

Homer Soccer Club: 6th/7th/8th Grade Rules of Play

- 1) As we are governed by the Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA), insurance may require we adopt IYSA rule 021-a. regarding goal safety; therefore, we as an organization will adopt the rule.

<https://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/225/2023/10/Goal-Safety-Policy-Rule-021-A.pdf>

- 2) Ball Size: #5

- 3) Number of Participants on Field (per team)

- a) Nine (9) players are allowed per team - including goalkeeper (subject to change)
- b) Minimum Participants
 - i) A grace period of 5 minutes will be allowed by the referee to meet minimum player requirements.
 - ii) The game will be forfeited if a team does not have enough players to play a game (coaches and referees' discretion) or if a game is played with players not on the official HSC roster.
 - (1) Only players on the specific team roster are allowed to play for that team. Players may not play on any other team. No guest players. No exceptions.
 - iii) If a game is forfeited, it is recommended a scrimmage be played between the two teams. Players from the other team's roster may play for the team that is short players for the scrimmage only.
- c) Variance Rule
 - i) A team is granted an additional player when losing by 5 goals. A team is granted another additional player when losing by 7 goals.
 - ii) The additional players must be taken off the field when the goal differential returns to 4 goals and 6 goals.

- 4) Length of Game: Two (2) 30-minute halves.

- a) Game length may be shortened by referee due to schedule or weather conditions.
- b) Coin Toss: Team winning the coin toss chooses kickoff or goal to defend.
 - i) Teams shall change ends at the beginning of the second half.
 - ii) Kickoff for second half will be granted to team that did not kick off to start game.

- 5) Uniform Requirements

- a) Each player must wear team uniform - jersey, shorts, socks, and shin guards.
- b) Gym shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes must be worn.
- c) Sweatpants and sweatshirts will be allowed during cold weather.
- d) All players must always have team shirts and numbers visible.
- e) Goalies must wear a jersey/pinny of contrasting color to the team shirt.

- 6) Playing Time and Substitutions

- a) All players shall get a minimum of 50% of the playing time.
- b) A single player shall not play more than 1 half as goalkeeper.
- c) Substitutions (unlimited) can be at stoppage or during game play. Player leaving the field must be completely off before substitute can enter the field.
- d) Goalies can be substituted like a field player, but not for penalty kicks.

7) Coaching

- a) A maximum of 2 active coaches per team may be on the sideline.
- b) Coaches must remain on his/her sideline and not cross the midfield line.
- c) No coach shall stand near his/her goal or the opposing team's goal.
- d) Coaches are not allowed on the field during play.
- e) Time outs are only allowed in the case of injury or concussion protocol at which time the referee will stop the game and the coach shall tend to the player.
- f) Coaches are asked to instruct their players that in the event they are injured to remain on the ground so the referee may see that they are injured.

8) Rescheduled Games

- a) Games not played or suspended due to weather or other circumstances can only be rescheduled by the league director. Coaches may not reschedule their own games.

9) Rules of the Game

- a) Goalkeeper Possession
 - i) No roughing the goalkeepers. If the goalkeeper appears to have possession, players cannot touch the goalkeeper.
 - ii) Punting IS allowed by the goalie.
- b) Pass Back to Goalie Within Own Penalty Area
 - i) The goalie cannot pick up the ball on his/her own team's throw-in or from a deliberate pass off the foot of a teammate. (Indirect kick from spot of foul is awarded)
 - ii) If the teammate plays the ball back to the goalkeeper with another part of the body, such as the knee, head, etc., the goalkeeper may legally handle this ball.
 - iii) A goalie also can pick the ball up after it's been directed to him/her by a teammate when pass isn't intentional.
- c) Slide tackling is NOT allowed.
- d) Intentional head balls are NOT allowed and will be treated as a hand ball.
- e) Offsides
 - i) A player is in an offside position if any of their body parts, except the hands and arms, are in the opponents' half of the field and closer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-to-last opponent (the last opponent is usually, but not necessarily, the goalkeeper).
 - ii) Being in an offside position is not an offense itself, but a player so positioned when the ball is played by a teammate can be judged guilty of an offside offense if they become involved in active play, interfere with an opponent, or gain an advantage by being in that position.
- f) Out of Bounds
 - i) Balls that go out of bounds over a sideline will be brought back into play by a throw-in from the point of exit.
 - ii) Out of bounds balls over the goal line will be restarted with a corner kick or goal kick respectively.
- g) In the referee's judgment, a direct or indirect kick can be called as applied in FIFA Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct.
- h) At referee's discretion, FIFA rules governing "carding" players will be followed.
 - i) A player issued a Yellow Card can be substituted for immediately by any eligible teammate.

- ii) Any player receiving a second Yellow Card in the same game will be ejected from that game. Referee will note the ejection and report to the referee coordinator. Depending upon the severity of the "incident", player's action may warrant further discipline.

10) Officials/Referees

- a) Referees are assigned by Homer Soccer and maintain jurisdiction over the game at all times.
- b) Assistant Referees (linespersons) are provided by Homer Soccer at the league's discretion.
 - i) If the center referee determines Assistant Referees are needed and none were provided by Homer Soccer, Referee shall ask each coach before the game for a volunteer to act as an Assistant Referee for the game, one for each side of the field. In some circumstances, the referee coordinator may choose to provide two field referees and no Assistant Referees.
- c) Questioned calls can only be addressed in a non-confrontational manner by the coaches during breaks. This applies to Laws of the Game only. Judgment calls cannot be questioned.