

FIFA Rules

These rules are based on the official rules of youth soccer as set forth in the United States Youth Soccer Association Rules, and are meant as a guide for players and parents unfamiliar with the game of soccer.

However, the United States Youth Soccer Association Rules remains the final authority in the event of any discrepancy.

The Salem Youth Soccer League hopes your child or children have a fun and learning experience in America's fastest growing sport. Please remember to stress good sportsmanship and work with the coaches. We hope the following information is a helpful guide to understanding soccer.

The Salem Youth Soccer League is supported and sponsored by area merchants, businesses and organizations

SALEM YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

Being a parent of a soccer player is unlike being the parent of any other sport in the United States. This is true for one simple reason; referees are instructed to maintain order and will not tolerate dissent from coaches, parents or players.

THEREFORE, AS A PARENT OF A SOCCER PLAYER YOU SHOULD:

1. If your child is unable to attend a practice or a game, please have the courtesy to call the coach and inform him/her.
2. Stress good sportsmanship from your son or daughter.
3. Treat the referee with respect, regardless of the call made. Dissent from parents and other spectators will not be tolerated by the referees. Referees are instructed to stop games if dissent during the game continues. Forfeiture of the game may result. Continued dissent will result in you and your child being removed from active participation in the SALEM YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE.
4. Treat your son's or daughter's coach with respect. Remember he/she is a volunteer and is devoting the hours of time necessary to improve the soccer skills of your child. Feel comfortable in asking questions about soccer or coaching strategies.
5. Help maintain a climate of enjoyment among all participants and spectators. DO NOT harass or criticize the play of any player,

especially your own, on or off the field. DO NOT harass the coaches on the field or the spectators in attendance.

6. Offer support and praise of all members of your child's team regardless if you won or lost.
7. Profanity or vulgar language will not be tolerated from spectators or players. Remember if you remain calm in viewing the game, the players on the field will remain calm and focus on playing soccer.
8. Don't try and "coach" the players from the sidelines during the game. Screaming directions accomplishes nothing. If you yell at all, yell encouragement to the players on the field. In actuality, most of the players hear very little of what is yelled at them during a match.
9. Exhibit exemplary conduct at both practices and games.
10. Feel free to offer feedback to your child's coach concerning potential problems and ways to improve. If you have any questions about coaching methods of a particular coach, talk with that individual away from the ears of the players.

I. ORGANIZATION of AGE DIVISIONS, PRACTICES, and GAMES

Under 6/U-6

1. AGE

Player must be 5 years old before October 1st. The player does not have to be in kindergarten.

2. PRACTICES

Practices may begin on August 1st. Coaches should encourage parents to stay and help at practices. Players are to be encouraged to have fun at practices and at games.

3. GAMES

All games are played on weekdays and Saturdays. The field size is approximately 25 yards wide by 30 yards long. The teams and coaches must be on one side on the field and the parents and spectators on the opposite side. Players are rotated around the field every quarter. No score is kept and there is no record of wins/losses. Coaches can help players during games. There are no direct kicks, indirect kicks, penalty kicks, corner kicks, or goal kicks. When the whole ball goes over the touchlines, or goal lines the player closest to the area where the ball went out kicks the ball in, no throw ins. Size 4 soccer balls are used and all players must wear shin guards.

4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD DURING GAMES

There is a minimum of 10 players on a team. The games are played 6 vs 6, which means that each team has 6 players on the field at one time and there is no goalie. Each team should play 3 defenders and 3 forwards, with no players standing in front of the goal.

5. DURATION OF THE GAME

The game consists of 4 quarters, each 8 minutes in length. There is a maximum break of 2 minutes between quarters.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

There are unlimited substitutions and they should be made at the end of each quarter or during a stoppage of play. Every child is guaranteed to play 1/2 of the game.

7. THE REFEREES

The coaches are the referees of the games and 2 coaches per team are allowed on the field during the game.

8. LINESMEN

No linesmen are needed.

UNDER 8/U-8

1. AGE

Player must be 6 or 7 years old on or before August 1st.

2. PRACTICES

Practices may begin on August 1st. Coaches should encourage parents to stay and help at practices. Coaches can schedule scrimmages during their practice times. Players are to be encouraged to have fun at practices as well as at games.

3. GAMES

All games are played on weekdays and Saturdays. The field size is approximately 30 yards wide by 50 yards long. The teams and coaches must be on one side on the field and the parents and spectators on the opposite side. No score is kept and there is no record for wins/losses. Coaches are encouraged to help players during games.

The fouls to be called include hand balls; striking or spitting; foul or abusive language; incorrect throw-ins; tripping an opponent; holding or pushing opponent with hands, arms or legs. If a foul is called the team will lose possession of the ball and an indirect free kick will be awarded. There are no penalty kicks. There will be no off sides called. At kick off, a second player in the circle, must touch the ball before play is started. Size 4 soccer balls are used and all players must wear shin guards.

4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD DURING GAMES

There is a minimum of 10 players on a team. The games are played 7 vs 7, which mean that each team has 7 players including the goalie on the field at one time. Each team should play 2 defenders, 2 mid-fielders, 2 forwards and 1 goalie.

5. DURATION OF THE GAME

The game consists of 4 quarters, each 10 minutes in length. There is a maximum break of 2 minutes between quarters.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

There are unlimited substitutions and they should be made at the end of each quarter or during a stoppage of play. A player can only play goalie 1 quarter per game and every child is guaranteed to play 1/2 of the game.

7. THE REFEREES

The coaches are the referees of the games. One coach per team is allowed on the field during the game.

8. LINESMEN

No linesmen are needed.

UNDER 10/U-10

1. AGE

Player must be 8 or 9 years old on or before August 1st.

2. PRACTICES

Practices may begin on August 1st. Coaches should encourage parents to stay and help at practices. Coaches can schedule scrimmages during their practice times. Players are to be encouraged to have fun at practices as well as at games.

3. GAMES

All games are played on weekdays and Saturdays. Field size is 50 yards wide by 80 yards long. The teams and coaches must be on one side on the field and the parents and spectators on the opposite side. Scores and a record of wins/losses will be maintained. Coaches must remain on the sidelines. The fouls to be called include hand balls; striking or spitting; foul or abusive language; incorrect throw-ins; tripping an opponent; holding or pushing opponent with hands, arms or legs. There will be corner kicks and off sides will be called. If a foul is called, the referee may award an indirect kick, direct kick, or a penalty kick. Players and coaches may receive yellow or red cards during a game. If a player or coach receives a yellow card they must leave the field. If a player or coach receives two yellow cards they

must sit the remainder of the game. If a player or coach receives a red card, they may not participate in the next two games. Size 5 soccer balls are used and all players must wear shin guards.

4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD DURING GAMES

There is a minimum of 11 players on a team. The games are played 9 vs 9, which mean that each team has 9 players including the goalie, on the field at one time. Each team can play 3 defenders, 3 mid-fielders, 2 forwards and 1 goalie or any other combination. There must be 7 players on the field to start and end the game or the game is forfeited.

5. DURATION OF THE GAME

The game consists of 2 halves, each 25 minutes in length. There is a 5 minute break between halves. All games will be started promptly at the scheduled times with a 5 minute grace period. For teams with less than seven 7 players, no coach or coach designate, the game will be forfeited.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

There are unlimited substitutions and the referee must be notified of substitutions. Both teams may make substitutions after a goal, injury time, or goal kick. A team may also substitute on throw-ins if they have possession of the ball or if the other team substitutes on they're thrown in. A player can only play goalie for 1 half of the game and every child is guaranteed to play 1/2 of the game.

7. THE REFEREES

There will be a minimum of 1 referee per game.

8. LINESMEN

No linesmen are needed

UNDER 12/U-12

1. AGE

Players must be 10 or 11 years old on or before August 1st.

2. PRACTICES

Practices may begin on August 1st. Coaches should encourage parents to stay and help at practices. Coaches can schedule scrimmages during their practice times. Players are to be encouraged to have fun at practices as well as at games.

3. GAMES

All games are played on weekdays and Saturdays. The field size is 50 yards wide by 80 yards long. The teams and coaches must be on one side on the field and the parents and spectators on the opposite side. Scores and a record of wins/losses will

be maintained. Coaches must remain on the sidelines. The fouls to be called include hand balls; striking or spitting; foul or abusive language; incorrect throw-ins; tripping an opponent; holding or pushing opponent with hands, arms or legs. There will be corner kicks and off sides will be called. If a foul is called, the referee may award an indirect kick, direct kick, or a penalty kick. Players and coaches may receive yellow or red cards during a game. If a player or coach receives a yellow card they must leave the field. If a player or coach receives two yellow cards they must sit the remainder of the game. If a player or coach receives a red card, they may not participate in the next two games. Size 5 soccer balls are used and all players must wear shin guards.

4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD DURING GAMES

There is a minimum of 12 players on a team. The games are played 9 vs 9, which mean that each team has 9 players including the goalie, on the field at one time. Each team may play 2 defenders, 3 mid-fielders, 2 forwards and 1 goalie or any other combination. There must be 7 players on the field to start and end the game or the game is forfeited.

5. DURATION OF THE GAME

The game consists of 2 halves, each 25 minutes in length. There is a 5 minute break between halves. All games will be started promptly at the scheduled times with a 5 minute grace period. For teams with less than 7 players, no coach or coach designate, the game will be forfeited.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

There are unlimited substitutions and the referee must be notified of substitutions. Both teams may make substitutions after a goal, injury time, or goal kick. A team may also substitute on throw-ins if they have possession of the ball or if the other team substitutes on they're thrown in. A player can only play goalie for 1 half of the game and every child is guaranteed to play 1/2 of the game.

7. THE REFEREES

There will be a minimum of 1 referee per game. Ideally, there will be 2 referees.

8. LINESMEN

No linesmen are needed

UNDER 15/U-15

1. AGE

Player must be 12, 13 or 14 years old on or before August 1st.

2. PRACTICES

Practices may begin on August 1st. Coaches should encourage parents to stay and help at practices. Coaches can schedule scrimmages during their practice times. Players are to be encouraged to have fun at practices as well as at games.

3. GAMES

All games are played on weekdays and Saturdays. The teams and coaches must be on one side on the field and the parents and spectators on the opposite side. Scores and a record of wins/losses will be maintained. Coaches must remain on the sidelines. The fouls to be called include hand balls; striking or spitting; foul or abusive language; incorrect throw-ins; tripping an opponent; holding or pushing opponent with hands, arms or legs. There will be corner kicks and off sides will be called. If a foul is called, the referee may award an indirect kick, direct kick, or a penalty kick. Players and coaches may receive yellow or red cards during a game. If a player or coach receives a yellow card they must leave the field. If a player or coach receives two yellow cards they must sit the remainder of the game. If a player or coach receives a red card, they may not participate in the next two games. Size 5 soccer balls are used and all players must wear shin guards.

4. NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD DURING GAMES

There is a minimum of 14 players on a team. The games are played 11 vs 11, which mean that each team has 11 players including the goalie on the field at one time. Each team may play 3 defenders, 4 mid-fielders, 3 forwards and 1 goalie or any other combination. There must be 10 players on the field at the start and end of the game or the game is forfeited.

5. DURATION OF THE GAME

The game consists of 2 halves, each 30 minutes in length. There is a 5 minute break between halves. All games will be started promptly at the scheduled times with a 5 minute grace period. For teams with less than 10 players, no coach or coach designate, the game will be forfeited.

6. SUBSTITUTIONS

There are unlimited substitutions and the referee must be notified of substitutions. Both teams may make substitutions after a goal, injury time, or goal kick. A team may also substitute on throw-ins if they have possession of the ball or if the other team substitutes on they're thrown in. A player can only play goalie for 1 half of the game and every child is guaranteed to play 1/2 of the game.

7. THE REFEREES

There will be minimum of 1 referee per game. Ideally, there will be 3 referees.

8. LINESMEN

2 linesmen are needed for each game and volunteers can be used.