

Gardner Parks and Recreation Department

Youth Soccer By-Laws

Age Groups	# of Players	Field Dimensions	Goal Size
Pre-K	3 v 3	60' wide x 90' long	4' x 6'
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	7 v 7	135' x 225'	6.5' x 18.5'

General Rules

1. Play by FIFA rules unless stated otherwise
2. All players must receive equal amounts of playing time
3. Unlimited substitutions. Substitutions can occur at any dead ball with the referee's permission.
4. Red cards to player:
 - a. 1st red card- ejection from the remainder of the game and the next game
 - b. 2nd red card- ejection from the league
 - i. After a player receives a red card they must leave the game and the team must play a man down for the remainder of the game
5. Red cards to coach:
 - a. 1st red card- ejection from the remainder of the game and the next game
 - b. 2nd red card- ejection from the league
6. No deliberate heading of the ball in any division except 7th/8th
7. No slide kicks allowed in any division
8. 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.
9. It is recommended that each coach carry a first aid kit at all practices and games.
10. FIFA issued new rules effective June 2019.
 - a. Goal kicks – ball is in play as soon as ball is kicked and can be played before leaving the penalty area.
 - b. Penalty kicks – goalkeeper must have at least one foot on the goal line at the time the ball is kicked.

Clothing

1. All players must be in a GPRD issued uniform for the CURRENT season.
2. All participants MUST wear shin guards and be covered with either pants or socks with no bare plastic exposed.
3. No jewelry is allowed on the field. This includes watches and other wearable tech.
 1. If you want to keep it on it must have tape covering and securing it to your body
4. Shoes may be tennis shoes or cleats but cleats are not allowed on the sides of the soles or on the toes.
5. Stocking caps, gloves and sweats under the uniform are allowed
6. Mouthpieces are allowed but not required
7. Goalies may wear a ball cap on sunny days where the sun causes a problem for the goalie. Goalies MUST be in a penny or conflict jersey.

FIFA Laws of the game

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play
2. Law 2 – The Ball
3. Law 3 – The players
4. Law 4 – The players Equipment
5. Law 5 – The Referee
6. Law 6 – The other match officials
7. Law 7 – The Duration of the game
8. Law 8 – The start and the restart of the game
9. Law 9 – The ball in and out of play
10. Law 10 – Determining the match outcome
11. Law 11 – Offside
12. Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct
13. Law 13 – Free Kicks
14. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick
15. Law 15 – The Throw in
16. Law 16 – The Goal Kick
17. Law 17 – The Corner Kick

Pre-K and 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. Corner kicks are taken inside the corner arc on the appropriate side of the field. All opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked. If the ball is kicked out of bounds, one re-kick will be allowed. After that the ball will be placed outside of goal box.
7. Goal kicks will occur only when ball goes out on the end of the field. Kick will be taken from the goal line and defenders should back up to mid-field and may attack once the ball has been played and touched by another member of the offensive team.
8. The off-side rule does not apply. But coaches should encourage players to participate in the action and not “camp” in front of the opponent’s goal.
9. Bicycle kicks are not allowed.
10. Slide kicks or tackles are not allowed.
11. There will be no penalty kicks.
12. All free kicks are indirect. Opponents must be at least 8 yards away from the ball on all free kicks.
13. No throw-ins
14. 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 Law Amendments

1. Law 1 – The Field of Play: 60’ wide x 90’ long and goal size 4’ wide x 6’ long
2. Law 2 – The Ball: Size 3
3. Law 3 – The players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is 5, including the goalkeeper. Substitutions: can occur at any dead ball with the referee’s permission. Playing time: Play time must be equal between players. One coach will be allowed on the field at all times.
4. Law 4 – The players Equipment: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shinguards are mandatory.

5. Law 5 – The Referee: Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play, keep the game safe and fun. If and when a referee stops the play for a foul or another reason, they shall take the time to explain why because these kids are still learning and may even be their first experience with soccer and it is the best time to learn for them.
6. Law 6 – The other match officials: No Assistant Referees
7. Law 7 – The Duration of the game: 2 – 20 minute halves, with a running clock. 5 minute halftime.
8. Law 8 – The start and the restart of the game: Follow FIFA Guidelines; except for the following modifications: Opponent must start on the outside of the center circle. Kick offs are considered to be an indirect free kick.
9. Law 9 – The ball in and out of play: Follow all FIFA Guidelines
10. Law 10 – Determining the match outcome: Score and records are not recorded.
11. Law 11 – Offside: The off-side rule does not apply. But coaches should encourage players to participate in the action and not “camp” in front of the opponent’s goal.
12. Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: No Deliberate heading of the ball. All fouls should be explained to the offender. All fouls result in an indirect free kick.
13. Law 13 – Free Kicks: All free kicks are indirect, the opposing team needs to be 8 yards from the ball until the ball is kicked.
14. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: No Penalties. All fouls within the penalty box will result in an indirect free kick at the edge of the penalty box nearest to the infraction/spot of the foul.
15. Law 15 – The Throw in: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: A 2nd throw in will be allowed after an illegal throw-in and a brief explanation from the referee. Play will resume after 2nd throw-in whether throw was legal or not.
16. Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: The goal kick must be taken in the general vicinity of the respective goal, players on the opposing team need to be at the midline until the ball is kicked. A reminder that the new FIFA laws allow the ball to be touched inside the penalty box now.
17. The Corner Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: all opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked. If the ball is kicked out of bounds, one re-kick will be allowed.

3rd/4th Grade Law Amendments

1. Law 1 –The Field of Play: 100’ wide x 150’ long and goal size 6.5’ wide x 12’ long
2. Law 2 – The Ball: size 4
3. Law 3 – The players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is 6, including the goalkeeper. Substitutions can occur at any dead ball with the referee’s permission. Playing time: Play time must be equal between players. One coach will be allowed on the field during the first game only.
4. Law 4 – The players Equipment: soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shinguards are mandatory.
5. Law 5 – The Referee: Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play, keep the game safe and fun.
6. Law 6 – The other match officials: Assist the center official
7. Law 7 – The Duration of the game: The match shall be divided into 2 equal halves of 20 minutes each. With a 5 minute break for half-time.
8. Law 8 – The start and the restart of the game: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: opponents must start at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
9. Law 9 – The ball in and out of play: Follow all FIFA guidelines
10. Law 10 – Determining the match outcome: Score and records are not recorded.
11. Law 11 – Offside: Follow all FIFA guidelines
12. Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: Deliberate heading of the ball is not allowed and an indirect free kick will occur where the spot of the offence occurred. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be

taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

13. Law 13 – Free Kicks: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: all opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked. All free kicks are indirect.
14. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: No Penalties. All fouls within the penalty box will result in an indirect free kick at the edge of the penalty box nearest to the infraction/spot of the foul.
15. Law 15 – The Throw in: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: Teams will get two throw in attempts 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
16. Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines *See updated guideline
17. Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: all opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked.

5th/6th Grade Law Amendments

1. Law 1 –The Field of Play: 120' wide x 180' long and goal size is 6.5' x 18.5
2. Law 2 – The Ball: size 5
3. Law 3 – The players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is 7, including the goalkeeper. This can change if the numbers are low in this division. Substitutions can occur at any dead ball with the referee's permission.
4. Law 4 – The players Equipment: soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shinguards are mandatory.
5. Law 5 – The Referee: Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play, keep the game safe and fun.
6. Law 6 – The other match officials: Assist the center official
7. Law 7 – The Duration of the game: two 25 minute halves, with a 5 minute break for half time.
8. Law 8 – The start and the restart of the game: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: opponents must start at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
9. Law 9 – The ball in and out of play: Follow all FIFA guidelines
10. Law 10 – Determining the match outcome: Score and records are not recorded.
11. Law 11 – Offside: Follow all FIFA guidelines
12. Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct: Follow all FIFA Guidelines; except for the following modifications: Deliberate heading is not allowed. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
13. Law 13 – Free Kicks: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: all opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
14. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: No Penalties. All fouls within the penalty box will result in an indirect free kick at the edge of the penalty box nearest to the infraction/spot of the foul.
15. Law 15 – The Throw in: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: Teams will get one 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
16. Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines *See updated guideline
17. Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: all opponents must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked.

7th/8th Grade Law Amendments

1. Law 1 –The Field of Play: 135' wide x 225' long and goal size is 6.5' x 18.5
2. Law 2 – The Ball: size 5
3. Law 3 – The players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is 7, including the goalkeeper. Substitutions can occur at any dead ball with the referee's permission.

4. Law 4 – The players Equipment: soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shinguards are mandatory.
5. Law 5 – The Referee: Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play, keep the game safe and fun.
6. Law 6 – The other match officials: Assist the center official
7. Law 7 – The Duration of the game: two 30 minute halves, with a 5 minute break for half time.
8. Law 8 – The start and the restart of the game: Follow all FIFA guidelines
9. Law 9 – The ball in and out of play: Follow all FIFA guidelines
10. Law 10 – Determining the match outcome: Score and records are not recorded.
11. Law 11 – Offside: Follow all FIFA guidelines
12. Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct: Follow all FIFA Guidelines; Heading IS allowed.
13. Law 13 – Free Kicks: Follow all FIFA guidelines
14. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines
15. Law 15 – The Throw in: : Follow all FIFA guidelines; except for the following modifications: Teams will get one 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.
16. Law 16 – The Goal Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines *See updated guideline
17. Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Follow all FIFA guidelines

Glossary of Terms:

Offensive Team-The team that has possession of the ball.

Defensive Team-The team that does not have possession of the ball.

Corner Kick-A corner kick occurs when the defending team sends the ball out of bounds along its own goal line. The kick is taken by the attacking team.

Goal Kick-A goal kick occurs when the attacking team sends the ball out of bounds along the defending team's goal line. The kick is taken by the defending team. Ball is placed on the edge of the goal box.

Indirect Kick-The ball must touch another player (from either team) before entering the goal.