



Jefferson City Area YMCA
Spring 2021 Outdoor Soccer Rules



The Jefferson City YMCA youth soccer program offers youth a chance to play regardless of race, gender, religious affiliation, financial resources or athletic talent. The program seeks to offer each player an appropriate level of competition so that physical, social and spiritual skills may be developed to their utmost. Player assignment is by school and grade level, but the YMCA may make exceptions.

If a situation is not covered by these abbreviated rules, USSF rules shall apply.

1. **Officials:** A standard 3 person officiating crew should be made available for all 2nd through 8th grade level games (Referee and 2 Assistant Referees “AR”). A 2 person officiating crew will be used when personnel are not available. A head referee or a 2 person officiating crew will be used for 1st grade level games. Officials may provide technical assistance to players on the field, but will not override the coach’s instructions.
2. **Substitutions:** Substitutions shall be made with the approval of the Referee. Either team may substitute between periods, on a goal kick, corner kick, goal scored, play has been stopped for an injured player, or to caution or disqualify a player. The team in possession of the ball may substitute on a throw-in. Ejected players may be replaced and may not play in their team’s next game. A player on the field may change places with the goalkeeper whenever there is a stoppage; the referee must be notified when the goalkeeper is changed, players who have left the game may re-enter as subs. A player with blood on the uniform shall exit the game and may not enter until the blood is removed (athletic or duct tape may be used to temporarily cover the blood with referee approval).
3. **Equipment:** All players must wear shin guards; dangerous clothing or equipment may not be worn: jewelry and hoodies (unless worn or tucked), including hard casts or hard splints (unless approved by the Y). Religious or medical medals may be taped inside the uniforms. The goalkeeper’s jersey should contrast with those of both teams. Soccer cleats are encouraged (no metal). Due to Covid19, masks may be worn during play. If not wearing them for protection during play then they shall not be worn around the neck or in an otherwise dangerous way.
4. **Coin Toss:** No coin toss. Home team will wear white and will kick off to start the match to be consistent, start on time and provide social distancing.
5. **Kick Offs:** Kicks from the Center Mark may travel any direction. The striker may be in the attacking half to begin.
6. **Scoring:** Referees will signal when goals are scored, but they will not be tallied. A winner will not be determined. A goal can be scored from any kick on the field, if allowed by the restart (Direct or Indirect).
7. **Game Clock:** Time will not be stopped. Games should start and end on time, unless approval is given due to player injuries. Games will end at the conclusion of the allotted time. The horn will sound for dangerous weather; all will vacate the fields and go to their vehicles until the weather clears or games are cancelled. Half played games are complete.
8. **Offside:** Pre-K through 1st grade will not have offside violations called. All other games the Referee and/or AR’s will signal when an offside violation occurs. The buildout line may used to determine offside violations. A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent’s deliberate play is not offside.
9. **Free Kicks:** All free kicks will be Indirect except for 6-8th grade games where Direct Kicks are allowed including Corner Kick’s. There will be no Penalty Kicks. On an Indirect Kick the ball must be kicked and clearly moved with a second touch by any other player before a goal can be counted. A touch and ball movement is all that is needed. If requested 8yds will be given and then a ceremonial restart provided; space should be given for a quick restart. Goal kicks and other restarts inside the penalty area do not need to leave the penalty area to be a live ball.

10. **Fouls:** There will be no slide tackling at any age level. More severe fouls will be dealt with by showing a yellow/red cards and/or time outs or ejections. A yellow card will require a 5 minute rest on the bench.
11. **Spectators:** Fans and families are encouraged to observe social distancing and may sit anywhere around the pitch.
12. **Coaches:** The team coach and assistant coaches should remain near their own team bench to provide strategic instruction to the players on the field. This helps to alleviate confusion from where instructions are coming from.
13. **Headers:** Players from 1st through 5th grade are not allowed to intentionally head the ball. Intentional head contact with the ball will be a violation with the opposite team receiving an Indirect Kick. This is to reduce possible concussions. Play should be stopped if appropriate when the ball strikes a players head.
14. **Sportsmanship:** Use of profanity/vulgar language and other unsporting conduct shall not be tolerated by player, coach or fan. Appropriate response: Card for a player or coach, request to cease for fan and incident report to the YMCA. Continued unsporting conduct by the coaches and spectators shall be reported immediately to the YMCA supervisor and may be requested to be dismissed by the referee or YMCA staff.
15. **Buildout Line:** Use of the buildout line (1st thru 3rd grade) is to encourage play starting from the back and discourages punts, headers and possible concussion. The line will be halfway between the penalty area and the halfline. The opposing team shall move behind the buildout line as quickly as possible. The ball may be challenged once the ball is put into play. If the team in possession decides to quick play the ball before the opposing team moves behind the line then play shall continue. If the team does not attempt to move behind the line, the referee shall stop play to encourage compliance in the rule and award an indirect free kick for the defending team.
16. **Throw-Ins:** Throw-ins will occur and will follow the process as listed in the laws of the game.
17. **Safety:** Based upon directives issued by US Youth Soccer and Missouri Youth Soccer Association, all participants either playing, coaching, officiating or watching should observe social distancing as practical. Face coverings are encouraged for those not playing. A player may wear an appropriate face covering as desired. Families should not bunch together with others and may sit anywhere around the pitch. Snacks and drinks should not be provided to players. Players should bring their own water bottle and not share their water. Players are encouraged to bring their own ball to practice with. The match ball shall be sanitized before the start of each quarter. Hand touching of players should not occur though handshakes, high fives, pats on the shoulder, etc...

Summary of Playing Conditions

Grade	# of Players	GK	Game Length	Ball Size	Headers	Keeper Punts	Buildout Line	Offside
Pre-K	4 vs 4	No	4 – 10 min qtrts	3	N/A	No	N/A	No
K	4 vs 4	No	4 – 10 min qtrts	3	N/A	No	N/A	No
1	6 vs 6	Yes	4 – 12 min qtrts	4	No	No	Yes	No
2-3	6 vs 6	Yes	4 – 12 min qtrts	4	No	No	Yes	Yes
4-5	8 vs 8	Yes	4 – 12 min qtrts	4	No	Yes	No	Yes
6-8	8 vs 8	Yes	4 – 12 min qtrts	5	Yes	Yes	No	Yes