



8U/9U SOCCER RULES OF THE GAME:

FIELD OF PLAY:

Each field is lined by cones OR chalk marking the field approximately 40L X 25W (yards) with flag goals set 12 feet apart. The center field mark may or may not be indicated depending on the field. The goal box will be marked 7L X 10W yards.

THE BALL:

8U/9U will play with a size 4 ball.

THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

8U/9U will play with 6 on a side (5 in the field plus 1 goalie).

THE DURATION OF THE GAME:

8U/9U will play two 20 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime.

PLAYING TIME REQUIREMENTS

All players must play at least half of the game.

THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT:

All players must wear a club-approved uniform:

1. Jersey or shirt, tucked in.
2. Shorts or Pants. (trousers or tights permitted if shorts are worn over them)
3. Shin guards, covered entirely by socks, and protecting more than half of the lower leg.
4. Approved soccer shoes. (may be tennis or sport shoes, should not have front-of-toe cleats or sharp spikes)

Casts or Splints are Not Allowed:

1. A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to herself/himself or another player.
2. Rings, bracelets, wristbands (even soft plastic or cloth) watches, hanging earrings, barrettes, facial piercing jewelry, and necklaces are not permitted during games or practices. **Small stud earrings can remain in the ears if they have been covered with tape.**
3. No player shall be allowed to participate in a hard cast or splint — no exceptions! Any splint with a stiff strut of metal or other stiff material is not allowed on the field. Simple cloth wraps (e.g. Ace Bandages with tape over the metal clips) are acceptable. Mouth guards are highly recommended. Soft, protective head-bands are permitted. Hard-billed hats like baseball caps are not allowed. Keepers may wear a hat or cap with a short, soft bill.

THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball is out of play only when 1) it has wholly crossed the goal or touch lines or 2) play has been stopped by the referee.

METHOD OF SCORING

1. The whole ball must cross the goal line between the posts and under the cross bar.
2. When using corner-flag posts or similar high side-posts to mark a goal, (1) the flight of the ball must be wholly under a line between the tops of the posts for a goal to count, and (2) the flight of the ball must be wholly within the post. The referee may award a goal if a ball brushes the post in flight, causing minimal bending of the post.
3. All judgments by a referee about a counting a goal are final. Referees will not keep score!

FOULS & MISCONDUCT:

Slide tackling is NOT allowed in BBGC soccer. The penalty against the offending team will result in an indirect kick for the opposing team. An indirect kick will be taken when these fouls are committed:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Hits or attempts to hit an opponent
- Pushes or attempts to push an opponent

OFFSIDE:

1. The offside rule does not apply. However, the intent of the rule will be followed.
2. A referee can call an offside foul if a player is repeatedly positioned in an offside position close to the opponent's goal (e.g. inside the penalty area), irrespective of the location of the ball on the field.
3. After the referee gives an explanation for the foul, the restart of the game will be via an indirect free kick.

THE THROW-IN:

1. Conform to FIFA Laws of the game.
2. Two re-throw tries shall be allowed. Referees should give brief corrective instruction. The same player, rather than a teammate, attempts the re-throw. The game is allowed to continue even if the second re-throw is not done correctly.

THE GOAL KICK:

A goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area. Opponents must remain outside the goal box area until the ball crosses the goal box line. The referee will back the opponents of approximately ten paces.

CORNER KICK:

Opposing players should be approximately ten paces away from the kicker. The corner kick may be taken from any point inside the corner area, even if not marked on the field.

FREE KICKS:

The BBGC does not allow direct free kicks for 8U/9U: All kicks are indirect.

SUBSTITUTIONS:

The BBGC will allow substitutions at every 5 minute interval, at halftime, and at dead ball stoppages as approved by the referee.

MERCY RULE:

1. At halftime, if any team is leading by 5 OR MORE goals, the opposing team may add an additional player to the field for a man advantage.
2. If the 5 OR MORE threshold is crossed DURING the 2nd half, adding an additional player will be at the referee's discretion depending on the remaining game time.

3. If the 5 OR MORE threshold is crossed at ANY POINT during the 1st half, an additional player may be added by the opposing team at the referee's discretion depending on the remaining time left in the 1st half.

COACH / PLAYER BEHAVIOR:

Any disrespectful behavior by parents or coaches toward referees, players, parents, or coaches will result in a stoppage of play and the offending coach or parents will be asked to leave the game. Any disrespectful behavior by players will result in a stoppage of play and substitution of that player. Referees have the discretion to determine the length of time in which the player will sit out be it the remainder of the game or for an appropriate period of time. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue provides a positive environment and **WILL NOT tolerate disrespectful behavior**. Any participant parent or coach who uses foul language will also be asked to leave the game.

REFEREES:

Referees have the final say for any misrepresentation, language, or attitude portrayed in a game. Remember to be respectful.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Coaches and players shake hands with opponents and thank the referee after each game.
2. Coaches, managers, team officials and parents should not criticize game officials and should encourage the same attitude among all players and spectators.
3. Publicizing game results is forbidden.
4. Referees shall instruct opposing teams to stand on opposite sides of the field at the start of the game.