

Girls 5-6 Division Notes

- **All players should play at least half of the game.** Substituting more frequently (once or twice per half only isn't enough) will ensure the most chances for the kids and help prevent issues. And barring extreme circumstances with substitutions, no player should be the entire game except for quick water breaks. This is still recreational and instructional, and intended to foster enjoyment of the game and development.

And this means in the playoffs too.

- All players should be encouraged to play all positions, but not be forced to. No one player should be a dedicated striker or pigeon-holed into playing defense every game if they'd like to try other positions.
- Encourage all players to play goalkeeper at least once during the season. Being a smaller player doesn't mean they shouldn't play in goal once during the year. But don't put someone in if they are afraid. Speak with the parents to determine any physical issues with player keeper first.
- The ball must go over the line (every line) entirely. The ball touching a line isn't sufficient. Tell your parents.
- Offside calls are a tough call for even seasoned refs. **Do not** be irate at a ref over a player being (you think) a step or two beyond before the pass is made or because a player was offside on the other side of the field at first but wasn't involved in the play until they became onside. And warn your parents to not 'talk' or holler at the ref at all, period, or else. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmC9JOcaofl> for a laugh.
- The referee will sometimes place the ball for Corner and Goal Kicks. Instruct your players they can place the ball in a better position if they need to. For Corner Kicks, if the flag is in the way, instruct the player to move the ball around the curved line to a better position. The flag should not be held away from the player.
- Goalkeepers...
 - may not carry ball more than 8 seconds (unless they cannot release the ball due to interference).
 - may not play the ball with their hands after they have released it into play and before another player has touched it.
 - cannot pick up the ball if played from the feet of another player on the same team.
- **No heading in games or practices** (not even with deflated balls or for "their protection"). For more information visit <https://www.freedomoptsoccer.com/faqs>.
Intentional Heading = Indirect Free Kick, Unintentional Heading = Drop ball
- If a player receives a Yellow card, they must leave the field for at least 2 minutes. If anyone (player, coach or parent) receives a Red card they must leave the grounds, period. For any player receiving a Red card, their team cannot substitute for that player, and the team will play down a player for the rest of the game. Additional consequences may apply.
- *Good Sportsmanship.* Please make the game a friendly environment between players, coaches and parents. This includes the refs. No yelling, backtalk or snide remarks to the refs; their decisions are final. We know it starts to get competitive at this age, but we all **MUST** show and be examples of good sportsmanship.

Have fun and thanks!