

In-House Operating Procedures (Updated 4/09/2018)

Requirements for Play

All players must be registered in order to play. Coaches should have registration, medical/treatment information/authorization and signed Code of Conduct at the field for all practices and games. All players should only play for the team to which they are rostered. If a team is short players, meaning not enough to put the minimum number of players on the field, a non-rostered (substitute) player may be permitted to play for the shorthanded team. However, that player must be a BYSC In House player and cannot be above the age level for the game he will be playing in. The substitute player should also be used as a goalie in order to have the least influence on the field play as possible. Also, a substitute player can only be permitted to play if it is needed for a team to have the minimum number of players required to field a team. For example, if the games are 6 v 6, your substitute player cannot be #7 just because you would like your team to have a sub. A substitute player is not allowed to participate in the end of season tournament. The exception to this is if the opposing coach allows the substitute player simply so a game can be played. In that instance, the team playing against the shorthanded team gets credited with a 2-0 win, and the losing team a 2-0 loss.

Uniforms & Equipment

All players on a team should wear the same uniform, except the goalkeeper who should wear a different color shirt from both teams. Each player should be neatly attired with socks pulled up. Shin guards and cleats are mandatory. While earrings are discouraged, there are situations where a child recently had their ear pierced and the earring is not allowed to be removed. In that instance, non-hanging earrings are allowed to remain in the child's ear. In no instance are hanging earrings allowed.

Playing Time

All players should play at least half of the game. However, when a team has a few subs, the coach should make every effort to play all players around the same amount of time. A coach should **not** play his better players all (or most) of the game, then the lesser skilled players the minimum required amount. The point of in-house soccer is for all kids to play relatively the same amount of time. At the U7, U8, and U9/U10 level, the coach should request a substitution from the ref when play is stopped and should wait for the ref to signal it is ok for the new players to enter the game.

Scoring

While we don't technically keep score, many of the children, coaches, and parents know what the score is most of the time. Please make every effort to ensure that no game has a goal differential of more than 4-5 goals. Expecting the children to govern this by playing less than 100% is not realistic, nor is it fair to the player who we are rightly encouraging to always give it their all. However, we as administrators, coaches and parents have a duty to make the in-house experience as enjoyable as possible for all players, even those on the other team. Coaches should take appropriate steps to keep the scores under control. It is fairly easy to control this. Below are some actions that can be taken:

- give better players more rest than you might in a more competitive game
- move better players to defense (or goalie)
- encourage the better players to get their teammates more involved; perhaps setting-up players on their team who don't usually score goals, as opposed to scoring themselves.

The intent is not to "punish" better players; it is to make the experience more enjoyable for all players and parents.

Referees

Referee calls stand and should not be disputed. There should not be any yelling at referees by coaches or parents. Coaches are expected to ensure that parents from their team comply with this guideline and talk to them, if necessary. Each U7, U8, U9/U10 game will have a referee assigned. In the case a referee does not show up for the game, the following applies:

- a. Before the start of the game, one coach or parent should be assigned to keep time.
- b. Referee is to be a parent or coach from one team for one half and a parent or coach from the other team for the second half. The referee is to have at least a basic.
- c. There should only be one referee on the field during a game and no coaches on the field during the game.

A parent from each team should be assigned to assist the referee with sideline calls. The ref's call supercede's any sideline call.

Poor Sportsmanship

Please teach the children good sportsmanship and proper playing etiquette. If children are clamoring about the score and "rubbing it in", please address it. While aggressive play is acceptable, please be sure it is not over the top. Some examples of unacceptable sportsmanship and conduct are:

- throwing elbows
- pushing with your hands
- kicking from the ground
- kicking when the goalie has the ball in their possession
- taunting other players

Reporting

It is difficult to rely on the children refereeing the games to report any "incidents" to the league office. It is also difficult for the Board to decipher complaints from parents on a week to week basis, although we do our best to do so. We really need coaches to report any issues/grievances to the IH Director as soon as possible after they occur. The IH Director will then reach out to make sure he/she understands the issue completely so it can be addressed accordingly.

Starting and Stopping a Game (including throw-ins)

Kick-off occurs at the beginning of each quarter/half. Kick-off is from the center of the field, the ball does **NOT** have to be passed forward, and cannot be touched by that player until another player has touched the ball. A goal cannot be scored directly off a kick-off. A ball is out of play when the entire ball fully crosses an end or side line. When the ball goes out of play on a side line, it shall be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line. The thrower must face the field and shall deliver the ball with both feet on the ground, behind the line, with two hands on the ball from behind and over their head. There are no time-outs unless the ref stops play due to injury. When injured, a player should remain on the ground until the ref stops play.

Goal Kicks

Goal kicks start at the U7 level. When the offensive team kicks the ball over the opposing teams' end line, the opposing team is awarded a goal kick. The goal kick should be taken from any point inside the goalie box (usually on the outer horizontal corners). All players from the opposing team must be outside the penalty box and should not touch the ball until it leaves the penalty box. If the ball does not leave the penalty box, the team should re-take the kick. The kicking team can be in the penalty box during the goal kick, but also must wait for the ball to leave the penalty box before making contact with the ball.

The person taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball after its initial kick until another player, on either team touches the ball.

Corner Kicks

Corner kicks start at the U7 level. When the defensive team kicks the ball over their own end line, the opposing team is awarded a corner kick. The ball is placed in the designated area in the corner nearest where the ball went out of bounds. A goal can be scored directly on a corner kick. The person taking the corner kick cannot touch the ball after its initial kick until another player, on either team touches the ball.

Hand Ball/Free Kicks

Free kicks start at the U7 level. A free kick is awarded for any hand ball or foul. All free kicks are indirect, meaning another player must touch the ball before a goal can be scored.

Penalty Kicks

Penalty kicks start at the U7 level. Penalty kicks are awarded for fouls committed inside the penalty area at the discretion of the ref. When a penalty kick is awarded, the opposing team must keep the same goalie that was playing the position at the time the penalty was called. A team cannot change goalies prior to the penalty kick. Penalty kicks are direct.

Drop Balls

Drop balls start at the U7 level. Any stoppage that results for a reason other than the ball leaving the playing field or a goal (for example injury), a dropped ball should be made between a player from each team. The ball must hit the ground before either player can make a play on the ball.

Offside

Offside infractions begin at the U8 level. At the U8 level, the calls should be very lenient and meant to teach. At the U9/U10 level, off sides should be fully enforced. A player is in an offside position if he/she is involved in active play and is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the last opponent, besides the goalie. Although a player may be offside, a penalty should only be called if the offending player is interfering with play or gaining an advantage by being in that position. 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.

A player is not in an offside position if he/she is on their half of the field. There are also no off sides if the player receives the ball directly from a goal kick, throw-in, or corner kick.

Goals/Goalie Protocol

A goal is scored when the entire ball crosses over the goal line between the goal posts. The goalie is allowed to use their hands anywhere in their own penalty area. All coaches are to instruct their players to **stop** attacking the ball immediately if the goalie is going down to pick up the ball. No charging or attempting to harass or interfere with the goalie is permitted. Repeated offenses should be handled by the coach of the offending player. If a team continues to show aggression in this regard, the coach may be disciplined. This is very important to protect our goalies.

Aggressive Play

Fouls and misconduct will be called by the referee. Players that are overly physical should be taken aside by their coach and the matter handled between the coach and player. If a player or coach has a problem with a player, coach or parent of the opposing team, the coach should address the problem with the opposing coach to correct the problem. Each coach is responsible for the actions of his players, his coaches, his parents, and himself. A parent of one team should never engage a player on another team in verbal or physical response.

Slide Tackling

Slide tackling, while legal in the game of soccer as long as the ball is contacted first, is to be discouraged at this age. It is dangerous for both the tackler and the person with the ball. It is also usually not effective at this age because they usually miss the ball and give up position. If there is a problem with a player consistently executing slide tackling and putting opposing players at risk, the coach should address the problem with the opposing coach to correct the problem. Restart is an indirect free kick.

GENERAL AGE GROUP GUIDELINES

	U5	U6	U7	U8	U9/U10
Field Size (approx.)	Micro	Micro	55 x 30	55 x 30	70 x 40
Game Time	Two (2) 15 minutes halves	Two (2) 20 minutes halves	Four (4) 12 minute quarters	Four (4) 12 minute quarters	Two (2) 25 minute halves
Players	3 v 3 4 v 4 - upon both coaches approval	3 v 3 4 v 4 - upon both coaches approval	6 3 offense 2 defense 1 goalie	6 3 offense 2 defense 1 goalie	10 (adjustable) 4 offense 3 mid 2 defense 1 goalie
Goalkeeper	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corner Kicks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Goal Kicks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offside	No	No	No	Yes (lenient)	Yes
Throw-Ins	No (coach puts ball back in play)	Yes (w/ retakes)	Yes (with retakes)	Yes (with retakes)	Yes (change of possession)
Ball Size	#3	#3	#4	#4	#4
Penalty Kicks	No	No	Yes, but rare (top of penalty box)	Yes, but rare (top of penalty box)	Yes
Coach	One (1) + Asst Coach allowed on field at all times	One (1) + Asst Coach allowed on field at all times	One (1) + Asst Coach allowed on field for Fall Season; sideline for Spring	Sideline only	Sideline only