



## **Greenwood Parks & Recreation**

### **2016 Fall Youth Soccer Leagues Information/Rules**

It is the goal of this recreational league to provide a fun and safe environment for participants to play soccer while maturing in their character and sportsmanship. All participants, coaches, administrators, referees and spectators are expected to behave with respect for each other. We hope you will join us in making this an environment where your children can have fun playing the game they love and where everyone shares a sense of belonging.

#### **FACILITY RULES**

1. Please remember you are a guest of the City of Greenwood and the Greenwood Parks & Recreation Department. Please act with respect in regard to the property and facilities provided.
2. Children who are not participating in a practice are to be supervised by an adult at all times. Children not participating in the league are not to be dropped off and left unsupervised at practice.
3. Please pick up all trash and leave the grounds in better condition than you found them.
4. No profanity. No trash talking.
5. Please do not coach your child during the game. She/he has a coach.
6. Make friends. Have fun!

#### **EQUIPMENT RULES**

1. All players must wear shin guards to all practices and games. The hard surfaces of the shin guards should be covered by socks.
2. Only rubber cleats are allowed on shoes. No metal cleats. No shoes with front cleats may be worn. No baseball or football shoes if they have a front cleat.
3. No jewelry, metal hair accessories or hazardous equipment may be worn. No hats may be worn. Casts may be worn with permission of parent and physician. Casts must be covered with a soft layer.
4. Players should bring a plastic water bottle to games and practices. Coaches will allow adequate water breaks during practice.

5. Players must wear their designated jersey to games. Additional clothing may be worn underneath the jersey. To practice, shirts, shorts (or pants) and socks, shoes and shin guards should be worn at all times.
6. Goalies should wear a color that distinguishes them from the other players. Goalie jerseys or practice pinnies are preferred.

### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Games and practices will be cancelled in a downpour, when thunder and lightning are present or when fields are deemed unplayable. This decision will be made by Greenwood Parks & Recreation at least 30 minutes before the start of the first game.

In case of inclement weather, please check the youth soccer page on the Greenwood Parks & Recreation website: [www.greenwood.in.gov/parks](http://www.greenwood.in.gov/parks) or <http://www.greenwood.in.gov/topic/subtopic.php?topicid=38&structureid=17>, or call the Greenwood Community Center at (317) 881-4545. The supervisor on duty will have the latest information on game status.

Practices will generally not be cancelled for light rain or wet fields. However, a coach may cancel practice for her/his team at their discretion. Practices will not be made up.

For games, coaches will be notified by Greenwood Parks & Recreation when games are cancelled. The coach will then contact his/her team members. Games will be rescheduled at a later date.

Please remember, checking the soccer page on the department's website (listed above) is the best way to obtain timely and accurate information about cancellations.

### **RULES**

Rules for Greenwood Parks & Recreation leagues are adapted from USA Soccer and FIFA.

### **AGE**

A player's age at the start of league play (Sept. 6) will determine which league they should play in. For example, your child is 4 years old in August when you register, but she/he turns five prior to Sept. 6. That child should be registered for the 5-year-old league.

### **NORMAL PLAY OF GAME**

The referee and coaches will determine which team starts the game with a kickoff. After the kickoff, play will stop only for an injury time out.

### **Play will consist of**

- 4-5 year-olds: four 6-minute quarters.
- 6-8 year-olds: four 7-minute quarters.
- 9-12 year-olds: four 8-minute quarters.

**The number of players (depends on the number of registrations)**

4-5 year-olds: 5v5, no goalies

6-8 year-olds: 9v9, includes goalies

9-12 year-olds: 11v11, includes goalies.

If teams cannot meet these requirements, short-sided rules will be adopted.

EACH CHILD SHOULD PLAY AT LEAST HALF THE GAME.

**Spectators**

Parents, friends and spectators are not permitted to sit with the teams.

**Ball size:**

4-5 year-old: Size 3

6-8 year-olds: Size 4

9-12 year-olds: Size 5

**Goal Kick**

4-5 year-olds: NO (Throw-in)

6-8 year-olds: YES

9-12 year-olds: YES

**Slide tackling**

Slide tackling is not permitted. Violators will be removed from the game.

**Heading**

Heading the ball is no longer permitted. We have adopted a "play it on the ground" mentality for all leagues to go along with the new Indiana Soccer guidelines.

**Substitutions**

Substitutions may only occur with the referee's permission during a dead ball situation. Play of the game will not be stopped for substitutions unless there is an injury. There are unlimited substitutions.

EACH CHILD SHOULD PLAY AT LEAST HALF THE GAME.

**Officials**

Each game is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the laws/rules of the game. If there is a question or problem with the game, please contact Greenwood Parks & Recreation with your concerns. Referees and coaches will not take complaints.

**Drop Ball**

A drop ball will be used to restart play, if the game is stopped temporarily by the referee for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the rules of the game. For example, if players are down on the ground amidst the ball and the referee deems it a dangerous situation where no one has control of the ball, the referee will stop play and then restart with a drop ball.

## **Offside**

4-5 year-old: NO

6-8 year-olds: NO

9-12 year-olds: YES

A player is deemed to be offside if:

- He is nearer to the opponent's goal line than the second-last opponent at the moment the ball is played forward.
- In the opinion of the referee, the player is in an offside position and actively involved in the play.

A player is not offside if

- He is in his own half of the field of play.
- He is level with the second-last opponent.

There is no offside if the player receives the ball directly from:

- A goal kick
- A throw in
- A corner kick
- YOU CAN BE OFFSIDE ON A DIRECT OR INDIRECT FREE KICK.

When offside is called the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick from the spot of the foul.

## **VIOLATIONS**

**Handball** – includes any area of the hands or arms when the player intentionally uses the appendage to control the direction of the ball. Opposing team awarded indirect free kick. We strive to call Hand-to-Ball as a violation – not Ball-to-Hand.

**Unnecessary Roughness** – in the opinion of the referee. Opposing team awarded a direct free kick.

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct** – in the opinion of the referee. Opposing team awarded either a direct or indirect free kick.

**Cursing, Trash talking, etc.** – in the opinion of the referee. Opposing team awarded an indirect free kick.

## **PENALTY KICK**

A penalty kick is awarded if the offense is committed inside the penalty area.