



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 6-8

- 1) Field Size - 40yd/30yd
- 2) Goal Size – 6.5ft x 12ft
- 3) Center Circle – 8ft
- 4) Ball Size - 3
- 5) Games will be played in a 5v5 layout.
- 6) **Goalies:** There will be goalies in this age group.
 - a. Goalies must wear a colored pinnie to signify their position.
 - b. Goalies should be substituted at halftime at a minimum.
 - c. Goalies may ONLY use their hands when inside the penalty area. If they touch the ball with their hands while outside the area, a handball will be called and a free kick will be awarded to the attacking team.
- 7) **Regulation Game** – 4 quarters of 10 minutes in length. Running clock at all times unless there is an injury on the field, or at the discretion of the referee.
- 8) **Kickoff** – Team Captains play a game of rock, paper, scissors to determine kickoff.
- 9) There will be 1 minute in between each quarter.
- 10) There will be a 5-minute halftime.
- 11) Teams will switch directions after halftime.
- 12) There is no overtime, once the clock has expired, the game is over.
- 13) **Throw-Ins** – Throw-ins must be thrown in an overhead fashion. ONE “Re-do” will be allowed for learning if needed.
- 14) **Corner Kicks** – Will be applied to this age group. (When the ball passes the goal line and was **last touched by the defending team.**)
- 15) **Goal Kick** – When the ball passes the goal line and was **last touched by the attacking team.**

- 16) Kick-offs will be used to start each quarter and after goals.
- 17) Punting is **ONLY** allowed by the GOALIE when in the goalie box.
- 18) **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.
- 19) **Handball** – Will be called if it is clearly intentional. The referee must deem the handball to be intentional. The result will be a **Direct Free Kick** for the opposing team.
- 20) **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.
- 21) A player may not try to steal the ball when the ball is in the goalkeepers possession.
- 22) **Positions** – Specific positions are not required but are recommended to teach to the best of the coach's ability. (Recommendation: 2 forward, 2 defenders, goalie.)
- 23) **Substitutions** – Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage of play with referee permission. (Out of bounds, goal, injury, etc)
- 24) **Coaches** – A maximum of 2 coaches will be allowed on the sideline.
- 25) **Parents** – Parents will be seated on the opposite side of the team sideline area.
- 26) Every player must play in each quarter unless there is an injury, or there is a sick player. Coaches are encouraged to allow for even playing time.
- 27) **Fouls** – A foul occurs if a player commits any play/action that the referee sees as dangerous or reckless. **Fouls outside the penalty area result in a Direct Free Kick. Fouls inside the penalty area result in a Penalty Kick.** 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)
- 28) **Penalty Kicks** – Designated kicking area will be 8 yards from the goal.
- a. Only the kicker and the goalie are allowed in the area while the penalty kick is happening.
 - b. The goalie must remain on the goal line until the ball is kicked.
- 29) Teams must have at least 4 players to play a game. If a team does not have at least 4 players by 10-minutes after starting time, the game will be forfeited.

Game Day Equipment

- 1) A game ball will be provided.
- 2) Teams may bring 2 balls for warm-up.
- 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.
 - c. Depending on the severity of a foul, or taunting, players may be subject to ejection from the discretion of the referee.

Contact:

For any questions, please contact me via email at:

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