

Franklin County Parks and Recreation
Soccer By-Laws

FIELD OF PLAY

1. The official field of play for Junior and Senior Leagues will be a rectangle with a maximum length of 130 yards or a minimum length of 100 yards. The width should be a minimum of 50 yards with a maximum of 100 yards.
2. Fields for younger age groups will be scaled to size to accommodate the player's skill and age differences. Field dimensions are as follows:
Instructional League: 20 yards width by 30 yards length
Modified, Minor and Major Leagues: 40 yards width by 60 yards length
3. Play sites will be located at the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department (619-Sontag Rd.) and Waid Park (Rt 40 West-Six Mile Post Rd.).

LEAGUE AGES

Instructional League:	Ages 4-5
Modified League:	Ages 6-7
Minor League:	Ages 8-9
Major League:	Ages 10-11
Junior League:	Ages 12-13
Senior League:	Ages 14-15
Senior High League:	Ages 16-18

Ages are as of August 1st for Spring Soccer and October 1st for Fall Soccer. Children may waive up to the next league if they are within one year of moving to that league if a signed note from the parent accompanies the registration form. The only exception to this rule is that a child must be 4 on or by the cutoff to be eligible to start the program.

EQUIPMENT

4. Each team will be given two (2) soccer balls each season. These are for practice and games.
5. Junior League, Senior League and Senior High League will use a #5 soccer ball.
6. Minor League and Major League will use a #4 soccer ball.
7. Modified League and Instructional League will use a #3 ball.

8. The uniform will consist of the team jersey, shorts and calf socks. **Jersey's must be numbered.**

9. Players may wear either tennis shoes or cleats. Cleats must be on a single piece rubber design only. **Toe cleats are not allowed**

10. All players must wear shin guards. Shin guards must be worn inside the calf socks.

11. Watches, rings, **hats** or any type of jewelry or hair ornament (other than a small hair band) cannot be worn. **Studs in the ears are ok if covered by athletic tape. No nose rings, tongue rings, belly button rings.**

12. Goalies are required to wear a different color jersey. This can be a shirt from home any color except for the team color or the opposing teams color. Multi-colored shirts or tie-dyed shirts are recommended.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

13. All modified, minor, major, junior and senior league teams will consist of 11 players. Rosters will have no more than 22 players.

14. Instructional league teams will consist of 5 players. Rosters will have no more than 12 players. Instructional league teams must field at least five players to play a game. If teams do not have enough players to field a team they may borrow players from the opposing team to play.

15. All leagues (except Instructional) must field a minimum of 8 players in order to play an official game. If a team fields less than 8 players, this team must forfeit to the opposing team, but can play a scrimmage against this team.

16. Substitutions can be made at the end of each quarter in the Modified, Minor and Major Leagues. Instructional League will substitute at the end of each 3-minute period. If a player is injured and the official stops play, a substitute can be entered into the injured players position.

17. Junior, senior and senior high league will have substitution on dead ball situations. **Which is a throw in or a goal kick, not a corner kick.**

OFFICIALS

18. There will be no officials for the instructional league. (see rules 23-24)

19. There will be two (2) officials assigned to each game in each league.

20. Officials have complete control of the game. Officials are responsible for keeping time, stopping play for injuries, and to remind players of proper game conduct. Coaches must remember that they are in control of parents and forfeiture of a game could result from unsportsmanlike conduct by parents or coaches.

21. Officials are representatives of the Recreation Department and are to be treated as such. Coaches need to remember that this activity is solely for the purpose of youth enjoyment and not as an ego builder for any coach or spectator.

22. Officials are to use the “yellow and red cards” in any situation that warrants.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE OFFICIALS

23. A coach from each team will act as officials for each game. The coach/official will administer kick-offs, throw-ins, and award in-direct free kicks. Coach/officials will look for the following penalties during play, which will result in an in-direct kick on the goal.

- Kicking an opponent
- Tripping an opponent
- Violent charging toward an opponent
- Striking an opponent
- Holding an opponent
- Pushing an opponent
- Opponent obstruction
- Dangerous play (i.e. a player falls near the ball and makes no attempt to get up from the immediate vicinity of the ball).

24. An in-direct kick on goal must be touched by a teammate prior to scoring a goal. The opposing team must be lined up at least 10-yards off the ball when the kick is attempted.

GAME DURATION

25. Instructional league games will consist of four (4) six-minute quarters. Half time will be 10 minutes in length. Two minutes will be allowed between each quarter for substitutions. At the half-quarter (3 minute) mark, substitutions will be made to allow each child maximum participation.

26. Modified, minor and major leagues will play four (4) ten minute quarters. Two-minute time-outs between quarters allows coaches to make the needed substitutions to adhere to the all-play rule.

27. The Junior, senior and senior high leagues will play 25-minute halves with free substitutions on dead ball situations. All play rule is in effect is these leagues. Coaches must pay close attention to playing time due to free substitution.

28. All-Play rule: All players will play a minimum of one (1) half in junior, senior and senior high leagues and two (2) quarters in instructional, modified, minor and major leagues.

29. Half times shall be five minutes in all games (excluding Instructional league).

START OF PLAY

30. Kick off will be decided by a coin toss between a player from each team.

31. The winner of the coin toss will elect to kick off or receive. Kick offs will alternate between each team after each quarter or half. Kick offs will also occur when a team scores a goal. The scored on team will receive after a goal. (In the instructional league at the end of each half quarter the team with possession will keep possession and administer a throw in. At the end of each full quarter the team with possession will throw-in from mid-field.)

32. A forward player kicks the ball from a position at midfield to start play. (Refer to VHSL rulebook) The ball shall be kicked while it is stationary on the ground in the center of the field of play. A goal may be scored directly from the kickoff. The ball is in play when it moves forward **and over the line one full rotation**. The forward player that kicked the ball first cannot again kick the ball until another players has kicked it.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE PLAY

33. Because this league is instructional and each child is expected to touch the ball often and develop ball-handling skills, no goalie position is used. Players will play both offensively and defensively during the game.

34. Throw-ins will be made on each ball kicked over the sideline or the end-line. The opposing team will administer the throw-in in a proper manner.

35. No corner kicks

36. No penalty kicks

37. No direct free kicks

38. No official standings or scores will be kept.

Other Rules

39. If the ball travels out of bounds, or a quarter or half has ended, a throw-in from the sideline or end line must be performed. The proper technique for an inbounds throw is that both feet must be out of bounds when making the throw, both hands must throw directly over the head, both feet must remain on the ground as the throw is made, and a player will get two chances to correctly in-bounds the soccer ball. If after two chances, a player has not correctly in-bounded the ball, the ball will be awarded to the opposing team.

40. Goals will be a modified six foot long.

41. Slide tackling will only be allowed in Major, Junior, Senior and Senior High Leagues. Slide tackling has to come from the front or side. You cannot slide tackle from behind.

RULES FOR MODIFIED, MINOR, MAJOR, JUNIOR, SENIOR AND SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE PLAY

42. After the ball has wholly crossed the goal line or either of the sidelines the ball is out of play.

43. Any ball striking an official, goal post, or corner post and remains in the playing area is in play.

44. A goal is scored when the ball (wholly) crosses the goal line, between goal posts and under the crossbar.

45. The number of goals scored by a team determines the winner of a game. No standings will be kept in any league.

46. If at the end of regulation play the game is tied, it will be declared and end a tie game.

47. While going towards an opponent's goal the offensive team may not have a player ahead of the ball unless there are two defending players present.

48. There are nine (9) prohibited acts for which a referee can award a direct kick to the offending team: 1.) kicking 2.) tripping 3.) jumping an opponent 4.) violent charging 5.) striking opponent 6.) holding 7.) pushing 8.) handling the ball 9.) charging from behind

49. An indirect kick will be awarded when the following acts occur: 1.) dangerous play 2.) charging away from ball 3.) charging the goalie when he doesn't have the ball 4.) Opponent obstruction

50. Direct free kicks can be used to attempt a goal or pass to a teammate. (The opposing team must be 10 yards away from the ball)

51. Another player must touch an indirect kick before a goal can be scored. (The opposing team must be 10 yards from the ball)

52. A penalty kick is awarded after a serious infraction has taken place in the penalty area. The ball is placed 12 yards from the goal on a designated spot directly in front of the goal. All players must leave the penalty area except for the kicker and the goalie. (See VHSL Rulebook) The goalie must stand on the goal line, between the goal posts, until the ball is kicked. Lateral movement is allowed, but the goalkeeper is not allowed to come off the line by stepping or lunging forward until the ball is in play. The kick cannot be attempted until the official has given the whistle to do so.

53. If the ball is declared out of bounds on the sideline, there will be an inbound throw attempt. When making an inbounds throw both feet must be out of bounds when making the throw, the ball must be thrown by both hands directly over the head, both feet must remain on the ground as the throw is made, and on incorrect throws the ball is awarded to the opposing team.

54. A goal kick is awarded when the ball (after being kicked by the offense) crosses the goal line but not within the goal scoring area. The ball is usually placed on the corner of the goal area nearest the side the ball went out of bounds. The ball when kicked must clear the penalty area before either team can attempt a play. The goalie or fullback usually takes the kick.

55. A corner kick is awarded when the ball crosses the goal line, last touched by the defending team, and does not enter the goal area. One member of the attacking team takes that ball to the corner nearest where the ball was kicked over the goal line and places it in the quarter circle. The ball is then kicked by this player and may be kicked directly into the goal. The opposing team must remain 10 yards from a corner kick. The kicker may not attempt a second kick until another player touches the ball.

56. Any situation that may occur during the course of this program that may need clarification, or ruling can be handled under the authority of the Recreation Department.

57. VHSL rules apply to any situation not listed in the above-mentioned by-laws.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

58. Only registered coaches may take disciplinary action against a child by completing the disciplinary action guideline checklist and completing the form. The form must be submitted at least two (2) business days prior to requested action. The Youth Athletic Coordinator will respond to your request as to its approval/disapproval once a decision is made.

GAME CHANGE REQUESTS

59. Requests for game changes will only be accepted due to school activities (i.e. field trips, band concerts, graduations, etc.) Requests must be submitted at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled game.

Important info from the VHSL rulebook to remember:

60. The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed a goal line or touch line whether on ground or in the air.

61. A play is not stopped until the referee sounds the whistle. This means coaches or parents or other team members cannot enter the field of play before the whistle.

62. After the penalty kick is properly taken the ball may be played by any player except the one who executed the penalty. The kicker may not play the ball until it has been touched or played by another player on either team. (Not the goalie)

63. A player shall be penalized for deliberately handling, carrying striking or propelling the ball with a hand or arm except for the goal keeper.

64. A player shall only be penalized for being in an offside position if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate, that player is involved in active play by interfering with play or with an opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position. A player is not offsides when at the moment the ball was played by either team he was onsidess.