



Spring Soccer League Rules

I. Purpose

The Whitfield County Youth Soccer Program is organized to provide a wholesome recreational activity for the youth of Whitfield County. The program is designed for the following purposes:

- a. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
- b. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of soccer.
- c. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character.
- d. To teach good attitudes and discipline.

II. Organizational Structure

A. Governing Authority

1. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Parks & Recreation Department and the Recreation Board.

B. Governing Rules

1. The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Soccer League will be governed by the current rules and regulations of the Georgia High School Associations, with the exception of the local league rules, which supersede any rule in the current edition of the Georgia State High School Association.
2. The League rules will be developed by the Recreation Board and the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

C. Coaching Requirements

1. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
2. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of soccer.
3. A coach should never use profanity; drink alcoholic beverages, smoke, or use tobacco during any activity with players.
4. A coach must never incite players or parents by criticizing an official.
5. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning, but more concerned that each child has fun and learns the fundamentals while participating.
6. A coach should try to the best of their ability to keep each player (especially the weaker players) interested and participating throughout the season.
7. A coach should put the program first, and not focus on situations that could cause harm to the program and the participants involved.
8. A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games, and meetings or have an approved coach present.
9. Each coach should attend the NYSCA Clinic online @ www.nays.org. All-Star coaches must be NYSCA Certified to participate in GRPA tournaments.

III. Eligibility Requirements

- A. Age control date for soccer is age on or before September 1st of the current year. A legal aged player participating in the W.C.R.D. Soccer program may “Play Up” one (1) year beyond their age and must be approved by the W.C.R.D.
- B. A completed Whitfield County Recreation Department Roster accompanied by birth certificate and registration form (Green Card) must be on file before any team is eligible to compete in regular season games.
- C. Each participant must have insurance, whether private or through the Recreation Department.
- D. Playing ineligible players shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one-year time period.
- E. Any player suspended or absent from school should not be allowed to participate in a Whitfield County Parks & Recreation activity during the period of suspension or absenteeism.

IV. Park Conduct

- A. No profanity or abusive language is allowed. Offenders are subject to ejection from the game or the program.
- B. There should be no smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages permitted.
- C. All coaches or managers will be held responsible for their teams and fans conduct.
- D. Any coach ejected from a game for abusive language or conduct will be out for the rest of that game and the following two games. They will not be allowed to attend the games any capacity (eg. Parent or Spectator). Player ejected will be out for the rest of that game and the following game.
- E. Parents and Spectators must stay in the designated spectator area and not around the sidelines. Failure to do so will result in removal of fan.
- F. Coaches may hold players out for disciplinary reasons, but must be announced to the officials and opposing coach. (eg. player not attending practice).

V. Activities

- A. There will be three activities allowed per week including games and practices. No workouts will be allowed on Wednesday nights or Sundays. Practices should be limited to 1 ½ hours and be finished by 9:00 p.m.
- B. Practice sessions shall not be scheduled on PTA or Open House night.
- C. Violations of the practice rule will not be tolerated.

VI. The Game

- A. There will be **Two** equal halves of 15 minutes each for 3-6 Division
There will be **Two** equal halves of 20 minutes each for 7-8 Division
There will be **Two** equal halves of 20 minutes each for 9-10 Division
There will be **Two** equal halves of 25 minutes each for 11-12 Division
A whistle will be blown at 10 minutes in each half for reminder of Subs

1. If one complete half or more has been played in a game it may be called because of conditions and this is counted as a regulation game. If less than on half of the game has been played the game will be re-scheduled.
2. A Goalie will be used in the 7-8 and above. They are the only players allowed to use their hands.

Soccer Info	4-6 Division	7-8 Divisions	9-10 Divisions	11-12 Division
Ball Size	#3	#3	#4	#4
Field Size	30X40yds	40X50yds	40X50yds	40X80yds
Game Time	Two 15Min Halves	Two 20Min Halves	Two 20Min Halves	Two 25Min Halves
Goal Size	6ft Goal	12ft Goal	12ft Goal	18ft Goal

Parents are asked to set up on opposite side of where teams area.

VII. Rules

4-6	7 V 7
7-8	7 V 7
9-10	7 V 7
11-12	9 V 9

You may start a game with 1 less than number required to play without being a forfeit. Ex. 9v8 ,7v6.

1. The goal choice will be determined by a coin toss. There will be an exchanging of goals after each half.
2. A goal is counted as one (1) point.
3. A goal is scored when the entire ball passes legally beyond the goal line between the goal post under the crossbar. A ball on the goal line is not considered to have crossed the goal line.
4. A goal may be scored during normal play directly from a:
 - a. Direct Free Kick
 - b. Penalty Kick
 - c. Corner Kick
 - d. Drop Kick
 - e. Goal Kick
5. A goal may not be scored during a normal play directly from:
 - f. Throw In
 - g. Kick-off
6. After the kickoff, the ball may be played by any player except the one who kicked off until it has been touched or played by another player of either team
7. At no time may a player attempt to kick, strike, jump or trip another player. A player shall not hold, push or impede an opponent with hand (s) or arm (s) extended from the body. A player shall not place a hand (s) or are (s) extended from the body in a manner to deceive the opponent. A player shall not place a hand (s) on an opponent in an effort to reach the ball.
8. All players must wear approved shin guards in all games.
9. No Headers Allowed in any age groups
10. No Slide Tackles

VIII. Rules Extended

-Yellow Cards-Player removed and can Sub

-Red Cards-Player removed and play with 1 less

*Red card in 1st half (suspended that game only)

**Red card in 2nd half (suspended that game and 1st half on next game)

12. Play-offs (Knockout rounds) If the game is still tied after full time then you will go into a 10 minute over time. 5 minutes each half. **NO GOLDEN GOAL RULE**. If your team scores in over time that does **NOT** automatically mean you won the game. The whole 10 minute over time will need to conclude. If the game is still tied after over time then penalty shootout kicks will follow.

13. **Penalty shootout kicks**. Best of 5 kicks from the penalty spot will be taken. If still tied at the end of the 5th kick then it will be sudden death kicks. Please make sure you have everyone taking a penalty kick if it goes over 5 kicks. You CANNOT change goalies during the penalty shootout. If you want to change/substitute your goalie for penalty kicks then it must happen **BEFORE** overtime has finished.

Recreation Contacts

- **WCRD Office:** 706-226-8341 or wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com /Weather Hotline: 706-876-2570
- **Director:** Brian Chastain/ Email- bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com
- **Sports Manager:** Ryan Hollingsworth/Cell- 706-671-9882
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- **Facilities Coordinator:** Dewitt Morrison/ Cell: 706-264-3497
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New Ball Method 6U League

THE PROCESS:

Whenever a ball goes OUT OF PLAY, a coach announces “NEW BALL” and rolls another ball into play. When a GOAL IS SCORED, each team runs back to their side of the field and coach rolls the ball towards the team that was scored against.

NO KICKOFFS! NO KICK INS! NO GOAL KICKS! NO CORNER KICKS!

- Substitutions are done “on the fly” like hockey. When a player gets tired or the coach wants to make a substitution, the player runs off the field and a new player runs on. No stoppage.
- **U6** games consist of four, (8) minute quarters, with a (2) minute break between quarters, and a (5) minute break at the half. 6v6, no goalkeeper.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Several balls are required for this method. Both Coaches stand on same sideline with players (opposite parents). ONE coach holds one or two balls in their arms with other balls at feet and does the “New Ball” communication. Home team coach rolls ball first half, away team rolls ball second half.
- Coach rolls the ball to neutral space to start each quarter.
- If the ball goes slightly out of play, but the player dribbles the ball back in, that’s ok – let them play on! If ball goes behind the goal do not play on, roll in a new ball.
- The “NEW BALL” should be rolled to neutral space or toward the disadvantaged team.
- Coaches control the pace of the game. You may need to pause for a few seconds before distributing a new ball, especially after a goal. Give the players a few seconds to re-start and rest after a goal. Roll the new ball in near the center of the field toward the team that was scored against.
- DO NOT bounce the “New Ball” as it is difficult for these players to judge a bouncing ball at this age.
- Favor the team on the wrong end of a one sided game.
- Favor individual players who are not becoming involved in the game.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why use the New Ball Method?

- More touches on the ball: This method doubles or triples the number of touches by each player in a study conducted in 2001/2002 in youth soccer. More touches means faster skill development and increases enjoyment of the game.
- More playing time: Youth Soccer studied the effect of the New Ball Method and found that in a 8 minute quarter, the ball was in play for 4 minutes using traditional rules, and about 6 minutes and 30 seconds using the New Ball Method.
- This method will speed up the game; produce more goals and more excitement, while at the same time de-emphasizing the importance of scoring and emphasizing play and fun.
- This method can be used to get non-assertive players involved by rolling the new ball to those players; and can be used to even the playing field in a lopsided game. At this age, score is not kept, there is no win/loss record, and the emphasis is on playing, having fun and sportsmanship, not winning.
- Unlike at the higher levels, at this age, goal kicks, corner kicks, and kicks-ins do not provide the tactical advantage for the kicking team, and can often be a disadvantage. Consequently, re-starts substantially slow the game with no benefit to the player.
- The New Ball Method has proven to be a great success with clubs around the country that have adopted it.

Since there is no referee who calls the fouls?

- Fouls at this age are almost always innocent, and result from lack of coordination rather than malicious intent, so fouls should almost never be called—a player can be substituted and instructed on the rules of play when that player comes off the field.
- Players are rarely hurt (other than hurt feelings) by a foul at this age, and since score is not kept and records are not important, any tactical advantage obtained by a foul is meaningless. And can be corrected with the next “NEW BALL”

Who keeps Time?

- The coaches keep time. Or a volunteer parent can keep time.
- Time limits must be adhered to in order prevent delays of all the games later that day.
- Coaches should familiarize themselves with the rules of play for this age group.
- Note that the rules of play are much simpler with the New Ball