



5U Youth Soccer Manual

General Information

All participants are responsible for the information contained in this manual. Rules and regulations not contained in this manual or in any handout materials will be governed by the IFAB manual. When possible officials will be IFAB certified.

Elastic Clause: The League Manager shall have complete charge of the Youth Soccer League. Any and all situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the League Manager, and all actions by the League Manager will be FINAL.

If there are any further questions or ideas regarding the Youth Soccer League, please contact the league manager.

Amendments

1. This manual or any section thereof, may be amended by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation through evaluation by, and with the feedback from, coaches, referees, etcetera, as deemed necessary.
2. If you have questions, ideas, or need information on the Youth Soccer League, please call our office at (970) 568-7410 Monday through Thursday 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM and Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.



Wellington Recreation modifications to the IFAB Laws of the Game.

IFAB Laws of the Game link: <https://www.theifab.com/>

Purpose

Friendly competition and clean sportsmanship will be emphasized. The main goal is for ALL participants to have FUN while building athletics, team, and social skills.

Law I: The Field:

- Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length not more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards, its width not more than 20 yards nor less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with a three (3) yard radius. Goal area: none.
- Goals: 4 x 6 feet.

Law II: The ball: Size three (3). A game ball should be provided by the home team, but each team will need to have game balls at every game.

Law III: Number of Players

- The maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4).
- The maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8).
- There are NO Goalkeepers.
- Substitutions: Allowed anytime the ball is out of play with the permission of the referee or game official.
- Playing time: Each player who has regularly attended all practices shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- Teams and games may be coed.
- If a team has less than 4 players, they may use players from the opposing team if any are available.

Law IV: Players Equipment - follows IFAB save the following exceptions.

- Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- Shin-guards are mandatory.
- Each player should bring a water bottle with water to each game.
- Each player is required to wear a Wellington Parks and Recreation blue and white reversible jersey (overtop of any other clothing) to participate in games. White will be the home team, and blue will be the away team.
- No jewelry allowed. Exceptions will be made for medical ID bracelets and religious medals which must be taped and approved by the referee or official. In addition, taping over any other jewelry is not permitted.



Law V: The Referee: Each team will provide an official (observer, parent/Coach, etc.). The home team's official will act as The Referee for the first half and the visiting team's official will act as The Referee for the second half. Their job is to keep the playing environment safe, fun, and focused on the children. Duties shall be the same as a Referee under the IFAB Laws of the Game. When you stop playing for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players why. Take time to educate new players on the laws of the game.

Law VI: No Assistant Referee.

Law VII: Duration of the game

- The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters.
- There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one (1) and two (2) and another two (2) minute break between quarters three (3) and four (4).
- Half time will be a five (5) minute break between quarter 2 and quarter 3.

Law VIII: Same as IFAB Laws of the Game.

Law IX: Ball in and out of Play: Whole of the ball must cross the whole of the line.

Law X: Determining the Outcome of the Match: Ball must completely cross the whole of the line.

Law XI: Offside: There is no offside.

Law XII: Fouls and Misconduct - Follows IFAB Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:

- No cautions or red card ejections shall be issued to players.
- Slide tackling is illegal and results in an indirect free kick at the point of the misconduct.
- No players may head the ball. Any contact of the ball to the head shall result in an indirect free kick.

Law XIII: Free Kicks – Follow IFAB Law of the Game with the following exceptions:

- All free kicks are indirect free kicks.
- Opponents must be three (3) yards away.

Law XIV: Penalty Kicks – There are no Penalty Kicks in small-sided games.

Law XV: Throw In – There are no throw ins, the ball must be kicked in. This is an indirect kick.

Law XVI: Goal Kick – All players on the opposing team of the ball should stand behind the halfway line until the ball is put into play.



Law XVII: Corner Kick – If the team defending the goal last touches the ball before it crosses the goal line, the attacking team puts it into play.

Communicable Disease Rule (Blood Rule)

Teams are responsible for supplying their own clothing and first aid supplies.

1. Whenever a player suffers a laceration or wound where bleeding or oozing occurs, the game will be stopped immediately.
2. The player will be removed from the game until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is adequately covered.
3. If a legal substitute is available, he/she will replace the injured player and play will continue.
4. If no substitute is available, the game clock will be stopped for up to five (5) minutes to enable the injured player to dress his/her wound.
5. The player may re-enter the game only with the official's approval. This means bleeding must be stopped and/or wound covered.
6. Any article of clothing that is saturated with blood must be removed and replaced.

Sports Code of Conduct

The Sports Code of Conduct applies to all sports organized by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department, whether taking place on Town-owned property, or on any other property that the Town has arranged to use.

Definitions:

Town: The Town of Wellington

Coach: The person designated as a team's spokesman. This person may be either a player or non-player.

Field of Play: The part of a court, field, ring or other sports venue that is considered within the boundaries of regulation play of a particular sport.

Site Supervisor: A Town employee in charge of the operation and staff of a scheduled sports game, match, or event, as well as this Code of Conduct.

Coordinator: The Town's Recreation Coordinator or other person as appointed by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

League Manager: The Town's Recreation Manager or other person as appointed by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

Official: A person who the Town has arranged to be present at a sports venue for the purpose of administering the rules of the game, match, or event, as well as this Code of Conduct.

Parent: The legal guardian or other family member responsible for a child who is under the age of eighteen (18) and is participating in a sport sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department.



Participant: Any coach, player, parent, spectator, official or any other person involved in any way with any sport sponsored by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

Participation: Any involvement in a Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department sport, including spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, volunteering, or attending a sporting event.

Player: A person who physically participates in a sport or is on the roster of the team or group participating in the sport.

Probation: A period of time during which a person who has previously violated the Sport Code of Conduct may have no further violations.

Parks and Recreation Department: The Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

Sport: Any Parks and Recreation Department organized activity or event that is listed under the category of “sports” in the most recent catalog of offerings or a new yet to be advertised activity that is run by a recreation staff member who is specifically designated by organizational chart as a member of the sports team.

Spectator: A person who watches a sport for entertainment with no physical involvement.

Sportsmanship: Conduct, such as fairness, respect for one’s opponent and officials, and graciousness in winning or losing, that are appropriate to one participating in a sport.

Sports Venue: An area improved with fencing, buildings, bleachers, goals, turf or other landscaping, lines or other markings or any other facilities intended for use by players, officials, spectators or anyone else participating in a sport. Examples of sports venues include but are not limited to fields, courts, tracks, gymnasiums, field houses, arenas, pools, ice rinks and bowling alleys.

Suspension: Loss of the privilege to participate in any manner in a Parks and Recreation Department sport.

Unsportsmanlike: Exhibiting poor behavior through negative, disruptive or inappropriate actions.

Prohibited Acts:

1. Physically attacking any other participant or any Town staff person. This includes but is not limited to striking, shoving, kicking or otherwise touching or subjecting another person to physical contact in a threatening or alarming manner.
2. Refusing to abide by an official’s decision and/or contest such decision in an unsportsmanlike manner.
3. Using racial slurs, ethnic slurs, sexual slurs, obscene, threatening, or challenging language or gestures.
4. Harassing, insulting, taunting, or unsportsmanlike demonstrations of dissent in any form.
5. Using unnecessary roughness in the play of a game against an opposing player.
6. Throwing or cause to be deposited any object onto the field of play.



7. Violating the Town of Wellington's open container ordinance, or other state or local alcohol or drug laws, while at a sports venue, or enter the field of play while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. Smoking in/on any sports venue, or while coming off or going on the field of play, or while on the field of play, whether indoors or outdoors.
9. Display other unsportsmanlike conduct before or after games or events, or while at a sports venue during a scheduled activity, game, match or event.

Enforcement:

1. The minimum penalty for smoking is a warning, and the maximum penalty is ejection from the game, or prosecution according to facility policies.
2. Minimum Penalties: Ejection from the current sports activity or event and suspension from the next scheduled game, activity, or event. Any participant who is ejected must leave the sports venue immediately. This means going far enough away, that he or she cannot be seen or heard by any participant within the sports venue. Minimum penalties may be imposed onsite by an official or field supervisor.
3. Medium Penalties: Suspension for up to the remainder of the scheduled season or up to one year, and one or more years on probation. After review of the alleged violation by Parks and Recreation Department staff, medium penalties may be imposed if (1) another infraction has occurred by the individual resulting in a penalty within the past calendar year; (2) the individual violated more than one section of this Code during the current incident; and/or (3) in the judgment of staff, the severity of the infraction justifies penalty beyond the minimum but not to the maximum level. Medium penalties may be imposed in addition to minimum penalties.
4. Maximum Penalties: Suspension for one to five years. Maximum penalties may be imposed if, after review of the alleged violation by Parks and Recreation Department staff, it is determined that the severity of the violation justifies the maximum penalty, based on negative impact to the program, other participants, spectators, and/or staff. Maximum penalties may be imposed in addition to minimum and/or medium penalties.
5. Any behavior that is also a violation of law may result in criminal charges.
6. Any participant who engages in three or more of the prohibited acts described above during any twelve-month period shall be suspended for up to five years, followed by two years of probation.
7. Any participant who engages in a prohibited act while on probation shall be suspended for one to five years.



Appeals

Appeals of any enforcement decision may be made by submitting a written statement of appeal to the Parks and Recreation Manager within fifteen (15) calendar days of the issuance of the decision to be appealed. If an enforcement decision is not appealed within fifteen days of issuance, it is considered final.

The statement of appeal must include a description of the decision in question and related events, and the basis for the appeal. The appealing party may provide any additional information he or she believes is relevant in support of the appeal.

The Parks and Recreation Manager will conduct such investigation as he or she determines to be appropriate, given the basis of the appeal and the related facts, and may conduct an informal hearing on the matter at his or her discretion. In the alternative, the Recreation Manager may convene an Appeals Board made up of Town staff who have no personal involvement in the decision being appealed, and such board shall conduct an appropriate investigation.

The Parks and Recreation Manager or Appeals Board, if one is convened, shall issue a written decision on the appeal within thirty (30) days from the filing of the appeal. The written decision shall include an explanation of the basis for the conclusion reached.

Miscellaneous:

- 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. Game will be called when there is a safety concern.
- Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- The Recreation Staff will make every effort to reschedule missed games. Make up games may not be played at the same time or days as regularly scheduled games.
- Participation awards, when given, shall be given to ALL players.
- Parents, coaches, non-playing players, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- All coaches and officials are volunteers and as such are not employees of the Town of Wellington.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be allowed or used in the parks during games or practices.
- All domesticated animals, except Service Animals as defined under the American with Disabilities Act, are prohibited within 100 feet of all Wellington Parks and Recreation sporting event as well as prohibited on diamond fields.



- Foul language will not be tolerated by fans, participants, or coaches. All adults need to remember 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 Manager shall have complete charge of the Youth Sports League. All situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the League Director and all actions by the League Manager are final.
- The League Manager 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:

Wellington Parks and Recreation
8225 3rd Street,
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(970) 568-7410

recreation@wellingtoncolorado.gov

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