



District VIII Soccer Rules

1 Objectives:

1. Every player must be given the opportunity to make frequent contact with the ball
2. Each Player will play a minimum of 50% of each half.
3. Encourage decision making in the players
4. Make SOCCER FUN FOR EVERYONE!
5. Unless a change is stated, FIFA rules apply

2 Soccer Rules and Regulations:

2.1 Home Town Rules

To make the game fair for all participants no home town rules shall apply to the game. Individual leagues may make rules regarding matters not related to the game or for player safety.

2.2 Length of the Game

The game consists of two 25 minute halves, with a three to five minute break between the halves. It is the duty of the coach to ensure that all players, coaches, and documentation are at the field in time for the referees to complete check in prior to time the game is set to start.

2.3 Required Documentation for Players

All registered players should have a pass, medical release, and be listed on the official "Golden Rod". The referee shall verify the identity of the player with the pass prior to starting the game. If a player is missing the required documentation then the player shall not be allowed to play in the game.

2.4 Required Documentation for Adults

All adults who are on the coach side of the field need to be cleared by CYSA. A cleared coach should have a valid pass and be listed on the official golden rod for the team. The referee shall verify the identity of the coaching staff with the pass prior to starting the game. If an adult is missing the required documentation then the adult shall not be allowed to participate in the game as a coach.

2.5 Competitive Players

Teams that are found to contain competitive players, from any affiliation, will be immediately excluded from the Bill Meyer League and end of season tournament with no refund of entrance fees or player fees.

2.6 Reduced Playing Time

If a game starts late, the referee will have the final say on playing reduced time per half. Each half should still be of an equal length.

2.7 Ball Out of Play

When the ball goes out of bounds on the sidelines then a throw-in will take place. A player does not have a retake for a bad throw-in.

2.8 Direct and Indirect Free Kicks

Direct free kicks, and therefore penalties, are permitted. The referee is encouraged to explain all infractions to the offending player.

2.9 Blue Line / Play-Out Line

There is no blue line or build out line. Punting is allowed by the goalkeeper.

2.10 Heading

No deliberate heading of the ball is allowed by any player. An infraction of this rule will result in the referee restarting the game with an indirect free kick to the opposition.

NOTE: It is the referee's decision as to whether the header was deliberate or not. This includes U14 play as the new heading directive restricts heading in a game for players aged 12 and under – the U14 age group includes youth aged 12 and 13.

2.11 Injuries

In the game players are likely to get injured. Be aware that not all injuries are attained through deliberate actions. No player shall be allowed to continue in the game if a head injury has occurred. In addition, for player safety players should not be removed from the field of play unless it is determined safe to do so.

2.12 Sportsmanship Policy

At the end of the game the goal differential should not be greater than eight. NOTE: the referee is responsible for recording and reporting the final score, it is not the responsibility of the referee to admonish a team, coach or player for violating this rule.

2.13 Substitutions

The number of substitutes shall be unlimited. A substitute shall not enter the field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee. Substitutions are done during the following times:

- 2.13.1** Prior to a throw-in, in your favor. If the throw-in is in favor of your opposing team and they chose to substitute then your team may also substitute.
- 2.13.2** Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
- 2.13.3** After a goal, by either team.
- 2.13.4** After an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team.
- 2.13.5** At half time.
- 2.13.6** When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted, prior to the restart of the game.

2.14 Referees

Official referees are used during a game. Referees are encouraged to explain infractions to the offending player. The decision of the referee on points of fact connected with the game shall be final. Assistant referees will be used whenever possible, or a “club-line” may be used.

2.15 Off-side Offenses

Off sides will be called by the referee or assistant referee. A “Club-Line” does not call off-sides.

2.16 Off sides

A player is allowed to be in an off-side position anytime during the game. A player commits an off side offense if after being in an off side position the player becomes directly involved in play or causes a defender to be influenced by the player’s position on the field.

2.17 Noise Makers

Please ensure that parents know that the use of noise makers is prohibited at all CYSA games.

2.18 No Pets

CYSA does not allow pets at events. A game will be stopped until pets have been removed from the fields. This does not apply to service animals with appropriate identification.

2.19 Spectator Area

Spectators are to be on the same side of the field as their coach.

When fields are close together, then the coach / player area will be the space between the two fields and the spectator area would be on the other side of the field to the coach / player area.

No spectators may watch the game from behind the goals.

2.20 Spectator “Cheering”

Spectators are encouraged to cheer on their team; however, care must be taken to ensure that your cheering is not viewed as jeering by opposing team members and spectators. Spectators are not allowed to make comments to players from the opposing team.

2.21 Spectator “Coaching”

Players spend practices understanding and performing an action plan for the team. By telling players to perform actions that are perhaps different to that of the action plan becomes confusing for the player and can undermine the position of the coach. Leave coaching to the coach.

2.22 Send Offs – Player

A player who is sent off may remain with the team on the team side of the field providing behavior is appropriate while there.

2.23 Send offs – Adult

An adult who is sent off may not remain at the field at all. Due to many adults having related players needing a ride home, an adult may be permitted to stay inside their motor vehicle providing behavior is appropriate. The adult may not provide any comments (positive or negative) to the teams playing either by voice or by using communication devices.

2.24 Coaching Restrictions

Coaching from the sidelines, giving direction to one’s own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted provided:

- 2.24.1** No mechanical devices are used.
- 2.24.2** The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue.
- 2.24.3** No coach, substitute, player, or spectator is to be anywhere but at his/her bench area during the game. A team’s bench area shall be that area one (1) Yard from the touchline and extending to ten (10) yards, one way only, from the half-line.
- 2.24.4** No person is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, coaches, players, substitutes, or spectators.
- 2.24.5** No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity.
- 2.24.6** No coach, substitute, player, or spectator is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.
- 2.24.7** During a tense game, it is advisable not to make comments, even of a positive

nature, to players on the opposing team.

2.25 Age Group Rules (Field Sizes, Number of Players, etc)

Age Group	Ball Size	Field Width	Field Length	# On Field	# On Roster	Game Length
U10	4			7	14	20
U12	4			9	18	25
U14	5			11	18	30

Any questions should be directed to:

Peter Kilpatrick
Rules and Revisions
District VIII