

Boys 3-4 Division – Basic Rules of Play

- Games are 9 v 9 (with goalkeepers and at least one substitute). If one team has just 9 players, both teams will play one less player (8v8 with a sub). If one team only has 8 players, teams will play 8v8. If both teams do not have 8 players, coaches should combine teams to play a scrimmage
- 1-1-3-2-2 (goalkeeper, sweeper, three (3) defenders, two (2) midfielders, two (2) forwards), 1-4-3-1 (goalkeeper, four (4) defenders, three (3) midfielders, forward), or 1-3-3-2 (goalkeeper, three (3) defenders, three (3) midfielders, two (2) forwards) formations are suggestions. Proper positioning should be coached.
- Games are run with **2, 24-minute halves**, with a 5-minute half time and no extra time.
- The games are refereed. The referees are learning just like the young players so treat them with respect. *Any intimidation or mistreatment of referees will not be tolerated.*
- Coaches must remain on the sidelines on their own half, and come onto the pitch *only* when needed to assist a player.
- Substitutions are made from midfield, *and are solely at the direction and discretion of the referee*. They can occur only during kick-offs (by either team), goal kicks (by either team), corner kicks (by either team) or throw-ins (by either team). No substitutions during free kicks or drop balls.
- An injured player does not have to leave the field unless attended to. If a substitute replaces an injured player the other team may also substitute a single player (i.e. one-for-one).
- No loss of possession on a on a bad first throw-in. Players are given one more attempt before loss of possession. Determination is at the discretion of the referee.
- **All fouls are awarded as indirect kicks. No penalty kicks or direct kicks are awarded.** For fouls occurring within the penalty box, an indirect kick is awarded just outside the penalty box closest to where the offense took place.
- **Offside calls will be made, but may not start until halfway through the season.** *Your Division Coordinator will advise.* Please do not have knock-down arguments over a close call over whether an 8- or 9-year-old was a step offside or allow your parents to scream and holler at the ref about it.
- **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 slide tackles** (light warning at first, indirect kick awarded if intentional or repeated occurrences).
- **No heading.** An indirect kick is awarded for intentional contact. *This is a US Soccer Guideline.*
- Cards are not issued for dangerous play and inappropriate conduct but coaches will be requested to substitute players and address instances.
- Shin guards are *mandatory*, socks over shin guards. Socks should match the uniform color.
- Size 4 soccer ball.
- Please review gametime rules at <https://www.freedomoptsoccer.com/fall-soccer-game-related-faqs>.
- Please review recent rules changes at <https://www.freedomoptsoccer.com/recent-game-rule-updates>.
 - Players now have a maximum of five seconds for a goal kick or throw-in after the referee starts a countdown.
 - If ball contact to a player's head is deemed unintentional (at the discretion of the referee), the game may be allowed to continue without stoppage.
 - No accessories may be worn except for medically or religiously necessary devices that are taped securely and completely to the body.