

BENICIA YOUTH SOCCER

Modified Laws of the Game

Recreational Division

Under 12 Age Group

U12 recreational games follow the standard FIFA laws of the game with the following exceptions and clarifications:

- Players on the Field: 9 v 9 (includes the goalkeeper)
- Ball size: 4
- Field size: Small orange-lined fields.
- Center circle size: 8 yards
- Goal size: Small 7' x 21' goals.
- Game Duration: 2x 30 minute halves, 10 minute halftime
- Throw-ins: Enforced.
- Offside: Enforced.
- Free Kicks: Direct free kicks and penalty kicks awarded.
- Distance: Opponents 10 yards from spot of the kick.
- Slide Tackles: Permitted, not encouraged. Poor technique may result in a caution.
- Discipline: Cautions (yellow cards) and send offs (red cards) enforced. Any discipline shall be noted on the game card and in the game report filed on MySoccerLeague.com.
- Send-offs and Dismissals: If a player is sent-off or a coach or assistant is dismissed, the referee shall contact the Referee Coordinator IMMEDIATELY at half-time or following the game and shall file a send-off / dismissal report with the disciplinary committee.

Substitution Opportunities

A substitute shall not enter the field of play until given a signal or beckoned by the referee. An unlimited number of players from either team may be substituted at the following times:

- Prior to a kick-off;
- Prior to a goal kick;
- Prior to a throw-in; and
- After an injury or caution, when the referee stops play.

Overview of U12 Soccer

The U12 age group continues on developing player skills while emphasizing fun. There are a few substantial differences compared to the U10 age group. At U12 goals are recorded and standings are kept. Games are more competitive and physical as players get older and become more confident in their abilities.

Standings

- Match results are reported on MySoccerLeague.com.
- Standings are publicly available on MySoccerLeague.com.

Referees

- In the U12 age group, more experienced referees will be on crews. Benicia Youth Soccer evaluates officials and establishes the league comfort level for each.
- Games are played at Benicia Community Park, so senior referees are more likely to request a U12 recreational game due to proximity to the full-sized fields.
- This league has a zero tolerance policy for dissent—by coaches, parents or players—against any referee, in particular youth referees. Please **DO NOT GO THERE**.

Player Equipment

The “Five Esses” are mandatory: shirt, shorts, shin guards, shoes and socks. Shin guards must be entirely covered by socks; and must be worn on the *inside* of the socks. Absolutely **NO** bracelets, earrings, necklaces, watches, jewelry, plastic or metal hair ties, casts or splints (at this age, injured players should focus on healing). In general, anything that could possibly be dangerous to the player, or any other player, shall **NOT** be worn. This includes baseball cleats (shoes with a single front cleat). Referees have discretion to use their judgment to decide what is dangerous and prohibit such items. The **ONLY** exception to this rule is a medical bracelet which should be secured to the wrist and covered with adhesive tape.

Common Issues

- **TECHNICAL AREA:** The technical area runs 10 yards to the left and right of midfield and one yard away from the touch line. The technical area should be marked but it might not be. Coaches, assistants and substitute players must remain in the technical area at all times. Coaches need permission from the referee to enter the field, even to attend to an apparently injured player.
- **INJURIES:** Player safety is the most important factor for every decision a referee makes. In the event of an apparent injury, referees are encouraged to stop the game quickly due to age and skill of the players. Please understand that a referee may decide to wait a moment to let play flow if the incident appears to be trifling. *If a coach, assistant or parent is beckoned onto the field to attend to an injured player, that player must be substituted before play resumes.*
- **SLIDE TACKLES:** Permitted. However, a poorly executed slide tackle may be considered reckless or unsporting behavior and merit a caution (yellow card).
- **DIRECT FREE KICKS:** A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the ten DFK offenses.
- **PENALTY KICKS:** A penalty kick is awarded if any of the ten DFK offenses is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.
- **INDIRECT FREE KICKS:** All indirect free kick offenses will be enforced.

Substitution Procedure

A coach may substitute players by calling out to the referee “Substitution!” or “Sub, please!” The referee may then give permission for the substitution. However, a stoppage of play does not guarantee that a substitution will occur: the referee may not hear the coach above enthusiastic cheering or play may restart too quickly. Do NOT repeatedly shout “Sub!” after the referee has indicated for the restart to take place, when a player is in the process of taking the restart, or after the ball is in play. Be patient and wait for the next opportunity which usually takes only a few seconds.

The player to be substituted onto the field of play should be up and ready at midfield before the coach requests the substitution. The substitute shall wait off the field of play, by the center flag if any, until beckoned by the referee. The referee manages the number of players on the field and must see which players are leaving the field before allowing the substitutes to enter—this is especially important when both teams want to substitute or when one team wants to substitute many players. The referee should blow the whistle with two quick blasts to stop play and then acknowledge the substitute request. The referee should also blow the whistle to restart play after the substitute has entered the field and arrived at their position.