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**DALTON PARKS & RECREATION**

# SOCCER BY-LAWS 2021

***4U, 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U***

**A. Field**

 1. Each field will be marked with white lines.

 1.1 Boundary Lines: 40-50 x 60-80 yards

 1.2 Goal Area: 5 x 10 yards in front of each goal

 1.3 Penalty Area 16 x 40 yards

 1.4 Center Circle 8 yard circumference at the center of the field

**B. The Ball**

1. The ball is a size 3 (4U, 6U, 8U) Size 4 (10U, 12U).

**C. Length of Games**

 1. The game will be played with two 20 minute halves. (You do not switch benches at half time.)

 2. There will be a 5 minute half-time period. Teams will change sides after

Half-time.

**D. Players**

 1. Each team will play with eight (8) players on the field for 6U and 8U. 10U will play 6v6 and 12U will play 11V11.

 2. Player equipment:

 2.1 Shin-guards are mandatory and are worn inside the socks.

 2.2 Footwear can be athletic shoes or soft cleated shoes.

 3. Substitution is unlimited and accomplished on that player’s teams’ throw-in or on both teams’ goal kicks. The player must come off the field before the substitute may enter the field. Permission from the referee is required.

**E. The Rules**

 1. The game is started with the ball placed within the center circle. Players of the opposing team must be outside the circle when the kick is taken.

 2. A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick or throw-in. The ball must touch another player on the field of either team before going into the goal for a goal.

 3. A goal can be scored directly from the kickoff.

 4. A goal can be scored from anywhere, but the ball must pass below the cross-bar and between the goal posts for a goal.

 5. When the ball goes wholly across the touch line (sideline), the game is restarted with a throw-in. When the ball goes wholly across the goal line, the game is restarted with a goal kick or corner kick. The ball is awarded to the team opposite of that of the player who last touched the ball.

 5.1 Over the touch line (sideline): The ball is throw-in from the spot on the line where the ball went out.

 5.2 Over the ENDLINE by the ATTACKING team: The ball is placed anywhere in the goal area.

 5.3 Over the ENDLINE by the DEFENDING team: The ball is placed in the corner where the ENDLINE meets the SIDLINE.

6. No *SLIDE TACKLES*, tripping, pushing, punching, holding, or kicking an opponent. A player cannot pick-up, hold, stop, or propel the ball with his/her hands.

6.1 All infringements are punished by the awarding of a DIRECT FREE KICK.

6.2 The kick is awarded to the opposite team and is taken from the spot where the foul occurred.

6.3 Players of the opposing team must be a minimum of ten(10) yards away from the ball when a free kick is taken.

6.4 If the foul occurred INSIDE the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded and the ball is placed twelve yards from the goal line. All players except the goalkeeper and the player taking the penalty kick must be outside the penalty area and the penalty arc.

7. NO HEADING THE BALL

Heading the ball is not allowed in any age group. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot where a player deliberately touches the ball with his/her head. If the defending team deliberately heads the ball inside the goal area, the attacking team will be awarded an indirect free kick from the edge of the goal area.

8. For offenses such as playing in a dangerous manner, preventing the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his or her hands, impeding the progress of an opponent (obstruction), or commits any other offense for which play is stopped results in an Indirect Free Kick.

8.1 All infringements are punished by the awarding of an INDIRECT FREE KICK (i.e. the ball must touch another player on the field before it enters the goal).

8.2 The kick is awarded to the opposite team and is taken from the spot where the foul occurred.

8.3 Players of the opposing team must be a minimum of ten (10) yards away from the ball when a free kick is taken.

8.4 A goal cannot be scored directly off of an Indirect Free Kick; it must touch another player from either team to be a goal.

9. Offside rule is used in 8v8 soccer.

10. Goalkeeper rules apply in 8v8 soccer.

Concussion Action Plan

If you suspect that an athlete has a concussion, you should take the following four steps: 1. Remove athlete from play. 2. Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional. Do not try to judge the seriousness of the injury yourself. 3. Inform the athlete’s parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them the fact sheet on concussion. 4. Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until an appropriate health care professional says they are symptom-free and it’s OK to return to play. WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT