

LAWS OF THE GAME



Welcome to the City of Gardena Youth Soccer League. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting season. When involved in our youth sports programs please remember that you are participating in a recreational league. Please read over the information listed below and utilize it as a guide for our Youth Soccer Program:

- Game score will not be kept in our TK-K and 1st-2nd grade divisions.
- Game score and league standings will only be recorded in our 3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade divisions.
- The season will be comprised of a six-game schedule, with playoffs and a championship game in the 3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade divisions. (No Playoffs or Championship games for TK-K and 1st-2nd grade Divisions)
- Our coaches are a combination of Recreation staff along with community volunteers.
- Coaches will be responsible for setting practice days and times (keep in mind these are volunteer coaches, with responsibilities outside of coaching as well).
- Games will be played on Wednesday and Saturdays.
- We have zero tolerance for negative comments, threatening comments or behavior towards staff, coaches, referees, or players. If you have a disagreement regarding a referee's call, please speak to us after the game. Spectators will be asked to leave the facility and the game will be stopped until the spectator in question leaves the facility.

Always remember that collectively we must all do our part to ensure the success of the program. This game is for the children and played by your children. Positive cheering for all teams is encouraged.

LAWS OF THE GAME

Law 1- THE FIELD OF PLAY

Dimensions:

TK-K Division: 40 yards in length, 30 yards in width

1st grade-2nd grade Division: 40 yards in length, 35 yards in width

3rd grade-4th grade Division: 60 yards in length, 50 yards in width

5th grade-6th grade Division: 80 yards in length, 60 yards in width

The Field of Play dimensions are smaller to accommodate the seven-versus-seven game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of children nine years of age or younger. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful.

Field Markings: The Field of Play Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two (2) lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, seven (7) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of seven (7) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made five (5) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of four (4) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Flag posts will be posted on each field at the corner kick areas.

Goals: The maximum distance between the posts is 18 feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six feet.

* **See Attachment A**

Law 2 – THE BALL

Division	Ball Size
TK-K	Size 3
1 st _ 2 nd grade	Size 3
3 rd _ 4 th grade	Size 4
5 th _ 6 th grade	Size 5

Law 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A match is played by two (2) teams, each consisting of not more than five (5) players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. Teams must not utilize a goalkeeper in the TK-K Division. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than four (4) players.

Substitutions: 1st – 2nd Grade Division only: All substitutes must enter the match at the halfway mark of the 1st and 3rd quarters. Free substitution is allowed during the 2nd and 4th quarters. The minimum number of players to begin a match for City of Gardena Youth Soccer matches is four (4). There should not be a minimum for the TK-K division.

Law 4 – THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

All players must wear City-issued uniforms. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Shin guards are mandatory and be worn under socks. Cleats are strongly recommended, but not required. Baseball cleats with a “toe cleat” or metal spikes are not allowed. Players may not wear jewelry that may become tangled during play.

Law 5 – THE REFEREE

Oversees all in-game activities. Two referees will be assigned to each match. Games may be officiated by park staff.

Law 6 – ASSISTANT REFEREE

An assistant referee will be assigned to games in the 3rd-4th grade division and the 5th-6th grade division.

Law 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

TK-K Division- four (4), 5-minute quarters, 2-minute halftime.

1st - 2nd grade Division: four (4), 8-minute quarters, 2-minute halftime.

3rd - 4th grade Division: two (2), 18-minute halves, 5-minute halftime.

5th - 6th grade Division: two (2) 18-minute halves, 5-minute halftime.

Law 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

The team that wins the coin toss chooses will start with the ball on offense at the mid-point area. Teams will alternate with the ball on offense from the mid-point area to start play at the beginning of each quarter or half. Players may not touch the ball twice at the start of play.

Law 9- BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball is in play until it completely crosses over a touchline or goal line. *See Attachment A

Law 10- METHOD OF SCORING

A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses over the goal line, between the goal posts and below the crossbar. The ball will be placed at the mid-point area after a scored goal and play will restart with the team that was scored on getting the ball on offense.

Law 11 – OFFSIDE

Offside will only be called in the 5th-6th grade division. An offside will be called when an attacking player gets closer to the nearest opponent's goal line than both the ball and the last defender. This rule will not apply in any other divisions of play.

Law 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Fouls are classified as Penal (contact) or Technical (Non-Contact). Penal fouls include kicking, tripping, and pushing. Technical fouls include dangerous play and impeding (obstruction). Yellow cards and red cards are administered for fouls committed carelessly or recklessly in the 3rd-4th grade and the 5th-6th grade divisions. (Cards are never administered in the TK-K and 1st-2nd grade divisions. Coaches may deal with inappropriate player behavior by removing the players from a game for a “cool down” period.) “Heading” is not permitted in any division of play. In the TK-K and 1st-2nd divisions, the opposing team will be awarded the ball from the spot of the foul in the event of a heading. In the 3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade divisions an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction if a player intentionally contacts the ball using his or her head. Recreation soccer emphasizes a fun and safe environment. The safety of all players is our highest importance.

Law 13 – FREE KICKS

Free kicks are either direct or indirect. A goal can be scored from a direct free kick. Indirect kicks must be touched by another player before going in the goal for the score to count. Opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball. This law is specific to the 3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade divisions. All free kicks in the TK-K and 1st-2nd grade divisions are indirect. A direct free kick means that the free kick can be taken as a direct shot. An indirect free kick means that another player has to touch the ball before it can be taken as a shot on goal.

Law 14- THE PENALTY KICK

3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade division: Penalty kicks are awarded when the defense commits a direct free kick foul in the penalty area. The penalty mark is at ten yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark. TK-K and 1st-2nd grade divisions are not awarded penalty kicks.

Law 15: THROW-IN

A throw-in is taken when the ball completely crosses the touchlines in the 3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade divisions. The TK-K division will use a kick-in when the ball completely crosses with of the touchlines or goal lines. The 1st-2nd grade division are allowed a second attempt after an illegal throw-in. After the second attempt, the opposing team will be awarded a throw-in.

Law 16: GOAL KICK

3rd-4th grade and 5th-6th grade division: A goal kick is awarded when the offense kicks the ball over the opponents' goal line. The ball must leave the goal area to be in play or the kick is retaken. TK-K division and 1st-2nd grade division use kick-ins instead of goal kicks.

Law 17: CORNER KICK

Corner kicks will be allowed in the 1st – 2nd grade division, with the provision that the offensive team will be allowed to kick the ball in play to a teammate inside the penalty area. Once the offense team touches the ball, the defensive team may then play defense. 3rd-4th grade division and 5th-6th grade division only: A corner kick is awarded when the defense kicks the ball over their goal line.

For additional information, please contact the Youth Sports Coordinator at (310) 217-9537.

ATTACHMENT A

