

**BENICIA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE**  
**Under 6 Age Group**  
**Modified Rules of the Game – Page 1 (revised 7/07)**

**Field:**

Field size and goals are established by the BYSL Board of Directors and maintained by the Fields and Equipment Coordinator. The field shall be approximately 25 yards in length and 20 yards in width. A midfield line will be shown, as will a center circle with a three-yard radius, and corner arcs. A goal area shall be shown and defined by an arc with a five-yard radius being measured from the center point of the goal line. The goals will be approximately 6 feet wide and 4 feet high and must be anchored with a minimum of two stakes on each side.

**Ball:**

Size 3 – home team furnishes.

**Number of Players:**

Maximum number of players on roster should not exceed 10. For games teams will be divided into 2 squads each with an equal number of players. Three players are allowed on each field from each squad. No goalkeepers.

**Playing Time:**

4 quarters of 10 minutes each. There shall be a 1-minute break between quarters one and two and between quarters three and four. There shall be a 5-minute break at halftime.

**Substitutions:**

Substitution of players every two minutes and can take place at any stoppage in play or on the fly. Players can only be substituted with players from their original squad.

**Players Equipment:**

Jerseys, shorts, shin-guards, socks, and footwear are mandatory. NO bracelets, earrings, casts, splints, necklaces, watches, plastic or metal hair ties. In general, anything that could possibly be dangerous to the player, or any other player, must NOT be worn - this includes baseball cleats.

**Preliminary to Start of Play:**

Coaches; split your team into two squads as two games will be played at the same time, conduct proper introductions of adult officials from both teams, shake hands, meet with the referees and go over these rules. One referee from each team will officiate each game. Referees; inspect players, field, goals and call for captains and explain the visiting team kicks off to begin the game. The home team will kick off to begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> third quarter. The home team begins the game defending the left side of the field. At half time the home team defends the right side of the field against a new squad from the visiting team.

**Start of Play:**

Ball is placed in middle of center circle and is in play when it is kicked forward. All players must stay on own half of field until ball is kicked. Opponents must stay outside the center circle until ball is kicked forward. The kicker must not touch ball again until it is touched by another player. The kick is retaken if an infringement occurs. Kickoffs will be considered indirect kicks, meaning the ball must touch at least 2 players including the player taking the initial kick, prior to going into the goal.

**In Play:**

Ball is in play until the whole of the ball has COMPLETELY crossed the goal or touch-lines. After ball has completely crossed the goal or touch lines the ball is signaled out of play. Play must then be restarted.

**Throw-In:**

Play is restarted by a throw-in at the spot the ball crossed the touch line, to the opposing team of the player who last touched the ball. A player must have a part of each foot on or behind the touch-line deliver the ball from behind and over his head, using both hands. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. In the case of an improper throw-in, referees are to allow one re-try after an explanation. In the case of two straight improper throw-ins the opposing team gets a throw-in at the same spot. A goal CANNOT be scored by directly throwing the ball into the goal.

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**Goal Kick:**

Play is restarted with a goal kick when the ball crosses the goal line last touched by the attacking team. The defending team takes the goal kick from any spot within the neutral arc. All opposing players must be 3-yards from the spot of the kick. The kick is retaken if opponents infringe into the 3-yard zone. A goal kick is considered an indirect kick, meaning the ball must touch at least 2 players including the player taking the initial kick, prior to going into a goal. The ball must be placed on the ground and kicked. Holding and then punting the ball is not allowed. Drop kicking the ball is not allowed.

**Corner Kick:**

A corner kick is awarded to the attacking team when the ball crosses the defender's goal line last touched by the defending team. The corner kick must be taken within the corner arc.

**Goal Scoring:**

The whole of the ball must COMPLETELY cross the goal line between the goalposts and under the crossbar.

**Fouls and Misconduct:**

Intentionally kicks, trips or attempts to kick or trip an opponent.

Strikes, holds, pushes, spits at, or interferes with an opponent.

Uses offensive, insulting, abusive language or exhibits unsporting behavior.

Handles the ball deliberately.

**ALL slide tackling.**

In all the above instances award an indirect free kick to the opposing team. Fouls should be briefly explained to the player. The kick is taken from the spot of the foul. Caution the player (and coach) depending on severity of incident. If foul is violent, severe, blatant, or repeated, referee is to request coach to immediately substitute for the offending player.

**Indirect Free Kick:**

All opposing players must be 3 yards from the spot of the kick. The kick is retaken if opponents infringe into 3-yard zone. A goal can be scored on an indirect free kick ONLY if another player touches the ball BEFORE it enters the goal. If the ball goes into the goal, from a kick off, a goal kick, or an indirect free kick without another player other than the kicker touching the ball, the defending team is awarded a goal kick. When an indirect free kick awarded to the defending team inside defending team's neutral arc the kick is taken from any place inside the defending team's arc. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the defending team's goal area is taken from the neutral arc line closest to where the foul took place.

**Direct Free Kicks/Penalty Kicks:**

None are called

**Drop Ball:**

A drop ball restarts all stoppages of play not mentioned in above - beginning of second and fourth quarters, injuries, etc. The referee drops the ball at spot where the ball was when play was stopped. Play restarts when ball touches ground.

**Offsides:**

Not called. However, cherry picking (attacking player intentionally standing near the opponent's neutral arc *when play is not in that half of the field*) is **not** allowed. Repeated instances of cherry picking are considered unsporting behavior. Players may only enter the neutral arc located in that half of the field where the ball is being played.

**Scoring:**

No scores are kept.

**Sideline Behavior:**

The coaches of each team are responsible for their team's conduct on the sidelines. In addition, the coaches of each team are responsible for maintaining proper conduct of all spectators on their sidelines. **Verbal abuse of players and referees is not tolerated.** If repeated instances of verbal abuse occur, the referee may request any player, coach, or spectator leave from sight and sound of the field. A referee may stop the match if the offending party refuses.

