

# Greater Austin YMCA

## Soccer Rules

*This rule book outlines the rules and guidelines for youth soccer. The Greater Austin YMCA sets the philosophy and standards for Youth Sports programming to ensure a consistent and quality experience for all participants, parents, and volunteers.*

*\*The Y reserves the right to adjust divisions based on player enrollment.*

### Section 1: General Rules

1. All games will be officiated according to FIFA rules except where these local league rules supersede.
2. Disrespect toward referees or staff will not be tolerated.
  - a. Depending on the incident, a coach and/or participant may be asked to leave, suspended, or have membership terminated.
  - b. Coaches and players are expected to display good sportsmanship at all times.
3. Only one (1) coach per team is allowed on the field during the 4-5 year old division.
4. Coaches will ensure all able players present will play at least 50% of the total game.
5. Coaches who fail to uphold the YMCA youth sports standards may be removed from coaching.

### Section 2: Start of Play

1. The light-colored jersey team may choose to kick off or select the goal to defend.
2. Opposing players must remain outside the center circle until the ball is kicked and clearly moves.
3. The ball must be stationary on the center mark for kickoff.
4. A goal may not be scored directly from a kickoff in 4-7 age divisions; the ball must touch another player first.
5. Teams will switch sides at halftime in all divisions.
6. The team that did not kick off the first half will kick off to begin the second half.

### Section 3: Ball In and Out of Play

1. The ball is out of play when it completely crosses the goal line or sideline.
2. The ball is out of play when the referee stops play for any infraction.
3. The ball remains in play if it rebounds off the goalpost, crossbar, or referee and remains on the field.

### Section 4: Field Size

1. Field and goal size may be adjusted based on facility availability.
  - a. 4-5 year old division | Approx. 15x30 field | 4x4' goal | 5v5 (no goalkeeper).
  - b. 6-7 year old division | Approx. 25x35 field | 4x4' goal | 5v5 (no goalkeeper).
  - c. 8-9 year old division | Approx. 30x60 field | 6.5x12' goal | 7v7 (with goalkeeper).

- d. 10-11 year old division | Approx. 30x60 yard field | 6.5x18' goal | 8v8 (with goalkeeper).
- e. 12 year old and up division | 20x40 yard field | 6x5x12' goal | 5v5 (w/goalkeeper)

### Section 5: Substitutions

1. Substitutions may occur at any stoppage of play with referee permission.
2. Free substitution is allowed at quarter breaks and halftime.
3. All players must play a minimum of 50% of each game.

### Section 6: Throw-In

1. A legal throw-in requires both feet on the ground and the ball thrown over the head with both hands.
  - a. 6-7 year olds | Two attempts permitted.
  - b. 8 year old and up divisions | One attempt permitted; improper throw results in change of possession.

### Section 7: Corner Kicks

1. 4-5 year old division | No corner kicks.
2. 6 year old and up divisions | Corner kicks awarded.

### Section 8: Free Kicks

1. 4-5 year old division | No free kicks.
2. 6-7 year old division | All free kicks are indirect; no penalty shots.
3. 8 year old and up divisions | Referee determines direct or indirect free kicks.

### Section 9: Offside

1. 4-5 year old division | Offside not enforced.
2. 6-9 year old division | Offside enforced only in intentional or extreme situations.
3. 10 year old and up divisions | Offside rule fully enforced.

### Section 10: Handball

1. Handball will be called when a player intentionally handles the ball or gains advantage from contact.
2. Accidental contact without advantage may not result in a penalty at referee discretion.

### Section 11: Heading

1. 4-11 year old divisions | Heading is not permitted.
  - A deliberate header results in an indirect free kick.
2. 12 year old and up division | Intentional heading is permitted.

### Section 12: Slide Tackles

1. 4-9 year old divisions | Slide tackles are not permitted.
2. 10 year old and up divisions | Slide tackles are permitted. *Dangerous slide tackles will result in an indirect free kick.*

### Section 13: Goalkeeper

1. 4-7 year old divisions | No goalkeeper.
2. 8 year old and up divisions | The referee will protect the goalkeeper in vulnerable situations.
3. Goalkeepers should not play more than one half unless no alternative exists.

### Section 14: Safety

1. All players must wear shin guards under socks.
2. No jewelry may be worn during play.
3. Players without proper equipment will not be permitted to play.

### Section 15: Scoring

1. 4-7 year old divisions | Score will not be kept.
2. 8 year old and up divisions | Goals scored will be kept and recorded.

### Section 16: Conduct & Discipline

1. Players receiving ejections:
  - a. First ejection | Suspended for remainder of the game.
  - b. Second ejection | One game suspension and parent meeting required.
  - c. Third ejection | Suspended for remainder of the season (no refund).
2. All disciplinary actions accumulate over the season.

## Quick Reference Chart

| Division                 | Ages<br>4-5        | Ages<br>6-7        | Ages<br>8-9                                                                                                                                                  | Ages<br>10-11                                                                                                                                                | Ages<br>12+                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ball Size</b>         | 3                  | 3                  | 4                                                                                                                                                            | 4                                                                                                                                                            | 5                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Players</b>           | 5v5<br>(no goalie) | 5v5<br>(no goalie) | 7v7<br>(w/ goalie)                                                                                                                                           | 8v8<br>(w/ goalie)                                                                                                                                           | 5v5<br>(w/goalie)                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Goalkeeper</b>        | No                 | No                 | Yes                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Score Kept</b>        | No                 | No                 | Yes                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Heading</b>           | No                 | No                 | No                                                                                                                                                           | No                                                                                                                                                           | Yes                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Minimum Play Time</b> | 50%                | 50%                | 50%                                                                                                                                                          | 50%                                                                                                                                                          | 50%                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Goal Size</b>         | 4'x4' Goal         | 4'x4' Goal         | 6.5' x 12' Goal                                                                                                                                              | 6.5' x 18' Goal                                                                                                                                              | 6.5' x 12' Goal                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Field Length</b>      | 15x30 yards        | 25x35 yards        | Range: 30x60 yards<br><br><i>Fields may be set to dimensions that best fit the space, generally within the 30 x 60 range (e.g., 30 x 45, 30 x 50, etc.).</i> | Range: 30x60 yards<br><br><i>Fields may be set to dimensions that best fit the space, generally within the 30 x 60 range (e.g., 30 x 45, 30 x 50, etc.).</i> | Range: 20x40 yards<br><br><i>Fields may be set to dimensions that best fit the space, generally within the 20 x 40 range (e.g., 20 x 35, etc.).</i> |
| <b>Game Length</b>       | 4 (6 min quarters) | 4 (8 min quarters) | 4 (8 min quarters)                                                                                                                                           | 4 (10 min quarters)                                                                                                                                          | 4 (10 min quarters)                                                                                                                                 |