

COUNCIL GROVE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Soccer Rules & Regulations

4th-5th grade

Field of Play

- **Field Markings**
 - The two longer boundary lines are called touch lines. The two shorter lines are called goal lines
 - The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line
- **Dimensions**
 - The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line.
 - 4th & 5th grade
 - 70-yards by 40-yards
- **The Goal Area**
 - A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line. These lines extend into the field of play and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line
 - The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area
- **The Penalty Area**
 - The penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line. These lines extend into the field of play and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line
 - The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area
- **Goals**
 - Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line
 - Nets may be attached to the goals and the ground behind the goal

The Ball

- **Ball size**
 - 4th & 5th grade
 - #4
- **Replacement of a Defective Ball**
 - If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of the match:
 - The match is stopped
 - The match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the original ball became defective, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the replacement ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the original ball was located when play was stopped
 - The ball may not be changed during the match without the authority of the referee

Number of Players

- **Number of Players**
 - Each team can have no more than nine players on the field during time of play, one of whom is the goalkeeper
 - A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven players
- **Substitution Procedure**
 - The referee must be informed before any substitutions are made
 - The substitute only enters the field of play after play has been stopped due to out of bounds or goal scored
 - The substitute only enters the field of play at the halfway line and during a stoppage in the match

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- **Changing the Goalkeeper**
 - Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that:
 - The referee is informed before the change is made
 - The change is made during a stoppage in the match

The Players' Equipment

- **Safety**
 - A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry)
- **Footwear**
 - Cleats are recommended to help gain traction but not required
- **Shinguards**
 - Must be worn under socks and completely covered
- **Colors**
 - The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other, the referee and the line judges
 - Each goalkeeper must wear colors that distinguish him from the other players, the referee and line judges

The Referee

- **The Authority of the Referee**
 - Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the rules
- **Powers and Duties**
 - Enforces the rules
 - Controls the match in cooperation with the line judges
 - Acts as timekeeper and keeps a record of the match
 - Stops the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured
 - Stops play when the whole of the ball leaves the field of play
 - Directs which team is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in
 - Indicates when a player may be penalized for being in an offside position
 - Stops play when a substitution is required
- **Decisions of the Referee**
 - The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the results of the match, are final

The Duration of the Match

- **Periods of Play**
 - 4th-5th grade
 - The match lasts two equal periods of 25 minutes
- **Half-time Interval**
 - Players are entitled to an break of at least 5 minutes

The Start and Restart of Play

- **Definition of Kick-Off**
 - A kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play:
 - At the start of the match
 - After a goal has been scored
 - At the start of the second half of the match
 - At the start of each period of extra time, where applicable
 - A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off

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▪ **Procedure**

- Before a kick-off at the start of the match or extra time
 - A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match
 - The other team takes the kick-off to start the match
 - The team that wins the toss takes the kick-off to start the second half of the match
 - In the second half of the match, the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals
- Kick off
 - After a team scores a goal, the kick-off is taken by the other team
 - All players must be in their own half of the field of play
 - The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least 10-yards from the ball until it is in play
 - The ball must be stationary on the center mark
 - The referee gives a signal
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward
 - The kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player

The Ball In and Out of Play

▪ **Ball Out of Play**

- The ball is out of play when:
 - It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air
 - Play has been stopped by the referee

▪ **Ball In Play**

- The ball is in play at all other times, including when:
 - It rebounds off a goalpost or cross bar and remains in the field of play
 - If rebounds off the referee when they are on the field of play

The Method of Scoring

▪ **Goal Scored**

- A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement had been committed previously by the team scoring the goal

Offside

▪ **Offside Position**

- It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position
- A player is in an offside position if:
 - He is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent
- A player is not in an offside position if:
 - He is in his own half of the field of play or
 - He is level with the second-last opponent or
 - He is level with the last two opponents

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- **Offence**
 - A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:
 - Interfering with play or
 - Interfering with an opponent or
 - Gaining an advantage by being in the position
- **No Offence**
 - There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:
 - A goal kick
 - A throw-in
 - A corner kick
- **Infringements and Sanctions**
 - In the event of an offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

Fouls and Misconduct

- **Direct Free Kick**
 - A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
 - Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
 - Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
 - Jumps at an opponent
 - Charges an opponent
 - Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
 - Pushes an opponent
 - Tackles an opponent
 - A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following three offences:
 - Holds an opponent
 - Spits at an opponent
 - Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
 - A direct free kick is taken from the place where the offence occurred
- **Penalty Kick**
 - A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offences is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play
- **Indirect Free Kick**
 - An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area commits any of the following four offences:
 - Controls the ball with his hands for more than six seconds before releasing it from his possession
 - Touches the ball again with his hands after he has released it from his possession and before it has touched another player
 - Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate

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- An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if, in the opinion of the referee, a player:
 - Plays in a dangerous manner
 - Impedes the progress of an opponent
 - Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the offence occurred
- **Cautionable Offences**
 - A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following seven offences:
 - Unsporting behavior
 - Dissent by word or action
 - Persistent infringement of the rules
 - Delaying the restart of play
 - Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
 - Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
 - Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- **Sending-Off Offences**
 - A player is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offences:
 - Serious foul play
 - Violent conduct
 - Spitting at an opponent or any other person
 - Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
 - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
 - Receiving a second caution in the same match
 - A player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play

Free Kicks

- **The Direct Free Kick**
 - Ball enters the goal
 - If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded
- **The Indirect Free Kick**
 - Ball enters the goal
 - A goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal
- **Procedure**
 - For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player
- **Position of Free Kick**
 - Free kick inside the penalty area
 - Direct or indirect free kick to the defending team:
 - All opponents must be at least 10-yards from the ball
 - All opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area

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The Penalty Kick

- **Penalty Kick**
 - A penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits one of the offences for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its own penalty area while the ball is in play
 - A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick
- **Position of the ball and the players**
 - The ball:
 - Must be placed on the penalty mark
 - The defending goalkeeper:
 - Must remain on his goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked
 - The players other than the kicker must be located:
 - Inside the field of play
 - Outside the penalty area
 - Behind the penalty mark
 - At least 10 yards from the penalty mark
- **Procedure**
 - After the players have taken positions in accordance with this rule, the referee signals for the penalty kick to be taken
 - The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward
 - He must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward

The Throw-In

- **The Throw-In**
 - A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball crosses the touch line, either on the ground or in the air
 - A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in
- **Procedure**
 - At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:
 - Faces the field of play
 - Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line
 - Holds the ball with both hands
 - Delivers the ball from behind and over his head
 - Delivers the ball from the point where it left the field of play
 - All opponents must stand no less than 2 yards from the point at which the throw-in is taken
 - The ball is in play when it enters the field of play
 - After delivering the ball, the thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player

The Goal Kick

- **The Goal Kick**
 - A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored
 - A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team

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- **Procedure**

- The ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- Opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area

The Corner Kick

- **The Corner Kick**

- A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored
- A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team

- **Procedure**

- The ball must be placed on the corner nearest to the point where the ball crossed the goal line
- Opponents must remain at least 10 yards from the corner until the ball is in play
- The ball must be kicked by a player of the attacking team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player