

Coaching information/rules

- Required player apparel - tennis shoes or rubber/plastic cleats, **shin guards absolutely required at all age groups**, goalie must wear shirt that is different color than both teams, if playing with a cast it must be soft or adequately padded
- Ball size - pee wee and 1-2 size 3, 3-5 size 4, 6-8 size 5
- Length of game and substitutions
 - Pee wee - 8 players on the field, four 8 minute quarters, sub equally as possible at quarter breaks to try to create equal playing time for players, goalies plays as the 9th player, but may not use their hands (it causes a lot of confusion for littles just learning the game)
 - 1-2 field- 10 players on the field, 25 minute halves, 5 minute halftime with a 2 minute quarter break near the 12 minute mark of each half (four quarters all together)
 - 3-5 Field - 11 players on the field, 25 minute halves, 5 minute halftime with a 2 minute quarter break near the 12 minute mark of each half (four quarters all together)
 - 6-8 field - The field will not be quite 100% full size, but just a little smaller, with a traditional goal size, goalie, and keeper box. Teams should attempt to play as many as attendance allows for an even match. If one team is missing a player, the opposing team should match their field number. For late arriving players, go ahead and add to match each other as needed. Game duration, clock, breaks, and subbing are the same as elementary fields (listed above here).
 - Please sub at quarter/half break in order to keep game moving and on time, as well as keeping playing time even (unless there's an injury sub needed)
 - If you are short players because of attendance issues, this can cause the other team to sometimes have to sit/sub a larger than normal amount of players to match your lower attendance. If both coaches agree, other random kids can be filled in to maximize playing time opportunity and minimize bench time, **ONLY** if both coaches agree to allow this before the game. If either head coach does not want substitute players used for any reason, then neither team will use substitute players, they will instead only play the kids properly assigned to them on their roster, and play an even number of kids to match the numbers on the field.
 - **In the regular season (before tournament play), all teams must attempt to substitute evenly at all age levels regardless of player ability. In other words, do not sit out one child 2 quarters so that an all star player can play the entire game in order to gain a competitive advantage. A player should only sit out two quarters IF everyone on the team has already subbed one quarter. Remember this is a “pay to play” league, and everyone pays the same fee, so we need to try to balance playing time as fairly as possible.**
 - Post season tournament substitutions can be more relaxed at coach's discretion, but make sure that all kids are playing at least 2 of the 4 quarters in the tourney

- OHSa specific guidelines
 - Pee wee coaches please instruct/coach on the field, 1-2 can have one coach on the defensive side of the field, all other coaches please remain on the sideline
 - One two minute time out is permitted per team per match
 - All handballs will be called from shoulder to hand at all levels, regardless of intentional vs unintentional - we have very young referees that are often learning how to officiate - this rule helps them by not having to make judgment calls
 - Matches that end in a tie will be decided by shootout, 5 penalty kicks per team alternating, until the score is out of reach for one team. If there is a tie after 5 penalty kicks, you continue with the 6th kicker on the team, then 7th, and so on, 1 vs. 1, and each round is sudden death.
 - Postseason ties for seeding will be broken in the following order: head to head results, fewest goals allowed in head to head play, fewest goals allowed per match for the whole season, and final tiebreaker is a PK shootout (shootout goals from regular season are not counted in all tie breaker scenarios)
 - Other general soccer rules not specifically mentioned on this document are expected to be followed (corner kick, goal kick, thrown ins both feet down, etc.)

Information for referees

- IMPORTANT - you must be on the field and ready 15 minutes before game start
- Orange shirts in the concessions stand - no jeans please
- Have a stopwatch and a whistle (available in the referee locker room or concessions)
- Please leave cell phone in referee locker room or vehicle - cell phones are not allowed on field while refereeing - this can give the wrong impression to kids/coaches/parents about your awareness of the game - use physical stopwatch, not the one on your phone
- Put flags in the ground of each corner of your field (out on Tues., in on Thurs.)
- 10 minutes before kickoff
 - line up players
 - shin guards are required for all kids
 - Rubber cleats only/no metal
- 5 minutes before kickoff
 - call for captains - coin flip/guess a number for possession and choice of side

During game

- Major items you should be doing
 - Count players on field at start of game to make sure teams match
 - Running clock
 - Only stop for halftime or a major injury
 - 25 minute halves on elementary and JH fields

- 2 minute break for quarter, use an out of bounds or free kick around 11 minute mark, run clock
- Out of bounds calls
 - Throw in - feet down 2 hands overhead, give little ones a second chance if they mess up the first time and help them learn what they did wrong at elementary levels
 - Goal kick - make sure kick clears box before touched, repeat if it doesn't
- Headballs can be used for control or redirect only, corner kick scoring attempt is OK - headballs on goalie punts/large cross field kicks is a free kick for other team
- Major pushing/tripping free kick - make sure the kids understand why it's wrong
- Offsides can be called on 3/4/5 not 1st/2nd grade - explain it to them (offensive player who has a direct impact on the play on the offensive half of the field must have either an opponent who is not the goalie or the ball in front of them at all times, if they are further down field than both the ball and at least one opposing player, they are offsides and the defense is awarded a free kick)
- Please play through almost all rain - lightning or heavy/extremely cold rain requires play to be delayed or stopped as appropriate
- Remember to help younger kids learn the game
- **Absolutely required you are a full participant in the game - you should always be moving with the ball, speaking so they players, coaches, and parents can hear - use your whistle, speak loudly - say the color on a throw in, explain why there is a free kick, make sure you are not just "watching," and MAKE CALLS - do not just watch a handball, etc. and let it go**
- Be decisive and don't change your mind, stay with your call if you are solo, if you choose to ask the other ref to see if they had a better angle make that choice yourself, do not let parents influence or bother you - parents and coaches are not to argue

After game

- If there are two games take quick break - make sure second game starts on time
- Take flags down from corner of fields and into locker room on Thursdays
- Sign in on calendar to make sure paychecks are correct, please include score of game when you sign in
- Each payday will be at the end of two full weeks of games