

## YMCA Soccer Rules

- Direction/possession will be determined by a coin toss.
- The ball must go forward; the player who first kicks the ball cannot touch the ball again until another player has touched the ball.
- The goalie (Ages 7-9) may touch the ball with his/her hands while the ball is in the penalty area. The goalie may touch the ball with their hands despite the fact that he/she may be outside the penalty area. This is permitted as long as the ball is in the penalty area.
- The goalie (Ages 7-9) may not be charged once gaining possession of the ball. One hand on top of the ball while the ball is on the ground is sufficient to define possession.
- Players may move the ball with any part of the body except hands and arms.
- The ball is not out until the entire ball crosses the line.
- Slide-tackling is NOT permitted.
- Direct kicks will be awarded for fouls such as pushing, tripping, holding, etc. Goals may be scored from a direct kick.
- Indirect kicks will be awarded for fouls such as dangerous play, obstruction, etc. A goal may not be scored from an indirect kick. The ball must touch any player (off. or def.) before a goal can be scored.
- There will be no penalty kicks.
- On all free kicks the defender must stand 10 yards from the ball unless field space prohibits that, i.e. indirect kick from the goalie box.
- The referee has control of the game. As part of that control, the referee often uses the rule of ADVANTAGE. This rule states that minor penalties will not be called, if it is in the best interest of the team in possession. "PLAY ON"
- There will be a single box (3 yards) around the goal area within which no offensive OR defensive player may touch the ball. No players will be permitted in the goal area.
- A touch by a defensive player will result in a goal for the offensive team.
- A touch by an offensive player will result in an indirect kick by the defensive team outside the 3-yard box. Any ball entering the 3-yard box that stops; results in a goal kick if last struck by the offensive team and a corner kick, if last struck by the defensive team.
- Goal kicks will be taken from the 3-yard line. All defensive players will be beyond the mid field stripe on goal kicks.

- There are no off-sides for 4-6 year olds. “Off-sides” will be called in 7-9 year olds
- For 4-6 (no goalies), Coaches should focus on working the ball up field with passes/spreading the field. It is also expected that the defense will not just stand in front of their own goal. Defenders are encouraged to challenge the offensive player with the ball as they cross mid-field and not wait until the offense gets close to the goal.
- No coaches or spectators will be allowed behind the goal line.
- ALL coaches are expected to cooperate with one another to provide the best experience possible for each player. ALL coaches must abide by the decisions of YMCA Staff and referees. Coaches and spectators are expected to be excellent role models for their players as well as each other.