

JOPLIN PARKS AND RECREATION YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Updated 2024

PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

- No player may participate without shoes or without shin guards that offer a reasonable degree of protection. Shin guards shall be worn properly to provide adequate and reasonable protection.
- Shin guards shall be professionally manufactured, age/size appropriate and unaltered.
- Prior to the match the referee will make sure that each player's equipment is in proper order.
- NO Jewelry is allowed to be worn during matches except medical bracelets, which must be taped down.
- All players will wear their team sponsor shirt, with a clearly visible number. Goalkeepers will be provided with the appropriate shirt.
- Players wearing orthopedic casts will not be allowed to play in any match.

GAME FORMAT:

- The number of players used in a game will depend upon the age of the league: 6U-6v6, 8U-8v8, 10/12U-8v8 and 14U-8v8, one of which must be a uniformed goalie in all age divisions.
- Five (5) players minimum are required to start and finish the game.
- The duration of the game for 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U shall be two (2) halves (running clock) of 20 minutes.
- The duration of the game for 6U will be four (4) quarters (running clock) of 10 minutes.
- The half-times and quarter-times shall be five (5) minutes.
- Teams will switch ends after each half for 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U.
- Offsides is called for 12u/14u only.
- Regular season games may end in a tie. If a post season (playoff) tournament game is tied, teams will play an additional 5 minutes. If at the end of the 5 minutes the teams are still tied, there will be a penalty shootout. 5 players from each team must attempt to score. Best out of 5 kicks will win the game. (Not Golden Goal OT)

- Weather Cancellations: If a game is called off at halftime or later, it concludes as is and will not be rescheduled. However, if inclement weather forces the game to end before halftime, it will be resumed at a later date from the point where it was called off, maintaining the same score and possession.

SUBSTITUTIONS:

- Substitutions may be made with permission of the referee.

Substitutions may be allowed:

- For both teams prior to a throw-in if team in possession is substituting. If team in possession is not substituting, then the other team may not substitute.
- Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- After a goal has been scored by either team.
- At the beginning of the second half of play.
- After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
- After the issuance of a caution, for the offending player. Opposing team may also substitute an equal number of players.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

- It is expected that players, coaches, and spectators will represent their teams in a sportsmanlike manner and will in no respect abuse the Referee, the opposing team, members of their own team, spectators, or ANYONE DOING SO MAY BE REQUIRED TO REMOVE THEMSELVES. Make a commitment to honor the game no matter what others may do.

NOT ALLOWED:

- FIGHTING
- SLIDE TACKLING
- FOUL LANGUAGE
- HEADING THE BALL
- PERSISTENT FOULS
- INTENTIONAL HANDBALLS
- DISSENSION TOWARD THE REFEREE
- CONTACT WITH THE OPPOSING GOALIE, IF THEY HAVE CONTROL OF THE BALL
- There will be designated areas for parent and spectator seating during a game. They may not sit near the players benches.

- Parents and spectators must be aware that they are responsible for their actions on the sidelines, and they can be sent off the field or even banned from future games for their misconduct. Parents and spectators must also be aware that the referee can ask them to leave the playing site, and if that request is refused, the referee may, terminate the match.
- If any player, substitute, or coach refuses to leave the playing site immediately after an ejection by the referee, the referee may terminate the match.
- The Joplin Parks and Recreation staff or a referee has the discretionary power to suspend or terminate a match whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, deems such stoppage necessary. Repetition of occurrences of misconduct which shows a “disregard for these guidelines” could lead to long term penalties, up to and including prohibition from further participation in Joplin Parks and Recreation play of the offending players and/or coaches. Participants, parents, spectators which display an inability to comply with the above policies and regulations may be restricted from further participation in the league.

REFEREES

- There will only be a center referee.
- The referee’s judgment regarding the physical conditions of the field and its acceptability for play, regarding the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the match, and regarding those prerogatives granted to him/her will not be challenged.
- A warning to a player or coach shows that the referee is aware of questionable conduct on the part of the warned person. The player or team official is thereby placed on notice that further conduct of this nature will result in further action. A warning may be given informally while the match is in progress.
- A caution is a formal statement to the player or team official that further misconduct will result in the cautioned person being sent off the field of play. If a player is cautioned, the player should be substituted for and not return to the field of play for at least 10 minutes of playing time. A caution is administered during a stoppage in play.

Coaches and players may be warned or cautioned (yellow card) for any of the following offenses:

- a) Entering or leaving the field of play without the referee’s permission.
- b) Persistent infringement of the rules
- c) Unsporting behavior (players), irresponsible behavior (coaches)

- d) Dissent by word or action
- e) Delaying the restart of play
- f) Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick.

When play is stopped, the referee shall:

- a) Inform the player or team official that he/she is being cautioned, the reason for the caution, and the consequences of further misconduct.
- b) Record the coach's name or player's name and number on the game report card, together with the nature of the offense.

SEND-OFFS AND DISMISSALS:

- A send-off is an order to a player to leave the field of play. A dismissal is an order to a coach to leave the vicinity of the playing area. They are administered during a stoppage in the match.
- Coaches may be dismissed, or players may be sent off for the following offenses:
 - a) Violent conduct or serious foul play
 - b) Foul or abusive language
 - c) Persistent misconduct after having received a caution.
 - d) Spitting at an opponent or any other person
 - e) Irresponsible behavior (coaches)
- When play is stopped, the referee shall:
 - a) Inform the player that he is being sent off or the coach that he or she is being dismissed.
 - b) Inform the player or team official of the nature of the offense.
 - c) Record the coach's name or the player's name and number on the game report card, together with the nature of the offense.
 - d) Send the player off the field of play, or the coach away from the playing area.

Minimum discipline associated with first time offenses:

Player

- If a player is cautioned three (3) times in any season, he/she will be automatically suspended for the team's next match. No appeal will be heard. Suspensions will result for each accumulation of three cautions during the season. Should a second caution in the same game result in a send-off, the first caution of that game will not be counted as one of the accumulated cautions.

- Players sent off for repeated misconduct during a match will be suspended for one league match.
- Players sent off for foul or abusive language or gestures will be suspended for at least one league match.
- Players sent off for threatening gestures will be suspended for at least one league match.
- Players sent off for violent conduct before, during or after a match, may be suspended for the rest of the season at the discretion of the Joplin Parks and Recreation administration.
- Players sent off for threatening a referee, coach or a spectator may be suspended for the rest of the season at the discretion of the Joplin Parks and Recreation administration.
- Players sent off for physically attacking a referee, coach or a spectator will be suspended for one year. Participation in subsequent seasons will be at the discretion of the Joplin Parks and Recreation administration.

Coaches

- If a coach is cautioned or written up by the ref, he/she will be on probation for the remainder of the season.
- Coaches under probation who subsequently receive a caution will be suspended for two games and responsibility of the team will default to the assistant coach. If there is no assistant coach, then the Joplin Parks and Recreation administration will decide who will lead the team.
- Suspension of a coach bars that person from match attendance or practice, even as a spectator. As such, referees and opposing coaches will also be notified of the suspension.
- Coaches who have received three cautions in a season or who have been dismissed will be suspended for the rest of the season and may not be allowed further participation in subsequent seasons.
- If a Coach receives a red card, he/she will be immediately suspended and may not be allowed further participation in subsequent seasons.