

**Recreation Rules & Regulations for Recreation Coaches**  
**Updated 8/8/23 from FSA Policies and Procedures Manual**

**AGE SPECIFIC RULES MODIFICATIONS**

The following tables illustrate the SCAP policies to accommodate younger players. High School League Soccer rules will govern play.

	6U	8U	10U
Ages:	5 and 6 year olds	7 and 8 year olds	9 and 10 year olds
Ball Size:	3	4	4
Play Periods:	8 minute quarters	20 minute halves	20 minute halves
Quarter Rest:	2 minutes	N/A	N/A
Halftime Period:	5 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes
Switch Sides at Half?	no	yes	yes
Direct Kicks?	no	yes	yes
Heading	no	no	no
Players on Field:	4	7	9
Maximum on Roster:	8	14	17 (15 for All Stars)
Min to start/continue:	3	6	7
Goalkeeper?	no	yes	yes
Offside rule in effect?	no	yes	yes
Changes for Throw-ins?	Take until correct	one retake (same player)	no rule change
Goal Size		6.5 X 18 ft	6.5 X 18 ft
Minimum Field Size:	20 x 15 yds	40 x 60 ft	40 x 60 ft
Maximum Field Size:	30 x 25 yds	50 x 70 ft	50 x 70 ft

**\*\*NO heading is allowed in 8U or 10U. It is mandated that 8U and 10U must participate within their age classification because of the NO heading rule. In 8U and 10U, penalty for heading inside the goalie box, by the offense or defense, the ball will be placed at the nearest point outside of the goalie box and the team awarded an indirect kick. Penalty for heading elsewhere on the field, the ball will be placed at the spot and an indirect kick awarded.**

**\*\*NO punting is allowed in 8U. 7v7 matches will use the build out line, a line across the field of play midway between the top of the penalty area and the halfway line in each half. The build out line does not apply to 9v9 matches.**

**\*\*OFFSIDE RULE - in 7v7 matches a player will not be deemed in an offside position until they cross the build out line and place themselves between that line and the goal line. Simply stated, players cannot be in an offside position unless they are past the buildout line. For 9v9 matches or above, standard offside rules apply.**

	<b>12U</b>	<b>15U</b>	<b>17U</b>
Ages	11 and 12 years old	13, 14 and 15 years old	16 and 17 years old
Ball Size:	4	5	5
Length of Halves:	25 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes
Halftime Period:	10 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes
Players on Field:	11*	11*	11*
Maximum on Roster:	18 (15 - All Stars)	21 (15 - All Stars)	21 (15 - All Stars)
Min to start/continue:	7	7*	7*
Goal Size	8 X 24 ft	8 X 24 ft	8 X 24 ft
Minimum Field Size:	53.3 X 100 ft	53.3 X 100 ft	53.3 X 100 ft
Maximum Field Size	60 X 120 ft	60 X 120 ft	60 X 120 ft

*\*The Recreation Director may adjust the number of Players on Field, Maximum on Roster, Minimum to start/continue, and field size to allow small-sided games due to limited numbers of participants in the older age groups.*

**Overtime/Penalty Kicks** (all age groups) - Games can end in a tie. There will be no overtime or penalty kicks in any age groups.

**The cut-off date for both Recreation is September 1. The cut-off date for Classic/Academy players is December 31. This means the age of the player on August 31 determines the division in which the player will play for the following season. Birth certificates are required to be on file with the Registrar.**

## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

For rec leagues, substitutions during a game are allowed on the following basis, but always subject to the referee's approval:

1. own throw-in
2. goal kick by either team
3. after a goal scored by either team
4. when the game is stopped for an injury
5. between periods (e.g. half-time, prior to overtime, etc.)
6. a player who receives a caution (yellow card) must be substituted at that time. If there is no substitute available, then the cautioned player must leave the field. The substituted player can return to the field at the next substitution opportunity.

## **COACHING STAFFS**

Each team shall have a maximum of one head coach and one assistant.

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of themselves, their players, and their team's supporters in all games in which an Association team participates. It is the duty of the Rec. coaches to report to the Recreation Director any instance in which a player under his authority receives either a yellow or red card or if a coach (head or assistant) or team supporter is ejected from a game or any other event in which the team participates. The appropriate Recreation Director will report such instances of red cards or ejections directly to the President of the Association.

Coaches guilty of unacceptable behavior or activities contrary to the rules and spirit of the Association will be subject to disqualification from their duties.

## **TEAM SELECTION - Regular Season and All-Stars**

### **General team selection will be undertaken as follows:**

A coach's draft will be held in which coaches will choose the players for their team. The Association will identify players who had been selected as all-stars in previous years and who have played on Classic/Academy teams to allow all coaches to identify the stronger players. The primary purpose of the draft is to keep the teams as evenly balanced in player talent and age as possible. Secondary to the primary purpose can be other considerations such as car pool requests, previous year's team, and other special considerations. **These will never take precedence over the primary consideration which is to balance the teams as much as possible.**

### **All-Star team selection will be undertaken as follows:**

All-star players and teams will be chosen from 10U and up only. Each Head Coach from 10U and up will be able to submit a prioritized and confidential list of a maximum of 7 players to the Recreation Director for consideration for the All Star team. The Head Coach and Recreation Director will have the full discretion of choosing the final 15 players that will be placed on this team. ALL STAR TEAMS HAVE A MAX ROSTER OF 15 PLAYERS. The team will represent Florence and FSA and compete in the SCAP tournament in mid to late November. Should a player not be able to attend, an alternate from original submissions will be chosen by the Head Coach of the team.

The Head All-Star coach will be chosen by the Recreation Director and must be approved by the FSA Board. Coaches who show unsportsmanlike behavior, demean or argue with the referees, and who have had grievances reported against them will NOT be considered for this role.

## **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms, as issued to each team, are required to be worn by all players. A complete outfit consists of a shirt (team issued), athletic shorts, socks (team issued), approved athletic shoes, and shin guards. No player will be allowed to play or practice without shin guards, and no metal cleats will be allowed in shoes.

## **GENERAL BEHAVIOR**

All members of the Association have an obligation to conduct themselves as responsible, law-abiding citizens. The following rules apply to all Association members (players, coaches, and spectators) when representing the Association at any location:

- Treat referees with respect. Accept referee calls and do not argue, complain or verbally harass a referee during or after a game.
- Treat players on all teams with respect.
- Treat all coaches on all teams with respect .
- Treat all members of the Association with respect.
- No alcohol or illicit drugs are permitted around the field of play or during any FSA sponsored event .
- No profanity is to be used at any time.

Members who have not conducted themselves in an appropriate manner may be subject to suspension or expulsion from the Association as directed by the Executive Board.

Evidence of illegal drug use by any member will result in immediate expulsion from the Association.

If a parent, sibling, or any other spectator is removed from the field of play due to inappropriate behavior, the offending party shall be required to meet with no fewer than 3 members of the governing board of the Association to discuss the event. If the party involved is removed from the field of play again, they will not be allowed to be a spectator at any event involving the FSA at any location for the remainder of the season. If the party does return as a spectator during that season after the second removal, the player involved (child, sibling, or other) may be removed from the FSA team roster and may not be allowed to participate in any Recreation or Classic/Academy level of play from that point on in the FSA.

### **CAUTIONS AND WARNINGS**

This rule governs any circumstance in which the FIFA rules for an official caution (yellow card) apply. It also applies to warnings issued to coaches and spectators.

Any player, spectator or coach who receives two cautions/warnings within the same season shall be required to appear before a Review Committee of not fewer than three persons appointed by the President. A player or coach receiving a third caution or warning in the same season shall be suspended automatically from the next game and shall be required to appear before a similar Review Committee, which shall have the authority to increase the above punishment. Failure to appear before the Review Committee at the appointed time will result in the immediate suspension of the individual from all team activities until the matter is settled and permission to resume playing activities is granted.

### **SEND OFFS AND DISMISSALS**

This rule governs any circumstance in which the FIFA rules require a send off (red card) for players or a dismissal for coaches and spectators. The punishment for any send-off or dismissal may be more severe than the minimum mandated punishment by SCYSA.

In any instance in which a coach, spectator or player receives a send-off or dismissal before, during, or after a game, that individual shall be automatically suspended from the next game and shall be required to appear before a Review Committee as defined below. A player or coach receiving a second send-off or dismissal in the same season or in two successive games in separate seasons shall be automatically suspended for the next two games and shall be required to appear before the Review Committee. A player or coach receiving a third send-off or dismissal in the same season or in three successive games in separate seasons shall be automatically suspended from all Association activities for a minimum of twelve months from the date the third red card was received and shall be required to appear before a similar Review Committee for consideration of reinstatement. Failure to appear before the Review Committee shall result in the individual's continued suspension from all soccer activities within the Association until the individual appears before said committee.

## **BROTHERS / SISTERS**

Brothers / sisters will be placed on the same team if they are in the same age group. If one family member is already on a team, that team automatically will be allocated the other sibling(s) [like a returning player. If all are new players, then when one is chosen, all will be allocated to that same team, provided they are in the same age division and they will be selected as back-to-back picks] Parent / guardian may request ahead of the draft not to have children on the same team. The Association will honor that request whenever possible.

## **PLAYING TIME**

Coaches should endeavor to ensure that all players play at least 50% of the game's playing time. Repeated violation of this rule will require the individual to appear before a Review Committee consisting of not less than 4 people appointed by the President. Such Committee shall have the power to suspend the individual according to the circumstances, and shall seek to resolve the matter within 5 days of being informed of the incident.

## **TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

Once players have been drafted to teams at the beginning of each season (Fall or Spring), no transfers will be allowed between teams within that season, except in cases of hardship resulting from this rule may be submitted for consideration to the Governing Board.

## **STANDINGS**

The team standings in each Division at this level will be determined on the point's system based on a team receiving 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and no points for a loss. In regular season play, a game in which the teams are tied at the end of regulation play will be scored as a tied game with points allocated as above. Should two or more teams have equal points after all games have been played, the determination of the standings shall be based on the following progressive system until a winner can be declared.

- a) Head-to-head results (win/tie/loss only) during the season
- b) Most wins
- c) Goals Against (total goals conceded for the season, no minimums)

## **MAKE-UP GAMES**

In any case where the circumstances of an abandoned or canceled game requires that the match be played at a later date, the Recreation Director, Commissioner of Officials and respective coaches shall agree upon a revised game date. Wherever possible, such date shall not extend the scheduled season. If the parties are unable to agree upon a revised date, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee for decision and may lead to the game being unplayed.

## **POSITION ON SIDELINES**

Teams should occupy the same side of the field during games, normally the side referred to as the "far" side. Supporters should occupy the opposite side. Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for the behavior of their team's supporters, irrespective of where they are situated.

## **ABSENCE OF REFEREE**

In cases where none of the appointed referees are present at the scheduled kick-off time for a game, a 15 minute grace period will be observed to allow for his/her late arrival. If no referee shows up during this time an alternative referee will be chosen, firstly from any person duly certified to officiate the game, and then, if this is not possible, the coaches shall agree on an uncertified referee whose responsibility and authority shall be as if he/she had been originally appointed.

*\*Referees are not used at 6U. Coaches act as referees for this age division. 8U will have one center referee, unless referee availability is limited. If this is the case, the coaches will act as referees for this age division. 10U and up will have at least one referee available. Please note referee availability is limited and is an ongoing problem in the state of youth sports, not limited to soccer.*

## **RESULT STATUS OF TERMINATED GAMES**

In the case of games abandoned before completion of regulation time due to any reason other than the misbehavior by any party, the status of the game shall be resolved as follows:

Abandonment in 1st Half:	Game to be replayed at a later date.
Abandonment after end of 1st Half:	Game score to stand at time of abandonment.

Where a game is abandoned due to misbehavior of one team's participants or supporters, the game will be awarded to the innocent team and a score of 3-0 is recorded.

In any case where a game is abandoned in the judgment of the referee due to the misbehavior of both teams, the game shall be forfeited by each team which shall register a score of 0-3 on its record.

