



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



2011 FALL SOCCER PROGRAM RULES & REGULATIONS (UPDATED 6-1-11)

1. INTRODUCTION:

- All games will be governed by FIFA rules and Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department's local rules exceptions.
- Participation in this league is completely voluntary and it is strongly recommended that all participants have a physical examination.
- Team captains/coaches are responsible for reviewing the following information with their respective teams and spectators.
- All teams, managers/coaches, participants, spectators and/or other affiliated people in the league must conform to and abide by all the rules and regulations of the Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department.

2. TEAMS:

- A. Team rosters may have a maximum of 18 players. Rosters must be on file with the Athletic Coordinator prior to the start of regular season play.
- B. The roster cut-off date will be Friday, October 7, 2011.
- C. All roster additions must be filed and turned in to the Athletic Coordinator by 5:00pm the day the player is to become eligible along with a \$5.00 registration fee per roster addition.
- D. No club or select teams will be allowed to participate in any league.

3. SPECTATORS:

- A. All spectators are to sit in the designated area across the field from the teams participating in the soccer games.
- B. No spectators are allowed on the same side of the field as the teams participating in the soccer games.
- C. All spectators are to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times throughout the soccer season. This applies to conduct on all City Park Property before, during and after all games.

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Participation Forms, Birth Certificates (copies) & Code of Conduct Forms must be turned in for each player to be eligible to participate in any games.
- B. Individuals may only play for one (1) team within the Gastonia Parks and Recreation's Youth Soccer Program.
- C. Players may play for their school, club & recreation teams at the same time.
- D. All games in which an ineligible player participated in will be counted as forfeits.
- E. Any captain/coach knowingly or willingly playing a suspended and/or ineligible player will also be suspended for two games, plus their team will not be tournament eligible. Coaches caught a second time using ineligible players will be suspended for one (1) calendar year.
- F. All players must play at least four (4) regular season games to be eligible for the tournament.
- G. Players may play up in another age group but only one year. (Ex. A 6 yr. old can play in 7-8)

5. UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT:

- A. All team members must have jerseys with numbers on the back consisting of the same color.
- B. NO JEWELRY. This includes necklaces, rings, watches, wristbands, bracelets, earrings, etc. (Earrings cannot be covered with tape and/or band-aids).
- C. Hair Accessories / No hard plastic, metal, beads or clips or anything deemed unsafe by the officials and/or staff.
- D. Any type of headwear is allowed as long as it is not made of hard materials.
- E. A player shall not wear anything which is dangerous to another player.(ex. Padded or unpadded cast)
- F. Goalkeepers must wear a different color shirt than the ref or the players on either team. (A goalie shirt is required)
- G. Shin Guards are required.
- H. Mouth pieces, protective jocks, and protective cups are recommended.
- I. Shoes with soft plastic or rubber cleats or tennis shoes may be worn. No football cleats with hard plastic cleats or baseball cleats or any shoes with hard molded plastic.

6. **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:**

- A. In case of inclement weather, team captains/coaches should call the Parks and Recreation Department weather hotline number: U-10, U-12 & U-15 call (704) 869-1019. U-6 & U-8 call (704) 869-1020. No games will be cancelled before 3:30pm regardless of the weather.
- B. Any teams unable to verify the playing status of a scheduled game need to report to the field. The officials will make all game site decisions regarding weather.
- C. All postponed games will be rescheduled at a later date, if time permits.

7. **MATCHES AND AGE GROUPS:**

- A. **AGE GROUPS:**
 - U-6 CANNOT BE 7 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.
 - U-8 CANNOT BE 9 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.
 - U10 CANNOT BE 11 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.
 - U-12 CANNOT BE 13 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.
 - U-15 CANNOT BE 16 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.

GIRLS U-10 CANNOT BE 11 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.
GIRLS U-12 CANNOT BE 13 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.
GIRLS U-15 CANNOT BE 16 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST OF CURRENT YEAR.

****PLAYERS MAY PLAY UP IN ANOTHER AGE GROUP BUT ONLY ONE YEAR. (EX. A 6 YR. OLD CAN PLAY IN 7-8)****

- B. **MATCHES:**
 - U-6 WILL PLAY 4 10 MINUTE QUARTERS #4 BALL (6vs6)
 - U-8 WILL PLAY 4 10 MINUTE QUARTERS #4 BALL (8vs8)
 - U-10 WILL PLAY 2 25 MINUTE HALVES #5 BALL (11vs11)
 - U-12 WILL PLAY 2 25 MINUTE HALVES #5 BALL (11vs11)
 - U-15 WILL PLAY 2 25 MINUTE HALVES #5 BALL (11vs11)

GIRLS U-10 WILL PLAY 2 25 MINUTE HALVES #5 BALL (11vs11)
GIRLS U-12 WILL PLAY 2 25 MINUTE HALVES #5 BALL (11vs11)
GIRLS U-15 WILL PLAY 2 25 MINUTE HALVES #5 BALL (11vs11)

8. **GAME TIME:**

- A. All teams must be present and ready to play at there scheduled game times. There is a five (5) minute grace period for the 6:00 game only. This shall not be used if team has 9 players in attendance.
- B. In the event that both teams are not ready to play at game time, both teams will be charged with a forfeit.
- C. Any team that forfeits three (3) times in the season will be subject to immediate dismissal from the league.
- D. A team must have at least 9 players to start a game: However the may finish with as few as 7 players. For **U-6** a team must have at least 4 players to start a game and must finish with at least 3 players, for **U-8** a team must have at least 6 players to start a game and must finish with at least 5 players.

9. **TIE GAMES:**

All games that end in a tie will remain a tie for the regular season.

A team will be given 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and no points for a loss.

Tie breaker for playoffs: There will be a 5 minute sudden death overtime period. If the game is still tied after this period, then a shootout will occur as follows:

1. **Age groups U-10, U-12 & U-15:** Tie game will be penalty kick shootout: Each team nominates (5) five players, in the game at its end, who in succession tries to score against the opponent's goalie. The ball is placed on the ground 12 yards from the goal line. The goalkeeper starts, standing on his goal line. If the score is still tied, then each team will nominate (5) five different players, still in the game at its end, and each shot will be sudden death. If the score is still tied any (5) five players may be nominated and each shot will again be sudden death.
2. **Age groups U-6 & U-8:** Everything stays the same as in the other age groups except you only nominate (4) four players to participate that are in the game. If the score is still tied, then each team will nominate any (4) four players, and each shot will be sudden death.
3. **All age groups:** The goalkeeper who was in the goal at the time the 5 minute overtime ended must continue to be the goalkeeper throughout all tie breaker penalty kick shootouts.

10. **SUBSTITUTION:**
- A. Each U-6 and U-8 coach will be responsible for having each team member play at least ½ of each match. There is no mandatory play rule for U-10, U-12 & U-15.
 - B. In all age groups substitutes may be made at the change of the quarter/half.
 - C. For the U-10, U-12 & U-15 competition, substitutes may also be made with the consent of the referee at the following times:
 - 1. Prior to a throw-in your favor.
 - 2. Prior to a goal kick in your favor.
 - 3. After a goal by either team.
 - 4. After an injury, on either team, when the referee stops play.
 - D. Any of the players may change places with the goal keeper with the consent of the referee, provided the change is made during a stoppage play.
 - E. An ejected player may not be replaced.
 - F. There will be a two game suspension for all red carded players or coach for the first offense, suspension for the remainder of the season for the second offense.
 - G. A player or coach could be suspended for the remainder of the season on the first offense if the situation is severe enough to warrant this action.
11. **PROTESTS:**
- A. Teams may only protest Ineligible Players. No other protest will not be honored by the Athletic Coordinator. All officials' decisions are final.
 - B. An ineligible player may be protested by 5:00pm the next day, but the protest must be filed with the Athletic Coordinator in writing and a \$35 dollar deposit. Protest deposit will be refunded if the protest is upheld. If a protest occurs before the game and needs to be protested before the game, the protesting team must inform the officials and/or Park and Recreation staff, but must still complete the game. All players are expected to provide a picture I.D. if requested by the Athletic Coordinator and/or staff. If an ineligible player protest is confirmed, the game will be ruled a forfeit. In tournament play the protest rule will stay the same you have to protest before the game is started unless you are protesting the individual that was subbed during the game.
12. **POST SEASON TOURNAMENT:**
- The League Champion and Runner-Up will be determined by a single elimination tournament between all teams in your league. Seeding for the tournament will be based on the standings at the end of the regular season. Your team can be moved up or down for the tournament depending on your overall record.
13. **REFEREES:**
- A. The referee has jurisdiction from the time he enters the field of play until he signals the end of the game. Referee decisions are final.
 - B. The referee shall enforce the laws of the game, but shall refrain from stopping play if by doing so would be giving an advantage to the offending team.
 - C. The referee can stop the game for infringement when he is satisfied that by doing so he would not be giving an advantage to the offending team.
 - D. The referee can suspend or terminate a game whenever he deems it necessary. (Ex. Spectator interference)
 - E. If it is necessary for the referee to call a game before half-time, the game shall be ruled incomplete. If the game has reached half-time, it will be ruled a complete game and score will stand as is. If the first game is canceled due to inclement weather, then all other games following that one will also be canceled.
 - F. The referee can caution a player and shall eject from play any player, coach or spectator guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, using profanity or abusive language, or persistent infringement of the playing rules.
 - G. The referee shall be the official time keeper for all games. The scoreboard time is not real time and will stop 2 minutes before the end of each quarter or half.

14. **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

- A. All captains/coaches are responsible for the conduct of any team player, spectator, and/or other team affiliated person. All the above mentioned individuals must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times throughout the soccer season. This rule applies to conduct on all City Park property as well as School System property before, during, and after games.
- B. ONLY captains/coaches will be permitted to consult with the officials. This must always be done in a sportsmanlike manner.
- C. Players will not be permitted to question or consult with the officials over rules or judgment calls. Verbal abuse and/or profanity will result in an ejection.
- D. Fighting and/or physical contact with the attempt to harm will not be tolerated.
 - 1. Cussing, verbal abuse and gestures at the referees will result in an ejection and an automatic two (2) game suspension.
 - 2. If any contact is made or any punches are thrown, participants will be ejected and will receive a one (1) year suspension.
 - 3. Any player/coach leaving the sideline during an altercation will be ejected.
- E. Players will be given one (1) warning regarding trash talking and then ejected at the officials' discretion. (This includes verbal and physical gestures)
- F. Teams are responsible for cleaning up all litter produced by their players, coaches and spectators. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

AT THE DESCRETION OF THE ATHLETIC SUPERVISOR, VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT MAY RESULT IN TEAM PENALTIES - INCLUDING THE FORFEITURE OF GAMES AND/OR LONG TERM TEAM SUSPENSIONS.

15. **EJECTIONS & SUSPENSIONS:**

- A. Any ejection is an automatic two game suspension. The coach, player or spectator will be ineligible for the remainder of the game and the next two scheduled games.
- B. Any coach, player or spectator ejected from a game must leave the field and be out of sight and sound within two (2) minutes of the game will be forfeited.
- C. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike behavior or violating the code of conduct above will receive a two (2) game suspension for the first (1st) offense and a one (1) year suspension from the point of infraction for any second (2nd) offense.
- D. Any suspension for one (1) year or more will require a written request for reinstatement. The Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to deny reinstatement and/or extend any and all suspensions.
- E. Any player, coach or spectator who is suspended for any reason cannot attend any games in any capacity for any reason until the suspension has ended.**