



Clayton County Parks and Recreation

Clayton County Soccer Rules for U8 and older Age Groups governing Team Play (Revised March 2023)

Clayton County Soccer in an endeavor to introduce and develop soccer players in our community has decided to adopt the following:

1. All rules of soccer will be enforced based on “FIFA’s Laws of the Game” and U.S. Youth Soccer policy unless explicitly expressed in this document.
2. Ball size differs among age groups.
 - o U8 will play with a size 3.
 - o U10 and U12 will play with a size 4.
 - o U14 will play with a size 5.
3. All parents will stay on one side of the field, players and coaches will stay on the other side and absolutely no one is allowed behind the goal lines during the games.
 - o This will apply to all age groups
4. All age groups older than U6 will be officiated by a referee, whose purpose is to ensure the safety of players, as well as to help maintain the standards of play.
 - o U8 games will be officiated by a single referee.
 - o U10 and older will be officiated by 2 referees.
 - o Calls made in game by the referee are final and cannot be protested or overturned, unless done so by said referee. However, problems, complaints, or issues can be brought up to the coordinator for review and will be handled accordingly.
 - o **Disrespectful/belligerent behavior of any kind towards the referees, coaches, players, or even parents will not be tolerated and the offender is subject to being EXPELLED from the premises, depending on the severity of the offense** (Up to the discretion of the coordinator).
 1. This includes but is not limited to: jeering, heckling, or any other kind of abuse.
5. U8 and U10 will not be allowed to head the ball.
 - o If a player purposely plays the ball with their head, an indirect kick is given to the opposing team of the offender.
6. There’s no sliding allowed of any kind. Players are encouraged to stay on their feet at all times and going to ground intentionally will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.



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7. The offsides rule will not be enforced in the U8 age group.
 - o All other age groups will have offsides enforced.

8. In U8, the player will be given a single rethrow before loss of possession if the ball is not thrown in correctly.
 - o U10 and older age groups will immediately lose possession if the ball is thrown in improperly.

9. All restarts in the U8 division are indirect kicks.

10. U8 will play 4 versus 4, with the no player zone.
 - o Must have at least 3 players per team to start
 1. If a team doesn't have enough players a forfeit will be given
 1. A scrimmage is possible if both teams agree and will be for the duration of given time slot of game
 1. It is up to the referees whether they will officiate the scrimmage
 2. Each team is given a 15 minute grace period from the official game time to have enough players to start.
 - o Instead of having a goalkeeper, U8 will have an arc, no player zone, painted around both goals. At any point in the game, players from both teams will not be allowed to stay or stand in this zone, but will be able to enter it if the run of play dictates it.
 - o If the offensive team scores a goal from staying in the "No player zone" the goal is disallowed and a goal kick is given. If the defensive team prevents a goal from scoring by staying in the "No player zone" then a goal is given and then a kick off ensues.
 - o This rule is only enforced when the player standing in the zone affects the game.
 - o The decision of whether a player has been standing in the zone is up to the referees discretion.

11. U10 and older ages will play 8 versus 8, with the inclusion of a goalkeeper (7 field players and a goalkeeper).
 - o Games will be played on a U12 size field.
 - o Must have at least 6 players per team to start
 1. If a team doesn't have enough players a forfeit will be given
 1. A scrimmage is possible if both teams agree and will be for the duration of given time slot of game
 1. It is up to the referees whether they will officiate the scrimmage
 2. Each team is given a 15 minute grace period from the official game time to have enough players to start.



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12. Substitutions are UNLIMITED (Any amount substitutions are able to be initiated and made)
 - o Can substitute on any stoppage of play.
 - o To initiate a substitution, the sub must go inline with the halflines, outside the playing field, and wait until the referee says it's ok to substitute.
 - o You can initiate a substitution at any time during the game, but must be initiated before play is stopped in order to be made at the next restart (except injury related stops).
 - o In order for your sub to be made, your team must be in possession of the ball at the time of restart, or the team in possession, at the time of restart, has also initiated a sub.
 - o If play is stopped due to injury, the injured person must leave the field, but a substitution is not required.
 1. If the injured player is NOT subbed, he/she will play a player down until he/she returns to the field once the ref allows it (this can be during the run of play).
13. All games are two halves, with a 5 minute halftime break in between.
 - o Running clock, but additional time may be added for stoppages (up to the referees discretion).
 - o U8 has 20 minute halves.
 - o U10 has 25 minute halves.
 - o U12 has 30 minute halves.
 - o U14 has 35 minute halves.
 - o Teams will switch sides to resume the second half.
14. Players cannot be barred from playing, and must be given the opportunity to play for at least a half, even if they do not show up for practice.
 - o However, players will NOT be allowed to participate without proper equipment (i.e. shin-guards).
 - o **Only ROSTERED players are able to participate in the game.**
 1. Referees will have a roster for both teams that he will use to check in players before the start of the game.
 - o **Goalkeepers are allowed to play no more than one half.**
 1. Once they play in one half they are not allowed to play in the other (no matter how much or little time they played).



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Clayton County Soccer is a Recreational League and ALL age groups will recognize a Mandatory Play Rule that ensures that ALL participants will have equal opportunity to play.

The rescheduling of games will be the responsibility of the Program Coordinator so that all parties involved are aware of any and all changes to the schedule. This includes informing Coaches for both teams and referees when they are required so that the Program does not have any undo cost.



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