

GAC Soccer Rules

PLAYERS

- A match shall be played by two teams each consisting of Mini Kickers may play with 7 players, K-1st grade with 6 players, 2nd-3rd grade with 7 players, 4th – 6th grade 6 players
- Substitutes can be made on the fly (players coming in for another without checking in) as long as that players doesn't come in and take advantage of that rule. Example: stepping in off the sidelines to block a shot, or shoot an immediate goal. Players coming in should wait until the player they're replacing gets to the sideline.
- Goalkeepers playing without goalkeeper jersey will result in a free penalty shot by the opposing team. Goalkeeper will wear a jersey to distinguish him/her from the other players.
- All players must wear the team color GAC shirt (or like color shirt if needed) Players may also wear shin guards and cleats, however NO METAL CLEATS are allowed.
- The only player on the field allowed to touch the ball with their hands or arms is the goalkeeper. If a player touches the ball with their hands while the ball is in play, the other team receives a free kick from the spot of the infraction. However, after a ball has gone out of bounds, the team that did not touch it last will have a designated player throw it in with a two-handed overhead pass from the spot the ball left play.
 - The goalie cannot touch the ball with their hands if they come out beyond the penalty box.

START OF PLAY

- At the beginning of the game, choice of ends and the kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss shall have the option of choice of ends or the kick-off. The game shall be started by a player taking a place-kick into his opponents half of the field of play. Every player shall be in his own half of the field and every player of the team opposing that of the kicker shall remain not less than 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked-off; it shall not be deemed in play until it has traveled the distance of its own circumference. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.
- After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted in like manner by a player of the team losing the goal
- Second half; when restarting after half-time, ends shall be changed and the kick-off shall be taken by a player of the opposite team to that of the player who started the game.
- Kick-off is an indirect kick. (A goal shall not be scored direct from a kick-off)

BALL IN PLAY

- The ball is out of play when crossing the out of bounds line or the goal-line (scored goal)
- Ball is in play if it rebounds from a goal post, cross bar or corner flag into the field of play, or if it rebounds off the referee when they are in the field of play.
- After a ball has gone out of bounds, the team that did not touch it last will throw it in with a two-handed overhead pass from the spot the ball left play.

We will have corner kicks and goalie kicks. A corner kick will occur when the ball goes out of bounds at the end line after the defense touches it. For example: if a team comes down on offense and they're in a position to kick a goal and the ball goes out of bounds after hitting a defender, then the offensive team would place the ball on the ground at the corner marker and kick it in to a teammate. If the offense kicks the ball out of bounds across the end line (same line the goal is on) then the goalie would get the ball at the designated spot within the penalty box and kick it to a teammate downfield.

KICKING on Goal & Scoring

- A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal-line, between the goal posts and under the cross-bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm, by a player of the attacking side.
- An offensive player can only enter the goalie box if they are following the ball (an offensive player can't simply go stand in the goalie box and wait for the ball). If anyone touches the goalie when the goalie has control of the ball, that is considered a foul and the defensive team takes a goal kick. Defenders can enter the goalie box.
- Fouls within the penalty area result in a penalty kick against the goalie from the fee kick mark outside the goalie box.
- At the end of regulation, if no goals or an equal number of goals are scored, the game will be decided with penalty kicks.
- If the goalie is inside the goal and stops a ball, that is a goal. Goalies must stand in front of the goal line.

OFF SIDES: Off-sides is often a difficult call to make even by a qualified referee, so off-sides will only be called if someone is cherry picking

Fouls and Misconduct

The focus of these leagues will be to teach soccer skills, to have fun, and show our children how to win and lose gracefully. Unsportsmanlike conduct or foul language will not be tolerated at practice or games. Any child, parent, or coach who displays these behaviors is subject to suspension or expulsion from the program at the discretion of the GAC Board and or administration.

- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
 - Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
 - Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
 - Jumps at an opponent
 - Charges an opponent
 - Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
 - Pushes an opponent
- A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following four offenses:

- Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- Hold an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- A direct free kick is taken from where the offence occurred
- A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offences is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

The referee may remove a player from the game if they deem the offense severe enough. All calls by the referee are final!

FREE KICKS: Outside the penalty area

- All opponents are at least 10 yds from the ball until it is in play
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- The free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred

Penalty Kicks: (ball kicked within penalty box vs. goalkeeper), Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of periods of extra time.

- Ball is placed on the penalty mark
- Goalie remains on his goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalpost until the ball has been kicked
- Other players remain outside the penalty area behind the penalty mark at least 10 yds from the penalty mark
- The ball can only be kicked once on a penalty kick

Tie Game and the end of Regulation: Tie-games will be handled with the following “sudden death” method: if the game is tied or there is no score, each coach will pick a goalie for their team, that person will remain the goalie throughout the overtime period (unless injury occurs) and will not be allowed to attempt a kick on goal.

The first team will attempt a kick on goal vs. the goalie from the penalty kick mark just outside of the goalie box. The second team will then have the opportunity to do the same. If the first team makes a goal and the other does not, then the first team is deemed the winner (or vice versa). If both teams make it or both teams miss it, then another member from each team is selected to kick on goal against the same goalie. No team member will kick twice until everyone on the team (aside from the goalie) has had the opportunity to kick a goal. This will continue until there is a winner.

Please remember our coaches and referees are volunteering their time so your child can enjoy soccer activities

Referee has final say in all calls, If any rules need to be altered, removed or added to improve the quality of play for the teams as a whole, the GAC Admin as the right to make that decision.