



DEARBORN HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS: U5 AND U6

I. THE FIELD OF PLAY

- A. FIELD DIMENSIONS: The field of play shall be rectangular, it's length not being more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. Field width will be no more than 20 yards not less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- B. MARKINGS: Distinctive lines shall outline the field of play. Lines shall be two to five inches wide. The goal area shall be five yards from the goal line and from touchline to touchline (across the entire field).
- C. SPECTATOR VIEWING: Spectators are welcome to enjoy the game from the bleachers or bring their own chairs that may be placed no closer than three yards from the touchline (sideline). Spectators should sit between the goal lines, not behind the goal line, the goals, or the corners. Spectators may NOT stand on the sideline and "coach" the players on the field. That is the job of the coach.
- D. COACHES: ONE coach per team is allowed on the field during the game to instruct their players. Coaches are NOT permitted in the goal areas while play is in progress. Coaches may NOT physically direct their players.

II. THE BALL

- A. The ball used shall be a size four (4) ball.

III. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. There shall be a maximum of six players on the team roster.
- B. The maximum number of players on the field at one time shall be four (unless Rule XVI applies). The minimum number of players shall be three. **NONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS SHALL BE A GOALKEEPER OR PLAY CONTINUOUS DEFENSE IN FRONT OF THE GOAL.** The DHSC prefers a 4v4 format for games, but a 3v3 format is permitted.
- C. Substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutions may take place by either team before a kick-in, goal kick, corner kick, after goals, and/or quarter breaks. Substitutions for injured players can occur after the referee has stopped play. **ALL SUBSTITUTIONS NEED THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION WHEN THE GAME IS IN PROGRESS.** Substitutions during breaks in the quarters require no permission.
- D. PLAYING TIME shall consist of four ten-minute quarters. There shall be breaks of two minutes between quarters and a five-minute break at halftime. **EACH PLAYER SHALL PLAY A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE TOTAL PLAYING TIME.**

IV. PLAYER EQUIPMENT

- A. Each player shall purchase an uniform from the DHSC. Purchase of uniform is separate from registration. The uniform may be used for multiple seasons and/or age groups. Each player must wear a DHSC issued uniform during games. **NO PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT A UNIFORM.**
- B. **SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. NO PLAYER MAY PARTICIPATE WITHOUT SHINGUARDS.** THE SHINGUARDS MUST BE WORN AGAINST THE SKIN, COMPLETELY COVERED BY THE SOCCER SOCKS. Soccer cleats are recommended, but not required. A participant may play in tennis shoes.
- C. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or to the other participants. **NO EARRINGS, JEWELRY, OR METAL HAIRWARE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

V. REFEREES

- A. Coaches on the field shall act as referees. Their decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final. They shall verbally explain the infraction called to the offending player. **ABUSE OF COACHES/REFEREES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

VI. THE START OF THE GAME

- A. The home team shall decide which goal it will attack. The visiting team shall kickoff. The kickoff shall take place from the goal box line (five yard line). Opponents must be six yards from the goal box line when the kickoff is in progress. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

VII. METHOD OF SCORING

- A. The whole of the ball must cross the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in, carried into the goal, or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm into the goal.

VIII. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- A. The whole of the ball must cross either the goal line (end line) or the touchlines (sidelines). The ball is also out of play whenever the referee deems and blows his/her whistle to stop play.

IX. FREE KICKS

- A. All free kicks shall be **INDIRECT** free kicks. A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick. Another participant must play the ball before it enters the goal. The ball does not have to be played by a member of the same team. **THERE WILL BE NO PENALTY KICKS.** All free kicks in the penalty area shall be indirect. **A KICK OFF IS AN INDIRECT FREE KICK.**

X. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- A. Conform to FIFA Laws. All fouls are awarded an INDIRECT FREE KICK. Opponents must be at least six yards away from the ball. The referee must explain ALL infractions to the offending player and his/her coach. Copies can be made available to coaches and/or parents.

XI. OFFSIDES

- A. The offside rule will not be enforced at this age level.

XII. KICK-IN (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crosses the touchline, the game shall be restarted with a kick-in (dribble-in) from the spot nearest where the ball left the field of play.

XIII. GOAL KICK (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crossed the goal line and was last played by an attacker, the defending team shall restart the game by taking a kick-in (dribble-in) on the goal line nearest to where the ball left the field of play.

XIV. CORNER KICK (DRIBBLE-IN)

- A. When the ball crosses the goal line and was last played by a defender, the attacking team shall restart the game by taking a corner kick (dribble-in) at the intersection of the goal line and touchline.

XV. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Players are encouraged to shake hands with opponents before or after the game. No scores are kept. Every game ends in a tie. No league standings are kept. Publicity of the game and results are strongly discouraged.

XVI. FOUR GOAL LEAD RULE

- A. When a team is losing a game by four or more goals, the losing team's coach has the discretion to add an additional player on the field. The additional player may continue to play until such time the difference in score is three goals. **COACHES ARE ENCOURAGED NOT TO RUN UP THE SCORE (SEE PEE WEE SOCCER POLICY)**. The coach of a team who is winning by five goals or more should consider imposing restrictions on his players, which will allow the players to improve different skills during the game, such as: players may only score after three consecutive passes, may only score with player's weak foot, may only shoot after all of the team's players have handled the ball, or only player X may score. Use your imagination.

XVII. NO SMOKING POLICY

- A. Smoking is prohibited on or around the playing field at all times.

THE GAME IS FOR THE CHILDREN. LET THEM LEARN AND PLAY, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, LET THEM HAVE FUN!!!!