



Graham Recreation & Parks Department

2019 Fall Soccer Rules

Rules & Regulations

Updated: 9/10/19



1. Field of Play
 - a. Dimensions (approximately)
 - i. 5U – 30 yards x 20 yards
 - ii. 6U & 8U – 45 yards x 30 yards
 - iii. 10U & 14U – 60 yards x 35 yards
 - iv. 17U – 100 yards x 60 yards
 - b. Markings: Distinctive lines more than 5 inches wide
 - i. A halfway line shall be marked across the middle of the field width
 - ii. 4 Corner flags shall be at each 90 degree angle on the perimeter of the field.
 - iii. 4 three (3) ft. Radius corner arcs will be at each corner of the perimeter of the field.
 - iv. A center circle will be at the middle of the field with the following radius (approximately)
 1. 5U – 3 yards
 2. 6U & 8U – 4 yards
 3. 10U & 14U – 5 yards
 4. 17U – 10 yards
 - v. Goalie & Penalty Boxes: (yards)
 1. 5U – Will be called a “NO GO” area. Once the ball comes to rest in the box, the whistle should be blown. No players are allowed to enter the box. “Protectors” must stand outside the box.
 2. 6U & 8U – Penalty Box - 9 x 18, Goalie Box - 3 x 9
 3. 10U & 14U – Penalty Box – 12 x 24, Goalie Box - 4 x 12
 4. 17U – Penalty Box – 18 x 44, Goalie Box – 6 x 20
 - vi. Goals
 1. 5U – 4ft x 6ft
 2. 6U, 8U & 10U, 14U – 6ft 6in x 12ft
 3. 17U – 8ft x 24ft
 2. Ball
 - a. 5U & 6U – Size 3 / 8U & 10U – Size 4 / 14U & 17U – Size 5
 3. Number of Players on the Field
 - a. 5U – 5v5 / 6U – 7v7 / 8U – 8v8 / 10U – 7v7 / 14U – 7v7
 - b. Teams will be Co-Rec
 - c. 5U Games will not include a goalie, but **one** child may stay back on defense if the coaches choose to do so, that child may not use their hands and may not be in the “NO GO” box
 - i. Coaches must do their best when on the field to stay near the perimeter of the field and stay clear of the children’s path to the goal.
 4. Players Equipment
 - a. All players must wear either a tennis shoe, or a cleat that has rubber or Soft cleats.
 - i. Cleats may not be metal and may not have toe cleats on the shoes
 - b. Shin guards are MANDATORY and will be checked prior to the game, they must be covered by socks!
 - c. Mouth pieces are highly recommended for anyone playing goalie or anywhere on the field
 5. Referee
 - a. 5U – No officials will be used for this age group, coaches will govern all play
 - b. 6U, 8U, 10U, 14U – One official will govern all play
 - c. 17U – Two officials or more will govern all play

6. Duration of the Game
 - a. 5U – (4) Quarters of (8) Minutes with a (1) minute rest between quarters
 - b. 6U, 8U, 10U, & 14U– (2) Halves of (20) Minutes
 - c. 17U – (2) Halves of (25) Minutes
 - d. Half time will be a length of approximately 5 minutes
7. Start of Play
 - a. Coin toss will decide who kicks off first
 - b. Opponents must be the following distance from the center mark on the field
 - i. 5U – 3 yards, 6U & 8U – 4 yards, 10Us – 5 yards, 14U & 17U – 10 yards
8. Ball in and Out of Play
 - a. The Ball must be completely across the line to be out of play
9. Method of Scoring
 - a. The ball must completely cross the goal line go past the goal post and go under the cross bar to be a goal.
 - b. Score will not be kept in the 5U league.
10. Substitutions
 - a. 5U- All players must play at least two full quarters per game.
 - b. 6U, 8U, 10U – All players on the bench will enter the game after the first dead ball or official's stoppage at approximately 5:00, 10:00 and 15:00 in the first half. The process will be repeated at 5:00 in the second half. At 10:00 in the second half, coaches are allowed to free sub for the remainder of the game. This applies to regular season and tournament play.
 - i. If a player exits due to injury or illness, they may re-enter the game at the next legal substitution point.
 - ii. If a player completes a five minute period and remains on the field for the next five minute period, they may be replaced during their second consecutive five minute period by any other player who also completed the previous five minute period.
 - c. 14U – Free Substitution; however, all players must play at least 5 minutes in both halves.
 - i. All substitutions will occur at the official's discretion
11. Off-Sides
 - a. No off-sides will be called in 5U, 6U and 8U Leagues. 10U, 14U and 17U leagues will have off-sides called **if the officials view the play as off-sides.**
12. Fouls and Misconduct
 - a. The Referee/Coaches **must** explain all infractions to the offending player, and showing the correct technique on certain skills of the game if done wrong.
 - i. 5U, 6U & 8U – all **fouls** will constitute an indirect kick
 - ii. 10U, 14U & 17U – all **fouls** can result in either a direct or indirect kick depending on the play.
 - b. Slide Tackling - will not be permitted in any level of play. The referee will make the call based on their interpretation of the intent of the player. If it is a dangerous play, the whistle will be blown.
 - c. Headers - are illegal in 5U, 6U, 8U, and 10U. An intentional play on the ball with the head will result in an indirect kick for the opposing team.
 - d. NEW – For all leagues 6U – 17U we will now allow the referee to use their best judgment on using YELLOW and RED cards. Any play resulting in a player making a blatant play on a player and not on the ball will be given a yellow/red card and/or removed from the game (subject to the officials discretion) Yellow cards will be given as needed. (Following the issue of a card, the coaches must talk with the official and the player so they know why the card was given, and then the coach must talk to their player and explain to them how they can improve next time.
 - i. 2 Yellow Cards in one game – Player must sit out the rest of the game & next game
 - ii. 1 Red Card in a game – Player must sit out the rest of that game & next game
 - iii. 2 Red Cards in the season – Player must sit out (1) extra game as a suspension
 - iv. 3 Red Cards in the season – Player may not return to that team for the rest of the season
 - e. Coaches – Coaches will be removed from the game if they are acting inappropriately towards the officials or the children. Foul language will not be tolerated on the sidelines regardless who it is directed at or the manner in which it is said.

- i. Treating the children with disrespect in a physical manner will also not be tolerated, this includes coaches own children.

13. Free Kicks

- a. 5U, 6U & 8U - Free Kicks are only Indirect 10U,14U, &17U – Free kicks can be direct or indirect
- b. Opponents must be the following distance from the ball during Free Kicks
 - i. 5U – 3 yards, 6U & 8U – 4, 10Us – 5 yards, 14U & 17U – 10 yards

14. Penalty kicks

- a. 5U, 6U & 8U – There are no penalty Kicks
- b. 10U, 14U & 17Us – Opponents must be 10 yards away before the kick takes place

15. Throw-Ins

- a. 5U, 6U, & 8U – During the regular season, if throw-in is done improperly the whistle should be blown and the official should explain the correct fundamentals and what they could do different. The throw-in is then attempted again
 - i. 8U - During the postseason tournament, the players will not be given a re-throw.
- b. 10U & 14U – If the throw in is done improperly, the whistle should be blown and the official explain the correct fundamentals and what the child could do differently. The ball then changes possession.

16. Goal Kick

- a. Goal kicks may be taken anywhere within the goal box. In the 5U league, the players may throw the ball.
- b. 5U, 6U, & 8U: All players on the non-kicking team, must be on the opposite half of the field before the goal kick takes place; all other age groups must be 10 yards away.
- c. **Any player on the field may take the goal kick; it does not have to be the goalkeeper.**
- d. 5U: Goal Kicks may take place from the out of bounds line, or the no go box corner, it is up to the kicker and team.

17. Corner Kick

- a. 5U, 6U & 8U – must be 4 yards away
- b. 10U 5 yards, 14U & 17U – must be 10 yards away

18. Time Outs – There are no coach time-outs. Heat-related stoppages may occur at the discretion of the field supervisors and officials. Stoppage time will be added at the discretion of the official.

19. Mercy Rule – When the mercy rule is in effect, coaches **MUST** pull their player(s) scoring the most goals in that game and sit them on the bench until the mercy rule has been lifted or another player scores the same amount of goals. **The removed player is not replaced therefore the leading team will play with less players until the mercy rule is lifted.** They should also allow those players who have not scored during the season to play on offense: The following age groups will play by the following:

- a. 6U & 8U – If a team is up by 4 or more goals, one player must come off the field, up 6, a 2nd player comes off
- b. 10U – If a team is up by 4 or more goals, one player must come off the field, up 6, a 2nd player comes off
- c. 14U – If a team is up by 4 or more goals, one player must come off the field, up 6, a 2nd player comes off
- d. 17U - If a team is up by 4 or more goals, one player must come off the field, up 6, a 2nd player comes off
 - i. In 10U, 14U and 17U- If the team must use the mercy rule in the first half, the player(s) removed from the game, may re-enter the game for only the first (5) minutes of the 2nd half, then must be taken out again.
- e. Penalty: Coaches that do not follow these rules, will be subject to disciplinary action set by the Athletic Supervisor

20. All Coaches and players MUST shake hands following each and every game! – Failure to do so by a coach will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Athletic Supervisor.

21. All Parents and Coaches must abide by the Graham Recreation and Parks Code of Ethics

- a. We will not allow noise makers of any kind at any Graham Recreation and Parks Athletic Events. This includes any radios, horns, drums, bells, vuvuzelas or anything related.
- b. Parents must split the field in half and sit directly across the field from their team. Parents may not sit behind the goals! We want each team of parents to sit together on their half of the field; this will keep the problem of having parents argue with each other to a minimum! Please notify your parents prior to the first game!

22. Parents must stay behind the safety line on the sidelines and MAY NOT stand on the goal ends of the field.

23. Weather Rules

- a. If we have lightning in the area, the games will be postponed for a minimum of 15 minutes, but up to 30 minutes after each lightning strike. Please review the weather information in your coach's manual! Referees and field supervisors will make the call on this.
 - i. If a game is being postponed for a short period of time and the game has not been SUSPENDED, we advise all parents to take their children to their cars to wait or to seek shelter immediately. If the current weather blows over and lightning stops, we will continue play where we left off assuming the fields are still in good condition.

24. Playoff Overtime Rule

- a. All leagues will play one five (5) minute sudden death overtime (golden goal). If the score is still tied after the 5 minute period, then a penalty shootout will occur.
- b. Each team will then choose 5 players per team **that were on the field when the overtime period ended** and alternatively take kicks from the mark. The winner is determined by the best of 5. If tied after 5 kicks, teams will continue kicks until one team is ahead by one goal. When the 6th kick begins, that player will NOT be one of the first 5, it will continue (6, 7, 8) until each of the players **that were on the field when the overtime period ended** have kicked.
- c. If still tied after all players have kicked, the process will continue starting with the first kicker for each team and proceed in the same order until a winner is determined.
- d. The goalie for the kicks does not have to be the goalie that ended the game, but it must be a player that was on the field when the game ended.
- e. Players who were not on the field when the overtime period ended will not participate in the kicks from the mark.

25. Disciplinary Action (Involving Coaches, Parents, Players and Spectators)

- a. Ejection from a Games – Minimum of a 1 Game Suspension
- b. Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Minimum of a 3 Game Suspension
- c. Profanity – Minimum of a 3 Game Suspension
- d. Trying to cause bodily harm to someone – Minimum 5 Game suspension
- e. Threatening an official – Minimum Season Suspension
- f. Drinking Alcohol or Drug use – Minimum Season Suspension
- g. Fighting – Minimum Suspended for Season