



Rancocas Valley Soccer Club Recreational Soccer Rules of Play Fall 2023

1. All players should be given equal playing time as much as possible. Alternate starting players each week.
2. ALL Players must wear shin guards and uniform assigned to the player. NO hooded sweatshirts are permitted. No jewelry may be worn, no apple watches, necklaces or bracelets. NO taping of earrings. Referees will inspect all players before each game.
3. NO Slide Tackling!!
4. Length of Games: running clock to be used for all games.
Freshman: 10 min quarters(4 quarters)
Juniors: (2) 25 min halves
Seniors: (2) 25 min halves
5. Number of players on the field
Freshman: (6v6) 5 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
Juniors: (7v7) 6 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
Seniors: (7v7) 6 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
Keepers are required!
6. Mercy Rule:

At no time should a goal differential become 6 or more.
Make adjustments early. Ways to avoid this issue;

- Restrict shooting to certain areas on the field. (outside the penalty box, behind the build out line)
- Make 5 passes before shooting
- Use weaker foot only to shoot
- Reduce number of players on field by 1 (use as last resort)

7. Ball in play- the entire ball must cross the touch lines and goal lines to be considered out of play.

8. Handling- (Hand-Ball). The interpretation of “Handling” has changed many times over the years. The referees have been instructed how to manage this call. Intent to use the hands or arms to “play” the ball must be present to make the call. Players may protect themselves as an instinct.

9. Coaching- NO coaches on the field during play. Instruction from the sidelines should be minimal at best. Let the game be the teacher!

10. Build Out Line-

GOAL KICK:

When a team is awarded a goal kick, the defending team must back-up behind the build out line in a timely fashion. Once the ball is put into play, the defending team may pressure the ball. The attacking team may choose to restart play before the defending team retreats to the build out line-when this occurs, the defending team may pressure the ball.

GOALKEEPER POSSESSION WITH HANDS:

The same process that occurs with goal kicks (defending team retreats past the build out line) must also occur when the goalkeeper has possession of the ball in their hands. Once this occurs, the goalkeeper may distribute the ball by roll, throw, or kick. The defending team may pressure the ball once it's put back into play.

11. No punting for Freshman, Junior, or Senior division.

Goalkeepers may pass with their feet or throw the ball to distribute. If a goalkeeper punts the ball, the referee will blow the whistle and stop play, and give the ball back to the goalkeeper to pass with their feet or throw the ball.

12. Offsides-

a. Freshman Offside Rule: There will be NO offsides in the Freshman division.

b. Juniors/Seniors Offside Rule: The build out line will be used to start where offside position may begin. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and the goal. Being in an offside position is NOT against the Laws of The Game. A player is considered offsides when he/she is in their attacking half of the field, between the build out line and the goal, is closer to the goal than the opponents, and in the opinion of the referee becomes part of the play. Part of the play is playing the ball, interfering with an opponent in the attacking half or blocking the view of the goalkeeper. If they are in an offsides position but are not part of the play, it will not be called.

13. Throw-ins:

a. Freshman Throw-ins: In place of throw-ins, an Indirect free kick will be used. Ball is to be placed on the ground, on the line where the ball first left the field. The purpose is to allow players to work on their passing.

b. Junior/Senior Throw-ins: A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole ball crosses the touch line, either on the ground or in the air.

14. Substitutions- During any stoppage of play or for injury.

15. NO time outs. A running clock is always used except for a major injury.

16. Referee Decisions: All decisions by referees are final.

17. Spectators: Must remain outside the field of play and on the opposite side of the teams. NO spectators will be allowed behind the end lines or behind the team benches. Spectators must always remain positive toward players, coaches and referees. **There will be absolutely no negativity towards any referees tolerated.**

The purpose of the RVSC Rec Program is for players to have a safe environment to play soccer and have fun. Enjoy the season.

Questions or concerns may be sent to Kat Atmore at:
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