

LIST SOCCER RULES 2018

FIFA 2018 Laws of the Game are the standard rules with these modifications:

1. Games will consist of two 25 minute halves with a five minute halftime. Arrive early enough to be able to start on time. The referee will start the clock even if the teams are not ready, as the field is only reserved for one hour from start time.
2. Shin guards are mandatory for each player. Molded, cleated shoes are okay. Anything dangerous (in the opinion of the referee) should be disallowed. Metal cleats should be disallowed. Uniform - numbered team t-shirt, shorts or long pants that don't have exposed metal buttons or accessories, socks. The goalkeeper's shirt should be a different color than the other team and his/her own team. No jewelry may be worn by players during a game. Eyeglasses must be secured with a strap.
3. Size 4 ball for 5-6th grade. Size 5 ball for 7-8th grade. All teams must bring at least one good game ball.
4. All teams will bring a set of corner flags to the game.
5. Both teams will have their "team bench area" on the same side of the field, each using half of the side. Generally, the bench area should be the side furthest from the parking area.
6. Parents and other visitors, from both teams, are required to be on the OPPOSITE side of the field from the teams, in order to insure less distraction for both players and coaches. Coaches and the league director are expected to assist in the implementation of this rule.
7. The coaches will each appoint 1 assistant referee per contest. The assistant referee's responsibilities are to signal when the ball goes out of bounds. The head referee might also give the assistant referee additional duties, depending on the assistant referee's experience level. Ideally, the assistant referee has volunteered before the teams get to the field.
8. All referee's decisions are final. The referee's judgment may not be questioned. Explanation or clarification of a call may be requested.
9. Games will be played with 11 players (for 7th/8th graders) and 9 players (for 5th/6th graders), with a balanced number of boys and girls on the field at all times.
10. Unlimited substitutions are allowed on any goal kick, kickoff, or injury, and when it's your throw-in or corner kick, or if the other team is substituting.
11. NO sliding tackles are allowed. The penalty for a sliding tackle is a DIRECT free kick, unless the foul occurred in the fouling team's penalty area. Then it is a penalty kick. A sliding tackle is defined as when a player slides to attempt to play the ball away from an opponent who is in control of the ball. A sliding tackle is NOT considered a foul when a player slides to contact the ball and s/he is at least two yards away from an opponent. Players should still be warned about their sliding habits by the referee and/or the player's coach. - We want less aggressive play in the LIST, so inexperienced players can feel at ease along with their experienced teammates and opponents.
12. The goal of this league is to promote good sporting behavior and participation. All coaches, players, spectators, and referees at games should keep this in mind. Coaches are the adults responsible for keeping behavior on a friendly, positive level. We are aiming to have friendly and meaningful game experiences for everyone involved.
13. If a team is ahead by 3 or more goals, the coach of that team will challenge the players in some way to make play more equitable.

Clarifications of Key FIFA Laws of the Game:

- After waiting for the ref's whistle for the kickoff, the ball may go forward OR be passed backward.
- Ten yards on free kicks - the ref will wait for a quick kick, and only enforce ten yards if asked.
- Hand balls = use of hand or arm up to shoulder, if intentional or gained an advantage. Ask "did the hand play the ball, or the ball play the hand?"
- Throw-ins that never go in are retaken.
- Off-sides= if player is in an off-sides position when the ball is kicked, AND becomes involved in the play, except if receiving the ball directly on a throw-in or corner kick.
- Players should play to the ref's whistle, as a foul may not be called, if
 - the foul is trivial, or
 - the ref allows play to continue signaling "advantage" (if advantage does not materialize, may call it back for the foul).