



Pajaro Valley Youth Soccer Club

U-8 Rules

Referee Procedures & Revised Rules for U-8 Division

Please review the CYSA Team Manual for Modified Rules and Summary of Laws of the Game. The goal of PVYSC is to provide everyone, including coaches, referees, parents, spectators and especially our youth with a positive soccer experience. This is accomplished by promoting fun & sportsmanship. Our focus is beyond competition, wins & losses!

Please note that the club assigns licensed referees to U-8 games. In the event that there is NO referee we request that a parent from each team that a parent from each team act as a referee for each game. Come prepared with a whistle and watch or timer.

Pre Game:

Teams should arrive at least 20 min before the scheduled game time. Inspect fields & goals for safety. Five minutes before game time, coaches should line up their team at midfield. A referee parent should check equipment for safety. Shoes should be soccer cleats or turf shoes, but can be tennis shoes. No baseball shoes. No earrings, bracelets or any other type of jewelry, hard hair barrettes or watches. Players must have shin guards that must be worn under socks at all times or else they will not be allowed to play. Jerseys should be tucked in and shoelaces tied. Players with cast or splints are not allowed to play.

Coaches, parents and spectators are not permitted near the goals. Parents and coaches should stay 3 feet back from the touch line (side line).

Referees should ask for captains & have captains introduce themselves.

Coin toss: visitors call toss. Winner chooses the goal they will attack first half. Loser of coin toss kicks off first half.

Please be sure to start your games on time. There are most likely games after yours and would like to start games throughout the day on-time.

Game:

7 players per side (6 + Goalkeeper). Size 3 ball should be provided by the home team.

Game duration: 2-20 min halves (no time id added). 5 minute half-time.

Kick-off: From the center spot, ball should be kicked forward to a teammate, into the opposing half.

Substitutions: A break should be called at the 10 minute mark of each half, indicate a sub break, with the clock running. Substituted players may return at the half or sub break.

Fouls: No slide tackling, pushing, tripping, holding, spitting, grabbing of jerseys or obviously handling of the ball allowed. If inappropriate language, speak to the player(s). If a foul, stop play with whistle, EXPLAIN the foul, and award an indirect free kick (ball on the ground) where the foul occurred. There are NO penalty kick. Award an indirect kick, but place the ball no closer to the goal line than the goal box line.

*Often players may fall on their own accord, or the ball may deflect off hands, which are not fouls. Say, "Play on!" to let players know there is no foul and play should continue.

Free kicks: All free kicks are INDIRECT (ball must touch any other player before a goal counts). If ball goes directly in the goal from an indirect kick without being touched by another player, it is a goal kick for the defending team.

Off-sides: There are no off-sides in this division, however as a referee try and encourage any attackers consistently poaching to remain involved in active play. DO NOT ALLOW GOAL TENDING; keep players at least six feet from the entrance of the goal.

Handballs: If the hand ball is unintentional, play on! If a handball is intentional, remind the player that there is no handballs and allow an indirect free kick.

Sideline out of bounds: Team last touching the ball losses ball to a throw in. Allow re-throws for bad throw-ins. Remind players how to throw-in properly.

Goal: When the whole ball crosses completely over the goal line. Help restart the game quickly with a kick-off for the team scored against.

Corner kick: A corner kick is granted when the ball goes over the end line and is taken out by a defensive player. The play is restarted by the opposing offensive player by kicking the ball into play anywhere from the corner arc.

Goal kick: When ball goes over then end line and is touched last by an offensive player. Goal kick can be taken by any defensive player from anywhere in the goal box, preferably toward one of the corners.



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Injuries: When in doubt, whistle to stop play, check on player, with clock running. Also stop play for dangerous conditions: dogs running, small children, etc. Restart with an indirect free kick near midfield for the team last with the ball.

Safety is the number one priority! If necessary, call fouls, explain to players, and remind them to play fairly; play the ball and not the opponent. Stay out of the way as much as possible... let the game flow, let the players play and have fun!

End of game: Encourage teams to shake hands, thank the referees and cheer for the other team. All ties stand (no overtime, penalty kicks or shootouts!). **We are not keeping records of scores.** Observe teams for un-sportsmanlike gloating or unkind comments & discuss with the coach.

Coaches Responsibilities:

- Coaches should coach positively and calmly to set an example and should do so from their half near the half-line.
- It is the coach's responsibility to have a registration form/medical release for each player at every game. Anyone without these should not be allowed to play in the game.
- Play all prepared players at least 50% of the game, ideally equal time for all.
- Require that parents' spectators maintain a supportive & pleasant atmosphere.
- Congratulate excellent, fair play by both teams.
- No dogs allowed at game sites! Make sure all trash is picked up after the game, even organic trash! Thanks!

Refereeing questions:

Please contact Pajaro Valley Youth Soccer Club Rec. coordinator and we'll try to return with answers as soon as possible.