

**Great Falls Soccer Club
House League Soccer Program
Rules, Policy, and Procedures Manual**

**Great Falls Soccer Club
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I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Great Falls Soccer Club (GFSC) soccer program is to provide a wholesome, well-organized medium to teach soccer skills, teamwork, and good sportsmanship as well as to contribute to the general health and social well-being of all participants, in accordance with GFSC bylaws.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE GFSC SOCCER PROGRAM

The Great Falls Soccer Club's soccer programs are administered by a steering committee consisting of a Commissioner who is appointed by the GFSC Board of Directors, fourteen Vice Presidents and Directors. The Vice Presidents and Directors are appointed by the Commissioner.

The following is a list of the director positions:

Vice President of Fields

Vice President of Administration

Vice President of Field Scheduling

Vice President of Rules and Recreation (Competition)

Vice President of the Recreational League and the Suburban Friendship League

Director of SFL

Vice President of Travel

Director of NCSL

Director of WAGS

Director of ODSL

Secretary

Vice President of Finance

Vice President of Coach, Referee and Player Development (External)

Vice President of Outreach

As outlined herein "[a]ll policy decisions affecting soccer, including rules interpretations and modifications, shall be made by Steering Committee and shall be final unless in conflict with GFSC bylaws, rules, and regulations or policy."

Great Falls Soccer Club has two distinct soccer programs, i.e., the recreational program and the travel program. GFSC is affiliated with the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA) and is governed by VYSA rules.

The recreational program is provided for those players who do not have either the skills or interest in playing the level of competitive soccer provided by the Travel program. The Recreational Program is divided into several age group divisions and by sex. Whenever there are enough participants, there will be a girls and a coed division for each age group starting at U-8. For U-6 and U-7, there will be only coed divisions. In any age group at U-11 and above where there are not enough participants to form a league of at least six teams, the teams will be entered into the Suburban Friendship League. In any age group where there are too few players registered to form a competitive league, the Vice President of Recreation may combine two or more age groups in one league.

Travel soccer is for players with the skills and interest necessary to participate in a higher level of competitive soccer where the emphasis is on team success and developing individual skill to the highest possible level. Travel teams are formed only when there is adequate talent within an age group to support such a team without a significant adverse impact on the recreational league. GFSC's travel teams are registered within National Capital Soccer League (NCSL) and in the Washington Area Girls Soccer League (WAGS), and play other NCSL and WAGS teams throughout Northern Virginia, District of Columbia, and suburban Maryland. Great Falls travel teams are also registered with the Old Dominion Soccer League, which plays in Northern Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland.

Specific rules, policies, and procedures for the effective administration of each program are developed. This manual includes those rules that mainly administer the recreational (intramural or sometimes referred to as the "House") Program.

III. RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SOCCER PROGRAM

A. Steering Committee

All policy decisions affecting soccer, including rules interpretations and modifications, shall be made by the Steering Committee and shall be final unless in conflict with GFSC policy.

B. Basic Recreational Program Doctrine

The following rules apply to the Recreational Program generally. Where these rules are in conflict with the more specific rules of the various age divisions, the more specific rules shall apply. For teams participating in the Suburban Friendship League (SFL), the rules of the SFL shall apply.

1. *The Rules and Discipline Committee:* The Soccer Commissioner will appoint a committee to investigate violations of the rules of fair play by coaches, players or other participants. The committee will be chaired by the Director for Rules and Regulations (Competition). It will review each incident, obtain written

statements from witnesses and recommend appropriate action to the Steering Committee.

2. Coach/Parent Behavior: Any coach or parent who is continuously disruptive or who consistently displays poor sportsmanship shall be expelled from the soccer program and will be unable to participate in or attend games, practices, and events. However, that person's child may stay in the program. The roles of coaches and parents are outlined in this manual.

3. Goalkeepers: The U-6, U-7 and U-8 Instructional Age Groups will not have goalkeepers. In the Under 9/10 and Under 11/12 Instructional Age Group, no player may play in goal for more than two quarters. For teams competing in the SFL, the rules of that league apply.

4. Registration: GFSC sponsors two seasons of soccer annually: Fall – September to November; and Spring – April to June. Registration via the Internet will be open at least two months prior to the start of the season and will typically close one month prior to the start of the season. Soccer registration is completed when the parent or legal guardian completes the form via the internet and submits payment. No player may practice or play for a GFSC team before being registered. A player that is rostered on a travel team is ineligible to register or to play on a House League team. There will be a brief period for the acceptance of late registrations (for an additional fee). All required registration, All-Star or Travel Soccer fees can be waived due to family or other economic hardship upon submission of a written request to the Commissioner and approval of the request by the Commissioner.

5. Late Registration: There will be a brief period of time designated to accept late registrations. No registrations will be accepted after this late registration period unless the family recently moved into the area.

6. Refunds: A player may withdraw from the program at any time, however no refunds will be provided.

7. Fair and Balanced Teams: The Recreational teams should be balanced as much as possible in terms of talent on each team and the Age Group Coordinator and coaches should work together to ensure that players are placed on the various teams to achieve this competitive balance. Every game played should be competitive with the expectation at the start of each game that both teams can win the game and the final score of the game should be close.

8. Player Participation: All recreational players shall play a minimum of (i) one-half of every game present in the case of those age groups playing games comprised of two halves, or (ii) three of four quarters of every game present in the case of those age groups playing games comprised of four quarters. For teams competing in the SFL, the rules of that league apply.

All Players who arrive at the game before the end of the first quarter of play must be allowed to play at least two quarters of the game. All players who arrive at the game before the end of the first half, must be allowed to play the second half.

A coach may restrict a player's game time for disciplinary reasons or for non-attendance at required practices. However, restricting a player's game time or dropping a player from any team requires the advance notice (via e-mail) and

approval from the appropriate Age Group Coordinator, Vice President of the Recreational Program.

9. Playing Up or Down in Age Group: Players are not encouraged to “play up” in the House League. However, if a request is made to “play up,” only one year difference may exist between the player and the other players in the League. In cases of older divisions, ex: u-15/16, a player may be one year younger than the younger age group. A 13 year old who would normally play U-14 would be able to move up to the U-15 age group, but since that age group is U-15/16 he/she would play with a mixed age group that was more than one year older. A child may play up at the written request of the parent(s) or guardian(s) and approval of the Vice President of the Recreational League. The Vice President of the Recreational League will routinely grant blanket approval to such requests for children with August and September birthdays to enable them to play in the age division with their school grade level classmates. An entry on the application form and an e-mail to the Commissioner is used to facilitate such requests. All other requests to play must state the specific reason(s) for seeking to play up and require specific approval. Such instances should be rare and only in situations where the child is truly dominating in his or her current age group. A child playing up in an age group is eligible to play on the All Star team for either the age group that they are currently playing up in or the age appropriate age group for the child, except those children with August and September birthdays. Children that are playing up due to August and September birthdays in order to play with their classmates can only play on the All Star team for the age group that they are currently playing in.

VYSA rules prohibit playing down for any reason.

10. Pre/Post Season Games: Once season play has opened, no game other than scheduled games shall be played by any GFSC team without the approval of the Steering Committee. Age Group Coordinators and coaches may arrange scrimmages and other training without this approval. However, they must be held at the time of, or instead of, one of the team’s regular practices. No post-season matches shall be scheduled without the prior approval of the Steering Committee.

11. Protests: Game protests will only be allowed at the U-9/U-10 level and above to clarify technical points on rules interpretation and will be decided by the Steering Committee. No protests will be allowed for referee judgment calls, nor will any protest affect the outcome of any game.

12. Rules of Recreational Play: GFSC soccer shall be played in accordance with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Laws of the Game, as modified in this manual, as modified by VYSA or as modified by the Steering Committee. In the case of teams participating in the Suburban Friendship League, that League’s rule modifications shall apply.

13. Coach’s Role: The Head Coach’s role is one of teaching soccer skills and sportsmanship to the players. The Head Coach is responsible for communicating practice and game times to the players and parents. The Head Coach is also responsible for monitoring the behavior of the players and parents during practice and games. The Assistant Coach(es) are responsible for teaching skills and sportsmanship and shall also be available in the event the coach is unable to attend a game or practice.

14. Parent's Role: The parent's role is one of support to the players and coaches. The parents should not engage in "coaching" from the sidelines; criticizing players, coaches or game officials or trying to influence the makeup of the team at any time. Parents may also be responsible for assisting the center referee by handling the out-of-bounds flags as a linesperson. A person designated as "team parent" should act as team manager and assist the coach with various responsibilities including, snack lists, uniforms, trophies and planning the end of season party. During the registration process all parents must acknowledge that they have read and will comply with the GFSC Code of Conduct discussed immediately below. In addition, parents shall not bring pets of any kind to the soccer fields. Pets are not allowed on the fields pursuant to Fairfax County Regulations.

15. Code of Conduct: All coaches within the soccer program will promote good sportsmanship among players, foster team camaraderie, and help participants have fun while teaching players the technical skills of soccer. It is the obligation of all program officials, parents, and players to create an environment which promotes the above objective. Unsportsmanlike conduct or derogatory language by coaches will not be tolerated by the program. Such unsportsmanlike conduct includes berating or making unkind comments to a player or referee which would reasonably be expected to cause embarrassment to the player or referee. Other examples include the intentional abuse or attempt to abuse the player selection system or willful failure to follow program rules. By accepting a program assignment to coach a soccer team, each coach agrees to the above code of conduct, certifies that he/she has read these rules and will abide by them and acknowledge that coaching in the soccer program is a privilege and not a right.

16. Coach's Certificate: Coaches will sign the coach's Code of Conduct, attached as an Appendix, at the time he or she receives a coaching assignment. This document will signify his/her agreement to abide by the rules of the Great Falls Soccer Club and to follow the Code of Conduct defined above.

17. KIDSAFE PROGRAM - GFSC, in conjunction with U.S. Youth Soccer, has adopted the KIDSAFE PROGRAM in order to exclude from participation in its activities all persons who have been convicted of felonies, crimes of violence or crimes against persons. All coaches/trainers and administrators in GFSC must provide an employment/volunteer disclosure statement and agree to allow the GFSC Steering Committee designee to conduct an annual background check.

18. Complaint Procedure: Any breach of the code of conduct, other unsportsmanlike conduct, use of derogatory language, or the willful failure to follow the rules by a coach or player, or parent at a game shall be brought to the attention of the Referee and/or Scorekeeper and shall be noted by the Referee/Scorekeeper on his/her Game Report/Sheet. Such complaints will also be the subject of a notice from the league or the Director of Referees to the Vice President of Recreational League or the Commissioner. For U6 – U8 games, complaints shall be forwarded directly to the AGC or Vice President of Recreational League.

Upon receipt of such notice, the Vice President of Recreational League or Commissioner shall forward the complaint to the Discipline Committee (Vice President of Rules and Regulations and the Vice President of Recreation). Should the Discipline Committee decide that the matter warrants investigation and Committee action, it shall make a sufficient investigation and make a

recommendation to the full Steering Committee which shall determine if misconduct has occurred.

Otherwise, the Vice President of Recreation shall investigate the facts in order to make a recommendation to the Commissioner who shall refer the matter to a special meeting of the Steering Committee which shall determine if misconduct has occurred.

19. Penalties: (a) Except in the case of grievous or flagrant violations of the rules, the penalty for a first-time violator will be a written reprimand. The penalty for a first-time grievous or flagrant violation will be suspension from all soccer program activities for one game. The game from which the violator is suspended shall be specified in the letter imposing the penalty.

(b) The penalty for a second-time violator will be a suspension from all soccer program activities for one game. The game from which the violator is suspended shall be specified in the letter imposing the penalty.

(c) The penalty for third and subsequent violations will be expulsion from all soccer program activities for the remainder of the season.

The Steering Committee shall have the authority to modify or change these recommended penalties based on the facts and circumstances surrounding the violation.

Factors for Consideration in Imposing Penalty: In deciding whether and what penalty should be imposed for a violation of the rules, the Steering Committee may consider the severity of the violation, the number of prior violations; whether the referee's response, if any, during the game in which the violation occurred was adequate to address the violation; and all appropriate mitigating circumstances.

Failure to comply with the terms of an assessed penalty or ignoring an assessed penalty will result in suspension from all soccer program activities until full compliance is achieved.

C. Selection of All Stars and All Star Coaches

The Great Falls Soccer Club fields All Star Teams for a post-Spring season All Star Tournament, normally held Fathers' Day Weekend and for a post-Fall season All Star Tournament, normally held the weekend before Thanksgiving Day. The parents of the children selected for the All-Star Team are expected to pay for the cost of the Tournament (approximately \$40 to \$70 per child). Additionally, each child must have a uniquely numbered royal blue GFSC jersey.

Selection of All Star Coaches

Any person with soccer coaching experience is eligible to apply for the position of All Star Coach for any age division. The Age Group Coordinator shall request interest from all the coaches on or before the second Saturday of the regular season immediately preceding the All Star tournament. Interested coaches shall provide the age group coordinator with their license level and whether they have tournament experience as a head coach.

After the deadline for expressions of interest and prior to the fourth Saturday of the season, the All Star Coach selections will be made by a majority vote of the Age Group Coordinator, The Vice President of Recreation and the All Star Coordinator. The decisions of the panel will be final unless the Steering Committee determines that the selection guidelines contained in these rules have not been followed.

In making their selections, the panels shall give preference to coaches who have attained an "F" License or better and have previous tournament head coaching experience. Among licensed applicants, however, the level of license and tournament experience shall not be the determining factor. In addition to the level of license and tournament experience, the panels shall consider such other factors as coaching experience, commitment, recommendations, and other factors they may deem appropriate.

All Star Player Selection

The selected Vice President of the Recreational League, the All Star Coach, the Age Group Coordinator, and the All Star Coordinator shall determine whether the selection process for a particular All Star Team shall be based upon league play observation, open tryouts or a combination of both methods. The goal of the selection process shall be to select the best players currently playing in the Great Falls House League who are eligible to play in a particular All Star age division.

In the case of a league play observation method of selection, the observations shall be conducted by the Technical Director, the All Star Coach and the Age Group Coordinator on the fourth and fifth Saturdays of the season, weather permitting. Team coaches shall be consulted for their input both before the observation process begins and before the selections are finalized. The selection, however, shall be at the discretion of Technical Director in consult with the All Star Coach and with the advice of the Vice President of the Recreational League and the Age Group Coordinator. Players playing up in a division shall be eligible for All Star consideration in his/her age appropriate division and the division that they are playing up in. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian(s) of players playing up and girls playing in the coed divisions to notify the All Star Coach or the appropriate Age Group Coordinator if their child desires to be considered for an All Star Team other than for the division in which they are playing. Upon such notification, the All Star Coach and Age Group Coordinator will make arrangements for equivalent observation of such players.

In the case of open tryouts, there will be a minimum of two tryout sessions, the time and date of which shall be widely publicized to all eligible players. Weather permitting, tryouts should be held on the fourth and fifth weekends of the season. The parents of players playing up and girls playing in the coed divisions of the tryouts are responsible for finding out about the tryouts for the particular age that they are interested in trying out. Team coaches shall be consulted for their input both before the observation process begins and before the selections are finalized. The selection, however, shall be at the discretion of the Technical Director, the Vice President of the Recreational League, the All Star Coach and with the advice of the Age Group Coordinator.

Regardless of the selection process, the All Star team selections shall be final unless the Steering Committee finds that a particular child selected fails to meet the age

eligibility requirements of the division, or that a particular child should have been selected for the team and it is an injustice that this child did not make the team.

Roster size should be left to the discretions of the Age Group Coordinator. However, it is recommended that the roster size for 5x5 be 8-10 players. Roster size for 7x7 should be 11-12. Roster size for 8x8 should be 12-14. Roster size for 11x11 should be 16-18. **Playing time for all players on U-10 All Stars and below (U10, U-9 and U-8) shall be equal in each game.** Once in the SFL, playing time is subject to SFL rules or the coaches discretion.

Special Rule for Selection of All Stars for Girls Playing In the Coed House League.

Girls playing in the coed house league are eligible for participation on the age-appropriate girl's All Star Team. They must be afforded an equal opportunity for selection to that team as the girls playing in the girl's house league. It is the responsibility of the coed coaches to notify the All Star coordinator if the coach feels that they have a player that should be nominated. It is the responsibility of the All Star Coach to format a selection process giving equal access to all age-appropriate house league girls regardless of whether their affiliation is with the girl's league or the coed league.

In the event that two or more All Star teams are sanctioned for a particular age division, the selection process shall be held jointly with both/all All Star Coaches.

D. Rule Modifications for Recreational Play

1. *Age Group Participants:* The recreational program is open to any child 3 years old or older, up to 19 years old. Players will be grouped by birth dates between August 1 and July 31 of the following year. These age groups include those children who have reached the designated age (6, 7, 8, 9, etc.) or are no more than one year younger than the designated age on August 1 (see chart below). The break for the age groups corresponds with the soccer seasons, is used for international play, and has been adopted by NCSL, WAGS, ODSL, and the Virginia Youth Soccer Association (VYSA).

The recreational program sponsors a "Little Kickers" program, which is a clinic held for children ages of 3 thru 5 to foster enjoyment of the game and success. The house league is for players in U6-U10 (typically 5-10 years old). Older recreational players play in the Suburban Friendship League.

The Steering Committee may group one or more age groups together. Normally, there will be eight groupings: (1) Little Kickers (2) Under 6; (3) Under 7; (4) Under 8; (5) Under 9 and Under 10; (6) Under 11 and Under 12; (7) Under 13 and Under 14; and (8) Under 16 and Under 19. These groupings may be changed by the Vice President of the Recreational League before the start of a season to increase or reduce the number of players in an age grouping and help ensure good competition.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Max. Age on Aug. 1</u>	<u>Max. Age on Next July 31</u>
LK	3	5
U6	5	6
U7	6	7
U8	7	8
U9	8	9
U10	9	10
U11	10	11
U12	11	12
U13	12	13
U14	13	14
U15	14	15
U16	15	16

Ball Sizes: Recreational teams shall use the following ball sizes:

U5-U8 #3 Soccer Ball

U9-U12 #4 Soccer Ball

U13 and older #5 Soccer Ball

2. Cancellations: The Commissioner and the Director of Field Maintenance will decide as to whether or not there will be a cancellation. The Director of Fields will update the web page and hotline telephone message as soon as possible, using the following guidelines:

By 7:15 a.m. – for games beginning between 8:00 and 11 a.m.

By 10 a.m. – for games beginning after 11:00 a.m.

In addition, the Director of Field Maintenance should notify the Director of Referees. Coaches will inform the parents via telephone or e-mail of cancellations.

Once games are in progress, the Director of the Recreational Program, Age Group Coordinators, or The Commissioner may cancel any game due to developing weather or specific field conditions. The referee may also call the game unilaterally, or may consult with the opposing coaches and reach a mutual agreement to call a game.

Any game stopped after one-half of the game has been played will be considered completed.

Coaches are asked not to practice in inclement weather or when the practice field surface is soft and/or muddy due to recent rain.

Coaches shall not have their teams play games, practice or be on the fields during a lightning storm or when lightning is occurring. During a lightning storm, all children must vacate the fields and be appropriately sheltered for protection in automobiles or other appropriate sites. Teams may not resume play until one half hour after the last lightning sighting.

3. Charging the Goalkeeper: In the U9/U10 Age Groups, charging, kicking at the ball, or contact with the goalkeeper is not permitted when the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball. The penalty for either offense will be a direct kick.

4. Dangerous Play: The following acts are considered dangerous plays when another player of either team is within 1 yard:

Kicks above the waist (entire foot)

Kicking or attempting to kick the ball by a player who is down on the ground.

5. Team Sizes: Prior to the commencement of each season, the Vice President of Recreation with the Age Group Coordinators for each age group will establish the size of each team and the number of players in the games. See Section V., Special Rules For Age Divisions, for further guidance on the permissible range of numbers of players on the field.

6. Forfeit: In the U6, U7, and U8 age groups, there will be no forfeits. If players are missing, game should be played with a smaller team if necessary. No team should have more than one extra player; this should only be done to avoid certain players playing less than the required 3 quarters of a game.

The playing team size shall be the size of the smaller team, and the larger team may play up 1 or two, according to the table below. If both teams are the same size,

and, at or below the normal playing team size, the coaches may agree at the pre-game meeting to play with a team size which will allow each team to have a substitute. In any case, the size of each team shall fall within the rules specified in the following table for teams fielding ten or more players during games:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Smaller Team</u>	<u>Larger Team</u>	<u>Small Plays</u>	<u>Large Plays</u>
U9/U10	6 or fewer	6 or fewer	6 or as agreed	
	6 or fewer	7 or more	6	6
	7	7	6	6
	7	8 or more	6	6
	8	8	6	6
	8	9 or more	6	6
	9	9	7	7
	9	10 or more	7	7

When an SFL (U11-U19) team fails to have enough players, SFL League rules on forfeits will apply.

7. Injured/Player Down: The referee shall immediately stop the game under either of the following conditions:

(a) When a player is injured. The injured player may be substituted for while play is stopped. The injured player may return to the field at the next substitution opportunity for that team.

(b) When a player has fallen to the ground in the immediate vicinity of play, and there is risk of injury if play continues.

In either case, when the situation has been resolved the game will resume with a drop ball at the point on the field where the ball was at the time of the stoppage in play.

8. Issuing of Yellow and Red Cards: After discussion with the referee, the coach will be responsible for disciplining (including removal from the game) of players who repeatedly violate the rules of play that would normally receive a yellow card.

Players will receive red or yellow cards if game circumstances warrant the cards, according to FIFA rules.

The Director of Referees shall advise the Director of Rules and Regulations of any players or coaches receiving a red card.

9. Linesman: In the Under 9-10 Age Group, each team will provide one linesman whose duty is only to notify the referee of out-of-bounds on side and goal lines. The linesman should be available at least 5 minutes before the start of the game to meet with the referee. Linesmen should be non-coaching adults or teenagers and under no circumstances be a player of the Age Group of the game. The referee may overrule a linesman's call under any circumstances.

In the U-11 and above Age Groups, GFSC will provide a referee and two assistant referees (linesmen) for each house game, budget permitting. If for any reason an assistant referee is not available, then a parent may line.

10. OffSide: Offside calls are by definition judgment calls; but the referee's call (or non-call) is how the play will stand - there are no appeals. The referee, and official assistant referees when present will interpret Law 11 of The Laws of the Game, as published by FIFA and sanctioned by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF).

For the U6, U7 and U-8 Age Groups there will be no offside calls.

For all other Age Groups, the offside calls will be fully enforced as governed by FIFA laws.

11. Practices: House (U6 – U10) teams shall have one, and only one, practice per week of one hour duration. SFL (U11 and above) teams have one or two weekly practices of 1½ hours duration, depending on field and coach availability. All Star practices for the U-9/U-10 age group and above may be of longer duration without obtaining Steering Committee approval, but no longer than two hours in length.

12. Pre-game Meeting: The referee, the two opposing coaches, and the official or designated linesmen will meet 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the game for:

- Determining the team sizes for the game in accordance with the Season, Forfeiture rules (note 6).
- Introductions of coaches and game officials
- Instruction of designated linesmen.
- Review of any special playing conditions, including the necessity to end the game short of its standard duration (see section, Starting Time/Game Duration, and Cancellations).

13. Referees: The Club looks to use the best qualified referees available within the soccer program budget. Referees shall be paid a reasonable fee for each

game. The Director of Referees along with the Director of Coach and Player Development shall make recommendations prior to each season as to the age, qualification, training and experience standards for each age division. The Director of Referees shall endeavor to ensure that all referees do a conscientious job and strive to be fair, accurate, and impartial. The Director of Referees through the Referee Mentoring Program shall attempt to observe as many new referees in game situations as possible, to ensure that objectives are being met.

Obviously, as in any sport, there will be missed fouls, judgment calls with which you disagree, and occasional misinterpretations of the rules.

Parents, coaches, and players shall refrain from criticizing or getting into disputes with the referees. If there is a misinterpretation of the rules, parents should let coaches discuss it with the referee. If the coach deems it necessary, he may protest that game at the U-9 level and above, but only to clarify technical points on rules interpretations. No protest will be allowed for referee judgment calls nor will a protest affect the outcome of a game. If coaches have a problem with a referee, they should contact the Director of Referees and/or the Vice President of the Recreational League and the Suburban Friendship League.

In addition, coaches have a responsibility to monitor the behavior of players and parents from their teams. The referee may request that any coach or spectator leave the game area if the actions of that person impair the referee's ability to control the game. The referee may also terminate the game and leave if a problem persists.

14. Reporting Game Results: In the U9/U10 and older Age Group, the winning coach should report the game results to the Age Group Coordinator. In case of ties, both coaches shall call in the scores. For teams competing in the Suburban Friendship League, that league's rules will be followed regarding reporting game results.

15. Uniforms: House league players should wear a GFSC uniform (black shorts, royal blue GFSC jersey, royal blue socks). Pennies should be used to differentiate house league teams. The use of shin guards is mandatory in all Age Groups for both games and practices. A player without proper shin guards will not be allowed to play in regular season practices or games. Soccer/sport shoes shall be worn during a game; screw-in or screw-on metal cleats are prohibited. All metal cleats are prohibited. Watches, rings, bracelets, earrings, chains, barrettes, unzipped jackets, hoods, or any other item that may constitute a potential danger to the player and/or any other player shall not be worn. If a player is wearing a cast, splint or other hard material he/she will not be permitted to participate in regular season practices or games unless approved by the Head Coach (practice) or Referee (game), even if the cast/splint is padded. GFSC recommends that players wearing eyeglasses use a safety strap and safety lenses. In judging the suitability and safety of a player's uniform, the Referee's decision is final. Coaches will support the

Referee's decision in these instances; questions should be directed to the Age Group Coordinator after the game.

16. Sideline Position: Coaches, substitute players and spectators are not permitted behind the goal lines, or on the side (touch) lines between the goal lines and the top of the penalty box. Spectators should remain behind the spectator lines so as to provide adequate room for linesmen, coaches, throw-ins, and substitutes along the side (touch) lines. In the instructional (U6 and U7 age groups), one (1) coach is allowed on the field during the play for instructional purposes.

17. Starting Time/Game Duration: Every game will start within 10 minutes of its scheduled starting time or be forfeited, except for unavoidable delays as approved by the referee. The standard duration of the game shall be:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Duration</u>
Little Kickers Clinics	– 1 hour in duration
U6	4 8 Minute Quarters, plus Quarter and Half Breaks
U7	4 10-Minute Quarters, Plus Quarter and Half Breaks
U8	4 12-Minute Quarters, Plus Quarter and Half Breaks
U9/U10	2 25 minute halves, plus Half Break
U11 and above	SFL Rules apply

In the U6, U7, U8, U9/U10, U11/U12 Age Groups, there will be a kickoff to restart the game after each quarter/half break as appropriate. The kick off to start the game is determined by a coin flip; the succeeding kick off will alternate. The quarter break shall be 2 minutes. The half break shall be 4 minutes.

18. Substitutions: If the age group plays by quarters, substitutions may be made at the quarter break or any other break in play. Other age groups shall substitute at their own throw-ins, any goal kick, or after any goal.

19. Team Standings: No records or standings will be maintained for the U6, U7, U8, U-9 or U-10 age groups. Standings for U-11 and above will be based on SFL rules.

20. Trophies: Trophies of participation will be awarded to all U6-U10 participants.

21. Throw-Ins: There are no throw-ins in the U6 and U7 Age Groups. Instead the coach should roll the ball into play. For U8 Age Groups, a second throw-in attempt is allowed, if the first is unsuccessful. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, the ball is turned over to the other team.

22. Special Rules For U6, U7 and U8: The U6, U7 and U8 Age Groups shall play according to rules established for that age group by the Age Group Coordinator and the Vice President of Recreation, and documented in the Summary of House Rules by Age Group.

23. Slaughter Rule: A coach should refrain from defeating an opposing team by a spread of more than five goals. Coaches should consider playing with fewer players (or loaning players in U6 – U8 age groups) to avoid running up the score in such situations. A coach exceeding this goal differential will be subject to disciplinary action.

E. Travel Program – Interface with Recreation Program

Players may be recommended for inclusion on a travel team. Their selection will be made by the head coach of the travel team, based on his/her evaluation of the performance of the interested players at tryouts. Players will be chosen on the basis of their ability to contribute to the team's success, and not solely on their performance in the recreational program. Only players participating at tryouts shall be chosen for travel teams. Tryouts will be open to all interested players both within and outside of the GFSC soccer program.

All tryouts for travel teams shall be well publicized in the community. Recreational program coaches shall be advised as to the date and time of tryouts and shall be responsible for notification of their players prior to the tryouts.

No travel team shall be formed and/or sanctioned by GFSC unless it has been first approved by the Steering Committee. Under no circumstances will a travel team be formed if its existence results in an inability to provide a functional recreational program.

A player may resign from a travel team and be assigned to a recreational team any time prior to the start of the travel season. This assignment must be approved by the Soccer Commissioner, the Director of Travel, the appropriate recreational Age Group Coordinator, and both coaches.

A player may not play on any travel team and a Great Falls' recreational team concurrently. However, a House League player may be invited to be a "guest player" on a travel team for purposes of tournament play. House players may also be permitted to join a travel team and leave an existing House League team.

Travel Teams will be formed in May/June for rising U9 players. For the U-9 and U-10 age groups, if more than one team is formed, then the teams should have the same head coach.

(NOTE: There is A Policy and Procedures Manual for the GFSC Travel Soccer Program. This document may be consulted for additional information on the GFSC Travel Program.)

IV. SPECIAL RULES FOR AGE DIVISIONS

A. Special Rules for “Little Kicker” Program

For children between the ages of 3 thru 5 a series of clinics will be held to strengthen the children’s soccer skills and prepare them for house league participation.

B. Special Rules for U6 Soccer

1. Field Size: Approximately 30 x 20 yards. Adjustable. Length exceeds Width.
2. Markings: Halfway line; Center circle of 5 yard radius; four corner arcs w/ two foot radius; Goal area 4 x 10 yards.
3. Goals: 4 x 6 feet
4. Ball Size: #3
5. Roster Size/Number of Players/Playing Time: Maximum 3 v 3 on the field at one time. Preferred roster size of 10, maximum roster size of 12. Minimum of 3 or 4 quarters per player.
6. Game Rotation: Use two fields. Split teams into A and B. A v A for 16 minutes. (2 quarters) A v B for 16 minutes (2 quarters).
7. Players’ Equipment: Molded cleat soccer shoe; shin guards mandatory.
8. Referee: Coach or appointed assistant/parent. Coach is only adult allowed on the field.
9. Linesmen: Parent.
10. Game Length: Four, 8 minute quarters. Two minute quarter break. Four minute half break. Parents are encouraged to remain at the field.
11. Offside: Not enforced.
12. Rule Infringements/Penalties: Indirect free kick for all infringements. No penalty kicks. No yellow or red cards. Players to be informed of rule infringements. Focus on teaching game to players vs. disciplining kids for rule violations. Coach of player infringing on rule is responsible for discipline

(including removal from the game) if player repeatedly violates laws of the game.

13. Distance For Free Kicks/Corner Kicks/Kick-offs/Goal Kicks: Five yards.
14. Throw-In: Coach will roll ball back into play in lieu of a throw in.
15. Game Restart: Drop Ball, Coach Roll In, Goal Kick, Corner Kick, or Kick Off, as appropriate.

Out of Play Over Touch Line: Coach Roll In.

Out of Play Over Goal-Line: Coach rolls ball from anywhere in the goal area.

16. Record/Standings: No records or standings will be maintained.
17. Goalkeeper: None.

C. Special Rules For U7 Soccer

1. Field Size: approximately 45 x 25 yards. Adjustable. Length exceeds Width.
2. Markings: Halfway line; Center circle of 5 yard radius; four corner arcs w/ two foot radius; Goal area 4 x 10 yards. Goal Area "box" drawn from each end line.
3. Goals: 4 x 6 feet.
4. Ball Size: #3.
5. Roster Size/Number Of Players/Playing Time: Maximum 3 v 3 on the field at one time. Maximum roster size of 12. Minimum of 3 or 4 quarters per player.
6. Game Rotation: Use two fields. Split teams into A and B. A v A for 20 minutes. (2 quarters) A v B for 20 minutes (2 quarters)
7. Players' Equipment: Molded cleat soccer shoe; shin guards mandatory.
8. Referee: Coach or appointed assistant/parent. Coach is only adult allowed on the field.
9. Linesmen: Parent.
10. Game Length: Four, 10 minute quarters. Two minute quarter break. Four minute half break. Parents are encouraged to remain at the field.
11. Offside: Not enforced.
12. Rule Infringements/Penalties: Indirect free kick for all infringements. No penalty kicks. No yellow or red cards. Players to be informed of all rule infringements. Focus on teaching players the rules of the game vs. disciplining for rule violation. Coach of player infringing rule is responsible for discipline (including removal from the game) if player repeatedly violates laws of the game.

13. Distance For Free Kicks/Corner Kicks/Kick-Offs/Goal Kicks: Five yards.
14. Throw-In: Coach will roll ball back in in lieu of a throw in.
15. Game Restart: Drop Ball, Coach Roll In, Goal Kick, Corner Kick, or Kick Off, as appropriate.
 Out of Play Over Touch Line: Coach Roll In.
 Out of Play Over Goal-Line: Coach Roll In from anywhere in the goal area.
16. Record/Standings: No records or standings will be maintained.
17. Goalkeeper: None.
18. Substitutions: Free substitutions are allowed by either team when the ball is out of play and play has stopped.

D. Special Rules for U8 Soccer

1. Field Size: Approximately 30 x 35. Adjustable. Length exceeds width.
2. Markings: Halfway line; Center circle of 5 yard radius; for corner arcs w/two foot radius; Goal area 4 x 10 yards. Goal Area "box" drawn from each end line.
3. Goals: 4 feet x 6 feet
4. Ball Size: #3
5. Roster Size/Number of Players/Playing Time: Maximum 4 v 4 on the field at one time. Preferred roster size of 10; maximum roster size of 12. Minimum of 3 or 4 quarters per player.
6. Game Rotation: Game Rotation: Use two fields. Split teams into A and B. A v A for 24 minutes. (2 quarters) A v B for 24 minutes (2 quarters)N/A
7. Players' Equipment: Molded soccer cleats. Shin guards mandatory.
8. Referee: Coach will act as referee.
9. Linesmen: Parent.
10. Game Length: Four 12 minute quarters with 2 minute quarter break and a four minute half break.
11. Offside: Not Enforced.
12. Rule Infringements/Penalties: FIFA Laws. No penalty kicks.
13. Distance For Free Kicks/Corner Kicks/ Kick-Offs/ Goal Kicks: All free-kicks are indirect.
14. Throw-In: If a foul throw is taken, coach will explain the infraction and allow another throw.

15. Game Restart: FIFA laws.
16. Record/Standings: Scores not reported and standings not kept.
17. Goalkeeper: None.
18. Substitutions: Free substitutions are allowed by either team when the ball is out of play and play has stopped.

E. Special Rules for U9/U10 Soccer

1. Field Size: Approximately 45 x 60 yards.
2. Markings: FIFA laws.
3. Goals: FIFA laws.
4. Ball Size: #4
5. Roster Size/ Number of Players/Playing Time: 6 v 6; 10 players per team roster preferred; maximum of 12 players per team roster; each player must play a minimum of three quarters.
6. Game Rotation: N/A
7. Players' Equipment: Molded soccer cleats. Shin guards are mandatory.
8. Referee: Center referee will be provided. In the event no referee is available, parents should step in and act as the center referee.
9. Linesmen: Parents will be asked to volunteer as Linesmen.
10. Game Length: Two 25 minute halves and a 4 minute break at the half.
11. OffSide: FIFA Laws.
12. Rule Infringements/Penalties: FIFA Laws. Penalty kicks to be awarded.
13. Distance for Free Kicks/Corner Kicks/Kick-Offs/Goal Kicks: FIFA Laws
14. Throw-In: FIFA Laws.
15. Game Restart: FIFA Laws.
16. Record/Standings: Scores reported to AGC and standings not kept.
17. Goalkeeper: There will be a Goalkeeper. No one player may play in goal more than 2 quarters. Charging the Goalkeeper in the penalty area is not allowed. May use hands only in the "box." May not use hands on a ball intentionally kicked back to the goalie by one of his or her teammates otherwise an indirect free kick will be awarded to the other team.

18. Substitutions: Substitutions are allowed by the team with possession during throw-ins or and by either team at goal kicks or after a goal has been scored.

F. Special Rules For U11 and Above Soccer

SFL Rules apply.

V. AMENDMENT OF SOCCER PROGRAM RULES

Any interested party, including parent, player, coach or club official may propose a proposed amendment to the Rules. Such proposed amendments shall be given in writing to the Steering Committee at least 14 days prior to a regular Committee meeting, or any special meeting at which rules amendment may be considered. The Steering Committee has full authority to approve or disapprove the proposed amendment. However, the Steering Committee may table the proposed amendment for consideration and action by the general membership at a general meeting. The Steering Committee shall provide reasonable notice to the membership of the proposed change. Persons suggesting changes shall have the opportunity, if they so desire, to make an appropriate presentation in support of the petition to the Steering Committee or the general membership as the case may be.