

SALT LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION OUTDOOR SOCCER RULES

Players:

All teams will play the game with equal players on the field in situations where there are not enough players to field a complete team. The number of players on the field is as followed:

- 1st & 2nd: 8 V 8 – One player must be a goalkeeper.
- 3rd & 4th: 8 V 8 - One player must be a goalkeeper.
- 5th & 6th: 8 V 8* - One player must be a goalkeeper.

**For 5th/6th grade age group the number of players on the field may change due to size of the field and number of participants. Some programs may have different size fields based on availability.*

Duration of Game:

Clock will be running continuously during games. There will be a 1-minute break between quarters and a 3-5 minute halftime. Each team is allowed one time-out per half, which may be called only at normal stoppage of the game or when that team has clear possession of the ball. The timeout will last one minute.

- 1st & 2nd will consist of two 16-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime period.
- 3rd – 6th will consist of two 20-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime period.

Start of Play:

The ball is kicked from the mid-point of the mid-field line. Defensive players must stand outside the midline circle. The ball can be kicked forward or backward. The kickoff must touch another player before it goes into the goal. A player cannot pass the ball to themselves (two kicks in a row) to start play. The officials will select a team to kick off at the start of the game. The other team will kick off to start the second half. Teams will change goals at halftime.

Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions are allowed during any stoppages of play (ball out of bounds, free kick situations, after a scored goal, time out, etc.) Official must be notified prior to substitutions. Each member of the team must play at least half of the game.

Equipment:

For soccer ball sizes, 1st/2nd grade use size 3 and 3rd-6th grade use size 4 soccer ball. Goalkeepers must wear colors that will distinguish them totally from other players (goalie pennies may be provided). Plastic or rubber cleats may be worn but are not necessary. Shin guards should be worn for all age groups. Metal cleats allowed. Uniforms must be worn on the outermost layer of clothing.

Officials:

1st/2nd Grade divisions will have one official. One (or two referees if available) will officiate the 3rd/4th and 5th/6th grade division. The official's authority commences upon entering the field of play.

Fouls & Misconduct:

A direct free kick* (not required to touch another player before going into the goal) will be awarded to the opposing team if a player kicks, pushes, trips, strikes, boards, jump's towards, holds or violently charges an opposing player, or handles the ball. Any intentional foul committed as judged by the official, will result in a two-minute benching penalty of that player. Offenses of obstruction, charging, dangerous play, and un-sportsman like conduct shall be penalized by an indirect free kick* (ball must touch another player before going into the goal). **No slide tackling of any kind is allowed.** Any slide tackle will result in a direct free kick for the opposing team. Players must stand back at least 10 feet from the player who is kicking the free kick.

No Headers:

No heading of the ball will be allowed for all players in 6th grade and under. If this occurs there will be an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team. Headers will be judged if the player intentionally uses his head to gain advantage. 6th grade and under coaches are not permitted to teach players how to head the ball.

Violent Conduct:

If the official judges that a player is guilty of violent conduct, that player may be removed for the remainder of the game and/or the next game. This rule is enforced for all leagues.

Goal Kick:

When the ball crosses the goal line completely after being touched by a player from the offensive team, the ball will be put into play by a free kick from the goal area by the defending team.

Corner Kick:

When a ball crosses the goal line completely after being touched by a player from the of defending team, the ball is put back into play by a direct kick from the offensive team at the corner mark closest to where the ball went out.

Penalty Kick:

A penalty kick is awarded either when a defensive player fouls an attacking player or commits a handball in their penalty area. The penalty kick is placed at the penalty spot, and all players on both teams must remain outside the penalty box during the shot. They may enter the box immediately after the shot is taken. The goalkeeper may move horizontally along the goal line before the shot is taken, but the goalkeeper may not come off the line until the ball is struck. When the referee blows the whistle, the player taking the kick can kick the ball at the goal (they cannot dribble the ball towards the goal - two touches).

Throw In:

When the ball completely crosses the sideline, the ball will be put back into play by the team who did not touch the ball last prior to it crossing the sideline. The ball will be held over the head and thrown in with both hands behind the sideline at the point where the ball crossed out of bounds. Both feet of the thrower must stay on the ground while they throw in the ball.

Off Sides:

This will only be enforced for 3rd/4th & 5th/6th grade divisions.

It is not an offence in and of itself to be in an offside position. A player is in an offside position if:

- He is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent.

A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, they are in the opinion of the referees, involved in active play by:

- Interfering with play or
- Interfering with an opponent or
- Gaining an advantage by being in that position

There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:

- A goal kick
- A throw-in
- A corner kick

This rule is used to prevent an offensive player from 'camping-out' at the goal awaiting passes.

Use of Hands:

Players may not intentionally contact the ball with hand to gain an advantage (defined as any point from the point of the shoulder down to the tips of the fingers) except for the goalie that may pick up the ball within the penalty box. The penalty for the hand ball will be a direct free kick for the opposing team from the point of the violation.

Controversies:

The head official or site supervisor has the final say in all controversies or rule interpretations.

Remember this is a recreational league based primarily on sportsmanship.

Referees have the right to interpret and use their judgement to the best of their abilities of enforcing the rules of the game properly. If a player, parent or coach shows unsportsmanlike behavior, they may be asked to leave the facility. They may be suspended for the remainder of that game or the remainder of the season. This will be up to the site supervisor, referee or program coordinator.

Recreation:

We do not keep score for these games. This league is just for fun. It is a non-competitive league.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a recreational league, designed for participants to have fun playing soccer in a non-competitive atmosphere. All interpretations are at the discretion of the officials and site supervisor.

