

Coed 3-5 Division – Basic Rules of Play

- Games will be 7 v 7 with goalkeepers. If both teams have full attendance, and both coaches agree, coaches can ask the referees for permission to play 8v8.
- If one team has just 6 or 7 players, both teams will play 6v6. If one team has less than 6 players, coaches should combine teams to play a scrimmage until both teams can field a side.
- The game is run with **2, 24-minute halves** with a 5-minute half time and no extra time.
- The games are refereed. Any intimidation or mistreatment of referees will not be tolerated.
- **Coaches are not allowed on the field.** They should not come on while the clock is running except for injuries. The coaches should remain on the sidelines, on their own half, and come into the field of play only when needed to assist a player. Do not come on to 'set up positions' during the game.
- Substitutions can occur at any time, and are "on-the-fly" by running a player off the field, and then running the substituting player on to the field, both through the center of the field on the sideline. The game will not stop for substitutions while the ball is in play. If a coach would like to substitute multiple players, ask the referee to allow so when the ball is not in play, and at the discretion of the referee.
- On the field players should be mixed coed. But done so as best as can be accomplished by the coach based on the team roster and without wearing out players. The intent is playing time for all.
- An injured player does not have to leave the field unless bleeding or the game is stopped to assist.
- Possession is lost on a bad throw-in. Determination is at the discretion of the referee.
- All fouls are awarded indirect kicks; **no penalty kicks or direct kicks.** For fouls occurring within the penalty box, the indirect kick will be awarded just outside the penalty box. If a team scores off an indirect kick without the ball being touched by anyone, it is not a goal, and a Goal kick is awarded.
- Offside calls are not normally made. Will only be considered if a player continually stays by the goal with no one around (cherry-picking), the coach had already been warned, and the player becomes involved in the play.
- **No slide tackles** (light warning at first, indirect kick if intentional or repeated).
- **Goalkeepers are not allowed to punt or drop-kick the ball.** If the goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team outside of the penalty box, beyond the penalty box line that's parallel to the goal line and closest to where the offense took place. *This is a US Soccer adopted Player Development Initiative.*
- **No heading** (drop ball awarded to team with last possession if unintentional, indirect kick if intentional). *This is a US Soccer Guideline.*
- Cards are not issued for dangerous play and inappropriate conduct but coaches will be requested to substitute players to address instances.
- **Shin guards are mandatory.** Socks matching the uniform color are to be worn *over* shin guards.
- Size 4 soccer ball.