

# Rocky Hill Parks & Recreation Youth Soccer League Rules & Procedures

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Youths must reside in the town of Rocky Hill, and play in the appropriate division based on age.
2. Only youths who have registered at the Parks and Recreation Department and been assigned to a team may participate in league play. Only the Recreation Supervisor may assign additional players to a team in the course of the season as the need for more players occurs.

## PROCEDURES

1. Team rosters and schedules will be given to coaches in advance of the first scheduled game.
2. **ALL** players on a team roster must play for at least one half of every game for which they are present. While players are encouraged to attend all practices and games, none are mandatory.
3. All coaches must hold one practice per week throughout the season. All coaches **must** conduct a mandatory parents meeting prior to their first game. At this meeting parents are asked to sign a “Code of Conduct”. This is to make your life easier. Coaches keep these signed forms.
4. All head coaches will receive a Team Folder containing:
  - List of all coaches
  - Team Roster
  - Game Schedule
  - League Rules and Procedures
  - Report of Incident/Accident (enclosed)
5. Complete and submit all appropriate forms:
  - *Injury Report* – Coaches must document all injuries, no matter how small, and submit the form to Rocky Hill Parks & Recreation **within 24hrs** so that proper follow-up measures may be taken.
6. All head coaches will receive the following equipment (and are responsible for its return at the end of the season):
  - Balls – five per team

- Cones/markers – ten per team
- Pinnies – varies per team
- First Aid Kit – All divisions
- T-shirts – at least one for every player and coach
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## **PHILOSOPHY**

1. To promote appreciation of soccer, to develop skills necessary for team play, to provide equal opportunity for the development of individual players, and to accommodate every player regardless of ability level.
2. To stress physical fitness and development of fundamental skills, but equal emphasis placed on building lasting friendships, good sportsmanship, and the sheer fun of participation.
3. It recognizes the traditional problem in junior sports concerning the heavy emphasis on winning brought about by some coaches, parents, and peer groups. While the value of winning is understood in terms of developing a healthy competitive attitude and team spirit, it is less important than the overall objectives of having each child participate and develop to his/her own capabilities while having fun in the process.
4. It realizes that constant losing can be depressing and counterproductive for players, and thus attempts to divide players into teams of relatively equal strength, and to provide the best available volunteer coaching, administration, and facilities.
5. To encourage the coaches to equalize playing times for each game among all team members.
6. Sportsmanship is a very strong recreation tradition. Decisions of referees are to be accepted by players, coaches, and parents. No exceptions are tolerated.

## **LOCAL PLAYING RULES**

1. U.S. Soccer Federation rules and regulations will apply in all cases, except where league rules take precedent.
2. A league ball in good condition for game purposes must be used.
3. Sneakers or all-purpose type support shoes are the only permitted footwear. No hard-toed shoes will be allowed. Rubber molded spikes, cleats, or similar footwear will be accepted.
4. Substitutes may enter only on any end-line situation and on throw-ins when their team has possession of the ball.

5. All players in the game must wear a team uniform shirt.
6. All players must wear shin guards.
7. Slide tackling is prohibited.

### **REFEREES**

1. Referees shall be hired through Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation.
2. The referees shall hold a brief meeting with the coaches beginning of each game to explain ground rules and any recent rule clarifications.
3. All referees will carry yellow and red cards.
4. Referees may decide at their discretion to suspend play, if during the course of a game they deem conditions, physical or otherwise, to be dangerous or contrary to an environment of fair play and sportsmanship. In this case, the matter shall be referred to the Recreation Supervisor.

### **SCHEDULES/TEAM ASSIGNMENT**

League Schedules will be available to the general public on our Web site the last week of August. In the meantime, coaches should be contacting their players immediately after the coaches meeting to let them know what team they have been assigned to so they can reference the schedules.

### **POSTPONEMENTS**

1. Game times and dates will be set annually during the scheduling process.
2. A 15-minute grace period will be allowed after the scheduled starting time if either team does not have the minimum number of players to begin play.
3. If neither team is prepared to play after the 15-minute grace period, the game will be cancelled.
4. If one team has less than the minimum, then the game will be considered a forfeiture for that team. If a team starts a game with at least the minimum requirement, and then falls below the requirement during the game due to injuries, ejections, or others reasons, that game will be considered a forfeit on that team's part.
5. Once a game has begun, it is the referee's discretion to stop or suspend play due to inclement weather. In this case, two completed quarters of play shall constitute a

complete game. If a game is halted before two full quarters, it will be rescheduled depending on field availability, at the discretion of the Recreation Supervisor.

6. In the case of a game being postponed before game time, the coaches must notify the Recreation Supervisor.
7. Rainouts: Decisions regarding rainouts during the week will be made by 3:30 p.m., and coaches must call the main office number at 258-2772 or check the web site for the decision. On weekends, decisions will be made by the Recreation Supervisor, by 9:00 a.m. and the decision will be put on the office line and the web site. You may also register for rhannounce, our automated E-mail system to learn of any cancellations and/or updates. One make up will be allocated to the season which is referenced on the schedule. If games are cancelled by the Department, coaches **must not** play on their own due to Insurance Liability issues.

### **GAME CONDUCT**

1. Coaches and players are to remain within the area of their assigned benches throughout the game, unless requested to leave by the referee. In all divisions, coaches **MUST** stay on their half of the field!
2. No spectator or coach shall be near the goal area during the course of the game.
3. Harassment of the goalkeeper, whether the ball is in his/her possession or not, is not allowed. All players on the offensive team must retreat outside the penalty area.
4. Intimidation of other players by threatening, charging, yelling or other means is not allowed and will be penalized as unsportsmanlike conduct with an indirect free kick. Such continued behavior will be grounds for expulsion from the game.
5. Both teams shall have their benches assigned on the same side of the field, in separate field halves. ALL others (parents, friends, relatives, observers, or others) shall remain on the opposite side of the field. There will be no exceptions.
6. If a red card is issued to a player or coach, they will not be allowed to participate in the next game.
7. There is a maximum of 2 coaches per team, and each must wear a team shirt.
8. Coaches will not be allowed to smoke at the fields. Smoking is prohibited completely on school grounds.

## **COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES**

1. Protests will not be recognized by the League. All complaints shall be handled on the field in a respectful manner between coaches and referees. The referees have the final decision in all such matters.
2. Complaints concerning the personal conduct of coaches or players shall be referred to the Recreation Supervisor.