



Youth Soccer Rules

Players/Game

- Teams must start the game with the same number players as the other team (8v8, 9v9, etc.) if one or both teams only have between five and eleven players present.
- Players may only play on one team during any given season.
- Home team must provide a game ball.

Possessions

- The first team on the schedule is the home team.
- The offensive team takes possession of the ball on midfield. Once the offensive team touches the ball, the defensive team may attack midfield.

Timing

- A game will be comprised of two (2) equal halves. The length of the halves will be as follows:

○ Coed U6:	2 x 20 minutes	Ball Size 3	11 v 11
○ Coed U8:	2 x 20 minutes	Ball Size 4	11 v 11
○ Coed U10:	2 x 25 minutes	Ball Size 4	11 v 11
○ Coed U12:	2 x 25 minutes	Ball Size 5	11 v 11
- There will be no overtime during games nor penalty kicks in the event of a tie.
- Each game will have a 5 minute halftime.
- Officials can stop the clock at their discretion. (e.g. player injury, unsportsmanlike conduct, ejections, etc.)
- If a team is more than 10 minutes (running clock) late for their scheduled game, the team will forfeit the match. Please have your players show up at least 15 minutes before game time to ensure the team receives a proper warm up prior to the game.**

Scoring

- NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT. THIS LEAGUE IS RECREATIONAL AND WE EMPHAZISE ON FUN OVER COMPETITION.
- Allow players to participate in different positions.

Throw-ins

- A throw-in is awarded when the opposing team kicks the ball out-of-bounds.
- A player must have both feet on the ground when throwing the ball in-bounds.

Handball

- An infraction will be given whenever a player, other than the goalie touches the ball with his/her hand while on the field.
- The goalie is the only player that can touch the ball and must be inside the 18-yard box.
- Depending upon the location and circumstance of the play, the penalty given for a handball may range from a free kick to a penalty kick.

Substitutions

- A coach may only ask for substitute change when they the ball is dead, when there are injured player(s), or when a player receives a yellow card.
- A player(s) making a substitution must run out of the playing field prior to the entrance of the substitute.

Sportsmanship/Rough housing

- If the field referee witnesses any acts of tackling, elbowing cheap shots, blocking, or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game.
- **FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. PLAYERS ENGAGING IN FOUL PLAY WILL BE REPORTED TO S.A.N.C.R.A. AND WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR A MINIMUM OF 2 GAMES.**
- Trash talking is illegal. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. (Trash talk, is talk that may be offensive to officials, opposing players, teams, or spectators.) If trash talking occurs, the referee will stop the game and the team engaging in trash talking will forfeit the game.
- Coaches are encouraged to keep the players engaged in the game by encouraging them with positive reinforcement.
- If a team is ahead by more than 3 goals, it is expected to let the other players on the team play.
- **Coaches must make sure that each registered participant plays at least ½ of the game.**
- Coaches are expected to encourage sportsmanship from their players whether their team wins or loses.

Misconduct

- Referees determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play. All penalties will be assessed from the infraction site.
- **Only** the team coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players / parents cannot question judgment calls.

Attire

- Cleats are allowed, except for metal spikes. Inspections can be made prior to the start of every game.
- **Shin-guards are to be worn during every scheduled practice and game.**
- Shirts must be tucked into players' shorts at the beginning and during the game.
- **Jerseys may not be altered (no printing names on the back, etc.)**
- No jewelry is allowed during any match. Players must remove earrings, necklaces, watches, etc. (Only medical bracelets / necklaces are allowed).

Pre-game Rules

- The team captain should be identified to the officials prior to kick-off.
- Each team will warm up on ½ of the field.
- The first team appearing on the schedule will be the home team.
- The home team supplies the game ball.
- Each coach is responsible for having his or her team ready to begin the match.
- The home team and visiting team must share the same sideline. *Please refrain from crossing your opponent's half field.*
- **(No parents on the team sidelines please)** Parents are not allowed behind the soccer goals or on the teams' sideline. **Only 1-coach and 1-assistant coach are allowed on the teams' sidelines. Both coaches must be fingerprinted and processed in order to act as a volunteer coach.**

Ejection

- **1 yellow card** = removal from the game for 5 minutes (coach may make substitutions).
- **2 yellow cards** (in one game) = **1 red card**
- **3 yellow cards in a season = 1 red card**
- **1 red card** = removal for the game, + 1 game suspension and placement on probation.
- If a player or coach is ejected from the game for any reason, he/she must leave the field of play within one (1) minute.
- The suspended player or coach will also be placed in probation for the rest of the season.
- If a player/coach is ejected from a game for any reason, she/he will serve a minimum 1 game suspension.
- **Alcohol:** City Ordinance #5-13.02 prohibits consumption of alcoholic beverages on park and school grounds. Violators will be subject to a \$250 fine and an immediate suspension from the league.
- The official is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic, or other causes, that may place the patrons or players in peril.
- A player is allowed to participate in only one (1) team and in only one (1) division each season.
- A player is allowed to play in multi-sports programs offered by the City of Watsonville Parks and Community Services Department.

Offsides

- No offside's will be called for the U6 teams. Coaches, parents and referees are encouraged to assist the youth.
- The offside call will be up to the official's discretion.
- No side judges will be appointed for any game, unless volunteers are presented from both teams

No Playoffs

The philosophy of the Parks and Community Services Department's Sports Program is that the participants should enjoy the social and health benefits from being active in its program offerings. The Sports program can provide an outlet from the stresses of everyday life. The programs are structured to encourage participation and enjoyment by youth and adults. For this reason, good sportsmanship is essential. The program is based upon healthy interaction in a sports environment. All procedures, rules and regulations are geared toward providing a safe and enjoyable environment for our participants.

The goals of the PCS Sports Leagues and Tournaments will be:

1. To increase interest in lifetime sports, providing the opportunity to meet the needs of those interested in learning an activity which can be played throughout their lifetime;
2. To promote participant development by stimulating growth through skill development, learning, good sportsmanship and fair competition;
3. To increase the health and well-being of residents through their participation in recreational activities;
4. To support economic development by generating revenue that support PSC recreational programs and that promote patronage of local businesses.

In accordance with this philosophy, the Parks and Community Services Department does not hold play off or championship games for youth ages 12 and under. This allows players, coaches, parents, and league officials to promote the spirit of recreation and to build assets in youth participants without the distraction of the worry of who is the "winner" and who is the "loser."

Code of Conduct

- Only team coaches may speak to the officials about any concerns, or ask about rule clarification or interpretation.
- Coaches, players, parents and fans are not allowed to yell at the officials before, during, or after the game.
- Any coach, player, parent or fan who speaks to the officials before, during, or after the game can cause their team to forfeit the game upon review from the League Director.
- Coaches, parents and fans should always remember that the participants are not mini-professionals, and anything positive done by any participant (even opposing team members) should always be cheered and applauded.
- Please refer to the S.A.N.C.R.A 'Code of Conduct for more information. (See attachment)

Miscellaneous

- Coaches, parents and players are expected to clean up after themselves.
- Please move your team in/out of the field quickly. Be mindful that other games are scheduled after yours.
- Do not allow anyone behind the goals during scheduled games.
- While warming up, please be mindful of the games in play.
- There is **financial aid available** for those who qualify. For more information, please call:

Customer Service Center
231 Union Street
831-768-3240

“HONORING THE GAME”

Get to the ROOTS of positive play! ROOTS stands for respect for Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates, and Self.

Rules: We don't bend the rules to win.

Opponents: A worthy opponent is a gift that forces us to play to our highest potential.

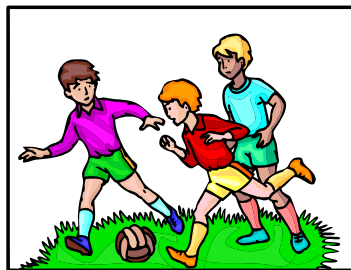
Officials: We treat officials with respect even when we disagree.

Teammates: We never do anything that would embarrass our team on and off the field.

Self: We live up to our own standards regardless of what others do.

NOTE:

- Any decisions regarding situations not covered in the rules will be up to the discretion of the league director.
- The league director operating this league will have final decision regarding participant eligibility, suspension, probation, or rule interpretation.



Let the referees call the game, let the coaches coach the team and let the kids have fun.

“Play fair, play hard, play for FUN”