

YMCA MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

8 vs. 8

Outdoor Soccer Rules

FIFA rules will be followed with a few exceptions.

I. Equipment

- A turf shoe or tennis shoe with rubber studded bottoms will be allowed. Metal cleats will not be allowed
- A player must NOT wear anything which is, in the opinion of the referee, dangerous to another player. Head ball pads are acceptable.
- Protective shin guards must be worn by all players at all times.
- An official soccer ball will be provided by MSPAL (Middle School Athletic League).
- Goalkeepers need to wear a different color jersey that distinguishes him/her from the other players on the field.

II. Team

- All players MUST shake hands before and after every game.
- Each Team will field 8 players (One of the 8 players will be the 1 Goalie)
- To start or continue a game, a minimum of field players and a goalkeeper must be present.
- Players may also be substituted from the opposing team in order to start or continue the game with equal number of players on the field.
- The Goalkeeper may use their hands only while in their own penalty area.
- Field players may use any part of their bodies except from below the shoulder to the hands.

Starting the Game or Kick-Off

- The Referee must blow the whistle to start the play from the center circle (kick-off).
- The ball can be played any direction on a kick-off, and is considered in play once the ball completes a full rotation from the initial kick.
- Defenders must stay out of the circle and behind the half field line until the ball has been struck.
- The kick-off is an indirect kick.

Goalkeeper

- The goalie may touch the ball with their hands only when in their own penalty area. If the ball is on the line it is considered within the area. Please remember that it is NOT a hand ball if the goalie's feet are outside of the area...it is where the ball is.
- After the save the goalie may take as many steps before throwing or punting the ball within the penalty area.
- The goalie may enter the field as a player, however no other player may play as goalie during that time.
- If the goalkeeper dribbles the ball in to his/her own penalty area, he/she may NOT play the ball with his/her hands. This is a pass back violation, NOT a penalty kick situation.
- A player CANNOT compete for the ball when the goalie has possession (goalie has the ball under control) and there is no contact to be made with the opposing goalie.

Fouls that Result in a Free Kick

- Pushing with any part of the body.
- Tripping with no intent to play the ball.
- Striking or swinging with the arms or legs.
- Kicking an opponent deliberately.
- Holding with hands, arms or legs.
- Slide tackling, charging and boarding.
- Hand Ball; the entire arm from the shoulders to below the hands. NOTE: Only deliberate hand balls are fouls. Accidental touches or movements to protect oneself are not penalized.
- Charging in a dangerous manner or from behind.
- Dangerous play such as high kicking.
- Obstruction same as setting a screen in Basketball.
- Misconduct; any of the following may result in not only an indirect kick
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Arguing with the referee.
- Deliberate fouls.
- Constant breakage of rules.
- Violent conduct such as striking, foul language, gesturing or tripping from behind.
- The penalty for these is an indirect kick from the spot of the foul.

Injuries

- The referee shall send any player off the field that requires treatment for injury or blood (regardless of whether the blood is his own or another's or is on his body or uniform).
- For treatments involving blood, the player must obtain the referee's approval before he may re- enter the field.

Play shall stop when the referee decides:

- 1) An injury is critical (safety of the player comes first),
- 2) The injured player's location is likely to interfere with play, or
- 3) the injured player's team has control of the ball.

When play is stopped for an injury, the injured player must leave the field, except the goalkeeper. The second time play is stopped because of an injury to the same goalkeeper; he/she must leave the field. An injured player may re-enter the field after play is restarted. If play is stopped for an injury, anyone entering the field to assist the injured player must wait for the referee's signal. If no clear possession is determined the ball is given to the defensive team.

Periods, Substitutions and Conduct

- All games consist of two **20-minute** halves with a 2 minute half-time. **Each half will be running time, however the clock will stop for all injuries.** There will be no overtime period in the regular season. **The clock will stop on all goals.**
- If the game ends in a tie, it remains a tie.
- Substitutions will be allowed during dead balls. Throw- in, goal kick, injury time and after scoring a goal. The referee must acknowledge all substitutions.
- The goalkeeper may be substituted when the ball is dead (wait for a whistle) or during your time out. Notify the referee if you are going to change goalies.
- There will be a 10 Minute Grace period for all teams who are unable to field 7 players. (Time will be taken from playing time. Referee keeps official time.)
- Teams must have a minimum of 7 players to begin a game. Max of 20 players on the roster. Six players will constitute a forfeit.
- The coach must present a roster of players at the beginning of the season. Rosters are locked after the 4th game. NO EXECPTIONS
- Red Cards will be an automatic one game suspension. ***Students fighting will be suspended for the season.*** Accumulation of two yellow cards in one game equals a Red Card.
- Foul or abusive language towards anyone, by anyone, is an automatic Red card.
- Tie games in the regular season will stay a tie. **Tie games during playoffs championship will be decided by the following:**
 1. 5 minute overtime period.
 2. **Penalty kicks, one set of five and if still tied series of one shooter until we have a winner.**
- At the end of the season tie breakers will be decided as follows:
 - ◆ Head to head competition
 - ◆ Goal differential between goals scored & goals allowed
 - ◆ Coin Toss

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of his/her players at all times.

1. Coaches should not interfere with the referee. Coaches should be supportive and assisting with crowd and parent control.
2. Ninth graders are not permitted to participate under any circumstances in the Middle School Athletic League. Any school using ninth graders will forfeit all games where he/she has participated.
3. **Teams may not borrow players from other schools and or division.** Any school using players from another school will forfeit all games where he/she has participated.
4. Players and coaches are responsible for picking up any trash left behind from their players and parents. Trash bin will be placed on the perimeter of the field.
5. We expect all coaches and players to abide by YMCA code of conduct and follow our Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.

Coach's Decorum

- Coaches must be the role models of sportsmanship at all times.
- Coaches are expected to deal with officials respectfully.
- Suspension may be extended if the coach does not leave promptly. If disruptive behavior takes place while exiting the property, action will be taken by the official &/or League Administration respective to what the situation is called for.
- All decisions will be upon the judgment of the official and/or League Administration
- Criticizing opposing players in any manner is not allowed. Coaches must deal with their unruly fans immediately to stop from escalating into an ugly situation. The coach must go to the stands and address the situation. (See Below Fan Decorum.)
- Assistant coaches may not argue, criticize or badger the official.

Note: Most officials have received some form of verbal abuse from coaches, players, or participants. Of all the people involved with the game, the referee hopes that the game is called as evenly as possible. An official would never intentionally make a bad call knowing that someone is bound to give them some abuse.

Players' Decorum

- Players are expected to display sportsmanship at all times.
- Players may not criticize the officials. Team captains are the only player to speak with officials respectively.
- NO TRASH TALKING with other opponents is allowed. Minimum penalty will result in yellow, possible red card.
- The use of profanity is strongly prohibited and will result in an automatic Red Card and the player will be asked to sit.
- Further action will be taken upon the discretion of the League Administration if deemed necessary.

Fans' Decorum

- Fans are expected to display sportsmanship at all times. Cheer and support your team in a positive manner.
- Booing or negative behavior toward the other team is greatly discouraged.
- Fans are not allowed to criticize badger, threaten, or accuse officials of any wrongdoing.
- It is the responsibility of your respective coach to deal with the officials.
- If a fan is really upset about the officiating then they can bring it up with their respective coach and the coach has the option to discuss it with the League Administration.

League Administration

- The League Administration will decide if further action is deemed necessary.
- Fans are to refrain from using profane language or harassing players, other parents, coaches, or officials.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a game. All fans must know that their negative behavior can affect their respective teams.
- If any fans act out of line they will be asked correct their behavior by their respective team captain, coach or team manager. If the same fan is acting out again then they will be asked to leave.
- Fans negative behavior may result in Yellow or Red Card for the respective team.
- Ejected player, coach, or fan will not be allowed to participate in the next game.
- If a single player, coach, or fan is ejected more than twice in a season the league has the option of expelling that player from the league.
- Proper suspension will be assessed. Suspensions are determined by the League Administration.
- Zero Tolerance Fighting Policy
- The player, coach, or fan will be expelled from the league.
- The league also holds the right to expel any player involved in a fight. This may occur in the first and single incident if the league deems the altercation severe enough then we reserve the right to expel the player(s).
- Teams may appeal this action if they feel the player, coach, or fan was using self-defense. Appeal must be written and submitted within a week of the altercation.
- Leaving the bench or stands during an altercation will result in a minimum of 1 game suspension.
- Any type of reoccurrence of disruptive behavior that was not afore mentioned will cause league investigation and possible expulsion of league.
- This includes fans, coaches, and players.
- In the case of these rules and regulations not covering every circumstance that may arise, it will be upon the discretion of the League Administration on how to handle the situation.