**2021 Soccer Rules**

**4/5 Year Olds**

**Field Dimensions & Officiating**

1. The field is 90 feet x 60 feet. The goals are 6 feet wide and 4 feet tall.
2. The coach referees or appoints his assistant or a parent.

**Length of Match & Substitutions**

1. Substitutions generally are made at the end of a period. Periods are five minutes in length. There are 3 periods in a half and 6 periods in a match. You may sub mid-period (new this year) if needed.
2. Time is kept in conjunction with the 6/7 year old league. A central timekeeper will be present with a whistle/air horn to inform everyone when play begins/ends each period.
3. Every player is to play at least half the match.
4. Play will be 4v4, 3 field players and a goalie.

**Scoring Goals**

1. Goals can be scored from anywhere.
2. No goals can be scored directly from a goal kick, a throw-in, or an indirect free kick. There are not penalty kicks.

**The Goalkeeper**

1. Each team has a goalkeeper. Goalkeepers are changed every period. The same player should not play in goal more than once or twice per match.
2. The goalkeeper can handle the ball (use their hands) in their third of the field marked by an X. Think of this as an extended goalie box for training purposes. Goal kicks are taken from this line.

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**Fouls & Restarts**

1. If a foul throw is committed, the coach explains the correct method and lets the offender retake the throw.
2. All infringements; tripping, handling, pushing, etc. are punishable by an indirect free kick. The ball is placed at the spot of the foul. An indirect kick means the ball must be touched by two different players before a goal can be scored.
3. When the ball goes out of play, the game is re-started by one of the following ways:
   1. Over the sidelines, with a throw-in.
   2. Over the goal line:
      1. With a goal kick if attacking team last touched the ball.
      2. With a corner kick if defending team last touched the ball.
      3. The goal kick is taken from anywhere in the goalkeeper handling zone up to the halfway point.
      4. The corner kick is taken from where the goal line and sideline meet.
   3. After a goal is scored, restart the game in the middle of the field. The team that scored must be in their own goalkeeper’s zone. (On a kick off the ball must be played forward one ball rotation.)
4. All opposing players must be at least five yards from the ball on free kicks, corner kicks, and goal kicks.

**Devotions**

The home team is responsible each game for the halftime devotion. The home team is listed first on <https://www.quickscores.com/verticalsports>. If you desire you may pull both the 4/5 and 6/7 teams together into one group and speak to everyone.