



General Rules

1. Age Divisions:

Helotes Youth Soccer Association adopts U.S. Soccer and USYS-recognized age groupings for all league play:

Division	Age Range	Format	Max Roster Size
U5	4 years old	3v3	6 players
U6	5 years old	3v3	6 players
U7	6 years old	4v4	8 players
U8	7 years old	4v4	8 players
U9	8 years old	7v7	12 players
U10	9 years old	7v7	12 players
U11	10 years old	9v9	16 players

U12	11 years old	9v9	16 players
U13	12 years old	9v9	16 players

2.

Note: Players must meet the age requirement as of January 1 of the current seasonal year.

3. **League Schedule:**

a. **Fall Season:** Begins approximately September through December

b. **Spring Season:** Begins approximately February through April

4. **Team Registration:**

All teams must register with HYSA. Applications and fees are due prior to each seasonal start date.

5. **Player Eligibility:**

Players must submit valid age documentation (birth certificate or passport) upon first-time registration.

6. **Roster Limits:**

As listed above in the age division table.

7. **Transfers/Releases:**

Allowed only under conditions such as injury, relocation, or disciplinary violations. Transfers must be approved in writing by the HYSA registrar.

8. **Tryouts:**

Tryouts for the upcoming seasonal year may begin in May.

Rules of Play

1. **Match Governance:**

a. FIFA Laws of the Game apply, modified by HYSA rules for youth play.

b. Teams are responsible for the behavior of their players, coaches, and spectators.

2. **Player Documentation:**

a. All players must have a valid HYSA player pass with photo and unique ID.

b. Only official printed rosters from the HYSA system are allowed—no handwritten names.

3. **Referee Assignment:**

a. One center referee will be assigned for all matches up to 9v9.

b. All referees must be USSF-certified.

4. **Uniforms and Equipment:**

a. Numbered jerseys are mandatory.

b. The first team listed wears a darker jersey; the second team wears lighter.

c. In case of a color conflict, the home team must change.

- d. Shin guards are mandatory.
- e. The referee's decision on uniform issues is final.

5. **Game Format & Duration:**

Division	Format	Half Length
U5–U6	3v3	4 x 8 min quarters
U7–U8	4v4	4 x 10 min quarters
U9–U10	7v7	2 x 25 min halves
U11–U12	9v9	2 x 30 min halves
U13	9v9	2 x 35 min halves

6.

Water breaks and heat-related adjustments may be implemented at the referee's discretion.

7. **Substitutions:**

Unlimited; permitted at referee discretion during stoppages.

8. **Scoring & Standings:**

- Win: 3 points
- Tie: 1 point
- Loss: 0 points

9. **Tiebreakers (in order):**

- Head-to-head (if only 2 teams)
- Goal difference (max 4 per game)
- Goals scored (max 4 per game)
- Least goals allowed
- Coin toss or playoff

10. **Forfeits:**

- a. Recorded as 4-0.
- b. Repeated no-shows or ineligible players may lead to standings penalties or fines.
- c. Four forfeits may result in expulsion from the league.

11. **Match Abandonment:**

Teams not showing up or walking off the field without justification are considered to have abandoned the match.

- After halftime, score will stand unless HYSA rules otherwise.

Code of Conduct & Discipline

1. **Sideline Behavior:**
 - a. Teams on one side of the field; spectators on the opposite.
 - b. Coaches and spectators must remain in their designated areas.
 - c. Coaches must display KidSafe/SafeSport credentials at all times.
 2. **Discipline:**
 - a. Red cards and ejections will be logged. Four in one season may result in team suspension.
 - b. Red-carded players may stay on the bench (wearing a pinnie or alternate jersey), unless asked to leave by the referee.
 - c. Ejected coaches or spectators must leave the field area (out of sight and sound).
 - d. Violent conduct or mass altercations may lead to full team dismissal from the competition and additional review by HYSA.
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Protests & Appeals

1. **Protest Validity Requirements:**
 - a. Must be written on the Game Card and submitted to the onsite HYSA Director.
 - b. Must be filed with the HYSA Appeals Chair within 12 hours of the match.
 - c. Must include all written details of the incident.
 - d. A \$250 protest fee is required (cash, cashier's check, or money order payable to HYSA).
 2. **Protest Process:**
 - a. The Appeals Committee will notify all involved parties.
 - b. Each team may have up to 2 witnesses.
 - c. Referee judgment calls are not eligible for protest.
 - d. Appeals Committee decisions are final and binding.
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