

FALL, 2021

COMMON GUIDELINES

BEAR IN MIND ANY STATE ISSUED MANDATES TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID19 including distancing between players out of play and spectators during a match.

Playing Time... Pursuant to USYS guidelines for recreational soccer club play, all players are expected to play at least half the game. A coach may reduce a player's playing time if s/he does not arrive for the start of the game, persistently misses practice without reason or if a coach finds a player's behavior dictates s/he play less as a disciplinary action.

Coaches are encouraged to have players try as many positions as possible.

Players at the Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels may not play more than two quarters as goal keeper during regular season matches.

Coaches... **Coaches and players must sit on the opposite side of the field from spectators.**

Spectators are NOT PERMITTED in the team or officials' areas.

Coaches must remain on their respective half of the field between a line at least 10 yards from the center or mid line and their own 18 yard mark. Feel free to use this entire area for social distance amongst players. **COVID: BENCHES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED** in order to eliminate the germ risk from sharing the close bench space & surface area.

Only two coaches per team are allowed on the players' side of the field and **must be easily identifiable by the referee** by wearing the season specific coach's shirt.

Coaches and players should maintain a reasonable distance from the touch line, a minimum of 4'.

Coaches are not permitted to enter the field of play unless given permission to do so by the referee. **COVID: Coaches should come**

prepared to wear a mask when they cannot or may not be able to remain 6' from players or officials.

Teams are expected to remove all trash and recyclables from their bench area following each game. Everyone is encouraged to help keep the complex free of debris.

Player Injuries – *If play is stopped for player injury, the injured player must leave the field in substitution.*

Substitutions... Player substitution is unlimited if substitutions are allowed in the division. A substitution may only occur when that team is in possession of a throw-in, following a score, on a goal kick for either team or following an injury. A referee may, at his discretion, also allow substitution for the opposing team on a throw-in if both teams are substituting players. All substitutions **must** take place at the **mid line**.

OTHER POINTS TO NOTE:

- There is no rule in any division preventing a team from scoring at kickoff, HOWEVER we do not believe it promotes good sportsmanship or the fundamentals of the game. This is not a competitive league; it is up to the coach to train in a way that encourages growth of individual players and the team as a whole.
- On throw-ins, the defending players must be 2 meters from the player attempting the throw-in. An indirect kick will be awarded at the point of the infraction for violations.

Slide Tackling – Tackling the ball away from an opponent by sliding (aka slide tackling) is **NOT PERMITTED** in any division of Gibson County Soccer Club. Slide tackling is treated as a **red card offense** in Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors.

Any excessively hard challenge from behind is considered a red card offense.

Mini Division, combined 7U & 8U **(birth years 2014 & 2015)**

Recommended Field Size: 30x20 yards

Ball Size: #3

Format: 4 v 4 (minimum to play is 3)

Time: six 5 minute periods, 3-5 minute half time between periods 3 and 4

- 1 referee system is used.
- Score is not recorded.
- *No substitutions are allowed during period play except for injury.*
- Coaches are expected to have their next line-up ready to enter the field at the end of the previous period and play is expected to resume quickly between periods 1 and 2, 2 and 3, 4 and 5 and between 5 and 6.
- A 9' penalty box or arc will be in place on the field. The defense of both teams will be required to start outside the penalty box until play enters the area.
- Coaches are not allowed on the field except to instruct a confused player, but **ONLY** after obtaining the permission of the referee.
- A goal coach is permitted, but a *goal keeper is not required.*
- No cards are issued, but a player committing repeated infractions may be removed from play at the referee's discretion. (No penalty kicks.)
- Normal FIFA restarts (e.g. throw-ins, goal kicks, corner kicks, etc.).
- No intentional heading allowed (Indirect Free Kick awarded to the opposing team at the point of offense). No header training allowed.

Junior Division, combined 9U & 10U
(birth years 2012 & 2013)

Recommended Field Size: 60x40 yards

Ball Size: 4

Format: 7v7 (minimum to play is 5)

Time: 10 minute quarters

- 1 referee system is used.
- Score is not recorded.
- Substitutions will take place at half line only. Referees will summon players onto the field.
- Normal FIFA restarts (e.g. Throw-ins, Goal Kicks, Corner Kicks, etc.)
- Goal keepers are used. A player may only play 2 quarters as keeper. A goal coach is allowed.
- Coaches are not allowed on the field of play unless summoned by the ref.
- **Offside may be called at the discretion of the referee.**
- No penalty kicks.
- On throw-in violations, players may be allowed to re-throw the ball for the first two weeks or at the referee's discretion.
- **Cards will be issued for severe penalties.** A player committing two cautionable offenses at any point during a game will be treated as though he received a red and removed from the game.
- Slide tackling is a red card offense and determination as such is done by the referee.
- **No intentional heading allowed** (Indirect Free Kick awarded to the opposing team at the point of offense). **No header training allowed.**

Because intermediate games can take more than an hour to start and finish, it is extremely important for coaches to have their players ready to begin on time.

Intermediate Division,
combined 11U & 12U
(birth years 2010 & 2011)

Recommended Field Size: 75x50 yards

Ball Size: 4

Format: 8v8 (minimum to play 6)

Time: 25 minute halves

- 3 referee system is preferred.
- Score is recorded.
- Substitutions will take place at the half line only. Referees will summon players onto the field.
- Excepting unlimited substitutions, all of the rules of soccer will apply.
- Normal yellow and red card procedures apply.
- Normal penalty kick rules apply.
- **Offside will be called.**
- Coaches are required to stay in the designated coaching area.
- No goal coach is permitted.
- The referee may shorten the period of play if play is running behind, but coaches should be notified before the game begins.
- The same player may be used as goal keeper the full match during tournament play.
- Slide tackling is a red card offense.
- Intentional heading is allowed, but limited to 15-20 reps per week.

Senior Division,
combined 13U, 14U, 15U & 16U
(birth years 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009)

Field Size: 60X100 yards

Ball Size: 5

Format: 11v11 (minimum to play is 6)

Time: 35 minute halves

- 3 referee system is preferred.
- Substitutions will take place at the half line only. Referees will summon players onto the field.
- Excepting unlimited substitutions, all of the rules of soccer will apply.
- Slide tackling is a red card offense.
- The same player may be used as goal keeper the full match during tournament play.



The purpose
of Gibson
County
Soccer Club
is:

- to promote the growth of and appreciation for the game of soccer by providing opportunities for the youth of Gibson County to learn the Laws of the Game and to participate in organizations, clubs, leagues and associations for youth up to and including those 19 years of age, and
- to encourage good, sporting behavior and fair play of all participants therein, including, but not limited to, referees, coaches, parents and players.