

City of Dover Youth Soccer League Rules

All Age Groups/Divisions

*Games will be played by FIFA rules except where modified below.

I. Equipment

- A. Soccer cleats are recommended but not required.
- B. Shin guards are **MANDATORY** for practices and games.
- C. No jewelry, watches, earrings, etc. are to be worn. Referee's decision to remove such an article is final.
 - Medical ID bracelets/information may be worn, but must be taped down if loose.
- D. An official Soccer ball will be used:
 - Age Group: Mites Division - Size 3
 - Pee Wee & Bantam Divisions - Size 4
- E. No jeans are to be worn, sweatpants are allowed. Socks must be worn over top of the shin guard for extra support and safety.

II. Participation

Every player must play **two (2) complete quarters**. No one player may play the entire game unless his/her team has no substitutes.

Substitutions:

Once every player has played two (2) complete quarters:

Mites Division may sub at quarters or at a stoppage (throw-in, goal kick, or injury)

Pee Wee & Bantam Divisions may substitute on a stoppage of play per USSF rules: a team may request a substitution after a goal, on either team's goal kick, on the substitution team's throw-in, after an injury stoppage, and one substitution in response to an opponent's injury substitution. Coaches must signify their desire for a substitute by sending their substitutes to the half-field line and, if need be, by asking for a substitute. Substitutes may enter the field upon the invitation of the referee.

III. Timing, Substitution, & Number of Players

<u>Age Group:</u>	<u>Timing</u>	<u>Players</u>
Mites	Four (4) Eight (8) minute quarters	5 players <i>and goalie</i>
Pee Wee	Four (4) Ten (10) minute quarters	7 Players <i>and goalie</i>
Bantam	Four (4) Twelve (12) minute quarters	7 Players <i>and goalie</i>

IV. Start of Game

- A. Direction/possession will be determined by a coin toss or by referee's discretion.
- B. The ball must be played forward.
- C. A goal may not be scored directly from a kickoff, unless the ball is touched by another player (goalie/defenders included) prior to the ball going in the goal. If such an attempt is made and the ball touches no one before crossing the goal line, an indirect kick is given to the opposing team within the goalie box/penalty area.
- D. All games will start on time as scheduled. Teams should arrive early to allow for warm-ups.

V. Goalie Position – Bantam Division

- A. The goalie may touch the ball with their hands only while in the Goalie box.
- B. The goalie may punt or throw the ball.
- C. After releasing the ball from his or her possession, that is after punting or throwing the ball or attempting to punt or throw the ball, a goalie may not pick up the ball until it has been touched by an opposing player.
- D. A goal kick may be taken anywhere inside the 12-yard box.
- E. The goalie may not be charged once gaining possession of the ball. Possession is determined by having both hands on the ball. One hand on top of the ball while the ball is on the ground is sufficient to define possession.
- F. The goalie has six (6) seconds to release the ball. A violation of this rule will result in an indirect kick that is taken at a spot of the referee's discretion.
- G. The goalie's shirt or jersey must contrast with his or her own team's jerseys and with the opponents' jerseys.
- H. The goal keeper may not receive a pass from a teammate's foot to his/her hands. It must be "foot to foot", not foot to hand. If a goal keeper picks up the ball after receiving it from a teammate's foot, it is an indirect kick from the spot (referee's discretion) of the infraction for the opposing team. Goalkeepers may pick up ball if player heads it back to them.

VI. Coaching / Team Area

- A. For Pee Wee & Bantam Division games there will be a 50 yard area designated for coaches and players only. Once the game has started coaches and players must stay in the area designated for their team. Parents should allow their children to bring their water with them, so they will not need to leave the team area each time they need a drink.
- B. No more than two (2) coaches are allowed in the designated area. Only the head coach can communicate with officials.
- C. No spectators are allowed on the players side of the field or behind the designated area. If there are spectators in these areas, the game will not start until they have moved.

VII. Build Out Line – Mites & Pee Wee Divisions

The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.

When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is *put into play**.

Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting is not allowed).

After the ball is *put into play* by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

**Put into play* will be defined as when the ball is touched by one of the goalkeeper's teammates.

Note: The keeper is allowed to distribute the ball quickly, accepting the fact that opponents can then challenge for the ball.

VIII. Fouls/Restarting Play

- A. Slide-tackling and headers are NOT permitted.
- B. Indirect kicks may be "kicked" at any height. However, it is highly discouraged of a player to intentionally try to hit an opponent.
- C. Indirect kicks are awarded for fouls such as dangerous play, obstruction, etc. A goal may not be scored from an indirect kick. The ball must touch another player before a goal can be scored.
- D. An indirect foul committed by the defense in their own penalty area will result in an indirect kick taken at the spot of the foul unless the foul occurred inside the 6-yard box. In that case, the indirect kick will be taken from the 6-yard box at the spot closest to the spot of the foul.
- E. On all free kicks defenders' must be ten yards from the ball.
- F. The offside rule will not apply in any age group; however, the intent of the rule will be followed. Positioning a player in front of the opponent's goal irrespective of the location of the ball on the field (commonly referred to as "cherry picking") is not permitted. The referee shall take appropriate action to prevent this kind of play, and an indirect kick will be awarded to the offended team.

VII. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any unsportsmanlike play or use of profanity, as observed by a Game Official, Coach or League Official, may result in a penalty or ejection from the game. Repeat offenders are subject to expulsion from the league.

Referees will issue a warning on the first offense. A second offense will result in that player being ejected from the contest.

10-minute penalties:

- A. Unsporting behavior – including hard fouls, holding an opponent.
- B. Dissent by words or actions.

VIII. Spectators

For Pee & Bantam Division games there will be a 50 yard area designated for coaches and players only. There are no spectators allowed on the players side of the field or behind the soccer goals. If there are spectators in these areas, the game will not start until they have moved.

IX. Miscellaneous

- A. Referee's decision on goals scored or not scored is final.
- B. Verbal abuse towards and confrontations with officials will not be tolerated. If any such behavior continues after a warning is issued from the referee/staff or the coach, spectator of player will be asked to leave the facility.
- C. The City of Dover expects all volunteers, players, parents, and all spectators to be excellent role models for the players and each other.
- D. Smoking is prohibited in all City of Dover parks, this includes smokeless tobacco.