

**Age Group:** U4-U5

**Ball Size:** 3

**Number of Players on the field:** 3v3 (No Goalie)

**Length of Game:** 4- 6 minute quarters

**Coaches referee the games**

**LAWS OF THE GAME:**

**Kick off-** one player will kick the ball at the center line, the opposing team must stand outside the center circle. The ball needs to touch another player before the person who kicked it off can touch it again. Center field kick-offs are also taken after a goal is scored, by the team who was scored against. Teams switch directions at half-time, and the team that did NOT kick-off at the start of the game, gets to kick-off to start the second half.

**Out of Bounds:**

*Side line:* When the ball goes out of bounds on the sideline (the ball completely crosses the line), one player from the team that did not kick it out will place the ball on the sideline and kick it in. The ball must touch another player before the person that kicked the ball in can touch it again. You can not score directly from a kick-in. The ball needs to touch someone else before going in the goal.

*End line:* When the ball goes out of bounds on the end line, if the attacking team kicks it out, the defending team places the ball on the end line and kicks it in. All of the players need to stand at least 10 feet back and allow the person kicking to get it into the playing field. The ball must be touched by another player before the person who kicked it in can touch it again. If the ball is kicked out the end line by the defending team, the attacking team kicks it in from the corner. The ball must touch another player before the person who kicked it in can touch it again.

**No intentional hand balls-** this results in a free kick from the opposite team at the spot where the hand ball occurred.

**No intentional pushing or tripping-**this results in a free kick from the opposite team at the spot where the incident occurred.

**No heading the ball-** to avoid concussions, heading the ball is not allowed until U14+

**KEY POINTS AND SKILLS TO TEACH:**

1. Make it FUN!! – Whether or not your players will continue to play soccer in the years to come will depend on whether it's fun. Make the games and drills fun while having fun yourself and the kids will fall in love with soccer.

2. A ball for every player – It's of utmost importance that EVERY player have a ball during practice. Also be sure to use a variety of drills and games so that the amount of time each player has with a ball is maximized, as opposed to watching, listening to instructions or standing in a line).

3. Choose good practice games – Avoid games that use “knock-out” or elimination games. This results in kids standing and watching others. The goal is to keep all the kids involved. Also, use games that involve the parents to further enhance the players' experience. Practice plans will be available on the website [evanstonyouthsoccer.com](http://evanstonyouthsoccer.com)

4. Teach the following Concepts & Rules:

i. Don't use your hands. Encourage players to use feet, legs, chest but not their arms and hands.

ii. The concept of a “field” that has lines that they must stay within.

iii. The concept of “our goal” and “their goal”, attacking and defending

5. How to properly kick the ball: Focus on teaching the kids to use the inside of the foot and the instep of the foot (ie: “the laces”) and not the toe.

6. Focus on dribbling & kicking – The foundation of the game soccer is to kick the ball. All kids want to do it. Focus your drills and games on having the kids dribble and kick the ball as often as possible. The more comfortable they are kicking and dribbling the ball, the more inclined they will be to enjoy the game and actively partake in it.

7. All players must wear shin guards with socks covering the shin guards. Only soft cleat soccer boots or sneakers are allowed. Check to see that each players shoe laces are tied. Players must wear the same style uniform, including numbered jersey and socks, as the rest of the team.

8. When the game is over, we expect a cheer for the other team and a post-game handshaking. This is a fun post-game ritual for the kids and provides a chance to get any snacks ready. Coaches must be careful to ensure the handshaking is not filled with “you lost”, “we beat you” words, or spitting on the hands, which can kill the joy of the game for many players. This kind of youthful thoughtlessness can be controlled simply by the coach reminding the players what to say and why, and by accompanying them through the line. Coaches should also shake hands with each other. Take this opportunity to congratulate your team if they have done well, or provide positive feedback on errors you noticed. Players should be taught that all trash and gear is to be picked up by the team. Yes, even if it was there when the game started. We are always teaching good citizenship and stewardship to the players.

**Age Group:** U6

**Ball Size:** 3

**Number of Players on the field:** 4V4 (No Goalie)

**Length of Game:** 4- 8 minute quarters

**Coaches referee the games**

**LAWS OF THE GAME:**

**Kick off-** one player will kick the ball at the center line, the opposing team must stand outside the center circle. The ball needs to touch another player before the person who kicked it off can touch it again. Center field kick-offs are also taken after a goal is scored, by the team who was scored against. Teams switch directions at half-time, and the team that did NOT kick-off at the start of the game, gets to kick-off to start the second half.

**Out of Bounds:**

*Side line:* When the ball goes out of bounds on the sideline (the ball completely crosses the line), one player from the team that did not kick it out will do a throw in. The ball must touch another player before the person that kicked the ball in can touch it again. The ball must be thrown in with the player standing behind the line, both feet on the ground, and both hands behind the head. You cannot score a goal directly from a throw-in.

*End line:* When the ball goes out of bounds on the end line, if the attacking team kicks it out, the defending team places the ball on the end line and kicks it in. All of the players need to stand at least 10 feet back and allow the person kicking to get it into the playing field. The ball must be touched by another player before the person who kicked it in can touch it again. If the ball is kicked out the end line by the defending team, the attacking team kicks it in from the corner. The ball must touch another player before the person who kicked it in can touch it again.

**No intentional hand balls-** this results in a free kick from the opposite team at the spot where the hand ball occurred.

**No intentional pushing or tripping-**his results in a free kick from the opposite team at the spot where the incident occurred.

**No heading the ball-** to avoid concussions, heading the ball is not allowed until U14+

**KEY POINTS AND SKILLS TO TEACH:**

1. Make it FUN!! – Whether or not your players will continue to play soccer in the years to come will depend on whether it's fun. Make the games and drills fun while having fun yourself and the kids will fall in love with soccer.

2. A ball for every player – It's of utmost importance that EVERY player have a ball during practice. Also be sure to use a variety of drills and games so that the amount of time each player has with a ball is maximized, as opposed to watching, listening to instructions or standing in a line).

3. Choose good practice games – Avoid games that use “knock-out” or elimination games. This results in kids standing and watching others. The goal is to keep all the kids involved. Also, use games that involve the parents to further enhance the players' experience.

4. Teach the following Concepts & Rules:

i. Don't use your hands. Encourage players to use feet, legs, chest but not their arms and hands.

ii. The concept of a “field” that has lines that they must stay within.

iii. The concept of “our goal” and “their goal”, attacking and defending

5. How to properly kick the ball: Focus on teaching the kids to use the inside of the foot and the instep of the foot (ie: “the laces”) and not the toe.

6. Focus on dribbling & kicking – The foundation of the game soccer is to kick the ball. All kids want to do it. Focus your drills and games on having the kids dribble and kick the ball as often as possible. The more comfortable they are kicking and dribbling the ball, the more inclined they will be to enjoy the game and actively partake in it.

7. Introduce Throw-ins from the sideline- Throw-ins must be done with the player standing behind the side line. Both feet must stay on the ground (no jumping or lifting up a foot) and both hands must hold the ball behind the players head and follow straight through over their head. If the player does not do it correctly, teach them and let them try again.

8. All players must wear shin guards with socks covering the shin guards. Only soft cleat soccer boots or sneakers are allowed. Check to see that each players shoe laces are tied. Players must wear the same style uniform, including numbered jersey and socks, as the rest of the team.

9. When the game is over, we expect a cheer for the other team and a post-game handshaking. This is a fun post-game ritual for the kids and provides a chance to get any snacks ready. Coaches must be careful to ensure the handshaking is not filled with “you lost”, “we beat you” words, or spitting on the hands, which can kill the joy of the game for many players. This kind of youthful thoughtlessness can be controlled simply by the coach reminding the players what to say and why, and by accompanying them through the line. Coaches should also shake hands with each other. Take this opportunity to congratulate your team if they have done well, or provide positive feedback on errors you noticed. Players should be taught that all trash and gear is to be picked up by the team. Yes, even if it was there when the game started. We are always teaching good citizenship and stewardship to the players.

**Age Group:** U8

**Ball Size:** 4

**Number of Players on the field:** 5 V 5 (No Goalie)

**Length of Game:** 4- 10 minute quarters

**Coaches referee the games**

**LAWS OF THE GAME:**

**Kick off-** one player will kick the ball at the center line, the opposing team must stand outside the center circle. The ball needs to touch another player before the person who kicked it off can touch it again. Center field kick-offs are also taken after a goal is scored, by the team who was scored against. Teams switch directions at half-time, and the team that did NOT kick-off at the start of the game, gets to kick-off to start the second half.

**Out of Bounds:**

*Side line:* When the ball goes out of bounds on the sideline (the ball completely crosses the line), one player from the team that did not kick it out will do a throw in. The ball must touch another player before the person that kicked the ball in can touch it again. The ball must be thrown in with the player standing behind the line, both feet on the ground, and both hands behind the head.

*End line:* When the ball goes out of bounds on the end line, if the attacking team kicks it out, the defending team places the ball in the goal box around the goal and kicks it out to their team (Goal Kick). All of the players need to stand at least 10 feet back and allow the person kicking to get it in. The ball must be touched by another player before the person who kicked it in can touch it again. If the ball is kicked out the end line by the defending team, the attacking team kicks it in from the corner (Corner Kick). The ball must touch another player before the person who kicked it in can touch it again.

**No intentional hand balls-** this results in a free kick from the opposite team at the spot where the hand ball occurred.

**No intentional pushing or tripping-**his results in a free kick from the opposite team at the spot where the incident occurred.

**No heading the ball-** to avoid concussions, heading the ball is not allowed until U14+

Any infractions are awarded with an indirect kick. The opposing team must stand at least 5 yards from the kicker. The ball must touch another player before going into the goal. There are no direct penalty kicks.

### **KEY POINTS AND SKILLS TO TEACH:**

1. Make it FUN!! – Whether or not your players will continue to play soccer in the years to come will depend on whether it's fun. Make the games and drills fun while having fun yourself and the kids will fall in love with soccer.
2. A ball for every player – It's of utmost importance that EVERY player have a ball during practice. Also be sure to use a variety of drills and games so that the amount of time each player has with a ball is maximized, as opposed to watching, listening to instructions or standing in a line).
3. Choose good practice games – Avoid games that use “knock-out” or elimination games. This results in kids standing and watching others. The goal is to keep all the kids involved.
4. Teach the following Concepts & Rules:
  - i. Don't use your hands. Encourage players to use feet, legs, chest but not their arms and hands.
  - ii. The concept of a “field” that has lines that they must stay within.
  - iii. The concept of “our goal” and “their goal”, attacking positions and defending positions
5. All players must wear shin guards with socks covering the shin guards. Only soft cleat soccer boots or sneakers are allowed. Check to see that each players shoe laces are tied. Players must wear the same style uniform, including numbered jersey and socks, as the rest of the team.
6. How to properly kick the ball: Focus on teaching the kids to use the inside of the foot and the instep of the foot (ie: “the laces”) and not the toe.
7. Focus on dribbling & kicking & passing– The foundation of the game soccer is to kick the ball. All kids want to do it. Focus your drills and games on having the kids dribble and kick the ball as often as possible. The more comfortable they are kicking and dribbling the ball, the more inclined they will be to enjoy the game and actively partake in it.
8. Introduce Throw-ins from the sideline- Throw-ins must be done with the player standing behind the side line. Both feet must stay on the ground (no jumping or lifting up a foot) and both hands must hold the ball behind the players head and follow straight through over their head. If the player does not do it correctly, teach them and let them try again.
9. Introduce Goal Kicks and Corner Kicks (as stated above)
10. Introduce basic positions attackers and defenders
11. Teach moving to open space and passing the ball to teammates

12. Marking an opponent on throw-ins, goal kicks, corner kicks.

13. When the game is over, we expect a cheer for the other team and a post-game handshaking. This is a fun post-game ritual for the kids and provides a chance to get any snacks ready. Coaches must be careful to ensure the handshaking is not filled with "you lost", "we beat you" words, or spitting on the hands, which can kill the joy of the game for many players. This kind of youthful thoughtlessness can be controlled simply by the coach reminding the players what to say and why, and by accompanying them through the line. Coaches should also shake hands with each other. Take this opportunity to congratulate your team if they have done well, or provide positive feedback on errors you noticed. Players should be taught that all trash and gear is to be picked up by the team. Yes, even if it was there when the game started. We are always teaching good citizenship and stewardship to the players.

**Age Group:** U10

**Ball Size:** 4

**Number of Players on the field:** 7 V 7 (Goalie)

**Length of Game:** 2- 25 minute halves

EYSC referee will be provided for the game

### **Guidelines:**

**A.** We will be playing 7-a-side soccer, 6 field players and a goalkeeper. Minimum number of players on the field during a game is 5. We recommend 3 defenders, 1 midfield, and 2 attackers.

**B.** Size of field is ranged 55/65 yards L x 35/45 yards W.

**C.** Games are scheduled in 1 hour blocks of time. Start times may be delayed 5 minutes to wait for late arriving players. Coaches must be very firm to the team parents about arriving early to warm up prior to games to prevent injury. Games are played in halves, lasting 25 minutes each, depending on the actual start time. Half-time is 25 minutes after the scheduled start, no matter when the game actually starts, and lasts 5 minutes. Games end 5 minutes before the next scheduled games. The referee keeps the official time.

**D.** Unlimited substitutions are allowed whenever the ball goes out of play, but with the acknowledgment of the referee. Just call out "Substitution" or "Ref, Substitutions" until you get the referee's attention and approval. All players shall play at least 50% of each game! Substitution patterns for equal time are difficult to accomplish. Make the effort to try the best you can.

**E.** During the game, coaches may not go on the field except out of concern for an injured player. All coaches and assistants must stay on the sidelines, near the center of the field, not within 18 yards of the end line. No player, coach, or parent shall stand behind the end lines or near the goals. Coaching shall be understood as giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position. The tone of voice must be informative and not a harangue. If what you want to say can't wait and can't be condensed into a few words, you should pull the player off and explain your point on the sidelines.

Negative criticism or anger toward a player or the referee is always inappropriate and will not be tolerated in this league. The referees, particularly the young ones, have completed refereeing courses, and may be inexperienced in dealing with the complex responsibilities involved with refereeing. We need them to keep refereeing, and this is where they learn. Show them the proper level of respect, and deal with their errors with clarification at half time or after the game. Coaches must control their team parents and eliminate any derogatory and harassing comments toward the referee. Keep in mind that anyone who chooses to become a referee are by and large conscientious and responsible people who are doing their best.

### **U-10 Game Rules:**

1. All players must wear **shin guards** with socks covering the shin guards. Only soft cleat soccer boots or sneakers are allowed. Check to see that each players shoe laces are tied. Players must wear the same style uniform, including numbered jersey and socks, as the rest of the team, except the goalkeeper, who must wear colors significantly different from both teams.
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2. The game begins with a **kick-off** from center field. The choice of ends or kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The kicking team must start with all its players on its half of the field. The opponents must start with all its players on its half of the field. All free kicks, including the kick-off, required the opponents to be 10 yards (10 big steps) away from the ball. Center field kick-offs are also taken after a goal is scored, by the team who was scored against. Teams switch directions at half-time, and the team that did NOT kick-off at the start of the game, gets to kick-off to start the second half.

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3. **Throw-ins** will be taken whenever the ball is played "out of touch" across the sidelines. The ball is out when the whole ball is past the whole "line", it doesn't matter where the players feet are or if the ball in on the ground or in the air. Throw-ins shall be taken by the team who did NOT put the ball out of touch. The player must throw the ball from behind their head, with two hands giving equal effort, and with both feet on the ground, on or outside the touch line. A foul throw-in will result in the opponents receiving a throw-in. A goal can never be scored directly from a throw-in.

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4. **Goal kicks** are taken when an attacking team kicks the ball past the end line, missing the goal. The goal kick is taken by the defending team, from a point within the goal box. The ball is placed on the ground, like any other free kick. The kicking teams players may be anywhere on the field during a goal kick, but the other team must be behind the **build out line** (a line halfway between the penalty box and the midline of the field). This gives the defending team a chance to pass to their own player and work the ball up the field. The attacking team may cross the build out line as soon as the ball is kicked. An infraction will result in re-doing the goal kick.

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5. **Goalkeepers** may use their hands anywhere inside the penalty area, extending 18 yards out from the end line. It is NOT legal for goalkeepers to use their hands on balls played back to them by their teammates foot. A ball that is not a pass from the foot may be handled by the keeper. A keeper who uses their hands outside the penalty area will be called for a foul, with the other team awarded a free kick from the spot of the foul. When a keeper has touched the ball, and has at least one hand on it, no player may come near the keeper. There is no reason for aggressive attacking play near the goalkeeper in U-10 rec soccer. The goal keeper may run anywhere in the penalty box with the ball, and either throw or roll the ball into play. Opposing players must be 5 yards away when the goal keeper "distributes" the ball.

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6. **Corner kicks** shall be awarded the attacking team when the defending team kicks the ball over their own end line. The corner kick must be taken within 1 yard from the corner cone marker. Defenders must be 10 yards back from the corner kick. There is no offsides on the direct kick from the corner.

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7. **Direct free kicks** result from flagrant fouls and misconduct. Flagrant fouls are when a player kicks, curses, trips, jumps at, charges violently, charges from behind, strikes, spits at, holds or pushes an opponent (including the goalkeeper), or intentionally handles the ball with hands, forearms, or upper arms. No slide-tackling is allowed at U10. Defenders must be 10 yards back from the free kick. A goal can be scored directly of the free kick, hence its name.

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8. Less flagrant fouls result in "**indirect**" free kicks, where a goal can NOT be made directly from the kick, but must touch another player, from either team, before crossing the goal line between the uprights and below the crossbar. Dangerous play, conduct obstruction, and unsportsmanlike conduct are penalized by an indirect free kick for the opponents. When a player is down on the ground, attempting to play the ball they are making a dangerous play. Play shall be stopped immediately, prior to any contact if possible, and the other team awarded a free kick. The ball doesn't go in the air very often, but it can be dangerous for players to lift their feet high in the air. High kicking will be considered dangerous play, whether an opposing player is kicked or not.

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9. **Head balls** are **NOT** allowed in U-10 rec soccer.

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10. **Offsides** will be called in U-10 soccer. A player is in an offside position when they are nearer to the opponents goal line than the ball, unless (a) they are behind the build out line, or (b) they are not nearer to the opponents goal line than at least 2 of the opponent players, where one can be the goalkeeper. The player shall only be penalized for being in an offside position, if, at the moment the ball is played by a team member, they are, in the opinion of the referee, (1) interfering with the play of with an opponent, or (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that offside position. A player shall not be declared offside for simply being in an inconsequential offside position, or if receiving a ball direct from a goal kick, a corner kick, or a throw-in. At the referee's discretion, offsides will be called, and the opposing team will be awarded a free kick from the point of the offside position infraction.

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11. A **goal** is scored when the whole ball goes over the whole goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm of the attacking player.

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12. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player by the referee.

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13. When the game is over, we expect a cheer for the other team and a post-game handshaking. This is a fun post-game ritual for the kids and provides a chance to get any snacks ready. Coaches must be careful to ensure the handshaking is not filled with "you lost", "we beat you" words, or spitting on the hands, which can kill the joy of the game for many players. This kind of youthful thoughtlessness can be controlled simply by the coach reminding the players what to say and why, and by accompanying them through the line. Coaches should also shake hands with each other and the referee. Take this opportunity to congratulate your team if they have done well, or provide positive feedback on errors you noticed. Players should be taught that all trash and gear is to be picked up by the team. Yes, even if it was there when the game started. We are always teaching good citizenship and stewardship to the players.

### **Skills to focus on:**

-Teaching goal keeper and off sides rules

-How to spread out, pass to each other

-Cross the ball across the field and receive the ball across your body

-Keeping head up for awareness. Players should always be scanning the field while carrying the ball while glancing down at the ball through the bottom of your eyes. Players must be aware of opponents, teammates, and space.

-Ability to hold the ball close. Players should be able to keep close control of the ball in order to quickly change directions, move the ball away from a defender. Balance. It is important for the dribbler to have a low center of gravity with knees bent and chest and head over the ball. This will help players start, stop, accelerate and change direction.

-Change of pace and direction. The player should be able to cut and turn the ball quickly to avoid tackles or to exploit space.

-Feints and moves. Players must be able to sell a move with body movements in order to throw the opponent off balance while moving the ball in an attacking position.

**Age Group:** U12

**Ball Size:** 4

**Number of Players on the field:** 7 V 7 (Goalie)

**Length of Game:** 2- 30 minute halves

EYSC referee will be provided for the game

### **Guidelines:**

**A.** We will be playing 7-a-side soccer, 6 field players and a goalkeeper. Minimum number of players on the field during a game is 5. We recommend 3 defenders, 1 midfielder, and 2 attackers

**B.** Size of field is ranged 55/65 yards L x 35/45 yards W.

**C.** Games are scheduled in 1 hour blocks of time. So games need to start on time. Coaches must be very firm to the team parents about arriving early to warm up prior to games to prevent injury. Games are played in halves, lasting 30 minutes each, with a 5 minute half time.

**D.** Unlimited substitutions are allowed whenever the ball goes out of play, but with the acknowledgment of the referee. Just call out "Substitution" or "Ref, Substitutions" until you get the referee's attention and approval. All players shall play at least 50% of each game! Substitution patterns for equal time are difficult to accomplish. Make the effort to try the best you can.

**E.** During the game, coaches may not go on the field except out of concern for an injured player. All coaches and assistants must stay on the sidelines, near the center of the field, not within 18 yards of the end line. No player, coach, or parent shall stand behind the end lines or near the goals. Coaching shall be understood as giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position. The tone of voice must be informative and not a harangue. If what you want to say can't wait and can't be condensed into a few words, you should pull the player off and explain your point on the sidelines.

Negative criticism or anger toward a player or the referee is always inappropriate and will not be tolerated in this league. The referees, particularly the young ones, have completed refereeing courses, and may be inexperienced in dealing with the complex responsibilities involved with refereeing. We need them to keep refereeing, and this is where they learn. Show them the proper level of respect, and deal with their errors with clarification at half time or after the game. Coaches must control their team parents and eliminate any derogatory and harassing comments toward the referee. Keep in mind that anyone who chooses to become a referee are by and large conscientious and responsible people who are doing their best.

### **U-12 Game Rules:**

1. All players must wear **shin guards** with socks covering the shin guards. Only soft cleat soccer boots or sneakers are allowed. Check to see that each players shoe laces are tied. Players must wear the same style uniform, including numbered jersey and socks, as the rest of the team, except the goalkeeper, who must wear colors significantly different from both teams.
2. The game begins with a **kick-off** from center field. The choice of ends or kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The kicking team must start with all its players on its half of the field. The

opponents must start with all its players on its half of the field. All free kicks, including the kick-off, required the opponents to be 10 yards (10 big steps) away from the ball. Center field kick-offs are also taken after a goal is scored, by the team who was scored against. Teams switch directions at half-time, and the team that did NOT kick-off at the start of the game, gets to kick-off to start the second half.

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3. **Throw-ins** will be taken whenever the ball is played "out of touch" across the sidelines. The ball is out when the whole ball is past the whole "line", it doesn't matter where the players feet are or if the ball is on the ground or in the air. Throw-ins shall be taken by the team who did NOT put the ball out of touch. The player must throw the ball from behind their head, with two hands giving equal effort, and with both feet on the ground, on or outside the touch line. A foul throw-in will result in the opponents receiving a throw-in. A goal can never be scored directly from a throw-in.

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4. **Goal kicks** are taken when an attacking team kicks the ball past the end line, missing the goal. The goal kick is taken by the defending team, from a point within the goal box. The ball is placed on the ground, like any other free kick. The kicking teams players may be anywhere on the field during a goal kick, but the other team must be outside the penalty box. The ball must roll past the penalty box before another player can touch the ball.

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5. **Goalkeepers** may use their hands anywhere inside the penalty area, extending 18 yards out from the end line. It is NOT legal for goalkeepers to use their hands on balls played back to them by their teammates foot. A ball that is not a pass from the foot may be handled by the keeper. A keeper who uses their hands outside the penalty area will be called for a foul, with the other team awarded a free kick from the spot of the foul. When a keeper has touched the ball, and has at least one hand on it, no player may come near the keeper. There is no reason for aggressive attacking play near the goalkeeper in U-12 rec soccer. The goal keeper may run anywhere in the penalty box with the ball, and either throw or roll the ball into play. Opposing players must be 5 yards away when the goal keeper "distributes" the ball.

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6. **Corner kicks** shall be awarded the attacking team when the defending team kicks the ball over their own end line. The corner kick must be taken within 1 yard from the corner cone marker. Defenders must be 10 yards back from the corner kick. There is no offsides on the direct kick from the corner.

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7. **Direct free kicks** result from flagrant fouls and misconduct. Flagrant fouls are when a player kicks, curses, trips, jumps at, charges violently, charges from behind, strikes, spits at, holds or pushes an opponent (including the goalkeeper), or intentionally handles the ball with hands, forearms, or upper arms. Defenders must be 10 yards back from the free kick. A goal can be scored directly of the free kick, hence its name.

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8. Less flagrant fouls result in "**indirect**" free kicks, where a goal can NOT be made directly from the kick, but must touch another player, from either team, before crossing the goal line between the uprights and below the crossbar. Dangerous play, conduct obstruction, and unsportsmanlike conduct are penalized by an indirect free kick for the opponents. When a player is down on the ground, attempting to play the ball they are making a dangerous play. Play shall be stopped immediately, prior to any contact if possible, and the other team awarded a free kick. The ball doesn't go in the air very often, but it can be dangerous for players to lift their feet high in the air. High kicking will be considered dangerous play, whether an opposing player is kicked or not.

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9. **Head balls** are **NOT** allowed in U-12 rec soccer.

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10. **Offsides** will be called in U-12 soccer. A player is in an offside position when they are nearer to the opponents goal line than the ball, unless (a) are their own half of the field, or (b) they are not nearer to the opponents goal line than at least 2 of the opponent players, where one can be the

goalkeeper. The player shall only be penalized for being in an offside position, if, at the moment the ball is played by a team member, they are, in the opinion of the referee, (1) interfering with the play of with an opponent, or (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that offside position. A player shall not be declared offside for simply being in an inconsequential offside position, or if receiving a ball direct from a goal kick, a corner kick, or a throw-in. At the referee's discretion, offside will be called, and the opposing team will be awarded a free kick from the point of the offside position infraction.

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11. A **goal** is scored when the whole ball goes over the whole goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm of the attacking player.
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12. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player by the referee.
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13. When the game is over, we expect a cheer for the other team and a post-game handshaking. This is a fun post-game ritual for the kids and provides a chance to get any snacks ready. Coaches must be careful to ensure the handshaking is not filled with "you lost", "we beat you" words, or spitting on the hands, which can kill the joy of the game for many players. This kind of youthful thoughtlessness can be controlled simply by the coach reminding the players what to say and why, and by accompanying them through the line. Coaches should also shake hands with each other and the referee. Take this opportunity to congratulate your team if they have done well, or provide positive feedback on errors you noticed. Players should be taught that all trash and gear is to be picked up by the team. Yes, even if it was there when the game started. We are always teaching good citizenship and stewardship to the players.

### **Skills to focus on:**

-Teaching goal keeper and off sides rules

-How to spread out, pass to each other

-Cross the ball across the field and receive the ball across your body

-Keeping head up for awareness. Players should always be scanning the field while carrying the ball while glancing down at the ball through the bottom of your eyes. Players must be aware of opponents, teammates, and space.

-Ability to hold the ball close. Players should be able to keep close control of the ball in order to quickly change directions, move the ball away from a defender. Balance. It is important for the dribbler to have a low center of gravity with knees bent and chest and head over the ball. This will help players start, stop, accelerate and change direction.

-Change of pace and direction. The player should be able to cut and turn the ball quickly to avoid tackles or to exploit space.

-Feints and moves. Players must be able to sell a move with body movements in order to throw the opponent off balance while moving the ball in an attacking position.

**Age Group:** U14 and up

**Ball Size:** 5

**Number of Players on the field:** 7 V 7 (Goalie)

**Length of Game:** 2- 30 minute halves

EYSC referee will be provided for the game

### **Guidelines:**

**A.** We will be playing 7-a-side soccer, 6 field players and a goalkeeper. Minimum number of players on the field during a game is 5. We recommend 3 defenders, 1 midfielder, and 2 attackers

**B.** Size of field is ranged 55/65 yards L x 35/45 yards W.

**C.** Games are scheduled in 1 hour blocks of time. So games need to start on time. Coaches must be very firm to the team parents about arriving early to warm up prior to games to prevent injury. Games are played in halves, lasting 30 minutes each, with a 5 minute half time.

**D.** Unlimited substitutions are allowed whenever the ball goes out of play, but with the acknowledgment of the referee. Just call out "Substitution" or "Ref, Substitutions" until you get the referee's attention and approval. All players shall play at least 50% of each game! Substitution patterns for equal time are difficult to accomplish. Make the effort to try the best you can.

**E.** During the game, coaches may not go on the field except out of concern for an injured player. All coaches and assistants must stay on the sidelines, near the center of the field, not within 18 yards of the end line. No player, coach, or parent shall stand behind the end lines or near the goals. Coaching shall be understood as giving directions to one's own team on points of strategy and position. The tone of voice must be informative and not a harangue. If what you want to say can't wait and can't be condensed into a few words, you should pull the player off and explain your point on the sidelines.

Negative criticism or anger toward a player or the referee is always inappropriate and will not be tolerated in this league. The referees, particularly the young ones, have completed refereeing courses, and may be inexperienced in dealing with the complex responsibilities involved with refereeing. We need them to keep refereeing, and this is where they learn. Show them the proper level of respect, and deal with their errors with clarification at half time or after the game. Coaches must control their team parents and eliminate any derogatory and harassing comments toward the referee. Keep in mind that anyone who chooses to become a referee are by and large conscientious and responsible people who are doing their best.

### **U-14 and up Game Rules:**

1. All players must wear **shin guards** with socks covering the shin guards. Only soft cleat soccer boots or sneakers are allowed. Check to see that each players shoe laces are tied. Players must wear the same style uniform, including numbered jersey and socks, as the rest of the team, except the goalkeeper, who must wear colors significantly different from both teams.
2. The game begins with a **kick-off** from center field. The choice of ends or kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The kicking team must start with all its players on its half of the field. The opponents must

start with all its players on its half of the field. All free kicks, including the kick-off, required the opponents to be 10 yards (10 big steps) away from the ball. Center field kick-offs are also taken after a goal is scored, by the team who was scored against. Teams switch directions at half-time, and the team that did NOT kick-off at the start of the game, gets to kick-off to start the second half.

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3. **Throw-ins** will be taken whenever the ball is played "out of touch" across the sidelines. The ball is out when the whole ball is past the whole "line", it doesn't matter where the players feet are or if the ball in on the ground or in the air. Throw-ins shall be taken by the team who did NOT put the ball out of touch. The player must throw the ball from behind their head, with two hands giving equal effort, and with both feet on the ground, on or outside the touch line. A foul throw-in will result in the opponents receiving a throw-in. A goal can never be scored directly from a throw-in.

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4. **Goal kicks** are taken when an attacking team kicks the ball past the end line, missing the goal. The goal kick is taken by the defending team, from a point within the goal box. The ball is placed on the ground, like any other free kick. The kicking teams players may be anywhere on the field during a goal kick, but the other team must be outside the penalty box. The ball must roll past the penalty box before another player can touch the ball.

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5. **Goalkeepers** may use their hands anywhere inside the penalty area, extending 18 yards out from the end line. It is NOT legal for goalkeepers to use their hands on balls played back to them by their teammates foot. A ball that is not a pass from the foot may be handled by the keeper. A keeper who uses their hands outside the penalty area will be called for a foul, with the other team awarded a free kick from the spot of the foul. When a keeper has touched the ball, and has at least one hand on it, no player may come near the keeper. There is no reason for aggressive attacking play near the goalkeeper in U-14 rec soccer. The goal keeper may run anywhere in the penalty box with the ball, and either throw or roll the ball into play. Opposing players must be 5 yards away when the goal keeper "distributes" the ball.

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6. **Corner kicks** shall be awarded the attacking team when the defending team kicks the ball over their own end line. The corner kick must be taken within 1 yard from the corner cone marker. Defenders must be 10 yards back from the corner kick. There is no offsides on the direct kick from the corner.

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7. **Direct free kicks** result from flagrant fouls and misconduct. Flagrant fouls are when a player kicks, curses, trips, jumps at, charges violently, charges from behind, strikes, spits at, holds or pushes an opponent (including the goalkeeper), or intentionally handles the ball with hands, forearms, or upper arms. Defenders must be 10 yards back from the free kick. A goal can be scored directly of the free kick, hence its name.

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8. Less flagrant fouls result in "**indirect**" free kicks, where a goal can NOT be made directly from the kick, but must touch another player, from either team, before crossing the goal line between the uprights and below the crossbar. Dangerous play, conduct obstruction, and unsportsmanlike conduct are penalized by an indirect free kick for the opponents. When a player is down on the ground, attempting to play the ball they are making a dangerous play. Play shall be stopped immediately, prior to any contact if possible, and the other team awarded a free kick. The ball doesn't go in the air very often, but it can be dangerous for players to lift their feet high in the air. High kicking will be considered dangerous play, whether an opposing player is kicked or not.

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9. **Head balls** are allowed in U-14 and up rec soccer.

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10. **Offsides** will be called in U-14 and up soccer. A player is in an offside position when they are nearer to the opponents goal line than the ball, unless (a) are their own half of the field, or (b) they are not nearer to the opponents goal line than at least 2 of the opponent players, where one can be the goalkeeper. The player shall only be penalized for being in an offsides position, if, at the moment the ball is played by a team member, they are, in the opinion of the referee, (1) interfering with the play of with an opponent, or (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that offside position. A player shall not be declared offside for simply being in an inconsequential offside position, or if receiving a ball direct from a goal kick, a corner kick,

or a throw-in. At the referee's discretion, offsides will be called, and the opposing team will be awarded a free kick from the point of the offside position infraction.

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11. A **goal** is scored when the whole ball goes over the whole goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm of the attacking player.

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12. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player by the referee.

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13. When the game is over, we expect a cheer for the other team and a post-game handshaking. This is a fun post-game ritual for the kids and provides a chance to get any snacks ready. Coaches must be careful to ensure the handshaking is not filled with "you lost", "we beat you" words, or spitting on the hands, which can kill the joy of the game for many players. This kind of youthful thoughtlessness can be controlled simply by the coach reminding the players what to say and why, and by accompanying them through the line. Coaches should also shake hands with each other and the referee. Take this opportunity to congratulate your team if they have done well, or provide positive feedback on errors you noticed. Players should be taught that all trash and gear is to be picked up by the team. Yes, even if it was there when the game started. We are always teaching good citizenship and stewardship to the players.

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