

THE MODIFIED RULES FOR LEVEL ONE SOCCER GAMES

- The field will be approximately 30 yards long and 20 yards wide. There will be a goal kick line drawn 6 yards in front of each goal where the goal kicks are taken from. There will be a large 'X' in the middle of the field where all kickoffs are taken from.
- The Level One Divisions will all use a size 3 ball.
- Games will be played with 4 players on the field at a time. Small sided games will minimize the "swarming" around the ball and maximize the amount of involvement each child has while playing.
- Players will NOT be placed on permanent teams during the season. Each week, the players will be randomly divided into teams.
- These divisions do NOT use goalies.
- Coaches will rotate the players so that all players get equal playing time. If needed, players will be switched from one team to another to ensure a competitive balance.
- Games will be played 4 vs. 4. If there is a shortage of players, the games will be played 3 vs. 3.
- If a game is played without substitutes (or very few substitutes), regular water breaks should be given.
- Shin guards are mandatory. Cleats are recommended over sneakers. Hats and jewelry may not be worn. Earrings and necklaces must be removed, or covered with tape at a minimum. Navy shorts should be worn. Sweat pants may be worn, long pants should not be worn.
- The referee's job is primarily safety. The referees will only call out of bounds, dangerous play and major rule violations. They are to briefly explain all calls so that the players will better understand the game.
- There are no time limits to the games. The games will continue until it is time for the next division to start their session, or until all the players are too hot or too tired to play. Water breaks will be called if needed.
- Game scores are NOT to be emphasized. The focus of the games is on fun and learning the game.
- All kickoffs are to be a pass so that the players will learn a little bit about "teammates."
- If the ball goes just over the line and comes right back into play, the referee may let play continue.
- There is no offsides rule, but all players will be expected to come back and help on defense. No players are to "cherry pick" (stay up by the other team's goal at all times).
- Only major or deliberate fouls will be called. The three calls that will be called the most are:
 - **dangerous play** (to ensure each child's safety)
 - **intentional hand balls** (not accidental hand balls)
 - **sliding tackles** (illegal in ALL LMSC intramural divisions)
- All free kicks will be "indirect" meaning that a goal may NOT result directly from the free kick. Players will be expected to restart the game with a pass. Again, the purpose of this is to try and teach the concept of "teammates."
- Opponents must be at least five yards away from the ball on all free kicks.
- Any foul committed just in front of one of the goals should be brought out to goal kick line.
- There are no penalty kicks in these age groups.
- There are no throw-ins. If the ball goes out of bounds, play will be restarted with an indirect kick.
- Opposing players must be at least 5 yards away on a free kick.
- Goal kicks will be taken from the anywhere along the goal kick line (approximately 6 yards from the goal line).
- Corner kicks will be taken from the corner of the field.
- In all situations, coaches and referees are to use common sense and improvise as needed to ensure the safety, happiness and well being of each child.