

Georgia Soccer Youth Rules and Regulations can be found at
www.georgiasoccer.org

(Coaches tab > Youth Rules and Regulations)

Monroe County Rec. Dept Soccer Referee Rules/ Overrides:

- **Concussion Protocol and Heading Restrictions**
 - Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed
 - Per Georgia Soccer Youth Rules, the player must leave the field of play for additional evaluation; a substitution may be made at that moment.
 - The player with the suspected head injury may **NOT** return to the game unless a Healthcare Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player
 - Any team official or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game.
- **Heading**
 - **Deliberate heading is NOT allowed in U10 and below games.** If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate or accidental header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred.
 - Heading is allowed in games U12 and older without limitations.
- **Age Group Penalty Area Goal Area Penalty Kick Mark Center**
 - Circle U4 to U8 None
 - U10-U12 10 yards
 - U14 to U16 12 yards
- If there is no referee in 4v4, this responsibility falls to the team officials and parents involved
- No one (spectators or participants) shall be allowed behind the end lines during the course of a game.
- The referee shall halt the game, if necessary, to enforce this rule.
- Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the buildout line.
- **The following shall be the number of players for each age division to take part in a match, the minimum required to begin a match, and the minimum required to continue a match once started:**

Age	Players	Times
U4	4 v 4	4 - 8 min Quarters with 5 min Half
U6	5 v 5	4 - 10 min Quarters with 5 min Half
U8	6 v 6	4 - 10 min Quarters with 5 min Half
U10	7 v 7	2 - 25 min Half with 10 min Half time
U12	9 v 9	2 - 30 min Half with 10 min Half time
U14/U16	11 v 11	2 - 35 min Half with 10 min Half time

SLIDE TACKLING

- **NO** slide tackling from behind; Tackling from the front with contact of the ball is allowed with Referee's judgement and will NOT be argued.
- **Any arguing about a slide tackle will be an automatic warning.**

OFF SIDES

- Off sides calls for U10 and above

SUBSTITUTIONS

- Substitutions need to be at the mid line; coach must notify officials of subs
- A player who is sent off may not be substituted. RED CARD
- Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:
 1. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
 2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
 3. After a goal, by either team.
 4. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play. Substitutions shall not be limited to only the injured player or his team.
 5. At half time.
 6. After a caution or sending off, by either team.

THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- Players may wear a cast on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, upper arm or shoulder if it is covered and padded with a closes- cell, slow- recover foam padding no less than ½- inch thick.
- A Doctor Clearance is mandatory before the child may step on the field with a cast.

THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

- If a team cannot field the required minimum number of players within 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, that team will forfeit the game.
- In the event that neither team is able to field the required minimum number of players, then both teams will forfeit the game.
- There will be no grace period for the second game.

FREE KICKS

- U04 to U06: All free kicks will be indirect.
- U08 and above:
 - Indirect: off sides or any non blatant foul (i.e. some competitive advantage gained)
 - Direct: hand balls, blatant fouls (i.e. player taken out of play)
 - Judgment calls do not argue

THE PENALTY KICK

- U4 to U8: No penalty kicks are to be taken during games.
- U10 - U12 10 yards for PK or
- U14 - U16 12 yards for PK

THE THROW-IN

- U4 to U8: A second throw-in must be allowed if the player makes an improper throw-in on the initial attempt. The second throw-in takes place after the game official explains the proper method.
- U10 and up: 1 throw in

THE CORNER KICK

- U4 to U6: Throw-ins may be taken in place of corner kicks. If corner kicks are used, the opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball. No one closer than 3 yards from the corner.
- U8 and up: Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball. No one closer than 5 yards from the corner.

GOALKEEPER

- The Goalkeeper must wear a shirt of a different color from his teammates, the referee, and his opponents, and does not require a number. Pennies can be provided.
- Are the only player to touch the ball with their hands as long as he/she stays in the box.
- Are allowed to punt.
- Georgia Soccer requires: (U9 and 10U: Goalkeeper Participation: In recreational play, the goalkeeper must be given at least as much time in each game as a field player as he/she plays as goalkeeper.) We as MCRD are NOT requiring this rule.