



# 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>-Grade Rules Sheet

**Registration:** All players **MUST** have a current 2022-23 Club membership and all fees paid prior to participating in the Spring 2023 Soccer League.

## Equipment:

- The Ball: Size 4.
- Uniform: BGCLCV issued uniform. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions.
- Footwear: tennis shoes or soccer cleats.
- Shinguards: Must be worn and must be placed inside (underneath) player's socks.
- Illegal Equipment: hard protruding objects, casts, jewelry and zippers.
- Goals: 6.5 ft high x 12 ft wide.

## Players:

- Maximum number of players on field at any one time is seven (including goalkeeper).
- Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed fourteen (14).
- Substitutions: At any stoppage with permission of referee (subs must enter through middle of field).
- Teams and games are coed. An uneven number of boys & girls per team are allowed.
- Playing time: Each player **SHALL** play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. It is the coach's responsibility to monitor playing times. Referees, field monitors and/or the Athletic Director may intervene if this rule is not being followed.
- If a team does not have seven (7) players to start a game, they have the option to play with less players (minimum of 5) or forfeit the game. If they choose to forfeit, they may borrow a player from the other team if there are enough players to start a regulation game. In this scenario, the team with enough players to start the game will be declared the winner (despite the final score).
  - The referee will select the player(s) from the other team at random in this scenario.

## Player Placement:

- See player placement policy on the website ([www.poweroftheclub.org](http://www.poweroftheclub.org)).

## Field Size:

- Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, 30x50yds.
- Markings: Distinctive lines no more than five (5) inches wide.
  - Halfway Line: shall be marked out across the field.
  - Center Circle: with a four (4) yard radius.
  - Corner Arcs: Four (4) each with a one (1) yard radius.
  - Goal Area: Five (5) yards from each goal post and five (5) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
  - Penalty Area: Ten (10) yards from each goal post and ten (10) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. Penalty kick mark is 8 yards from the goal line.

## Start and Restart of Play:

**Pre-game equipment check** – Three (3) minutes before start time. Have all players line up (socially-distanced) five yards from the midfield line (on their side) to check equipment (shoes & shin guards).

**Pre-game conference** – One minute before start time. One coach and one player (designated captain) per team will go to midfield for the conference. Have starters out on the field in their positions during the conference. Designated HOME team will get choice of starting on offense or defense.

- The offense can have any number of players in the center circle on their half of the field.
- The defense must be outside the center circle and on their own half of the field.

## Duration of the Game:

- The game shall be divided into two 25-minute halves with a 3-minute half-time break. No added time.
- Tournament games tied after regulation will be determined by a five (5) penalty kick shoot-out, followed by a sudden death shoot-out if necessary.

## Ball in and Out of Play:

- Ball must completely cross the line to be "out of play," ball is "in play" if any part of the ball is on or above the line.

**Throw-In:**

- Awarded when the ball completely crosses the sideline.
- Opponent must be five (5) yards away.
- Players back foot must stay on the ground when releasing the ball.
  - Failure to do so will result in loss of possession.

**Method of Scoring:**

- Ball must completely cross the goal line between goal posts and beneath crossbar for a goal.

**Off-Side:**

- Offside Position- PLAY IS NOT STOPPED FOR OFFSIDE POSITION. A player is in offside position if that player is nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second to last defender. This only applies in the defender's half of the field.
- Offside Offense- A player in an offside position is penalized **ONLY IF**, at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate, that player is involved in active play. The opposing team gets an indirect free kick from the spot of the violation.
- No Offside - There is no offside offense if a player receives the ball directly from a goal kick, throw in, or corner kick.

**Fouls and Misconduct:**

- The yellow card is used to communicate that a player or coach has been cautioned/warned.
- The red card is used to communicate that a player or coach has been ejected.
- A yellow card requires immediate substitution of offending player. The player may return to the field at the next regular substitution.
- A red card results in immediate ejection from game with no replacement/substitution allowed.

**Free Kick:**

- Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball during the free kick.

**Penalty Kick:**

- Awarded when a defending player commits a foul within their own penalty area.
- Penalty Mark is made eight (8) yards from the goal post in the center of the field.

**Goal Kick:**

- Awarded when the ball passes over the goal line and is last touched by the attacking team.
- The opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick inside goal area.

**Corner Kick:**

- Awarded when the ball passes over the goal line and is last touched by the defending team.
- The opposing team puts the ball back into play with a corner kick inside the corner arc.

**Slide Tackling: Not allowed at this level**

**Heading policy/rule:** Players cannot use their heads to control a ball in the air, pass the ball OR shoot on goal. If a player heads the ball at this age, the referee will blow their whistle and award a free kick to the opposing team.

**General Rules:** Coaches are responsible for knowing and following the rules; which govern the game and are not open to negotiation. All rules apply and supersede any error made by a referee during the course of the game. Any situation/incident not covered by the rules will be arbitrated by the Athletic Director (after consulting with the field monitors, referees and all involved parties).

**For more information, contact:**

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