

**CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH  
PARKS & RECREATION**

**YOUTH SOCCER RULES**



Rules derived from “Laws of the Game” by FIFA (International Federations of Association Football) and locally adopted recreational rules. Changes have been made to meet local requirements.

**A. NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

**1. Little Kickers (Ages 3 & 4) – Instructional League**

a. A once a week instructional program. Each Saturday for the first three weeks participants will be in a skill and drill camp like atmosphere. The last three weeks will consist of scrimmage games with coaches on the field. All participants will wear the shirt provided to differentiate the teams. This is strictly a Recreational Instructional League...

**2. DIVISIONS 1 & 2 (Ages 5-6 Division 1) (Ages 7-8 Division 2)- SHORT FIELD**

- a. Each team will play with a maximum of 8 players on a side, which includes the goalkeeper.
- b. A team must play all players present up to 8 players.
- c. To begin a game each team needs at least 5 players to start a game or game is declared a forfeit. If game is declared a forfeit, coaches will divide teams equally and play. Game Time is Forfeit Time. Officials will officiate forfeited games.
- d. In **Division 1 & 2** if one team is short players the other team **will play one player up**, but never more than one player. Example: Team “A” has 7 players, and Team “B” has 8 players. Team “B” will play with 8 players on the field. If Team “A” has 6 players, Team “B” would then play with 7 Players. If team “A” has only 5 players, Team “B” would play with 6 players.
- e. **Division 1 -Five Yard Rule** In all dead ball situations, defending players must stand at least five yards away from the ball. If the defensive goal area is less than five yards from the dead ball spot, the ball shall be placed five yards from the goal area in line with the spot of the penalty.

**3. DIVISIONS 3 & 4 (Ages 9-10 Division 3) (Ages 11-14 Division 4)- FULL FIELD**

- a. Each team will play with a maximum of 11 players on a side, which includes the goalkeeper.
- b. A team must play all players present up to 11 players. If a coach chooses to play less players and keep players on the side, that team will play at a disadvantage. To begin a game each team needs at least 7 players to start a game or game is declared a forfeit. If game is declared a forfeit, coaches will divide teams equally and play. Game Time is Forfeit Time. Officials will officiate forfeited games.
- c. In **Division 3 & 4** if one team is short players the other team **will play one player up**, but never more than one player. Example: Team “A” has 9 players and Team “B” has 11 or more players. Team “B” will play with 10 players on the field. If Team “A” has 8 players, Team “B” would then play with 9 Players. If team “A” has only 7 players Team “B” would play with 8 players.

## **ALL DIVISIONS – Coaches and Players**

Registered coaches and or adult representatives approved by the Parks & Recreation Dept are only allowed to coach the team and to be present on the sidelines with the players. Only players listed on the official roster are eligible to play in their scheduled games. No players from other teams are allowed to play in other scheduled games or forfeited games. Each roster will be checked prior to each match by the Field Coordinator and/or Center Official. **No Exceptions to this rule.**

### **B. COIN TOSS**

A pre-game coin toss will be conducted by the Center Official between a representative captain from each team. The team listed second on the schedule (Home Team) shall call the toss. The winner of the coin toss will get choice of goal to defend or kick off.

### **C. KICKOFF**

1. DIVISION 1 & 2 Direct Kick to start the game is ok.
  - a. Goal can be made provided a defender touched the ball first.
2. DIVISION 3 & 4 Indirect Kick to begin. (FIFA Rule) – Ball must be passed forward to a teammate to begin kickoff from the center of the field.
  - a. If team fails, one warning will be given to team. Official will explain rule. Team will then get a second opportunity. If team fails again, whistle blown and ball turned over to defending team.
3. Opposite team kicks off for second half.
4. Teams change goals to defend for second half.

### **D. DURATION OF GAME**

#### **1. Division 1 & 2**

- a. Two (2) 20 minute periods of running time kept by Official.
- b. Five (5) minute half time break.
- c. At the Ten (10) minute mark of each period, official will blow whistle and provide teams the opportunity to substitute players. This is a (2) minute substitution break and is the only time for substitutions for Division 1 & 2. For injuries players may be substituted out.
- d. No time outs except for injury, illness, halftime and 10-minute substitution.

#### **2. Division 3 & 4**

- a. Two (2) equal periods of 24 minutes running time kept by the Official.
- b. Five (5) minute half time break.
- c. At the (12) minute mark of each period, official will blow whistle and provide teams an opportunity to substitute players. This is a (2) minute substitution break.
- d. No time outs except for injury, illness, halftime and 12-minute Substitution.
- e. Added time at discretion of Center Official for injury, etc.

### **E. SUBSTITUTION –**

#### **1. Division 1 & 2**

- a. Substitute only at 10 minutes and half time.
- b. Any time for injury or illness.
- c. Substitution/change of goalkeeper is ok with Center Official's permission.
- d. All team members must have equal playing time. (As close as possible)

**2. Division 3, 4**

- a. Free substitution, coaches may substitute players with the approval of center official on any goal kick, corner kick, throw in or kick off. No Substitutions allowed with (2) two or less minutes remaining in the game. All team members must have equal playing time. (As close as possible)
- b. Substitution also can be made at the (12) minute mark of each period.
- c. Any time for injury or illness.
- d. Coach shall inform Official of desire to substitute.
- e. Substitutes when entering the field of play shall enter the field at the halfway line. Players may not enter the field until player being replaced has exited the field on their sideline.
- f. Center Official must signal permission to enter or leave field of play.
- g. Substitution/change of Goalkeeper is ok with Center Official's permission.
- h. No substitutions will be allowed during the last two minutes of the game.

**F. FIELD RESTRICTIONS**

**1. Division Little Kickers, 1, 2, 3, 4**

- a. Three (3) foot restraining line on sideline must be observed by spectators.
- b. No Spectators are allowed on end lines and on the side of the players.
- c. Players and coaches are only allowed in the designated Team Area and behind the (3) foot restraining line.
- d. Coach's box is 10 yards from centerline.
- e. Teams listed first remain left of centerline.
- f. Teams listed second remain right of centerline.
- g. Little Kickers and Division 1 Team coaches are allowed behind the goal to help the goalie.
- h. Little Kickers and Division 1 is allowed one coach on the field.

**G. THE BALL**

1. Division Little Kickers & 1
  - a. Size 3
2. Division 2 & 3
  - a. Size 4
3. Division 4
  - a. Size 5

**H. PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

1. Soccer Jerseys will be provided for each team. Players must wear uniform for each game.
2. Shin guards. It is mandatory that the player wear knee-hi socks to help the shin guards stay in place.
3. Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player or him/herself. (Watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, taped earrings, plastic or metal hairpieces, medical braces, ball caps)
4. Front toe cleats on soccer shoes are allowed.

**I. OFF-SIDES**

1. Division 1 & 2
  - a. No off-sides unless it is obvious that the player's intent and purpose is to score from that position.
2. Division 3 & 4
  - a. Off-sides will be called.

**J. ADDITIONAL PLAYERS**

You may **not** add players to your roster unless it has been allowed by the Parks & Recreation Department. We have a waiting list. Positions will be filled from this list.

**L. END OF SEASON SOCCER TOURNAMENT –**

1. Divisions 3 & 4 only.
2. Single elimination playoff with all teams.
3. Tournament seeds are based on random selection.
4. Length of games are same as season
5. Any tie at the end of regulation time will be resolved by a penalty kick.
  - Any 5 players from each team participate.
  - Any further ties resolved by the next 5 players. Must be different players.
  - Coin toss with captains for first kick.
  - Defending team may change goalkeeper prior to each kick with officials ok.
6. No silly string will be allowed

**M. AWARDS –**

1. Participant medallions will be given to all players in the league.
2. For Division 3 & 4 Tournament 1st and 2nd place teams will be given a Gold or Silver Medallion instead of the participant medallions.

## CONDUCT RULES

A. Protests: The only protest allowed will be players' eligibility.

B. **UN-SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT – For Coaches, Players and Spectators**

***“Un-sportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated”***

1. Un-sportsmanlike conduct can include, but is not limited to the following: taunting, baiting, having a “bad attitude” (i.e. continually complaining or griping, open defiance, rebellious nature, back talk, attempting to influence a decision by an official, questioning an official's judgment or showing disgust with decision, profane or insulting language or gestures, disrespectfulness to any person, intentional rudeness or crudeness). Using or possession of drugs, alcohol or tobacco; stealing; any verbal or physical abuse of any person, or willful damage to grounds or facilities will be cause for suspension from the program (either temporary or permanent and possibly from the area, and possibly criminal or civil charges). **ALL AT THE DISCRETION OF MANAGEMENT.**

2. **Un-sportsmanlike conduct Rules to be enforced:** An *unsportsmanlike foul* to a player requires the player to be removed from the playing field (for five minutes or ejection from the game all at the discretion of the official). A substitute may come in to replace player, if no sub is available, the team will play down a player. The player may return after five minutes on the next available substitution whistle. An *unsportsmanlike game misconduct foul* to any player or coach will result in ejection from both the current game and the next scheduled game. When a spectator continues to be unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the game, the official can suspend the game until the situation is resolved so the game can proceed in an orderly manner.

3. **The Parks & Recreation Department will strictly enforce the Recreational League Format. Please help us continue the success of our leagues. Any Coach, Player or Spectator that does not display a Recreational and Positive Image in our programs faces being suspended for one year or Life. It is all about a Positive Experience. Thank You for your support...**

**This league is Strictly Recreational and Unsportsmanlike Conduct will not be tolerated. We thank you for helping us provide an exceptional experience for all involved in the program.**