

Warren County YMCA – 2nd-3rd Grade Soccer Rules & Notes

The Warren County YMCA is a proponent of good sportsmanship and fair play. Winning is not the goal of YMCA sports. Winning in our programs is secondary to the experience the kids have playing and learning a sport. Coaches and/or parents who do not have the same philosophy should consider joining another league. The YMCA will not compromise its philosophy for over enthusiastic adults.

Code of Conduct

- 1. Coaches WILL be a good example of sportsmanship and fair play.**
- 2. Parents are responsible for their own actions. Inappropriate comments or behavior from parents may result in a team penalty or in extreme cases may result in forfeiture of the game.**
- 3. Players are also responsible for their own actions. Players must adhere to all rules. Players must respect teammates, coaches, officials and all rules.**
- 4. Positive reinforcement is not an option, it's a REQUIREMENT.**

Main Objectives for the Season

- 1. To introduce players to the game of soccer.**
- 2. For players to have fun and have a memorable experience.**
- 3. For players to understand basic rules/fundamentals of the sport to the point that they will want to return and continue to play the sport again.**
- 4. For players to learn new skills including: Dribbling (Running with the ball), Kicking, Controlling the ball, Passing, Shooting/Scoring, Coordination (Eye-Hand/Foot), Basic Game Rules, Out of Bounds Rules/Throw-Ins, and Goalie Fundamentals.**
- 5. To improve skills as they are learned in fun and demonstrative ways.**
- 6. For players to understand good sportsmanship towards other players, coaches, and officials.**
- 7. For players to play in every single game/not excluding any players during games or practices/activities.**

Starting the Game

- 1. After warm-ups, at official game start time, teams will line up on the midfield circle to do the YMCA Sports Pledge.**
- 2. After the pledge is read, coaches will place kids on the field to start the game.**
- 3. One team will kick off to begin the game by kicking to a teammate. Team will alternate kick-offs every quarter.**

Length of Game

- 1. 4 x 10-minute quarters**
- 2. 2-minute breaks between quarters**
- 3. 5-minute halftime**
- 4. Running clock (except for officials' time outs or injuries)**

Game Info

- 1. All Games will be held on the Warren County YMCA Sports Fields.**
- 2. All players play for an equal amount of time.**
- 3. Each player gets to play different positions.**
- 4. 7 versus 7 (including goalkeepers).**
- 5. Offsides WILL be called.**
- 6. Bad throw-ins will be called (turnover).**
- 7. Hand balls, if seen, will be called.**
- 8. Drop balls and free kicks after fouls will be made as needed.**
- 9. Penalties made by the defense inside the goalie box will result in a Penalty Kick.**
- 10. Substitutions can be made during any stoppage of play. Coaches must alert the referee before making substitutions.**
- 11. No "Overtime/extra time" periods in the case of a draw(tie).**

Playing Field

- 1. The playing field will be 55 yards long x 35 yards wide.**
- 2. Playing field is the same field where practices will also be held (behind the Warren County YMCA).**

Uniform/Equipment Needed

- 1. Players need to wear their team shirt for games.**
- 2. Players MUST wear either tennis shoes or soccer cleats and MUST wear shin guards to be able to play. Extras (May) be available in an emergency situation if extras are readily available.**
- 3. Parents need to provide players with water/Gatorade/etc. both at practices as well as games. Bottled water and drinking fountains are available in the building. (no concession stand)**

Referees

- 1. Referees' calls are final whether coaches agree with them or not. Abusive language or arguing results in being removed from the game, potential termination from league and potential legal ramifications.**
- 2. Referees WILL miss calls, it happens. Referees will also let some calls go so the game can flow and the kids can play. If it doesn't affect the play, it may not get called in order to keep the game moving.**
- 3. Referees may also get players in correct positions to help coaches out.**
- 4. Referees will have a small first aid kit available near the field in case of an injury.**
- 5. In some cases, the referee is also coaching 1 of the teams on the field.**

Tips

- 1. Keep everything positive for the players.**
- 2. Continually reinforce how well your players are doing every chance you get. We want to build them up, not tear them down.**
- 3. Cheer for all of the kids on the field, not just yours. It makes a huge difference.**
- 4. Make sure kids are well hydrated before and during the game.**
- 5. Make sure kids are properly stretched and warmed up before the game.**
- 6. Make sure players have used the restroom prior to the game.**