

Wellington Recreation Official Age 10-15 Youth Soccer Manual



Wellington Recreation modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
FIFA Laws of The Game can be found at www.fifa.com

Purpose of League Play

The purpose of the league to be sponsored by Wellington Recreation is to provide kids with the opportunity for learning and fun in a safe environment. Friendly competition and clean sportsmanship will be emphasized. Our main goal is for ALL participants to have FUN while building athletic, team, and social skills.

Small Sided Play: All youth soccer leagues will utilize small sided soccer for game play. Small sided soccer is soccer played with fewer players on a smaller pitch (field). These are fun games that involve the players more since fewer players are sharing one ball. Small sided soccer is the style of game play recommended by FIFA and US Youth Soccer.

Law I-The Field:

- A. Dimensions:** The field of play shall be rectangular; its length not more than 75 yards, its width not more than 45 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- B. Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with a six (6) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a three (3) foot radius. Goal area: Six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- C. Goals:** Up to six (6) feet high x twelve (12) feet wide.
- D. Spectators** are to be on the opposite sideline from players and coaches.

Law II-The Ball: Size five (5). Game ball provided by Wellington Recreation.

Law III-Number of Players:

- A.** Maximum number of players for game play is nine (9) including the goal keeper. Except as noted in Law III.E
- B.** Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed fourteen (14).
- C.** One goal keeper will be used. No player shall spend more than one segment of the game at keeper. Keepers shall wear pinnie provided by Wellington Recreation.
- D. Substitutions:** Allowed anytime ball is out of play- with the permission of the referee or game official.
- E. Playing time:** When all regular practices have been attended that player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- F.** Teams and games may be coed.
- G.** If a team has less than nine players they may use players from the opposing team if any are available.

Law IV-Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear:** Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes
- B. Shin-guards** are **MANDATORY**.
- C.** Each player should bring a water bottle with water to each game.

Law V-The Referee: Wellington Recreation will provide The Referee. The Referee may be a volunteer.

Law VI-Assistant Referee: One linesman provided by each team. Linesman will switch sides at the half.

Law VII-Duration of the Game: The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes. There will be a goal keeper change every ten (10) minutes. Keeper change should take less than one minute.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

- A.** Opponent must be outside the center circle on their half of the field while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA. Ball must completely cross line to be out of play.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA. Ball must completely cross goal line inside frame of goal to count.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside in small-sided games.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. All fouls shall result in a free kick with opponent eight (8) yards away.
- B. Slide tackling is illegal and shall result in a free kick at the point of the foul.

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

Law XVIII-Goal Keeper: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Once keeper has possession of the ball ALL players must leave the goal box. Possession of the ball shall include keeper holding the ball on the ground with one or two hands.
- B. Keeper may use their hands to play a passed ball.
- C. Keeper may punt the ball entire length of the field; a punted ball cannot go directly into opponent's goal box. Treat as goal kick for opposing team if punted ball lands in goal box before touching another player.
- D. There are no restrictions as to where a keeper may play in the field.

Miscellaneous:

- Parents and spectators are encouraged to retrieve balls that go out of play in order to restart game quickly.
- All players have a right to play every game and an equal amount of time if they have attended regular practices.
- Playing Conditions: Field supervisor will determine if games will or will not be played. Games will be called if safety is a concern.
- Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Wellington Recreation recommends that this age group should have practices limited to one or two 60-90 minute sessions per week.
- Games called due to inclement weather will not be rescheduled. It will be up to the coaches to set up a time, if any to make up a missed game.
- NO JEWELRY ALLOWED (except medical alert bracelets). Earrings may be taped with approval of officials.
- Parent/coaches, non-playing players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- All coaches are volunteers and as such are not employees of the Town of Wellington.
- All coaches will be required to attend a training seminar and will be subject to a background check.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be allowed or used in the parks during youth games or practices.
- Swearing will not be tolerated by fans, participants, or coaches. All adults need to remember that they are role models and need to be positive in their words and actions.
- A parent or fan that is loud, obnoxious, or disrupts the event will be asked to leave the premises and will be expected to comply immediately.
- Elastic Clause: The league director shall have complete charge of the Youth Sports League. Any and all situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the League Director and all actions by the league director will be final.
- The league director reserves the right to change or amend any of the rules or regulations contained in this manual. Any questions concerning Youth Sports should be directed to:

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