

U8 Soccer Rules - 2009

Hickory-Fountain Green

1. U8 games will be 7 versus 7 (6 field players & a goalie).
2. Your 75 minute scheduled time should be allotted as 20 minutes of practice on your half of the field, and a game consisting of two 25 minute halves with a 5 minute half time. Changes in timing are permitted as long as it is agreed to by both coaches. Your field time will conclude after 75 minutes regardless of the status of your "game".
3. Substitutions by either team are permitted during any stoppage in play. A designated substitution time can also be used if agreed to by both coaches (e.g., every 5 minutes).
4. There should only be one coach per team on the field during the course of play. A goalie coach can stand off the field at the side of the net to help goalie play. I would also recommend that an additional parent assist with bench control and the assistant coach (not on the field) handle substitutions. Coaches are NOT permitted in the penalty box area during play while they are on the field.
5. Head coaches serve as referees and time keepers. Please USE YOUR WHISTLE to help control the game and each coach is expected to whistle violations and/or fouls against BOTH teams.
6. The clock does not stop for substitutions or for any other reason (running clock). Each player must play at least half of the game. Equal time should be played on offense and defense. Please teach goalie skills this year but choose your goalies appropriately. Do not force anyone to be goalie and do not hide players in the goal.
7. Sidelines out of bounds is played in by a throw-in. An illegal throw-in should result in a re-throw after instruction by coach. Definition of a legal throw-in, the thrower:
 - a. Faces the field of play
 - b. Has part of each foot either on the line or on the ground outside the line
 - c. Uses both hands
 - d. Delivers the ball from behind and over the head.
 - e. The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
8. Corner Kick results when the defensive team kicks the ball out behind their goal.
9. A Corner Kick is played from the field corner that the ball went out.
10. A Goal Kick is when the offensive player kicks the ball out behind the opponent's goal.
11. Goal Kicks can be taken anywhere in the penalty area. In addition, the opposing team MUST retreat and remain behind the midfield line until the ball has been KICKED at which time they may go after the ball.
 - 11a. When goalies have possession of the ball, all opposing players must clear the goalie box for the goalie clear. They do not have to retreat to mid-field. The ball can then be played as soon as it is cleared by the goalie with either a punt, throw or drop kick.
12. A Goal Kick cannot be touched by either team until it clears the penalty box.
13. If the Goal kick does not clear the penalty box, the ball is replayed again as a goal kick.

14. Hand balls should not be called when the player uses his hands to protect himself from the ball. Other hand balls should be called.
15. All foul kicks and hand balls are to be played as indirect kicks from the spot of the foul. An indirect kick means that the player making the kick may not kick the ball directly into the goal.
16. There are no penalty kicks, any hand ball or other infraction in the penalty box will be played just outside penalty box as an indirect kick.
17. All play starting touches (throw-in, corner kick, goal kick, indirect kick, half field kick off) are one-touch. This means that the player who makes the kick or throw can not touch the ball again until another player has touched it.
18. THERE IS NO SLIDE TACKLING.
19. Games will be played with a Size 4 soccer ball.
20. Players are REQUIRED to wear shin guards. It is recommended that soccer cleats be worn as well.
21. There is to be no overly aggressive play. Any player who is intentionally pushing, checking or otherwise acting overly aggressive, needs to sit down for **five minutes** and cool off.
22. There is to be no overly aggressive parenting. If a parent or other fan cannot control themselves during a game they need to remove themselves from the side line. If a parent is unable to do this the child will need to be removed from the game. This is very rare, especially at this age. If this happens I would like to know about it ASAP. You have my cell phone, home phone or e-mail.
23. The HFG Rec Soccer program is NOT a day care center. A parent or guardian must be with their child at all times. This may be someone other than the parent but it is NOT the coach. Car pools are fine but those parents who are driving will be responsible for their passengers at games or practices.
24. PARENTS WILL SIT ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE FIELD AWAY FROM THE PLAYERS DURING ALL SATURDAY GAMES!! This facilitates coaching and substitutions during the game and reduces distractions for the children.
25. Remember, these children are all very young. The point of this program is not to win. The official score is not kept. The goals of U8 soccer are to teach the children about soccer and the skills necessary to play the game, to develop an enjoyment of the game, to teach and emphasize teamwork, and to be good role models as coaches and parents.
26. In the spirit of sportsmanship, if a team has a 4 goal lead or more they must complete 3 passes before they can score again. If the lead is 5 goals, every attempt will be made to control further scoring without jeopardizing the integrity of what we are trying to teach in terms of soccer skill.

Have fun and enjoy the season!!!!

Vic Tritto, Commissioner of U8 Soccer

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