

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

Rules derived from “Laws of the Game” by FIFA (International Federations of Association Football) and locally adopted recreational rules. Changes have been made to meet local requirements.

MIN / MAX PLAYERS

**1. Divisions 1 & 2 SHORT FIELD**

A. Each team will play with a maximum of 8 players on a side, which includes the goalkeeper.

c. To begin a game each team needs at least 5 players to start a game or game is declared a forfeit. If game is declared a forfeit, coaches will divide teams equally and play. Game Time is Forfeit Time. Officials will officiate forfeited games.

d. In **Division 1 & 2** if one team is short players the other team **will play down** to **EQUAL** the number of players on the opposing team. Example: Team “A” has 5 players and team “B” has 8 or more players; Team “B” will play 5 players on the field.

**2. Division 3 FULL FIELD**

A. Each team will play with a maximum of 11 players on a side, which includes the goalkeeper.

B. A team must play all players present up to 11 players. To begin a game each team needs at least 7 players to start a game or game is declared a forfeit. If game is declared a forfeit, coaches will divide teams equally and play. Game Time is Forfeit Time. Officials will officiate forfeited games.

C. In **Division 3** if one team is short players the other team **will play down** to **EQUAL** the number of players on the opposing team. Example: Team “A” has 7 players and team “B” has 11 or more players; Team “B” will play 7 players on the field.

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

**3. Division 4 FULL FIELD (5 V 5)**

- A. Each team will play with a maximum of 5 players on a side, which includes the goalkeeper.
- B. To begin a game each team needs to have at least 5 players or game is declared a forfeit. If a game is declared a forfeit, coaches will divide teams equally and play. Game Time is Forfeit Time. Officials will officiate forfeited games.

**4. ALL DIVISIONS – Coaches and Players**

Registered coaches and or adult representatives approved by the Parks & Recreation Dept. are only allowed to coach the team and to be present on the sidelines with the players. Only players listed on the official roster are eligible to play in their scheduled games. No players from other teams are allowed to play in other scheduled games or forfeited games. Each roster will be checked prior to each match by the Field Coordinator and/or Center Official. **No Exceptions to this rule.**

**COIN TOSS**

A pre-game coin toss will be conducted by the Center Official between a representative captain from each team. The team listed second on the schedule shall call the toss. The winner of the coin toss will get choice of goal to defend or kick off.

**KICKOFF**

- 1. DIVISION 1, 2 Indirect Kick (Change from FIFA)
  - a. Goal can be made provided a defender touched the ball first.
- 2. DIVISION 3, 4 Direct Kick (FIFA Rule)
  - a. Goal can be scored without a defender touching the ball.

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

3. Ball must be kicked forward.
  - a. Minimum movement required.
4. Opposite team kicks off for second half.
5. Teams change goals to defend for second half.

**DURATION OF GAME**

**1. Division 1, 2**

- a. Two (2) equal periods of 20 minutes.
- b. Ten (10) minute dead ball substitution.
- c. Five (5) minute half time break.
- d. Continuous clock.
- e. No time outs except for injury, illness, halftime and 10-minute substitution.

**2. Division 3, 4**

- a. Two (2) equal periods of 25 minutes – continuous clock.
- b. Five (5) minutes half time break.
- c. Added time at discretion of Center Official for substitution, injury, etc.

**SUBSTITUTION**

**1. Division 1, 2**

- a. Please allow substitutes as needs
- b. Any time for injury or illness.
- c. Substitution/change of goalkeeper is ok with Center Official's permission.
- d. All team members must have equal playing time. (As close as possible)
- e. EXCEPTION: A player may be removed from the game by the coach and or official if the player fails to follow instructions given. (See un-sportsmanlike conduct)

**Division 3, 4**

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

- a. Free substitution, coaches may substitute players with the approval of center official on any goal kick, corner kick, throw in or kick off. No Substitutions allowed with (2) two or less minutes remaining in the game. All team members must have equal playing time. (As close as possible)
- b. Any time for injury or illness.
- c. Coach shall inform Linesman of desire to substitute.
- d. Substitutes when entering the field of play shall enter the field at the halfway line.

Players may not enter the field until player being replaced has exited the field on their sideline.

- e. Official must signal permission to enter or leave field of play.
- f. Substitution/change of Goalkeeper is ok with Center Official's permission.
- g. No substitutions will be allowed during the last two minutes of the game.
- h. EXCEPTION: A player may be removed from the game by the coach or official if the player fails to follow instructions give. (See un-sportsmanlike conduct)

**HEADING RESTRICTION**

1. NO heading will be permitted in Division 1, 2, 3 of the City of Ridgecrest Parks and Recreation Youth Soccer League.
  - a. This requires education and support from the coach, officials and parents to instruct the player accordingly.
  - b. If a player heads the ball the official will stop play and address the infraction with the player.
  - c. Players will be issued a warning on their first infraction.
  - d. If a goal results from heading, the goal will not count.
  - e. If a player heads again, the infraction will result in a turnover of the ball for

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

the offending team.

2. HEADING PERMITTED in division 4, ONLY to the players who have attended one of the preseason heading clinics. Coaches are responsible for monitoring which players attended the heading clinic and have their parent's permission to exercise the technique. Opt-out forms are available for parents who do not want their child performing the skill.

**SLIDE TACKLING**

1. NO slide tackling allowed in any division.
2. Players will be issued a warning on their first infraction.
3. d. If a goal results from heading, the goal will not count.
4. e. If a player heads again, the infraction will result in a turnover of the ball for the offending team.

**FIELD RESTRICTIONS**

**1. Division 1, 2, 3, 4**

- a. Ten (10) foot restraining line on sideline must be observed by spectators.
- b. No Spectators are allowed on end lines and between the fields.
- c. Players and coaches are only allowed between fields and behind the (10) foot Restraining line. Only coaches in Division 1 are allowed behind the end line to work with goalies. Coaches only allowed on field the first two games
- d. Coach's box is 10 yards from centerline.
- e. Teams listed first (home team) remain left of centerline.
- f. Teams listed second (guest team) remain right of centerline.

**THE BALL**

1. Division 1 and 2- size 3 soccer balls
2. Division 3 – size 4 soccer balls

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

3. Division 4 and 5- size 5 soccer balls

**PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

1. Player t-shirt provided by Parks & Recreation and program Sponsor
2. Shin guards. It is mandatory that the player wear knee-hi socks to help the shin guards stay in place.
3. Player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player or him/herself.

(Watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, taped earrings, plastic or metal hairpieces, braces, ball caps)

4. Front tow cleats on soccer shoes are allowed.
5. NO POCKETS!!! If a player has pockets, they will not be allowed to play. No taping of pockets will be allowed. CHANGED: PLAYERS ARE ABLE TO TAPE

**FIELD BUILD OUT LINE (Divisions 1, 2 only)**

1. The field build out lines are meant to encourage playing from the back with unopposed pressure until the team progresses past the “build out line” area.
  - a. The build out line will be placed Three (3) feet in front of the goalkeeper box.
  - b. The opposing team may not engage the ball until the ball has reached the build out line.
  - c. If a defensive player engages the ball before the build out line, the official will stop play to back up the defense and start the play over.

**OFF-SIDES**

1. Division 1, 2
  - a. No off-sides unless it is obvious that the player’s intent and purpose

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

is to score from that position.

2. Division 3, 4
  - a. Off-sides will be called.

**ADDITIONAL PLAYERS**

You may not add players to your roster unless it has been allowed by the Parks & Recreation Department. We have a waiting list. Positions will be filled from this list.

**SCORING**

INDIRECT FREE KICK  
DIRECT FREE KICK  
GOAL KICK  
PENALTY KICK  
THROW-IN  
SUSPENSION OF GAMES

**END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT**

1. Divisions 3 & 4 only.
2. Single elimination playoff with all teams.
3. Tournament seeds are based on season standings.
4. Length of games are same as season
5. Any tie at the end of regulation time will be resolved by a penalty kick.
  - a. Any 5 players from each team participate.
  - b. Any further ties resolved by next 5 players.
  - c. Coin toss with captains for first kick.
  - d. Defending team may change goalkeeper prior to each kick with officials ok.
6. Awards will be given for 1st and 2nd place teams
7. Turn in all equipment, balls, cones, goalie jersey at end of tournament or when team is eliminated.

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

**CONDUCT RULES**

Protests: The only protest allowed will be players' eligibility.

**UN-SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT – For Coaches, Players and Spectators**

***“Un-sportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated”***

1. Un-sportsmanlike conduct can include, but is not limited to the following: taunting, baiting, having a “bad attitude” (i.e. continually complaining or griping, open defiance, rebellious nature, back talk, attempting to influence a decision by an official, questioning an official’s judgment or showing disgust with decision, profane or insulting language or gestures, disrespectfulness to any person, intentional rudeness or crudeness). Using or possession of drugs, alcohol or tobacco; stealing; any verbal or physical abuse of any person, or willful damage to grounds or facilities will be cause for suspension from the program (either temporary or permanent and possibly from the area, and possibly criminal or civil charges). *ALL AT THE DISCRETION OF MANAGEMENT.*

2. **Un-sportsmanlike conduct Rules to be enforced:** An *unsportsmanlike foul* to a player requires the player to be removed from the playing field (for five minutes or ejection from the game all at the discretion of the official). A substitute may come in to replace player, if no sub is available, the team will play down a player. The player may return after five minutes on the next available substitution whistle. An *unsportsmanlike game misconduct foul* to any player or coach will result in ejection from both the current game and the next scheduled game. When a spectator continues to be unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the game, the official can suspend the game until the situation is resolved so the game can proceed in an orderly manner.

3. **The Parks & Recreation Department will strictly enforce the Recreational League**

CITY OF RIDGECREST  
PARKS & RECREATION: YOUTH SOCCER

Format. Please help us continue the success of our leagues. Any Coach, Player or Spectator that does not display a Recreational and Positive Image in our program's faces being suspended for one year or Life. It is all about a Positive Experience. Thank You for your support...

**4. No running up the score:** If a player is found to be running up the score, he/she will be removed from the game. It is the coaches' responsibility to manage their players. If a player has scored 3 goals in a single game, they must be moved back to defense and must pass the ball to an eligible player for any future goal attempts. If a player is not following the instruction of the coach or official, they will be removed from the game and that goal will not count. Coaches are required to ensure that all league rules are adhered to.

**Spectators are to be seated opposite or far away from players/coaches. This is to ensure coach and player integrity remains intact and allows coaches to remain in control of their team without interference.**

**Spectators are to be seated outside of the red boundary line on the perimeter of the fields. No exceptions.**

**This league is Strictly Recreational and Unsportsmanlike Conduct will not be tolerated. We thank you for helping us provide an exceptional experience for all involved in the program.**