



# 7th/8th-Grade Playing Rules

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

## Equipment:

- The Ball: Size 5.
- Uniform: BGCLCV issued uniform. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions.
- Footwear: tennis shoes or soccer cleats.
- Shinguards: Must be worn inside socks and covered entirely by socks.
- Illegal Equipment: hard protruding objects, casts, jewelry and zippers.
- Goals: 6.5 ft. high and 21 feet wide.

## Players:

- Maximum number of players on field at any one time is 9 (including goalkeeper).
- Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed sixteen (16).
- Substitutions: At any stoppage with permission of referee (subs must enter field at midfield).
- Teams/rosters will be co-ed. Playing time: Each player **SHALL** play a minimum of 33% of the total playing time. It is the coach's responsibility to monitor each player's playing time. Referees, field monitors and/or the Athletic Director may intervene to enforce this policy if necessary.
- If a team does not have nine (9) players to start a game; but has eight players, then we will play 8v8 format. A team can start the game with seven players. A team can "borrow" players from their opponent if there are enough players to play a regulation game. In this scenario, the team with enough players to start the game will get the win if team (regardless of the final score). **NOTE** – Players can **ONLY** be borrowed from the opposing team (no other teams/rosters can be used) and can alternate during the game.

## Field Size:

- Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular (40 yards wide x 75 yards long).
- Markings: Distinctive lines no more than five (5) inches wide.
  - Halfway Line: shall be marked out across the field.
  - Center Circle: with a four-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 twelve (12) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. Penalty kick mark is made at nine (9) 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 bench side) for the equipment (shoes & shin guards) check.

**Pre-game conference** – One minute before start time. One coach and one player (designated captain) per team will go to midfield for the conference. ***HOME team will have first possession choice and attack opposite goal from their bench. HOME team is to right of midfield (facing spectators). Visiting sideline is left of midfield.***

- 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 thirty-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime. No added time for regular-season games tied after regulation.
- 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." Ball is "in" if any part is on or above the line.

**Throw-In:**

- Awarded when the ball completely crosses the sideline.
- Opponent must be eight (8) yards away.
- Player's back foot must stay on the ground when releasing the ball.
  - Failure to do so will result in loss of possession

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

**Heading policy** – Heading is allowed in this age group.

**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 place where the offense occurred.
- No Offside - There is no offside violation 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 the offending player to immediately be substituted. 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 on a free kick.

**Penalty Kick:**

- Awarded when a defending player commits a foul within their own penalty area.
- Penalty mark/spot is made twelve (12) yards from the goal post in the center of the field.

**Goal Kick:**

- When the ball crosses the goal line on the attacking end 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:**

- When the ball crosses the goal line on the attacking end and last touched by the defending team.
- The opposing team puts the ball back into play with a corner kick inside the corner arc.

**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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