

# 2023 Hermon Recreation Soccer Rules of Play

For many players and parents, Rec soccer is their first introduction to organized sports. We want to make the game fun and introduce soccer to as many children as possible. Hopefully, because of a positive experience, players will continue playing soccer year after year. Using modified rules and with the help of parents and coaches, we can achieve this goal.

## Why We Use Modified Rules

For an official soccer game, each team fields 11 players (including a goalie) on a large field, usually 100 yards x 80 yards. With only one ball, all those players in all that space, players don't get many touches on the ball. By using a small field with fewer players on the field, each player gets involved and has many more chances to play the ball. These modified rules have been established by the U.S. Youth Soccer Association as the best way to make soccer fun and help develop soccer skills. Coaches, please accept and follow these modified rules.

## Modified Rules

For all age groups in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and below, there are NO goalies. Players should not be positioned in front of the goal to act as a goalie. All field players should move with the flow of the game. At this age, scoring goals is the best way to have fun.

PreK: 4 v. 4 - size 3 ball. Coaches are allowed on the field.

K & 1<sup>st</sup>: 4 v. 4 - size 3 ball. Coaches are allowed on the field.

2<sup>nd</sup>: 5 v. 5 - size 3 ball. Coaches are allowed on the field.

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: 6 v. 6 - 5 players plus a goalie - size 4 ball. Coaches remain on sidelines.

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: 8 v. 8 - 7 field players plus a goalie - size 5 ball. Coaches remain on sidelines.

PreK is 4 weekends. They will divide into groups and coaches can do whatever they want for that hour (practice, play with each other, etc.).

K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will have a 30-minute practice followed by a 30-minute game on Saturdays, run by the coaches.

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade games consist of two 25-minute halves with five minutes for half-time. Time may be added for injuries or for any other unexpected delays. In this league, all players should get equal playing time no matter their skill level. Games will be played in Hermon, Carmel, and Levant.



There are NO slide-tackles.

Players may sub on any stoppage of play at the direction of the referee (or coach for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and below).

All free kicks are indirect - the ball must touch another player before going into the goal. The referee or the coaches will ask the defending team to back up several yards on any free kick (including kick-off, corner, and goal kicks).

Penalty kicks are only awarded at grade levels 3-6. PK's Will be taken from 12 yards or paces, and are called for any obvious infraction in the box or in the area immediately in front of the goal if there are no box/penalty markings on the field.

Defending team retreats to midfield on goal kicks only.

Cleats are recommended. Shin guards are required. Mouth guards are recommended.

Please do not allow one player to dominate the entire game. If only one player is scoring, encourage them to share the ball or rotate positions. Coaches should attempt to match or play players against other players of similar ability. Allow all players to experience different positions.

Coaches ARE allowed and encouraged to be on the field to assist players for PreK through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Coaches of grades PreK-2 are encouraged to bring a whistle because there are no referees at this age level.

**Practice:** Coaches of grades 3 and up are encouraged to have one practice during the week for skills and positioning. Practice days and times can be at your own choosing. You will have parents' contact after the teams are made.

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams will compete Carmel and Levant Rec soccer teams as well. There will only be referees for teams in this age level.

