

Zebulon Parks and Recreation Department

2022 Fall Youth Soccer Playing Rules

U6 & U8 Soccer Leagues

Ball Size: U6 league Size 3
 U8 League Size 3

Goal Size: 6 feet tall X 12 feet wide

Number of Players:

- ** The game is played 4 versus 4
- ** There are NO GOALKEEPERS in either league.
- ** Substitutions are unlimited and allowed during any dead ball situation.
- ** Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- ** All players that are not playing should remain seated in the bench area.
- ** One coach from each team will be allowed on the field to instruct players.
- ** There will be no forfeits. Teams may play with lesser players if necessary, depending on the smallest team size.

Required Equipment:

- ** Players should be dressed in their full uniform to include jersey, shorts and socks.
(Provided by Zebulon Parks and Recreation)
- ** Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniform shirt should still be on top to distinguish teams.
- ** Jerseys must be tucked into shorts.
- ** No hats, jewelry, or metal cleats are allowed.
- ** ALL players are required to wear shin guards in practice and games.

Referees:

- ** Due to a local shortage of officials, all games in the U6 and U8 leagues will be officiated by the coaches.

Duration of the Game:

- ** Game will consist of four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.
- ** There will be a 2-minute break between quarters.
- ** There will be a 5-minute break at halftime.

Start of Play:

- ** Play should be started with a kickoff at the center mark of the field.**
- ** Opposing team should not be inside of the center circle during kick off.**
- ** The home team (listed first on the schedule) will start the game with the ball.**
- ** Teams shall rotate kick offs each quarter.**
- ** Teams will switch ends of the field at halftime.**

Ball In and Out of Play:

- ** U6 – Players must throw in the ball (or place it on the line and kick it in) after any out of bounds.**
- U8 – Players must throw in the ball after any out of bounds that occurs on the sidelines.**
- ** Any ball crossing the goal line will result in a goal kick for the defending team or a corner kick for the attacking team. A goal kick can be taken anywhere along the goal line, roughly 6 feet off the line**

Free Kicks and Penalty Kicks:

- ** All infractions will result in direct free kicks. Opposing players should be at least 4 yards away.**
- ** There will not be any penalty kicks called.**
- ** Handballs should be called if deemed intentional. This is strictly a judgment call.**
- ** There will be no carding or the sending off players. If a child is being too rough, the coach to make a substitution of that player until the child settles down.**

Offside:

- ** The offside rule is not applicable to either age group. (NO OFFSIDE WILL BE CALLED)**

Scoring:

- ** No scoring of individual games and no league standings will be kept.**

SLIDE TACKLING IS NEVER ALLOWED!!!!

U10 & U12 Leagues

Ball Size: Size 4

Goal Size: U10 - 6.5 feet tall X 18 feet wide
U12 - 7 feet tall X 20 feet wide

Number of Players:

- ** The game is played 9 versus 9 one of whom is the goalkeeper.
- ** Substitutions are unlimited and allowed during any dead ball situation.
- ** Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- ** All players that are not playing should remain seated in the bench area.
- ** There will be no forfeits. Teams may play with lesser players if necessary, depending on the smallest team size.

Required Equipment:

- ** Players should be dressed in their full uniform to include jersey and socks.
(Provided by Zebulon Parks and Recreation)
- ** Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniform shirt should still be on top to distinguish teams.
- ** Jerseys must be tucked into shorts.
- ** No hats, jewelry, or metal cleats are allowed.
- ** ALL players are required to wear shin guards in practice and games.

Referees:

- ** Zebulon Parks and Recreation will provide one official for each game. These will probably be young, high school aged officials. Please give them the courtesy of respect. Officiating young children can be very challenging.

Duration of the Game:

- ** The game will be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each.
- ** There will be a five (5) minute break at halftime.

Start of Play:

- ** Play should be started with a kickoff at the center mark of the field.
- ** Opposing team should not be inside of the center circle during kick off.
- ** The home team (listed first on the schedule) will start the game with the ball.
- ** Teams shall rotate kick offs each half and will switch ends of the field at halftime.

Ball In and Out of Play:

- **Players must throw in the ball after any out of bounds that occurs on the sidelines.**
- **Any ball crossing the goal line will result in a goal kick for the defending team or a corner kick for the attacking team.**
- **If a goal kick occurs, opponents should remain in their own half until the ball is in play. The team taking the goal kick does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game beforehand should they so choose. The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.**
- **Corner kicks – players must kick from the corner arc and defending players must be at least 8 yards away from the ball until it is kicked.**

Free Kicks and Penalty Kicks:

- ** All infractions will result in direct free or penalty kicks. Opposing players should be at least 8 yards away.**
- ** There will be penalty kicks called.**
- ** Handballs will be called if deemed intentional. This is strictly a judgment call.**
- ** There will be no carding or the sending off players. If a child is being too rough, the Official will ask the coach to make a substitution of that player until the child settles down.**

Offside:

- ** The offside rule will be applicable in both age groups.**

Scoring:

- ** Scores and standings will be kept in the U12 age group ONLY**

SLIDE TACKLING IS NEVER ALLOWED!!!!