8U Soccer leagues are for instruction and teaching of fundamental soccer skills. It emphasizes the development of teamwork, good sportsmanship, and FUN. Therefore, official scores and standings **will not** **be kept**!

* The governing authority for the Youth Soccer Program will be the Columbia County Recreation Department. Any rules not listed by the Recreation Department will be covered by the USSF Laws of the game.
* The 8U leagues will use the **#3 Ball**. FIELD SIZE: 25 yards wide X 45 yards length
* Shin Guards are mandatory for all players. Shoes may be **either tennis shoes or soccer cleats with molded cleats**; **baseball/football shoes may not be worn**. (No screw in type cleats or metal cleats may be used).
* Players may wear stocking hats (without tassels) and gloves in cold weather. Under garments, such as sweatshirts or turtle neck shirts, may also be worn but must be underneath the uniform shirt so number is visible.
* A numbered jersey will be supplied to all teams by CCRD and participants must wear this jersey to be eligible.
* No jewelry will be allowed, with the exception of stud earrings as long as they are taped/covered. Cast will be allowed with a doctor’s note and has to be covered with a 2” foam or soft material.

**Playing Rules**

* Teams will play 8 vs.8; this includes the goalie. Teams must have a minimum of six (6) players to begin a match. If one team has fewer players (but not less than 6), the team which has more will godown to that teams #. (i.e. 7 vs 7 or 6 vs 6). If another player arrives; then both teams will adjust to be equal.
* **Games will consist of two 16 minute halves**. Sub at the 8 minute mark in each half. Halftime is 5 minutes. Substitution of players must be made upon the Signal of the referee. Substitutions must enter the field from the mid-field line. Either team may substitution: 1) on a score, 2) injury of a player, 3) on a goal kick by either team, 4) at half time, and 5) a caution (yellow or red card) by either team. When the team with possession of the ball substitutes players on a throw-in or a corner kick, then both teams may make substitutions. All players must enter the game and be allowed to play 8 minutes of each half.
* To start the game, the ball **DOES NOT** have to be kicked forward anymore. The same player may not kick the ball until it has been touched by another player on either team.
* To score, the **entire** ball must cross the **entire** plane of the goal line.
* **Off sides will not be called in 8U soccer.**
* Only Indirect Kicks will be taken for any offenses committed by players. No Direct Kicks or penalty kicks will be allowed.
* When the defensive team kicks the ball across the end line/goal line, **a corner kick will be given**.
* A **goal kick** occurs when the ball is kicked out of bounds by the offensive team over the goal lines. The kick may be taken from anywhere in the goal area. All defensive players must retreat behind the midfield line prior to the goal kick. Once the goal kick is touched by an offensive player, the ball is live and all defensive players can engage.
* Heading the ball is **NOT** allowed. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if players deliberately touch the ball with his/her head.
* **Throw-ins** occur when a team kicks the ball out-of-bounds across the sidelines. The ball must be thrown in with (1) Both feet in contact with the ground on or behind the sidelines and (2) thrown directly from behind and over the head using both hands.
* Goal keepers are the only players allowed to use their hands**. When the ball enters the goal area, no defensive/offensive players may enter and kick the ball (SAFETY!!). Only the Goalie allowed in box when ball is in play.**
* Slide tackling is not allowed!
* Only three coaches for each team may be on the players’ sideline. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the spectators from their team.
* Practice sessions are limited to one hour. It is recommended that before games begin no more than three practices be conducted per week and after games begin, no more than two (2) practices per week. No practice will be scheduled by the Recreation Department on Sundays.
* All play and practices will be suspended when lightning is in the vicinity. Games will be suspended for fifteen (15) minutes. **Regular season games played short of time due to weather-related conditions or conditions affecting the field will be considered completed if at least half of the time allotted for the game has been played.**

**Player and Spectator Conduct**

**Any player, coach, or spectator acting in an un-sportsmanlike manner or conducts themselves in a way that could prove detrimental to the league will be subject to disciplinary action by the Recreation Department Staff**. A player or coach ejected from the game (red card) may not play or coach the next game and must leave the facility immediately. Coaches will not be permitted to attend the next game while serving their suspension. Any player or coach receiving two red cards will be subject to dismissal from the league.Players receiving a red card must attend and sit on the bench the following game after ejection to be eligible to play in the next game.(Not in uniform)

No alcoholic or tobacco products are allowed in the Columbia County facilities.

**FOR SCHEDULES, SCORES, STANDINGS, AND OTHER LEAGUE NEWS AND UPDATES PLEASE VISIT** [**WWW.QUICKSCORES.COM/COLUMBIACOUNTYGA**](http://www.quickscores.com/COLUMBIACOUNTYGA)