



Soccer Rules

The Augusta Recreation Commission's soccer program focuses on fostering learning, ensuring safety, and, above all, promoting fun for all participants. Our program emphasizes skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a supportive environment. We are committed to creating a positive experience where every player can grow, enjoy the game, and create lasting memories on and off the field.

(League Standings Will NOT be Kept)

Ages 4-5

- 1) Field Size – 30yd/20yd
- 2) Goal Size – 4x6
- 3) Center Circle – 6ft
- 4) Ball Size - 3
- 5) Games will be played in a 4v4 layout.
- 6) There will be NO goalies in this age group.
 - a. Please make sure there are no players back in front of the goal or 'guarding' the goal. Try to keep players engaged on live play.
- 7) Regulation Game – 4 quarters of 8 minutes in length. Running clock at all times unless there is a timeout, injury on the field, or at the discretion of the referee.
- 8) There will be 1 minute in between each quarter.
- 9) There will be a 5-minute halftime.
- 10) Teams will switch directions after halftime.
- 11) There is no overtime, once the game has ended, even in the event of a tie, the game is over.
- 12) Teams are granted one 60-second timeout per half.
- 13) Throw-Ins – Throw-ins must be thrown in; there are NO kick-ins for this age group. Re-dos will be allowed for learning. Coaches are allowed to help in throw-in situations.
- 14) No Corner Kicks for this age group.
- 15) Kick-offs will be used to start each quarter and after goals. Home Team Kicks off the 1st half. Away starts the 2nd half.
- 16) Punting is NOT allowed.

- 17) **Headings** – Headings are NOT allowed in this age group to help with player safety. Headings will be called at the discretion of the referees. Deliberate heading is prohibited. If a player deliberately heads the ball, play restarts with an indirect free kick. Accidental contact of the ball with the head is not an offense and play should continue UNLESS there is an injury.
- 18) **Handball** – Will be called if it is clearly intentional. The referee must deem the handball to be intentional. The result will be a throw-in for the opposing team.
- 19) **Offsides** – Will NOT be called in this age group, however, coaches should encourage to participate in action and not camp in front of the opposing team's goal. Referees will also keep an eye on players to make sure they are not camping.
- 20) **Coaches** – A maximum of 2 coaches will be allowed on the sideline. Coaches may be allowed on the field to help players (ONLY WHEN NEEDED). However, coaches may not kick the ball to give their team an advantage.
- 21) **Parents** – Parents will be seated on the opposite side of the team sideline area.
- 22) **Substitutions** – Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage of play with referee permission. (Out of bounds, goal, injury, etc)
- 23) Every player must play in each quarter unless there is an injury, or there is a sick player. Coaches are encouraged to allow for equal playing time.
- 24) **Fouls** – A foul occurs if a player commits any play/action that the referee sees as dangerous or reckless. Fouls will result in a throw in. See examples below.
- a. Holding an opponent
 - b. Tripping an opponent
 - c. Kicking an opponent
 - d. Shoving an opponent
 - e. Slide tackling
 - f. Impeding the progress of an opponent.
 - g. Other: All fouls come at the discretion of the referees. (Physical, foul language, or taunting)
- 25) Teams must have at least 3 players to play. If a team doesn't have 3 players by 10-minutes after the set start time, the game will be forfeited.

Game Day Equipment

- 1) A game ball will be provided.
- 2) Teams may bring 2 balls for warm-ups.
- 3) Teams must be dressed in matching-colored shirts and are encouraged to wear the same color shorts.
- 4) Shin Guards are required to wear, preferably underneath socks.

- 5) No earrings, necklaces, bracelets, or hard hair accessories are allowed. Earrings can be taped over.

Weather Policies

- 1) Lightning: Fields cleared immediately, delayed 15 minutes from the previous strike.
- 2) Rain: Games will be played unless field conditions are unsafe.
- 3) Cancellations: Announced via email at least 1 hour prior to game time.

Sportsmanship

- 1) Players: Respect referees, coaches, teammates, and opponents.
- 2) Coaches: Model respect, positivity, and fairness.
- 3) Parents: Cheer positively!
- 4) Referees: Decisions are final. Concerns must be emailed post-game.

Other Policies

- 1) Referee Staff
 - a. Referees have full authority and discretion to make decisions on factual matters related to the game, and these decisions are final. However, if you disagree with a call, please wait until halftime or the end of the game to respectfully address your concerns with the referee or staff.
 - b. If there is an injury on the field, the referee may stop play at any time.

Contact:

For any questions, please contact me via email at:

sports@augustaksrec.com