

HUNTERDON COUNTY RECREATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE RULES

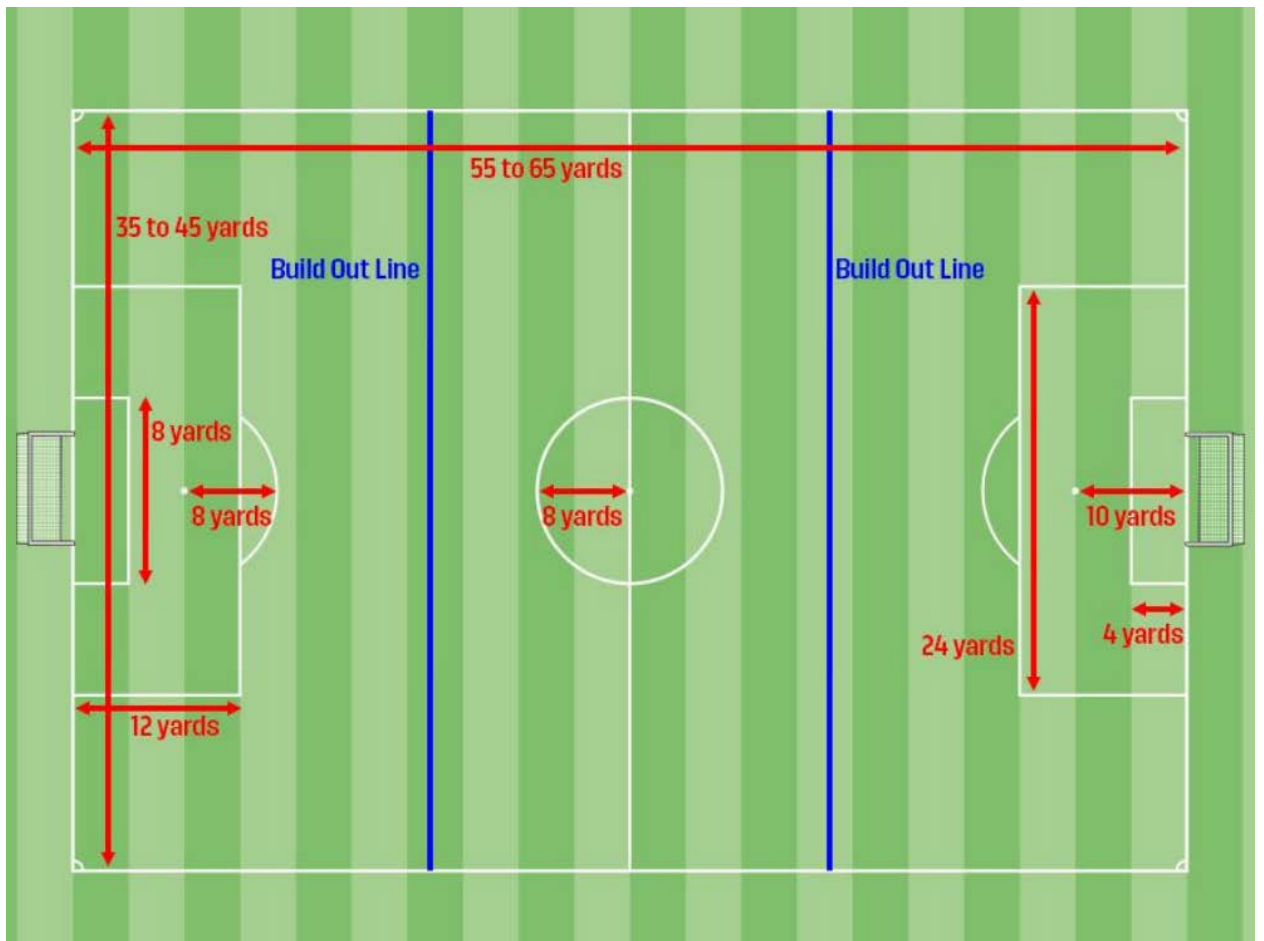
The following rules were decided upon in the Hunterdon County Recreational Soccer League. Please review with your coaches and referees and advise if there are any questions or concerns. Coaches and Referees are to keep a copy of these rules with them for all games.

- *All FIFA rules and regulations are in effect with the exception of the following:*
- All coaches and referees must together discuss/review the rules that will be in effect for the game prior to the start of the game.
- Birth Year Mandate:

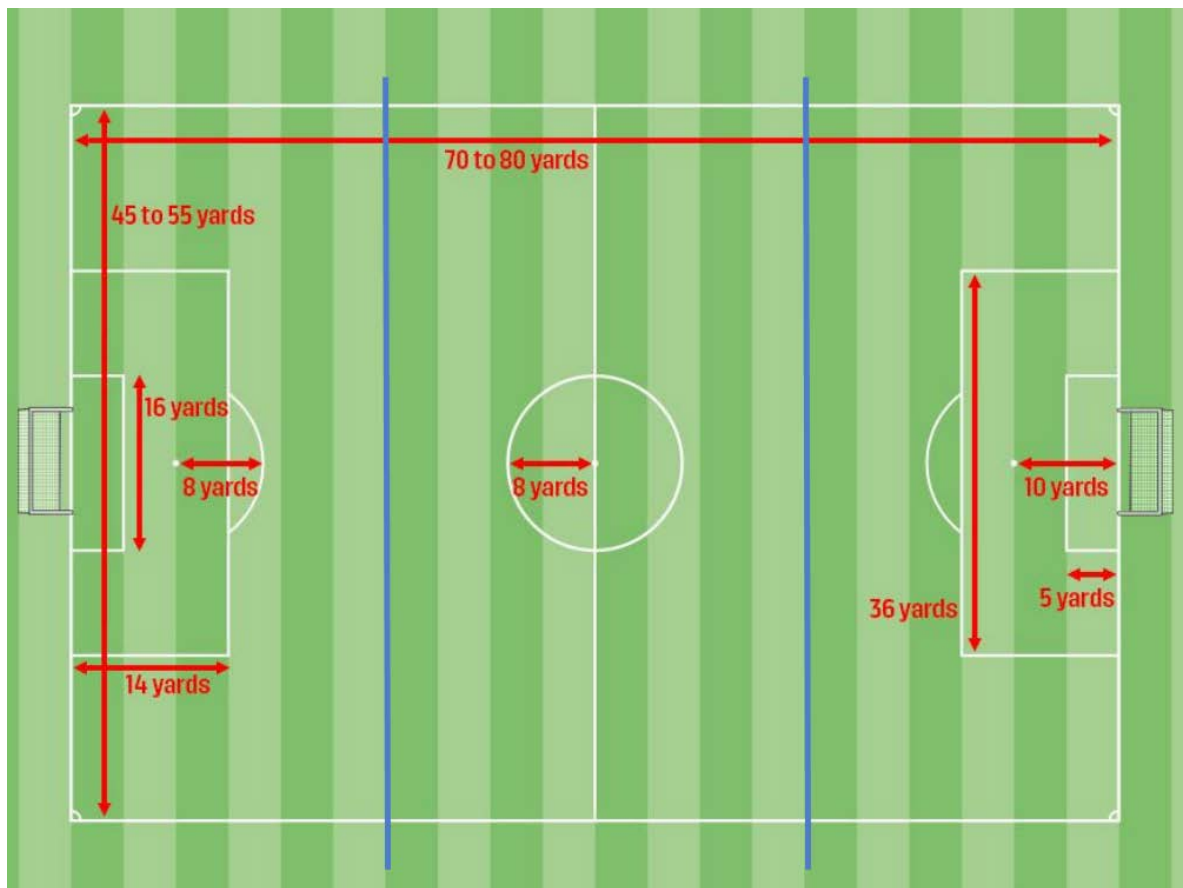
Season	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Birth Year									
2020									
2019									U6
2018								U6	U7
2017							U6	U7	U8
2016						U6	U7	U8	U9
2015					U6	U7	U8	U9	U10
2014				U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
2013			U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
2012		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13
2011	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
2010	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15
2009	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16
2008	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
2007	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
2006	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
2005	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	
2004	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19		
2003	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19			
2002	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19				
2001	U16	U17	U18	U19					
2000	U17	U18	U19						
1999	U18	U19							

- U14 Age cutoff extended to June 1, 2003 (basically any 8th grader that would fall into the High School division, U18 will be eligible to play down to U14)
- For U8 & U10 games, heading the ball is not allowed, whether inadvertent or on purpose. In the event of a head ball the

- Concussion Initiative for U8 & U10:
 - Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed
 - If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment
 - The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player
 - Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game
- Deliberate heading is not allowed for U8 & U10
 - If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense
 - If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred
- Build Out Line (U10 only):
 - The playing field will include build out lines to promote individual skills and facilitate game flow. The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting.
 - When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line.
 - Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate.
 - Punting or drop kicking the ball is not allowed as this would defeat the purpose of the build out line and reduces the opportunity to play out of the back in an unpressured setting.
 - After the ball is put into play and touched by defensive player within the build out area, the opposing team can then cross the build out line and play can resume as normal.
 - If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense
 - If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred
 - Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes
 - Once the goalie releases the ball to a defensive player within the build out line, the defensive player will have 5 seconds, as measured by the referee, to play the ball before the opposing team can attack the ball. This rule enhancement is to minimize the act of stalling the game and requiring the defensive player to decide quickly what to do with the ball.



The Buildout Line shall be equal distance from midfield to the penalty stripe.



*In the event that there is no build out line present, the midfield line will act as the build out line.

- One sided games, sportsmanship, 4-goal rule: If a team is leading by 4 goals, the opposing team can add one additional to the field of play. In the event there are no additional players on the bench then the winning team must remove a player. The player removed could be its best player. For every goal above 4 than another player must be removed from the winning team. That player could also be one of the best players on the field. If the team that is winning by 4 goals gives up a goal for the goal differential to become 4 goals, then that team may put back a player. At no time should the winning team be playing less than 5 players for U10 and 6 players for U12-U18 on the field (inclusive of the goalie).

Coaches are reminded and encouraged to “manage” the score. Move players around, encourage more passing prior to taking shots, using opposite foot for shots. The removal of players should be handled on a discreet basis. Please remember that this is a recreational game for the enjoyment of the players.

- Ball size:
 - U8 (division 6) will only use a size “3”
 - U10 & U12 (divisions 5 & 4) will only use a size “4”.
 - U14 & U18 (divisions 3 & 3) will only use a size “5”.
- **Slide Tackles are NOT ALLOWED for ANY age group** (this includes offensive and defensive tackles, the purpose is to prevent injury)

- Substitutes are allowed on any stoppage of play. Substitutes **MUST** be at the midfield line waiting for the referee instruction to enter the game. Substitutes are to call off the player that they are replacing. Substitutes are at the referee discretion. A referee has the option not to allow a change if it will unfairly penalize a team. Substitutions are not allowed when a team has been awarded a penalty kick.
- Duration of games:
 - U8: 4-10 minute periods
 - U10: 2-25 minute periods (4-12 minute periods can be utilized if coaches and referee agree)
 - U12: 2-30 minute periods
 - U14: 2-35 minute periods
 - U18: 2-40 minute periods
 - In the event of excessive heat and/or humidity the referee in consultation with the coaches may institute water breaks during the match.
- Match Team Size:
 - U8: 7 vs 7 with goalie
 - U10: 7 vs 7 with goalie
 - U12: 9 vs 9 with goalie
 - U14: 11 vs 11 with goalie
 - U18: 11 vs 11 with goalie
- Home teams must contact the opposing team by Wednesday before the game on Sunday to confirm the location, game time and uniform colors. In the event that both teams use the same colors, the home team is required to either wear an alternate color shirt or use pennies.
- Players are not allowed to “play down” under any circumstance. This means they cannot play in the division below their current assignment.
- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team, parents, and supporters. In the event that a parent is harassing a referee, the coach of that parent must counsel that parent immediately or have the parent face ejection from the field.
- If a player receives a RED CARD, he/she will be suspended for the next game. Coaches must notify their Club of a red card occurrence.
- **Travel carded players are not allowed to play in recreational games.** The exception is granted for players not involved in the current season of travel soccer recognizing some clubs do not have a full year travel program.
- A (U12-U18) team may start a game with a minimum of 7 players. If for any reason a team cannot field 11 players and will be playing shorthanded it is **MANDATED** by the league that the opposing coach match the number of players that are out on the field.

Please remember that we are playing a recreational game and this is for the players. Every opportunity should be made to play the game on an equal basis. If a team is shorthanded, and the opposing team has extra players, there are different ways of achieving equality such as sharing players, mixing both teams and coaches to play the game. The key point is sportsmanship. Let the kids have fun.

- All coaches are required to have their team rosters available for discussion with the opposition coach in the event of some type of problem or issue with a player. Rosters are to include the following information: Player name, birth date, uniform number, home address. Players who play on teams outside of their hometowns must have a valid reason if asked. An example would be a player who has recently moved out of the town where they have been playing, but wants to continue to play in their old hometown. Coaches are to cross out any players who are not at that game and write in any added player. The added player(s) must be on a same age recreation team or a player who is playing up.
- Parents are to be seated opposite of the players.
- No jewelry of any kind is permitted. Recently pierced earrings may not be taped. They must be removed. Hard casts are not permitted. Hard hair clips are also not allowed. Soft casts or bandages will be the up to the discretion of the referee. The only exception is Religious items. Medical bracelets and they must be taped down. THE REFEREE HAS FULL DISCRETION TO ALLOW OR DISALLOW.
- U8 (division 6) Games, Coaches are permitted on the field prior to the start of each quarter and after any goal is scored. They are allowed onto the field for the purpose of re-setting their team into the proper positions. They must be off the field prior to the beginning of play.
- Inclement weather during a game may lead to a cancellation. It will be the referee's discretion. Any sign of lightening or thunder should warrant an immediate suspension of play and all participants to seek adequate shelter. The game can be resumed no less than 30 minutes after last sight of lightening or sound of thuder, whichever occurs last.
- In the event of a game being canceled due to weather related situations, or any other reason, the individual coaches involved are responsible for rescheduling the make-up game. All make-up games should be scheduled as soon as possible from the cancellation date. Teams need to be flexible when rescheduling. Mid-week games are encouraged if possible. Please also allow time for the various towns involved to coordinate field availability and referees. Every effort should be made to replay the games.

The members of the Hunterdon County Recreational Soccer League wish for a good season for all of the players, coaches, parents, and referees. Good sportsmanship is the rule and the motto. Thanks for the effort by all involved.

The above rules have been discussed and approved by Directors of the following clubs & organizations:

Greater Flemington Soccer Club (GFSC), Kingwood Township, South County, Delaware Township, Union Township, Readington Township, Bethlehem Township, Holland Township, Alexandria.

REVISED: 30-August-2017