as 5 v. 5, with a goalie counted as one of the 5.
3. Teams will use the #4 size ball.
4. Slide kicks will be allowed if no intentional contact is made on an opposing player, and as long as the attempt is not coming from behind the player.
5. Off sides penalties will be enforced.
6. Penalty kicks will be taken.
7. Teams will get one (1) throw in attempt with feet on the ground, if a player's foot is lifted, it will result in a turnover and the other team will obtain possession. Both teams may sub on a throw in.
8. The 6-second goalie rule will be enforced.
 - a. Goalkeepers will be allowed a maximum of 6 seconds to play the ball.
 - b. Official's discretion will determine if the goalkeeper is in compliance with this rule.
 - c. Penalty for infraction: Indirect kick at spot of foul.