

PYSA Summer Recreational Rules for U4 & U6

PYSA soccer is governed by the 17 Laws of Soccer as published by the United States Soccer Federation, with the following additions and/or modifications.

SPECIAL RULES

1 MISCELLANEOUS:

- 1.1 On field coaching is allowed.
- 1.2 **No heading.** Instruction or encouragement is not permitted for any level. An indirect kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player intentionally heads the ball.

2 PLAYING TIME

Required – **Each child will play at least half of every game attended** with the exception of discipline situations or injury.

Recommended – Each child should get the same (approx.) amount of playing time. Players who exhibit good sportsmanship, try hard, and have good attendance (prior notification when they can't attend) should be rewarded with additional playing time opportunities.

3 FAIR COMPETITION

Coaches are asked to coordinate the following with the opposing coach prior to start of match:

- Recommended - Players of equal strengths should play each other.
- Recommended - Let least prolific lineup play during the fourth period of some games.
- Recommended - Teams short on players may use players from opposing team so that game is not forfeited/canceled.

4 INJURIES

When the coach or parent-in-charge deems a player has been injured, play shall be stopped **as soon as possible**. Substitution is required for the injured player. Play will be restarted with a drop ball.

5 RESTRICTED AREAS

END LINES - The area behind the end lines shall be kept clear of spectators, coaches and players at all times.

TOUCH LINES (side lines) – Spectators shall remain on the side of the field opposite the coaches and players at all times during the game. All participants (including equipment, chairs, etc.) shall be **no closer than 6 feet from the side line**. Coaches and players shall stay on their own end of the midfield. The only exception to this is when a coach is actively coaching and is permitted on the field, or a player is waiting to substitute.

6 FIELD OF PLAY & BALL SIZE

- 20 x 30 (yards)
- Size 3 ball

7 NUMBER OF PLAYERS & FORMAT

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of three players on the field at a time. There are no goalkeepers. Coaches may mutually agree before the start of the game to use four players at a time on the field to allow more playing time.

Only players rostered to a team by PYSA may play on that team except when borrowing players from the opposing team. Games should not be forfeited when possible. Teams are encouraged to share players when one team does not have the minimum number, or to allow more playing time for the most players.

8 SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage and are unlimited.

9 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- Sneakers or soft rubber cleats are the only allowable footwear.
- Players shall not wear items considered dangerous to other players (such as jewelry, bracelets, hard headbands, watches, or similar). If play has already started, the coach should stop play and have the items removed.
- **Shin-guards are mandatory**; no player shall be allowed to play without them.
- Mouth-guards are optional

10 REFEREEING

There will be no referees assigned to U4 and U6 games. Coaches or the duty parent will officiate. Any infraction should be explained to the players. The emphasis should be on safety and education.

11 DURATION OF PLAY

Each game will include four 8-minute quarters.

There will be 2-minute breaks at the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters, with a 5-minute break at halftime. One of the officials (duty parent or coach) shall be in charge of time-keeping.

12 LAWS OF THE GAME

The following rules will be as per the laws of the game (except as noted):

START OF PLAY - As per laws of the game. Opponents shall be at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY - As per laws of the game.

SCORING - As per laws of the game.

OFFSIDE – There is no offsides.

FREE KICKS - As per laws of the game, except all free kicks are indirect. Opponents shall be at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play. The coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player.

PENALTY KICKS - There are no penalty kicks.

THROW-IN - As per laws of the game. Players are allowed to re-try throw-ins. Opponents shall be at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

GOAL KICK - As per laws of the game, taken anywhere within the goal box. Opponents must remain on their half of the field **until the ball crosses the midfield line.**

CORNER KICK - As per laws of the game. Opponents shall be at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.