

North Branch Rec Soccer Rules – COED

(Division by Grade – Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8)

1. High school rules will be in effect except as modified below.
2. Games will be 11 VS 11 (changes with divisions, see notes below). If needed to play a game, modification to the number of players on the field may happen if agreed upon by both coaches and referees prior to the game starting.
3. All kids present at the game will have play time, unless injury, discipline or other significant circumstance exists. Notification should be provided to league and officials.
4. **Offsides** – Offsides will be enforced starting at the 3rd/4th grade level and up. 1st/2nd grade coaches are encouraged to teach offsides. **There is to be no CHERRY PICKING.**
5. **Game play** - Each half will consist of equal minutes running time (changes with division) With a 5-minute halftime. No overtime needed if tied during regular season. OT will occur during Tournament. There will be a 5-minute period added to the end of the game if tied. If the game is still tied at end of 5 minutes, it will go to a shoot out to break the tie.
 - a. Shoot-out rules – 5 players picked from each team to take shot on goal, alternating between each other after each shot. Goalie can be changed prior to the shoot out taking place, but unless injured can be changed once shoot out has begun.
 - b. If game is still tied after the initial 5 shots have been completed by each team. There are 5 different players selected to shoot and the first Player to score where the other one doesn't win.
 - c. If a shot bounces off a goalpost or the goalie. The ball becomes dead and the shot is over, unless the ball spins or rolls back into the goal, without any manipulation a second time. Example: If a kick is taken and the goalie deflects the ball away, but side spins into the goal.

6. Substitution Rule 3/4th grade teams and above – substitutions may only be made during dead ball situations. Example: Throw-ins, free kicks or after a goal has been made. Referees need to be notified before you can make a substitution. Aside from subbing after goals scored. Substitutions may only be made by the team that the dead ball situation favors. If the favored team initiates a substitution, the opposing team may sub at the same time. Both teams must have kids standing 5 feet from the half-way line prior to the notification of substitution. If a situation arises where a player is potentially injured (stepped on, kicked, hit with ball etc) the referee will assess the situation and stop game play, if needed. If game play stops due to an injury, the injured player must be subbed off the field until the next possible substitution opportunity for that team. If game play has stopped due to injury and no fouls have been committed, the game will restart with a “dropped ball” to the Player/team that last touched the ball before game play stopped. The referee will drop the ball to the player in the location the ball was in before game play stopped and simultaneously resume game play with a blow of their whistle.

7. Substitution Rule (1/2 grade and below) – Substitutions may be made by either team during any dead ball situation. Pre-K coaches may sub at their discretion. All other substitution rules apply.

8. Goalkeepers – Goalies must wear a different color shirt than either color of the teams playing.

9. Goal Kicks will be taken from the top of the small goalie box within 6 seconds. If the goalie carries the ball over the 2nd box line it is a handball, and a free direct kick will be awarded to the other team from the spot of the handball.

10. Free Kicks – All free kicks for all age groups will be direct free kicks. This means a goal may be scored directly from the free kick without encountering another player. Free kicks are awarded to the opposing team of any player that commits a foul, handball, or defined head ball (see Rule 11) at the spot of the infraction. Forming “walls” in front of free kicks will be at the discretion of coaches and shall be aware of the risk it brings. If

players choose to form a wall in front of the kicker, they must stand 5 yards (15 ft) away from the kicker.

11. Penalty Kicks – A penalty Kick is a free direct kick on goal from the center hash mark inside the large goalie box. A penalty kick is awarded when a defender commits a foul or handball inside their own large goalie box, also known as the penalty box. During penalty kicks one player of the awarded team will take a direct shot at the goal, with **ONLY** the goalie defending. The goalie must remain on the goal line until the player encounters the ball. If the ball hits a goalpost or is fumbled by the goalie, it becomes a **LIVE** ball, and anyone can play it.

12. Fouls and Conduct - Slide tackles and head balls are **NOT** allowed. Even if it's a clean "legal" tackle there will be a foul called. Head balls will be enforced if any player pursues the ball with the **CLEAR INTENT** of heading the ball. Players will receive a 1st offense verbal warning, and then if same player does it again, he/she will be ejected for the remainder of the game. If there is any **EXCESSIVE** tackle from behind, dangerous play, or tackle directly at the legs of an opponent the player will not receive a warning, they will be ejected from the game. **Referees** will have red/yellow cards. 1st is a verbal warning. Yellow is a caution warning (15 mins out of play). 2 yellow = Red (one game suspension). Red = suspended (This includes any player, coach or spectator). Swearing, fighting or the use of any vulgar language used during play will not be tolerated and the above will come into play.

13. Standings will be based on records. If it is too close, then points will determine. Win=2pts, Tie=1pt, Loss=0 points. At the end of the season the team with the most points will determine the league placement for 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. Those placements will determine their seating for tournament. In the event of a tie – total points scored will come into play. All points will be considered with the cap of points on any game that was a mercy at 8 points. (Example – if 8-0 only the 8 points will be counted, if the score is 3 - 12 only 8 points will be counted. This applies only for mercy games) 1st place team for season will receive a trophy and all other teams will receive

a medal for 1st/2nd grade and up. Pre-K and K all players will receive a medal. For Tournament play only the winning team will receive a Championship Ring. (there are no ties in tournament see rule 5)

14. Coaches and spectators must always remain on the sidelines. They are NOT allowed to stand on or at the goal lines and instruct their players. (it is too much of a distraction) Coaches are to respect the other team and coaches' space and not impede into their area during the game to address their players at any time. The only time the coaches are allowed on the field of play is to tend to injured players. Spectators are to be at least 3 yards from sideline, that is located on the opposite side of where the teams are located.

15. Coaches and spectators are reminded that the league is intended to be instructional and recreational. Please maintain a good sportsmanship and enjoy the season.

16. RUNNING UP THE SCORE.... will not be tolerated. Each player should only be allowed to score four goals: once they score the fourth goal, the coach must either take the player out of the game or move the player to goalie or a defensive position. **This rule only takes effect if the team has a 3-goal lead or is greater. MERCY RULE: Game ends when a team goes up by 8 goals. Examples – 8 – 0, 12 – 4 the 12th goal would end the game.**

17. No use of noise makers, megaphones, or any type of voice amplifier devices will be permitted at the fields.

18. Players must wear shin guards during practices and games. Shin guards must be covered at all times. No Jewelry, ballcaps or sunglasses (unless needed for vision). SOCCER cleats must be worn on the fields, and wrist and sweatbands can be worn.

19. High school rules regarding suspension for players and coaches will be in effect. At a minimum, suspension will include the remainder of the game plus the next full game. The Board will consider each incident for additional action.

20. Weather – All games will be played, except under extreme weather conditions. NB Rec Soccer will notify all coaches if games are to

be canceled or postponed. If lightning is observed, a 15-minute delay will start. If another flash is observed, then the 15-minute delay will start over. All players and coaches must leave the field and seek shelter while waiting to see if play will continue. It will be to the discretion of the coaches as to how long the teams wait for the weather to clear or to reschedule the game. For practices NB Rec will notify all coaches if practice is to be canceled for all teams. If practice has not been canceled for all teams, but weather turns unpleasant at the start of or during practice coaches should use their best judgement on when to cancel for the day, always keeping the health and safety of the kids in consideration.

21. BOY/GIRL RULE – There must always be a minimum of 4 girls on the field, per team. **EXCEPTION** – If the team only has 4 girls, then they must play 3. If they only have 3 then they must play two and so on. While we try to balance all teams as much as possible. Enrollment, ride shares and requests due play a part of how teams come together. So sometimes our divisions do not match up exactly as we plan.

SPECIAL NOTES

- 1. NO PARKING** – Note the “NO PARKING” signs have been along the white fences and at the school fences, please do not park along the drive or on the lawn area by the fence. Use designated parking spaces marked in the lot. This will help keep it safe for the kids entering and exiting the soccer fields.
- 2. DIVISIONS** and sizes are specific to North Branch Rec Soccer and sometimes do not match up to other programs.
- 3. To start a game player must pass the ball to another player. There are no direct kicks for start of play. This means no goals can be scored from the starting kick of the game.**
- 4. Pre K/ Kindergarten** – Ball size – 3. Field Size 75’x35’. Goal size 4’x4’. 4-5 players on field (depends on kids). Coaches must both agree on goalie or no goalie. Game length – 4 qtrs. – 5 min qtrs. 3 – 5 min halftime

(depends on kids). If both coaches agree they can do 2 -10 min halves. No refs, coaches are to encourage parents to help with out of bounds and ref. 2 – 30 min each practice per week (weather permitting)

5. **1st/2nd grade** – Ball size 4. Field size 40 yards by 20 yards. Goal size is 16'x6'. 9 vs 9 for players on the field with goalie. Game length – 2 - 20 min halves with 5 min. halftime. 1 – 2 referees. 2-3 practices per week min. 45 min - hour each practice.
6. **3rd/4th grade** – Ball size 4. Field size 60 yards by 30 yards. Goal size is 18'x6' 9 players on the field with the goalie. Game length is 2- 25 min halves with a 5 min halftime. 2 referees on the field 2 – 3 practices a week minimum of 45 min – hour each practice.
7. **5th /6th grade** – Ball size 5. Field size 100 yards x 50 yards. Goal size HS Goal. 11 VS 11 on the field with goalie. 2- 30 min halves. 2-3 practices a week for a min of 1 hour. Each. 2 referees on the field
8. **7th / 8th grade** – Ball size 5. Field size 100 yards x 50 yards. Goal size HS Goal. 11 VS 11 on the field with goalie. 2- 35 min halves. 2-3 practices a week for a min of 1 hour. Each. 2 – 3 referees on the field