

## **West Geauga Recreation Soccer Program 2008 League Rules**

These rules are intended as a guide for uniform play and league administration. Recognizing rules cannot be all encompassing, it is expected that good rational judgment and common sense will prevail to resolve disputes not specifically documented in these rules. The overriding factor in resolving undocumented issues shall be the fact that this is a **recreational league**. As such, resolution should be in a manner that is fair to both teams.

### **1) Starting Games**

- a) The games will start promptly at the scheduled time.
- b) A team unable to field the minimum number of players after a 15 minute delay shall forfeit the game by a score of 2 to 0.

### **2) Game Playing Time**

#### **a) Mixed League 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> Grades**

- 1) The game will be divided into two 20 minute halves. The clock will run continuously (even for a ball out of play) with no time-outs other than those called for injuries. There will be a 10-minute half time.

#### **b) 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys League and 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls League**

- 1) The game will be divided into two 22-minute halves. The clock will run continuously (even for a ball out of play) with no time-outs other than those called for injuries. There will be a 12-minute half time.

- 2) Refer to the section below for the timing of overtime games.

#### **b) 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys, 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys, and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Leagues**

- 1) The inter-community league commissioners will decide the game lengths and timing of overtime games.

#### **c) Overtime**

- 1) **In the Mixed League 1st & 2nd Grade-** no overtime. Since there will be no recording of scores, all games will be a tie.
- 2) In all other Leagues, if after regulation time the match score is tied, one overtime period of 10 minutes will be played in an attempt to break the tie. If the match remains tied after this overtime period, the game ends in a tie.
- 3) There will be no "sudden death" overtime.

3) **Number of Players**

- a) **Maximum** and **minimum** number of players fielded per team, one of whom is the designated goal keeper, are defined in the table below:

League	Min # Players	Max # Players	Ball Size
Mixed 1st & 2nd Grade	4	6	3
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys	5	6	4
3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	5	6	4
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys	6	8	4
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	8	11	5
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys	8	11	5

- b) **In the Mixed 1st & 2nd Grade league, if a team has fewer than six (6) players on a field, but at least four (4) players present and able to play, the opposing team will play an equal number of players.**
- c) In all other Leagues, if a team cannot field the maximum number of players but has at least the minimum number present and able to play, the opposing team will play with a one (1) player advantage. (Fewer than the minimum present constitutes a forfeit).
- d) If a team cannot field the minimum number of required players for their League, that team shall forfeit the game by a score of 2 to 0.
- e) Substitutions of non-team members will not be permitted. Violation of this rule will constitute an automatic forfeit.
- f) Each player on a team must play a minimum of thirty minutes per game, or one full half and 50% of the other half.

4) **Players Equipment**

- a) A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another player. Watches and jewelry are not permitted. Studs are permitted on the soles of the shoes but they must be round, at least 1/2 inch in diameter and not more than 3/4 inch long. Molded studs are permitted.
- b) Players must wear their team jersey and the goalkeeper must wear colors that distinguish them from the other players and the referee.
- c) It is recommended that all players wear mouth guards and that the boys wear athletic cups.
- d) Players are **required** to wear shin guards.

5) **Referees**

- a) **The referee is in complete charge of the game. His/Her decisions are final. He/She is the timekeeper and keeps a record of the match. The referee is empowered to stop play for injury or other reasons and to restart the game when ready. He/She may also end the game due to inclement weather, coach or spectator interference, darkness, or other reason as they see fit. The referee administers penalties and cautions and expels players for misconduct.**

**Number and Payment of Referees**

<b>League</b>	<b>Number of Referees</b>	<b>Payment</b>
<b>Mixed 1st &amp; 2nd Grade 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls</b>	<b>1 Ref/Field</b>	<b>\$10 per ref (\$5/coach)</b>
<b>All other Leagues</b>	<b>2 Refs/field</b>	<b>\$15/ref or \$20 if only one shows (ONLY HOME TEAM PAYS FOR REFEREES. SPLIT FEES IF 2 WEST G TEAMS ARE PLAYING)</b>

- b) Referees are to be paid **PRIOR** to the start of the game. Funds will be provided to the coaches for this purpose by the league commissioners.
- c) Each team will provide a linesman to signal throw-ins.
- d) In the event of inclement weather or darkness forces a game to be stopped, those games having completed at least three (3) quarters of play will be considered final.
- e) For questions regarding referees, call John Gervasi at 216-287-6868.

6) **The Start of Play**

- a) The toss of a coin determines which team gets the choice of kicking-off or selecting its goal to defend at the start of the game. After a team scores a goal, the other team kicks-off. Following quarters the kick-off is alternated. Following half-time, goals are changed.
- b) A kick-off is used to start play at the beginning of the game and at the start of all four quarters. The ball is placed on the center spot and the kicker must send it into the opponents half of the field. All other players must remain in their half of the field and no opposing player may be within the center circle. The ball is in play after it has traveled the distance of its own circumference. The kicker may not play the ball again until it has been touched by another player.
- c) When restarting play from causes other than those above and providing the ball has not passed over the touchline or goal line, the referee drops the ball at the place where it was when play was suspended. The ball is in play when it touches the ground.

7) **Ball In and Out of Play**

The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed the goal line or touchline (clock will continue to run), whether on the ground or in the air. The ball is in play at all other times, including when it rebounds from the goal posts and strikes officials who are on the field of play.

8) **Throw-In**

To restart play after the ball has passed completely over the touchline, the ball is thrown in from the point where it crossed the line by a player of the team opposing that of the person who last touched the ball. The thrower must use both hands and deliver the ball from over his/her head, while keeping part of each foot outside the touchline and on the ground. He/She cannot again play the ball until it has been touched by another player. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in. Opposing players are not allowed to impede the thrower.

9) **Method of Scoring**

A goal is scored when the ball has completely passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar, providing it has not been thrown, carried, or propelled by hand or arm by a player of the attacking side. The team scoring the most goals wins. **The score and standings are not kept in the Mixed 1st & 2nd Grade League, the score at the end of the game is 0-0.**

10) **Offside**

a) A player is offside if he/she is nearer his/her opponent's goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless:

- 1) He/She is in his/her own half of the field, or
- 2) 2 opponents (the goal keeper counts) are nearer their own goal line than he/she is, or
- 3) The ball last touched an opponent, or
- 4) The ball was last played by him, or
- 5) He/She received the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, or drop ball.

b) The penalty for being offside is an indirect free kick by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. Even though a player may be technically offside, the penalty is not called unless in the opinion of the referee, he/she is interfering with play or with an opponent or is seeking to gain advantage by being offside.

**Note: The offside rule is NOT in effect in the Mixed 1st & 2nd Grade League. Referees should help explain the offsides rule when making such calls in the first few games of the Boys 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade league and Girls 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade league.**

11) **Fouls and Misconduct**

- a) A player who intentionally commits any of the following offenses shall be penalized by awarding a direct free kick to the opposing team from the place where the offense occurred:
- 1) Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
  - 2) Tripping an opponent
  - 3) Jumping at an opponent
  - 4) Charging an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner
  - 5) Charging from behind unless the opponent is obstructing
  - 6) Striking or attempting to strike an opponent
  - 7) Holding or pushing an opponent
  - 8) Carrying, striking, or propelling the ball with the hand or arms (except for the goal keeper within his/her own penalty area)
  - 9) Foul language
  - 10) Slide tackling

**NOTE:** A tackle is an attempt by one player (Player A) to take the ball away from another player (Player B) by sliding on one or both legs and knocking the ball away. Player A attempts to knock the ball away without contacting Player B by sliding in such a manner that the ball is the first thing contacted. Tripping of Player B can easily result. In the West Geauga Recreation Council Soccer League, slide tackling is prohibited. Coaches should not teach this tactic and are not to allow their players to use this tactic. Referees are instructed to watch for this play and will penalize players using it. Slide tackling is a leading cause of serious leg and knee injuries in the sport of Soccer.

**Do not allow your players to slide tackle.**

**Penalty Action for Fouls or Misconduct**

Should a defending player intentionally commit one of these offenses within the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team.

- b) A player committing any of the following offenses shall be penalized by awarding an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the place where the offense occurred:
- 1) Playing in a dangerous manner
  - 2) Charging another player when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned
  - 3) Intentionally obstructing an opponent when not attempting to play the ball
  - 4) When playing as goal keeper, indulging in tactics designed to delay the game to his/her team's advantage.

If one of these offenses is committed inside the penalty area, the ball will be moved directly outside the penalty area and an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team.

- c) A player is cautioned if he/she persistently infringes upon the rules, shows by word or action, dissent from a decision made by the referee, or is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. An indirect free kick may result from a caution.

**11) Fouls and Misconduct(continued)**

- d) A player is removed from the field if he/she is guilty of:
- 1) Violent conduct or serious foul play,
  - 2) Uses foul or abusive language
  - 3) Is guilty of intentionally spitting
  - 4) Persists in misconduct after receiving a caution

If play is stopped when a player is removed from the field, the game is resumed by an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team at the spot where the infraction occurred. The player's name shall be recorded by the referee and reported to the league commissioner. After two (2) such violations, the player will be suspended for one (1) game.

- e) Any team whose player intentionally makes contact with, or in the judgment of the referee, does not adequately attempt to avoid making contact with the opposing goalkeeper while inside the goal box, will be assessed a penalty kick.

**12) Free Kick**

There are two (2) types of free kicks: direct (from which a goal can be scored) and indirect (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before it passes through the goal). When a player is taking a free kick inside his/her own penalty area, all opposing players must be at least 10 yards from the ball.

**13) Penalty Kick**

If a defending player is within his/her own team's penalty area when he/she intentionally commits one of the offenses listed in Section 11-a, the opposing team is granted a penalty kick. The penalty kick is taken from the spot of the penalty and all players (except the defending goalkeeper) must remain outside of the penalty area and at least 10 yards from the ball until the ball is kicked. The defending goalkeeper must remain stationary on his/her own goal line, between the goal posts, until the ball is kicked. The player taking the kick must propel the ball forward and cannot play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

**14) Substitutions**

A player can be substituted for another player during the quarter under the following conditions:

- 1) Before a quarter or half starts
- 2) Before a goal kick
- 3) Before a throw-in and substituting team has possession of the ball.
- 4) Before a corner kick and the substituting team has possession of the ball
- 5) When there is an injury and the substitution is for the injured player
- 6) Substitutions for goalies can be made only after the end of a quarter or in the case of injury to the goalie.

Note: For the Mixed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade league, both teams can substitute during a throw-in or corner kick by notifying the referee.

**15) Canceling and Rescheduling Games**

- a) In general, games will be played in the rain. Referees will cancel a game if lightning occurs or field conditions become dangerous.
- b) If both opposing coaches agree to reschedule a game for a non-weather related reason, they must notify the person responsible for scheduling at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of the game. Contact Linda Palchick at 729-7062 to reschedule inter-community league games or Tony Zakelj at 729-4589 to reschedule games in other leagues. **There will be no rescheduled games for the Mixed 1st & 2nd Grade League.** One of the coaches must also contact the person responsible for referees (John Gervasi at 216-287-6868) to indicate the cancellation and the rescheduled date/time, so that the referees can be notified.

**16) Coach Conduct**

- a) The coaches must assist the referees in maintaining proper conduct on the field; this includes helping maintain the proper conduct of the parents and spectators.
- b) Coaches must carry soccer registration and completed medical forms to games and practices
- c) No practice shall take place without two (2) adults on the field in case of an accident or emergency
- d) The telephone number for emergency assistance is 911