



Rec Game Rules & Guidelines

- General comments
 - have fun!
 - do not emphasize winning or losing
 - encourage sportsmanship (including cheering for the opposing team). It is bad sportsmanship to win by more than 4 goals.
 - have players shake hands after a game in a positive manner
 - encourage lots of water consumption at breaks
 - each player attending a game must play at least half the game time. Ideally, all players attending a game should play approximately an equal amount of time. In no case should better players play the entire game.
 - Please remember that our referees are youth and in-training. Do not expect professional referees at younger age groups. Any coach or parent found harassing our youth referees will be disciplined up to and possibly including being banned from the fields. It's a game!
 - If either team is short players, we expect the coach with more players to show sportsmanship by playing down to the opposing teams size.

- Kindergarten - Overview of the game
 - FIFA laws of the game will apply unless altered below
 - parents MUST be actively involved in practices and games
 - parents should stand around edge of the field and keep the ball in play during games
 - lots of encouragement for all players (on both teams)
 - help rotate kids in and out of games
 - help keep kids on sidelines focused during the games
 - games are played 3 v. 3, with no goalie
 - use a number 3 ball
 - no goaltending is allowed by position players, and throw-ins may not be directed toward the goal . (A position player may not be assigned to remain in the goalie box).
 - games are four 8 minute quarters with 2 minutes between quarters and 5 minutes at half
 - switch sides at half time
 - no referee, but coaches on field (to help introduce concept of authority)
 - each coach can stop play for a hand-ball violation or any contact fouls
 - game is re-started with a free-kick (indirect) after violation or foul
 - no throw-ins or corner kicks - parents and coaches roll the ball in
 - use a center kick-off after a goal is scored
 - substitutions can be made at any time
 - no offsides and no slide tackling
 - absolutely no jewelry (no ear rings of any kind)

- 1st Grade - Overview of the game
 - FIFA laws of the game will apply unless altered below
 - games are played 4 v. 4, with no goalie. (A position player may not be assigned to remain in the goalie box).
 - use a number 3 ball
 - no goaltending is allowed by position players, and throw-ins may not be directed toward the goal . (A position player may not be assigned to remain in the goalie box).
 - games are four 8 minute quarters with 2 minutes between quarters and 5 minutes at half
 - switch sides at half time
 - no direct or penalty kicks. All kicks are indirect
 - no corner kicks – use throw-ins instead
 - 2nd try for throw-ins will be allowed

- use a center kick-off after a goal is scored
- substitutions follow high school rules (subs enter at mid-line after being recognized by the ref)
- no offsides and no slide tackling
- coaches can be given yellow and/or red cards
- referee decisions are final
- absolutely no jewelry (no ear rings of any kind)

➤ 2nd/3rd Grade - Overview of the game

- FIFA laws of the game will apply unless altered below
- games are played 5 v. 5, including the goalie
- use a number 4 ball
- games are four 10 minute quarters with 2 minutes between quarters and 5 minutes at half
- no direct or penalty kicks. All kicks are indirect
- 2nd try for throw-ins will be allowed
- substitutions follow high school rules (subs enter at mid-line after being recognized by the ref)
- no offsides and no slide tackling
- coaches can be given yellow and/or red cards
- referee decisions are final
- absolutely no jewelry (no ear rings of any kind)

➤ 4th/5th Grade - Overview of the game

- FIFA laws of the game will apply unless altered below
- games are played 7 v. 7, including the goalie
- use a number 4 ball
- games are four 12 minute quarters with 2 minutes between quarters and 5 minutes at half
- substitutions follow high school rules (subs enter at mid-line after being recognized by the ref)
- no slide tackling
- coaches can be given yellow and/or red cards
- referee decisions are final
- absolutely no jewelry (no ear rings of any kind)

➤ 6th Grade & Up - Overview of the game

- FIFA laws of the game will apply unless altered below
- games are played 8 v. 8, including the goalie
- use a number 5 ball
- games are two 30 minute halves with 5 minutes at half
- substitutions follow high school rules (subs enter at mid-line after being recognized by the ref)
- coaches can be given yellow and/or red cards
- referee decisions are final
- absolutely no jewelry (no ear rings of any kind)

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions **(during the first week of the season)**

1. What should I do when a parent tells me that their son/daughter cannot practice on the nights that we have practice (i.e. they want their child switched from a M/W practice schedule to a T/Th practice schedule)?

Make sure that you communicate that everything is done, within reason, to honor practice night requests indicated during registration. Remind parents that any requests that are honored are done so on a first-com first-served basis. Please try to encourage the parent to stay where they are as there is no guarantee that we can make a switch. If that does not work, please email the request to us and we will see what we can do.

2. What should I do if one or more of the players on my team cannot play (because of an injury or a change in plans)?

Contact us immediately. We will do everything we can to assign you another player from the waiting list or find another one if possible.

3. What should I do if a neighbor, friend, etc. has a child that they would like added to my team?

Do not add any players to your team. All player additions must go through the waitlist registration process. Please send them to the website to register and then let us know what's happening by email.

4. What should I do if a parent asks if their son/daughter can be switched to a different team for car pool reasons, to be on the same team as a friend, to get a different coach, etc.?

Please see the answer to question 1. Generally, requests of this type are not honored.

Policy for Re-Scheduling Games

Games will be cancelled in the event of poor weather conditions (as determined by the Augusta FC field coordinator) and posted to the website on game day. Coaches may NOT cancel a game on their own, for any reason. If the fields remain open, then coaches and players are expected to be at the field. If have extenuating circumstances as a team well in advance of any given game, let us know and we will try to work out an alternative. This would only apply in the case of several players being absent. In the event that player's safety may be an issue after arriving for a game, referees will consult coaches on the field to determine if a short break, or cancellation, may be in order.

The decision of whether or not to re-schedule a cancelled game is up to the individual coaches. We will also allow the coaches to work out a reschedule date and time and communicate it to us. If you choose to rely on the club to reschedule a game, then email us and let us know.

Regular season games have no bearing on the end-of-season tournaments, so there is no need to re-schedule cancelled games for that purpose. However, we do encourage any missed games to be re-scheduled and will work with you in any way needed.

The following procedure should be followed to re-schedule a game (if you and the opposing coach decide to re-schedule a game):

- Decide on day and time to re-schedule the game with the opposing coach. Games can be re-scheduled during your regularly schedule practice time or during any open weekend time slot.
- Communicate day and time of re-scheduled game to the club immediately so we can coordinate refs and prevent any conflicts.

Field Information

Please remind your parents that we are guests at all of our fields. Our ability to continue playing on them depends on how we act as guests!

Please refer to the directions and location maps on the website.

Park in designated areas only. This is especially true at VSDB where parents can park in the grass to the left of the entrance and the Strader Hall lot only. There is no soccer traffic allowed for any reason in the back entrance of VSDB.

No pets are allowed. No exceptions. Parents with pets will be asked to leave the facility immediately.

Please respect the facilities and pick up all trash. Leave the fields cleaner than you found them.

No climbing or hanging on the goals at all.

No smoking at any of our fields or near any players at any time.