



# READINGTON RECREATION

## RECREATION SOCCER

### LEAGUE RULES



#### **RULE 1 – OFFICIAL RULES**

All games shall be played in accordance with the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), with the exception that local Readington Recreation league rules shall take precedence.

#### **RULE 2 – NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

- a. *Kindergarten* teams shall play 4 v 4 with no goalkeeper. If there are more than 2 substitutes on each team playing 4 v 4, then teams, by mutual consent of the coaches and trainer, may add one player each and play 5 v 5 with no goalkeeper.
- b. *1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade* teams shall play 4 v 4 with no goalkeeper. If there are more than 2 substitutes on each team playing 4 v 4, then teams, by mutual consent of the coaches and trainer, may add one player each and play 5 v 5 with no goalkeeper.
- c. *3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade* teams shall play 9 v 9 including one goalkeeper. A team may not have more than nine players on the field at one time.

#### **RULE 3 – DURATION OF GAMES**

The duration of play shall be as detailed below. The game clock shall not stop for any reason. The official game time will be kept by the trainer or referee.

- a. *Kindergarten* League games shall consist of 4 quarters of 8 minutes each, with a 2-minute quarter break after the first and third quarters and a 5-minute half time after the second quarter.
- b. *1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade* League games shall consist of 3 periods of 15 minutes each, with a 5-minute break after the first and second periods.
- c. *3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade* League games shall consist of 2 halves of 25 minutes each, with a 10-minute half time.

#### **RULE 4 – EQUIPMENT**

- a. For any violation below, the player shall be ordered off the field and shall not return without reporting to the referee substitution to verify that the player's equipment is acceptable and safe.
  1. All players are required to wear shin guards at all times under their socks.
  2. No kind of jewelry is allowed with the exception of medical bracelets.
  3. No metal cleats are allowed.
- b. The game ball size shall be size 3 for *Kindergarten* and *1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade* Leagues, and size 4 in the *3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade* League.

## **RULE 5 – SUBSTITUTION**

- a. Free substitution is permitted. There is no limit to the number of times a player may enter or leave the game.
- b. Substitutions may be made **ONLY** at the following times:
  1. After a goal is scored
  2. At half-time or quarter break.
  3. During an injury timeout.
  4. At goal kicks.
  5. Throw-ins.
- c. Coaches wishing to make a substitution shall
  - a. In the *Kindergarten* and *1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade* League, notify the coach of the opposing team and/or the trainer.
  - b. In the *3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade* League, notify the referee. The referee may elect not to grant the substitution if in his or her opinion, the substitution is intended to delay the game, particularly in the closing minutes of a game.
- d. **All players should receive equal, or a close to equal as possible, playing time each game.**

## **RULE 6 – CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES, AND SPECTATORS**

- a. The coach is responsible for the conduct of his or her spectators, parents, and players on the field, bench, and surrounding area. Coaches, spectators, and players shall not dispute calls made by the referee. Coaches, spectators, and players who are verbally abusive to the referees, players, or each other may be ejected by the referee and must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field.
- b. In the *Kindergarten* and *1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade* Leagues, one coach and one trainer for each team may remain on the field provided they do not interfere with play.
- c. In the *3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade* League, no coaches or trainers shall be permitted on the field.
- d. **All coaches, players, parents, and spectators shall abide by the Readington Recreation Code of Conduct at all times.**

## **RULE 7 – THE REFEREE**

The referee's (or trainer acting as the referee) decision shall be final. The referee should communicate all call made and explain the call to players.

## **RULE 8 – MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. **Offside:** Offside shall not be called in the *Kindergarten* and *1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade* League. Offside shall be called in the *3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade* League.
- b. **No Slide Tackling:** All slide tackles that take the ball away or attempt to take the ball away from a player are banned. The first attempt by a player will result in the offending player to receive a yellow card. A subsequent offense will result in a red card.
- c. **Heading:** Heading the ball is not permitted at any level.

**These league rules are based on the US Soccer Standards for youth soccer.  
Coaches and trainers do not have the authority or permission to amend these rules.**



# READINGTON RECREATION

## RECREATION SOCCER RULES REFERENCE CHART



This reference chart lists the basic rules of the Readington Recreation Soccer Leagues in an easy-to-read format. In no way does this chart indicate all the rules of the league. Coaches, trainers, and referees should read and understand the complete league rules in their entirety.

	Kindergarten	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Field Size</b>	30 x 20 (yards)	30 x 20 (yards)	75 x 47 (yards)
<b>Number of Players (on field)</b>	4 v 4 (if more than 2 substitutes, may play 5 v 5 with consent of coaches and trainer)	4 v 4 (if more than 2 substitutes, may play 5 v 5 with consent of coaches and trainer)	9 v 9 (no additions)
<b>Goalkeeper</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>Game Time</b>	4 quarters of 8 minutes	3 periods of 15 minutes	2 halves of 25 minutes
<b>Break Time</b>	2 minutes between quarters  5-minute half time	5 minutes after each period	10-minute half time
<b>Ball Size</b>	Size 3	Size 3	Size 4
<b>Goal Size</b>	4 x 6 (feet)	4 x 6 (feet)	6.5 x 18.5 (feet)
<b>Offside</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>Coaches on Field</b>	1 per team + trainer	1 per team + trainer	No
<b>Team Size</b> *assuming sufficient volunteers*	Min = 6 Max = 9	Min = 6 Max = 9	Min = 10 Max = 16