



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA OF SPRINGFIELD

Recreational Soccer Handbook

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I. Soccer Program Governance

A. Organization

1. The YMCA Recreational Soccer Program operates under the guidance of the Program Committee of the YMCA of Springfield's Board of Directors.
2. The Sports Director is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the soccer program including program promotion, registration, field and equipment acquisition and maintenance, training coaches, conducting soccer clinics and camps and scheduling games.
3. The Recreational Soccer Committee (RSC) is established to provide suggestions and guidance to the Soccer Director on the direction of the soccer program. The RSC will meet 4 to 6 times per year to review the Soccer Handbook and discuss proposed changes to the program. Additional meetings may be called to consider appeals of decisions made by the Sports Director.

Voting membership of the RSC will consist of 5 to 9 volunteers appointed by the Sports Director who are representative of the coaches, parents, and spectators who participate in the recreational soccer program. The RSC may also include non-voting members who represent other soccer leagues or programs that partner with or participate in the soccer program. The Sports Director, Asst. Sports Director, and Referee Coordinator will also participate as non-voting members.

4. The Sports Director, Asst. Sports Director, Referee Coordinator, and the Chair of the Recreational Soccer Committee will serve as an executive committee of the RSC to deal with time sensitive issues delegated by the RSC.

5. The Referee Coordinator may assemble an ad hoc referee committee as needed to review disciplinary issues and to provide recommendations to the RSC on referee training & mentoring and on modifications & application of the Laws of the Game.

B. Reconsideration of Decisions

1. Appeals and Requests for Reconsideration in General

a. Decisions subject to appeal are generally divided into three categories – rostering, referee decisions and match outcomes, and disciplinary issues. Each of these processes will be described below; however, the following statements apply to all categories of appeals.

b. We encourage program participants to talk to the Sports Director before proceeding with a formal request to have a decision reconsidered. Sports are emotional and youth sports particularly so. It is inevitable that issues will occasionally occur but many times these issues can be resolved by having a rational discussion – even if that needs to take place a day or two after the event.

c. Email is acceptable in all cases where 'written' documents are requested. In time-sensitive situations email will help with response times. If the participant submits an appeal by email then delivery of the decision about that appeal by email constitutes valid delivery; however, the YMCA may also follow up an email or phone response with a letter in hard copy documenting a final decisions.

d. Due to the short length of our seasons any appeal must be submitted to the Sports Director within seven days after a decision. This is to prevent a decision resolved so late in the season that only a couple of games remain to be played. The actions defining this time frame are explained in each of the sections below.

e. Consideration of an appeal by the Recreational Soccer Committee may occur at a regularly scheduled or a special face-to-face meeting of the committee or, in order to expedite a response, the RSC Chair may put a matter before the members of the RSC using email or telephone. The RSC may also ask for input from any other parties involved in an issue or knowledgeable about the topic before making a decision.

f. The RSC will issue a decision within seven days of receipt of the request by the Sports Director. Any decision requires the consensus of a majority of the active, voting members of the committee. The RSC may choose to modify or suspend a previous decision or to let it stand as written.

g. In all matters a decision made by the Sports Director or the Recreational Soccer Committee will stand until a subsequent decision is announced that modifies the original decision.

2. Appeals of Rostering Decisions

The Sports Director and Assistant Sports Director begin building team rosters and schedules immediately upon the close of player registrations. This process is described in the section titled Soccer Department Operations.

a. Participants should first discuss their roster concerns with the Sports Department before submitting a request to have the decision reconsidered.

b. If the roster issue is not resolved the participant can submit the request for a roster change, a transfer to another team, or other roster change to the Sports Director in written form. (email is acceptable) The written request must be submitted to the Sports Director within seven days of the above discussion and should include the details of the requested change and a description of the perceived benefits to the player.

c. The Sports Director will review the request and provide a written response within 3 days either approving or deny the requested change and documenting the reasons for the decision. The response will be delivered by email if the original request was made in email, otherwise the response will be mailed.

d. After reviewing the written response the participant may request that the Recreational Soccer Committee reconsider the Sports Director's decision. This request should be submitted to the Sports Director within seven days of receipt of the written decision. The participant should clearly state that a review by the RSC is being requested and should include any additional facts supporting the requested change.

e. The Sports Director will present the participant's written statement and the original response to the RSC along with the Sports Director's analysis. The Sports Director will communicate the RSC decision to the participant within seven days of receiving the request to reconsider.

3. Appeals of Referee Decisions and/or Match Outcomes

Participants are reminded that Law 5 of the FIFA Laws of the Game states:

Decisions will be made to the best of the referee's ability according to the Laws of the Game and the 'spirit of the game' and will be based on the opinion of the referee who has the discretion to take appropriate action within the framework of the Laws of the Game.

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final.

In accordance with the LOTG only requests to reconsider referee decisions that concern a perceived mis-application of the Laws or of the YMCA's modifications to the LOTG will be considered.

a. Participants should discuss any questions with regard to refereeing decisions and the Laws of the Game with the Referee Coordinator prior to submitting a request to have the decision reconsidered.

b. If the issue is not resolved the participant can submit a request to modify the referee's ruling to the Sports Director in written form. (email is acceptable) The request must be submitted within seven days of the game in question and include the details of the game situation, the referee's decision and the reasons that the participant thinks the decision was in error.

c. The Sports Director will review the request and discuss the matter with the Referee Coordinator. The Sports Director will then provide a written response within 5 days either approving or deny the requested change and documenting the reasons for the decision. The response will be delivered by email if the original request was made in email, otherwise the response will be mailed.

d. After reviewing the written response the participant may request that the Recreational Soccer Committee reconsider the Sports Director's decision. This request should be submitted to the Sports Director. The participant should clearly state that a review by the RSC is being requested and include any additional arguments for supporting the requested change.

e. The Sports Director will present the participant's written statement and the original response to the RSC. The RSC Chair may request either oral or written analysis from the Sports Director and/or the Referee Coordinator. The Sports Director will communicate the RSC decision to the participant.

4. Appeals of Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary actions generally begin with a written report from the referee. A coach or spectator who is sent off by the referee must leave the area of the field in a timely manner and is welcome to discuss the situation with the Referee Coordinator or the Sports Director at that time. Participants should remember, however, that the Referee Coordinator will want to read the referee's written report of the incident before taking any action and that a calm, rational discussion of the incident is the best way to make your case.

- a. If, after reading the referee's written report, the Referee Coordinator decides that a Send Off requires no further action then the Referee Coordinator will simply report the Send Off and automatic one game suspension to the Sports Director and take no further action.
- b. A Send Off may be appealed; however, if the Send Off is ruled valid you may not separately appeal the suspension for the following game. The one game suspension is an automatic consequence of the Send Off.
- c. The Referee Coordinator may decide that additional sanctions are warranted due either to the severity of the individual incident or to an apparent pattern of incidents involving the same individual. In that case the Referee Coordinator will contact two additional experienced referees to form an ad-hoc referee committee to review the incident(s). The three referee committee will develop a written disciplinary report taking into account the referee's original report of the incident(s), any statements by the participant in question, and the applicable laws as modified by the YMCA and recommending appropriate disciplinary action.
- d. The Referee Coordinator will deliver the disciplinary report to the Sports Director and the Chair of the Recreational Soccer Committee who will distribute the report to the RSC for immediate review.
- e. After reviewing the disciplinary report the RSC may choose to modify the recommended disciplinary action or to let it stand as written. The disciplinary action as modified becomes a decision of the RSC and the Sports Director will communicate the committee's decision to the participant.
- f. The participant may request reconsideration of the RSC disciplinary action. The participant's request should document the incident from the participant's perspective and include any facts the participant feels should be taken into account when the RSC reviews the original decision.
- g. This request should be submitted to the Sports Director within seven days of the original RSC decision being sent to the participant by email. If the original RSC decision is only delivered by US mail then the appeal must be received by the Sports Director no more than seven days after the RSC decision was postmarked.
- h. The Sports Director and the Chair of the Recreational Soccer Committee will deliver the original referee committee's report, the RSC decision, and any other relevant documentation to the Chair of the YMCA Activities Committee. The Activities Committee will review the issue and may decide to let the RSC disciplinary decision stand as written or to modify the RSC disciplinary decision by either decreasing or increasing the sanctions applied.
 - i. The Sports Director will inform the participant of the Program Committee decision by phone or email and will follow that notification with a letter documenting the decision.

II. League Policies

A. League

1. Sportsmanship

The YMCA Recreational Soccer League strongly advocates sportsmanlike behavior on the part of all participants in the program – players, coaches, and spectators. The soccer program strives to provide a safe, enjoyable environment for children to learn to play and to enjoy playing soccer. We ask all program participants to keep this purpose in mind on game days.

2. Running up Scores

The YMCA asks coaches to use discretion and common sense when a game becomes one sided. Players don't benefit by participating on either side of a lopsided game. If a team has a large lead the coach might consider challenging players by playing them in new positions or requiring them to make additional passes or to play with their weaker foot.

To support this policy the YMCA Sports Department will only recognize a five (5) goal difference per game. Example: A final score of 10-0 will be recorded as 5-0.

3. Noise Making Devices

Manual or electronic voice enhancement devices and other noise making devices are not allowed at games.

4. K-Division

A league for 4 and 5 year olds will be run on Fridays in the spring and in the fall. Small fields will be used and parents of registrants will be required to coach and officiate.

5. All Girls Divisions

All girls divisions will be formed if there is sufficient interest. Girls may choose to play on an all-girls or co-ed team as they desire.

6. Tournaments

If there is sufficient interest the Sports Department will organize post season tournaments after the spring and fall outdoor seasons. Divisions for players age 8 and older will play a competitive, knock-out tournament. Younger age divisions will play a round-robin format.

B. Teams

1. Unique Team Formation

Teams formed in each of the three seasons (outdoor fall, indoor, and outdoor spring) are unique. Returning players who register before the deadline will be assigned to the team they were associated with in the prior year when possible.

2. Age Group Divisions

Teams will be created based on age groups. Note that the Recreational Soccer Program follows a school year calendar. Players are placed based on their age on August 31st and would stay in that age group for the following fall outdoor, indoor, and spring outdoor seasons regardless of whether they have a birthday during that time.

The preferred approach is to have single age groups – i.e., 6 year olds, 7 year olds, etc. When there are not sufficient player numbers to form an age group a combined group may be created. This frequently occurs in the older age groups where groups 10-11, 11-12, or 13-14 may be created.

An age group that has a large number of teams may be further divided into Blue, Red, and White divisions. Teams will be assigned to these divisions based on the team's performance during previous seasons to encourage competitive balance.

3. Target Roster Size

The Sports Department will use the maximum roster sizes listed below when creating teams for outdoor seasons. Coaches may be asked about adding a late-registering player to their roster but they have the right to refuse additional players that would exceed these roster sizes.

- Ages 7 & younger – 14 Players
- Ages 8 through 11 – 16 Players
- Age 12 & older – 18 Players

4. Traveling Team or Club Players

The YMCA soccer program welcomes players of all skill levels and encourages youth players to join the program to play with (or against!) their friends. When registering for the recreational league players should indicate whether they are registered or carded with a traveling or club team. Coaches who have four or more club players on their roster should notify the Soccer Department.

There is no restriction on club level players participating in the recreational program; however, to encourage competitive balance a team with more than four club registered players on the roster may be assigned to play in an older age division. A team that is found to be playing with four or more club players without notifying the Soccer Department before scheduling may be required to forfeit all games played to date.

5. Uniform Policy

Team uniforms should be of a solid color with the YMCA logo in black or white on the front of the shirt and a six inch tall number on the back.

YMCA teams are free to select any uniform color. Keep in mind that teams are frequently formed based on school district boundaries and the following colors have traditionally been used for each area:

- Chatham- Red with white YMCA logo
- New Berlin/Riverton- Orange with white YMCA logo
- Rochester- Navy with white YMCA logo
- Sherman/ Williamsville- Purple with white YMCA logo
- Springfield- any color not listed above with a white Y logo on a dark shirt or a black YMCA logo on a light color shirt.

The YMCA soccer program does not provide uniforms. Uniforms will be at the player's expense. Teams can seek a sponsor to cover the uniform cost; however, please note that the YMCA is unable to provide

certification of such donations for tax purposes. Coaches and/or trainers may not require payment of any additional fees.

6. Team Photos

The Sports Department will make arrangements for a photographer to be available for team pictures each season. Coaches will be notified of the day(s) that the photographer will be at the soccer fields. Team photos are voluntary – the soccer Department does not make scheduling or pricing arrangements.

C. Players

1. Guaranteed Playing Time

Each registered player is guaranteed playing time equivalent to one half of the total game time at every regular season and tournament game that they attend.

Coaches can permissibly reduce playing time based on the following circumstances:

- The player was absent from weekly practices without excuse.
- The player has missed two consecutive scheduled games without excuse.
- The player is exhibiting on-field behavioral issues.

The soccer program relies on the good faith and sportsmanship of each coach to apply this rule.

2. Team Assignment

Returning players who register before the registration deadline will first be assigned to the team they played with previously.

New players who register before the deadline and returning players who cannot be placed with their previous team will first be assigned to teams based on the following criteria:

1. Birth date as of August 31
2. School Attending
3. Elementary School in Neighborhood
4. Zip code

The Sports Department will work to find individual roster spots for players who register before the deadline and cannot be assigned using the criteria above.

Players who register after the deadline will be processed in the order that registrations are received and assigned to teams based on available open roster spots in the appropriate age divisions. The Sports Department will attempt to find a place for every player; however, there is no way to guarantee when or if a roster spot will be available once all of the teams have been formed.

3. Playing on More Than One Team

Players can register to play on more than one team if:

- The two teams play in different age groups or divisions
- There is no waiting list in the age group
- The Sports Director or Asst. Sports Director approve the second registration
- The player pays an additional registration fee

This means that a girl may play on both a coed team and an all-girls team and that a K division player may also play on a 6 year old team.

III. Soccer Department Operations

A. Registrations

1. Player registrations will close approximately one month before each season begins.
2. Formation of team rosters and weekly game schedules will begin immediately after the close of player registrations.

B. Late Registrations

1. Player registrations received after the registration period closes will be processed in the order that they are received. Registration fees are NOT prorated once the season has begun.
2. The Soccer Department will first attempt to add the player to team rosters using the rostering process described below. If that is not possible there may be roster spots available outside the player's school or address area.
3. If the Soccer Department is unable to place a late registering player on a team the registration fee will be refunded.

PLEASE NOTE: There are target roster sizes for each age group to ensure that all players are able get playing time. Once all of the teams have been formed there is no guarantee that a player can be placed on a roster.

C. Rostering

1. Players may request to be assigned to a specific team or coach.
 - There must be an opening on the team's roster.
 - The request must follow the age, school, address guidelines.
 - Coaches (except a parent) may not request specific players.
2. Returning players will first be assigned to the team they were on the previous year.
3. New players (who have not registered before) will first be assigned to team rosters based on:
 - a. Age group
 - b. School currently attended
 - c. Home address (Zip Code)
4. The Soccer Department will not assign players to a team beyond the maximum roster size without the consent of the team's coach.

Team Roster Size

- Ages 7 & younger – 14 Players
 - Ages 8 through 11 – 16 Players
 - Age 12 & older – 18 Players
5. Players are assigned to the roster of a specific team and can only play for that team unless a formal roster change takes place. Coaches with more than one team cannot move players between teams without approval from the Sports Department.

D. Roster Transfer Requests

1. A player's parent or guardian may make a written request to the Soccer Director to be placed on a different team or with a different coach.

2. Coaches may NOT request a specific player.

3. The written request to transfer a previously rostered player must accompany the registration. Once team rosters have been formed it may not be possible to move a player to a different team.

E. Participation By Players Not On A Team's Roster

The Sports Department may determine at any time that it is necessary to verify a team's players against the official roster. If it is determined that an individual not on the roster is playing for a team the following sanctions will be applied:

- It will be assumed that the non-rostered player played in all previous games that season and all league games played to date will be forfeited.
- The coach of the violating team will be sent off from that game and suspended for the next scheduled game.
- The non-rostered player will be suspended from playing in the league for the rest of the season.

F. Scheduling

1. The Sports Department will attempt to form teams in all age groups; however, due to the number of participating players and teams it may be necessary to form some combined age groups. (for example, a 10-11 age group or a 11-12 age group.

2. When there are sufficient teams an age group will be divided into divisions for scheduling purposes. (Blue, Red, White) To encourage competitive balance teams will be seeded into these divisions based on performance in previous seasons.

3. We encourage coaches to contact the Sports Department early with any known scheduling conflicts. These are much easier to address before finalized schedules are sent out to coaches & parents; however, please understand that because of the number of participants not all scheduling issues can be addressed.

G. Rescheduling Games

Coaches can mutually agree to play the game at another time if conflicting activities are going to mean that a team will not have enough players to play the game at the scheduled time. Coaches must notify the Sports Department if a game is not going to be played at the originally scheduled time.

The best approach is to conduct the rescheduling discussion on email and to include both the Asst. Sports Director and the Referee Coordinator. This will ensure that a referee is not scheduled for the original game time and that the Sports Department is aware that the game is being played at another time. The Sports Department will work with the coaches to make nets and corner flags available and to try to get a referee assigned to the rescheduled game.

H. Cancellations

Occasionally inclement weather, field conditions, or significant conflicts at UIS make it necessary to cancel scheduled games. The Sports Department will provide notices of cancellations using the Soccer Hotline (217-241-8664) and the text message alerts system. Please note that conditions sometimes mean that only part of a day's scheduled games are canceled. Early games may be canceled due to low temperatures, but later games go on as scheduled or early games may be played and later games canceled due to storms in the area.

I. Division Standings

Position in a division will be determined by the total points at the end of the regular season. Regular season ties stand and will not be resolved by overtime or penalty kicks.

Points will be determined in the following manner:

Win = 2 points

Tie = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

Forfeits will be recorded as a loss.

J. Division Awards

The first place team in each division, with the exception of K-Division, 6 year and 7 year olds, will be recognized with an award for each player and coach. If there is a tie, each team will receive awards.

K. Reporting Scores

The referee will turn in a game card with a record of the score at the end of each game. If there is not a referee available for a game the winning team is responsible for reporting the score to the Sports Department. If a game score is not reported to the Soccer Department within one week the game will be recorded as a 1-1 tie.

L. Tournaments

There will be a voluntary post season tournament. Age groups 8 and older will play a competitive, knock-out tournament. Younger age groups will play a round-robin format. Divisions for the tournament will be created based on the number of teams participating and teams will be seeded based on the regular season record.

M. Soccer Hotline

The Soccer Hotline number is 217-241-8664. This is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, during the outdoor soccer seasons. A recorded message will indicate whether or not games are canceled for that day.

Participants can also sign up to have text message alerts sent to your phone by sending an email to the YMCA Sports Department: sportsdept@springfieldymca.org

Please note that adverse weather conditions may mean that some, but not all, of the games on a given day are canceled.

IV. Modifications to the Laws of the Game

The YMCA Recreational Soccer Program applies the FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG) with the modifications for youth programs described below. If there is no modification described below the language of the LOTG will apply as written. A copy of the full LOTG is available at the US Soccer Federation website (<https://www.usoccer.com/referees/laws-of-the-game>).

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Modifications:

- Younger age groups will use smaller fields.
- Field markings (center circle, goal area, penalty area, goal) may be reduced in size on smaller fields and Penalty Areas are not marked on K division fields.
- Coaches, substitute players, & spectators are not permitted in the areas behind the goal lines during the game except as permitted below.

Ages K through 9

- Teams and their associated spectators will set up on opposite sides of the field. (Home team on the west side of the field.)
- Ages K & 6. One person from each team is allowed to coach on the field during play. Coaches cannot stand in the Goal Area; however, one additional coach will be allowed to stand behind the Goal Line.
- Age 7. Coaches are not allowed on the field but are allowed to coach along the length of their touchline. If both teams are set up on the same side of the field then the coach's movement is restricted to the half his bench is located on.
- Ages 8 & 9. Coaches are restricted to an area 10 yards on either side of midfield. If both teams set up on the same side of the field then each coach's movement is restricted to the area in front of their team's bench extending 10 yards from the midfield line.

Ages 10 & Older

- Both team's spectators will set up on the west side of the field.
- Both team benches will set up on the east side of the field.
- Coaches are restricted to an area in front of their bench extending 10 yards from the midfield line.

Approximate field dimensions:

Field 1 – 100 yards x 70 yards

Field 2 – 110 yards x 75 yards

Field 3 is currently not in use

Fields 4, 5, 10, 11, & 12 – 80 yards x 60 yards

Fields 6, 7, 8, & 9 – 65 yards x 55 yards

Law 2 – The Ball

Modification:

- Younger age groups will use smaller sized soccer balls.

Soccer ball sizes:

Ages K to 7 – Size 3

Ages 8 to 11 – Size 4

Ages 12 & older – Size 5

Law 3 – Number of Players

Modifications:

- Younger age groups will play with fewer players on the field.
- Unlimited substitutions are allowed as permitted by the referee.

Number of players on the field (including the goalkeeper):

Ages K to 7 – 7 (minimum 5 to start)

Ages 8 to 11 – 9 (minimum 7 to start)

Age 12 & Older – 11 (minimum 7 to start)

Failure of a team to field the required minimum number of players within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time will result in a forfeit (loss). If a game has not been rescheduled and neither team fields a team then the game will be recorded as a loss for both teams.

Substitutions are allowed with the consent of the referee:

Prior to a throw-in in your favor

When the opposing team is substituting on their throw-in

After a goal is scored

When the referee stops play for an injury

At half-time

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

The player's safety is a primary concern and the YMCA strictly adheres to the FIFA prohibition on all items of jewelry. This includes but is not limited to rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings. All player clothing and equipment is subject to review by the referee for safety.

Modifications:

- All players must wear shin guards that are age and size appropriate.
- Metal cleats are not allowed.
- The LOTG requirements for unique uniform colors are loosely applied in a recreational league; however, the referee must be able to easily distinguish between the two teams and to identify both goalkeepers.
- Players wearing padded medical casts must receive prior approval from the Sports Director or the Referee Coordinator AND have the padded cast inspected and approved by the referee prior to entering the game.

Law 5 – The Referee

Modifications:

- The referee's authority begins as soon as he/she arrives at the field of play.
- Verbal abuse directed toward a referee before, during, or after a game may be grounds for disciplinary action.
- Violent behavior and/or deliberate provocation of violent behavior by players, coaches, or spectators shall be grounds for a send-off.
- The referee has the authority to warn, caution, or send-off coaches and/or spectators as disciplinary actions for breach of conduct. The referee has the discretion to show or not show cards to coaches or spectators. Whether a card is shown or not has no effect on the validity of the referee's action.

Coaches and spectators should be aware that the referee may not always stop play immediately in the event of an injury. The referee must make this decision based on the apparent seriousness of the injury and take into account the age of the players and the immediate impact on play when the injury occurred.

Law 6 – The Other Match Officials

Modifications:

- The Referee Coordinator may at times assign two referees to a game. In this situation the referees will operate a 'two-man' system and both referees will have the full authority described in the modifications to Law 5.
- When a single referee is assigned to a game each team should be prepared to provide one volunteer club assistant referee to assist the referee. These volunteers should assist only with determining when the ball is out of play unless otherwise directed by the referee.
- If no referee is assigned to the game the coaches may officiate the game or may mutually agree to a third party who is available to officiate the game.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

Modifications:

- Playing time will be shortened with younger age groups playing a shorter game.
- All games are played with a running clock and no allowance will be made for time lost.
- Play ends when the horn blows at the end of the scheduled time period. The only exception is if the referee has awarded a Penalty Kick (PK) before the horn blows ending play. In that situation the PK shall be taken, but the ball is dead as soon as the PK is completed.
- Games that start late will have time deducted from playing time – the game will still end at with the horn at the scheduled time.

Playing Time:

K: 4 - 7 ½ minute quarters

Ages 6 & 7: 4 - 10 minute quarters

Ages 8 & older: 2 - 25 minutes halves

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Modifications:

- Younger age groups that play 7 ½ or 10 minute quarters will alternate the team taking the kick-off each quarter and change ends of the field at half-time.

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

Modifications:

- Game scores are recorded by the referee. In the event that a referee is not available the winning team should fill out the game card or communicate the score to the YMCA Soccer Department. The game will be recorded as a 1-1 tie if no score is reported within one week after the game is played.
- Tie scores will stand during the regular season. In tournament games the tie breaking procedure described below will be used to determine the winner of a tie game.

Tie Breaking For Tournament Games

The teams will first play two complete five minute overtime periods (no golden goal). The team that kicked off to start the game will kick off the first overtime period. When the referee stops play at the end of the first overtime period the teams will immediately switch ends of the field and the other team will kick off. There is no break between the overtime periods.

If the score is still tied at the end of the two five minute overtime periods the winner will be determined using the Kicks from the Penalty Mark procedure.

Note: Goalkeeper changes can be made during the two overtime periods and until Kicks from the Penalty Mark begin. Once the kicks begin the goalkeeper can only be replaced if he/she is unable to continue to play.

Law 11 – Offside

Modifications:

- Offside is not applied in the K league.
- Offside should be loosely enforced in the 6 & 7 age groups, primarily as learning tool to get players in the habit of thinking about offside position as they play.

Coaches in the older age groups are reminded that a single referee generally cannot cover the entire field and still be in position to see minor offside infractions.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Modifications:

Heading and Slide Tackling

- Heading the ball and slide tackling are permitted only in age groups for players 11 years old and older. These are usually the 11-12Coed, 11-12Girls, 13-14Coed, & 13-14Girls age groups. The presence of a younger player in the game (playing up an age group) does not change the way this rule is applied.
- In all other age groups heading the ball or slide tackling may be treated as Dangerous Play or, if the slide tackle results in contact with the opposing player, as a tripping foul.

Cautions and Send Offs

- Players who are cautioned by the referee must leave the playing field at that time. A substitute may replace the cautioned player and the cautioned player is eligible to return to the field at the next substitution opportunity.
- Players who are sent off by the referee must leave the playing field but may remain in an area supervised by parents or coaches. No substitution is allowed for the sent off player.
- The referee has the authority to warn, caution, or send-off either coaches or spectators as disciplinary action for breaches of conduct before, during, or after the game. Such breaches include but are not limited to excessive dissent, verbal threats, harassment or abuse, violent behavior or provocation of violent behavior.
- The referee may choose to show cards when cautioning or sending off coaches or spectators; however, showing or not showing a card to a coach or spectator has no effect on the validity of the referee's action.
- Coaches or spectators who are sent off by the referee must leave the field area in a timely manner – either to talk to the Referee Coordinator or the Sports Director or to go to the parking lot. Failure to leave the field area in a timely manner may result in the game being terminated.
- Any participant – player, coach or spectator – who is sent off by the referee is not allowed to participate in the remainder of that game or in any other game held that same day. The participant will automatically be suspended for one week and may not attend the next scheduled game of that team. The following week suspension does not affect any other team that plays the following week.
- Additional sanctions may be imposed based on the severity of a particular incident or on repeated incidents involving the same individual.

Referees will provide a written report to the Referee Coordinator on any incidents that involve:

- A player being sent off
- A coach or spectator being warned, cautioned, or sent off
- A game being terminated before the end of playing time

Law 15 – The Throw-in

Modifications:

- Players in age groups 7 & younger may be allowed to retake a foul throw-in.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

Modifications:

- K division fields do not have Penalty Area Lines. A Goal Kick is in play as soon as the ball leaves the Goal Area.
- In the 6 & 7 age groups the referee may spot the ball closer to the Goal Area Line to make it easier for players to kick the ball into play on the first attempt.