

BENICIA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
Under 8 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 45 yards in length and 32 yards in width. A midfield line will be shown, as will a center circle with a ten-yard radius, and corner arcs. A goal area shall be shown and defined by a rectangle 6 yards deep by 15 yards wide extending into the field of play as measured from the center point of the goal line. A players and coaches area will be defined by a line 10 yards long beginning at the midfield line and running parallel to the touch line. The goals will be approximately 18 feet wide and 6 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 11. Seven players are allowed on the field including a goalkeeper.

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. Available players must play 50% of the game.

Substitutions:

Substitution of players can take place at any stoppage in play.

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; introduce yourself to the opposing coaches, shake hands and meet with the referees. Review these rules. The home team supplies the referee, has choice of sidelines and will begin the game defending the goal to the left as viewed at their sidelines. 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 3rd third quarter

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. After a goal is scored play resumes with a kick off by opposing team.

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. Note: after a goalie makes a save with his/her hands the ball is still in play. While the goalie is in possession of the ball the goalie or the ball shall not be touched and the goalie allowed proper distance to punt the ball away, however, if the goalie chooses not to punt the ball away and to instead place it on the ground and then kick it, the ball is in play when placed on the ground.

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 goal area. All opposing players must be 6-yards from the spot of the kick. The kick is retaken if opponents infringe into the 6-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 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 kick must be taken within the corner arc with the ball must be placed on the ground.

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, including charging the goalkeeper.

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

Handles the ball deliberately – except goalkeeper within his/her goal area.

Slide tackling from behind.

In all the above instances the referee shall 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 6 yards from the spot of the kick. The kick is retaken if opponents infringe into 6-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 goal area the kick is taken from any place inside the defending team's goal area. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the defending team's goal area is taken from the goal area 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 goal area when play is not in that half of the field) is **not** allowed. Repeated instances of cherry picking are considered unsporting behavior. In addition, no player (other than the goalkeeper) may be in the goal area unless the ball is in the same half of the field as that goal area.

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.

