

Mandeville Soccer Club

U-9/U-10 (6 v 6)

Highlighted changes from U-8

A. Field Size

- The fields used and goals are larger than at U-8 (usually approximately 35-40yds wide and 50-60yds long)

B. Equipment

- From U-9 through U-12 play with a "Size 4" Soccer Ball
- Shin guards and proper footwear are mandatory
- No exposed jewelry, watches, etc.. (for safety purposes)

C. Rosters

- We will play 6 v 6 at this age - 1 Goalkeeper and 5 field players
- Rosters sizes are increased to 8 to 10 players to accommodate 6 V 6

D. Game Duration

- Two twenty-five minute halves
 - ✓ During especially warm weather, both coaches may agree to play 12 minute quarters. Please inform the referee if this is decided.
- 5 to 10 minute break at half

E. Referees

- A single, center referee is assigned by the club. Linesmen, if any, are generally provided by the teams. These are usually parents who assist the referee in determining out-of-bounds balls.
- At this level, referees are usually young with little experience. Keep this in mind at all times. Mistakes will be made.
- **MSC has a "zero tolerance" policy with respect to dissent of referee calls or abusive behavior directed to referees from the sidelines. Tell your parents, assistant coaches and players, that MSC is serious about this policy.**

F. Rules

At U-9 referees are required to officiate and call games pursuant to the Laws of the Game established by FIFA, as modified and amended for recreational soccer. The primary changes from U-8 include:

1. Recreational soccer permits free substitution of players throughout the game, except for the final two minutes of each half. Players may be substituted in the following manner during stoppage of play, **but only with the referee's permission**. The referee will use his/her judgment when determining whether to allow a substitution. If the referee deems that a substitution would alter the advantage (i.e. a quick throw in), he may not allow the substitution until the next available stoppage.

Stoppage of play includes:

- ball out-of-bounds (passed the touch-line);
- goal kick, by either team;
- immediately after a goal has been scored by either team

To properly substitute, the player must report to the halfway (center) line. If the Center does not see the player at the next stoppage, then you may call out "substitution".

Substitutions can only take place with the referee's permission. The new player(s) enter the field only after the substituted player has reached the touchline, or when waived on by the center referee.

Injured players who must leave the field may be substituted by the team suffering the injury only, after notice to the referee. Note Injury Modification – in youth soccer, the referee can call a stoppage at any time when he thinks a player might be injured. As a courtesy every player takes a knee to allow for the coaches to attend the injured player. Play is then resumed with a "drop ball" –which is similar to a hockey face off.

2. Fouls are called by the referee, and his/her opinion is the only one that counts. Fouls may result in direct or indirect kicks and may include a yellow or red card if repeated or especially aggressive, violent infractions occur.

- Tackling (slide) or tripping from behind is considered a serious foul due to the potential for injury

3. Penalty Kicks - a called foul in the penalty box, committed by the defending team, will result in a penalty kick being awarded to the opposing team.
4. The concept of "Advantage" - Just because a foul occurred does not mean it will be immediately called. If a player has been fouled, but he or his team maintains control and has an advantage, a foul may not be called at all. To do so would stop the momentum and could actually be detrimental to the fouled team. This determination is entirely in the opinion of the referee. This is why at times there is a delay before the foul is called.
5. Off-side - A player is in an off-side position if:
 - a. he or she is in the opponents half of the field, and
 - b. nearer to the opponent's goal-line than the ball (i.e. ahead of the ball) , and
 - c. there are not 2 defending players (counting the goal-keeper) level with, or closer to the goal line than, the attacking player.

However, merely being in an off-side position does not make a player "off-side". The player must be involved in the active play to be penalized.

Off-side is judged when the ball is last played by the player's teammate, not when it is received. A player may look off-side when the ball arrives, but may not have been off-side when it was played (kicked) by his/her teammate.

- G. Goalkeeper - It is the Club's policy to discourage any physical contact with the goalkeeper at U-10 and below. "Fingertip" control of the ball is considered in the possession of the goalie. Players should be coached to avoid all contact with the goalie to avoid injury.

Goalkeepers are the only players on the field that is able to use his/her hands to control the ball. The goalie, however, may only use his hands to control the ball while in the large box painted on the field (called the penalty area). Once the ball is in the possession of the goalkeeper, he has six seconds to put the ball back into play. At any time and anywhere on the field, the goalie may use his feet to play the ball. The goalkeeper must wear a uniform that clearly differentiates him from other players on the field.

At U-10 and below, players are limited to 50% of the game as a Goalkeeper

H. Game Conduct

Players and coaches are expected to abide by the principles of good sportsmanship and fair play at all times. However, players and coaches are specifically prohibited from:

- being behind either goal line during the game
- being closer than 18 yards from the corner of the field
- entering the field without the permission of the referee
- consuming alcohol or tobacco at games
- making derogatory gestures or statements to referees or opposing players and/or spectators, including particularly dissenting from referees' rulings during the game.

A player who is cautioned (shown a yellow card) for foul play should be removed from the game via substitution. The player should be counseled and should not return that half. If the player receives a second yellow card, he or she will be sent off (shown a red card). This is because two yellow cards are equivalent to a red card. Note it is not necessary to receive the caution. Deliberate fouls, etc.. may result in an immediate red card.

Sending Off - The consequences of being shown a red card by the referee shall be that the player is immediately suspended from further play during the game in progress, and is suspended from the next sanctioned game in which his team competes. The player or coach must immediately and without dissent leave the playing field and sidelines to a position out of hearing and sight of the referee for the duration of the game. No further contact with the game referees are permitted by the player or coach shown a red card on the day of the infraction.

For further information, please refer to the membership guide.