

**City of Huntsville Parks and Recreation
Youth Recreational Soccer
General Information
2015**

Registration Dates

July 18th, July 25th and August 1st at your local league park; 9:00AM until 12:00 noon

Volunteer Application

All volunteers (coaches, league officers, league coordinators, referees, team moms, etc.) who come in contact with children must submit (and be approved) a City of Huntsville Volunteer Application before he/she begins working with children.

Player Accident Insurance

Player accident insurance must be purchased by the league and provided for each registered player before any practice or game. Proof of insurance must be supplied to your Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

Age Groups

Under 6, player has not reached their sixth (6th) birthday before August 1st of the seasonal year

Under 8, player has not reached their eighth (8th) birthday before August 1st of the seasonal year

Under 10, player has not reached their tenth (10th) birthday before August 1st of the seasonal year

Under 12, player has not reached their twelfth (12th) birthday before August 1st of the seasonal year

Under 14, player has not reached their fourteenth (14th) birthday before August 1st of the seasonal year

Under 16, player has not reached their sixteenth (16th) birthday before August 1st of the seasonal year

Team Formation Guidelines

Leagues may form teams any of several methods (blind draw, player draft, all boy, all girl, coed, direct player assignment by league coordinator) as long as the intent is to divide the players (by age and player talent) into teams evenly.

- Distribute the players on each team by age (half of the team older of the age group, half of the team younger of the age group)
- Distribute the players evenly among the teams by talent/skill level
- No team shall have more than 50% returning players from the previous year. Reform all teams from year to year.

Fifty (50) Percent Play Rule

The fifty percent (50%) player rule is in effect during all matches in the recreational division and will be monitored by league officials and parents. All players present at the beginning of each match shall play at least 50% of the match. It is the coaches' responsibility to make sure this rule is enforced.

**City of Huntsville Parks and Recreation
Youth Recreational Soccer
Modified Playing Rules Summary
2015**

	<u>U6</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U14</u>
Field Length (max)	30 yards	35 yards	60 yards	80 yards	80 yards
Field Width (max)	25 yards	30 yards	45 yards	55 yards	55 yards
Center Circle	4 yards	4 yards	8 yards	8 yards	8 yards
Corner Arc	1 yard	1 yard	1 yard	1 yard	1 yard
Goal Area	None	3 yards	6 yards	6 yards	6 yards
Penalty Area	None	None	14 yards	14 yards	14 yards
Goal Size	Hockey	6' x 12'	6' x 12'	7' x 21'	7' x 21'
Ball Size	3	3	4	4	5
Goal Keeper	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offside Enforcement	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Game Format	3 v 3	4 v 4	6 v 6	8 v 8	8 v 8
Rostered Players (max)	6	8	12	16	16
Minimum Play Rule	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Substitutions	Quarter	Quarter	(Reference substitution rules below)		
Quarter Length	8 minutes	12 minutes	None	None	None
Half Length	None	None	25 minutes	30 minutes	35 minutes
Break Time	2, 5, 2	2, 5, 2	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Shin Guards	(shin guards are mandatory for all age divisions U6 through U14)				
FK Opponents Distance	4 yards	4 yards	8 yards	8 yards	8 yards
Penalty Kick	None	None	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
2nd Throw-In	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
GK Opponents Distance	4 yards	4 yards	8 yards	8 yards	8 yards
CK Opponents Distance	4 yards	4 yards	8 yards	8 yards	8 yards

Substitution Rules for U10 and Older Age Divisions

- You may substitute on a throw-in in your favor; if you substitute during this stoppage, then the opposing team may also elect to substitute
- You may substitute on a goal kick (either team)
- You may substitute on a goal (either team)
- You may substitute on an injury (either team)
- You may substitute at the half (either team)
- You may substitute at any caution (either team)

The substitution philosophy is to allow maximum opportunities for teams/players to meet the mandatory 50% playing rule without infringing on your opponents option to keep the flow of the game going if the throw-in is in his/her favor.

Parents, coaches and players shake hands after each game.

Spectators, coaches and non-playing player's location are at least 6 yards from the touchline and 20 yards from the goal line. Coaches will not walk the length of the field following the ball. Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.

Alcoholic beverages and any tobacco products are not allowed in any park area.

**City of Huntsville Parks and Recreation
Youth Recreational Soccer
U8 Clarifications
2015**

1. Maximum team roster size is 8 players.
2. The U8 division will use a size 3 game ball.
3. Shin guards are to be worn at ALL times. Toe cleat (baseball cleats) are prohibited. The referee will perform an equipment check prior to allowing a player to enter the game.
4. Game time consists of four 12-minute quarters with 2-minute quarter breaks and a 5-minute half time break. Additional breaks for extreme heat at discretion of league and referee.
5. There will be NO coaching from behind the goal line by coaches or spectators. All spectators should stay back from the side touchline.
6. Substitutions made only at quarter breaks. Exception allowed for injury.
7. All players must play 50% of each game.
8. There is no goalie. Teams CAN play a "Sweeper." The sweeper and any other teammates can fall back and play in goal as desired. No hands will be used other than for throw-ins.
9. Proper throw-ins, corner kicks, and goal kicks are performed when the ball leaves the boundaries of the field of play. On a goal kick, the non-kicking team must be at least 4 yards away from the ball. The kicking team can position themselves wherever necessary. The ball is in play as soon as it is kicked.
10. For throw-ins, corner kicks, and goal kicks one do over is allowed up to a maximum of two tries.
11. All free kicks are direct free kicks. Any kick off, goal kick, corner kick, or any free kick awarded after a foul, in all instances is a direct free kick with all opposing players distanced 5 yards from the ball.
12. Ball must be out of play to end the 1st and 3rd quarters subsequently the 2nd and 4th quarters will begin with a throw-in, goal kick or corner kick.
13. Neither time nor game play will stop for untied/missing shoe. Player must deal with these problems at a regular stoppage in play.
14. Games are to start on time. The clock does not stop for any reason other than scheduled breaks. No time is to be added to the clock. Exceptions: Big injury where player must be taken from the field by coach and excessive time is needed.
15. Slide kicks or tackles are at the referee's discretion. Slide tackles from behind are not allowed at any level.

**City of Huntsville Parks and Recreation
Youth Recreational Soccer
Do's and Don'ts**

We want to stress to all of you this list of do's and don'ts. Please pass this information to all of your parents, coaches and officials.

Do

- Stress positive coaching to all of your parents and coaches (these players are all children and need to be taught with positive reinforcement). If a parent gets out of hand at a practice or game, it is the coach's responsibility to speak with them and try to calm them down.
- Remember in most cases the officials for these games are young people and are in the learning/early phase of officiating. We want to promote the sport to them and not degrade or embarrass them. If you need a clarification, wait until a break in play (quarter, half, end of match) and ask your questions in an appropriate manner/tone.
- Show up for all of your scheduled matches. If you have any questions/doubts about a match, the location or time of the match, please call the appropriate league soccer coordinator and confirm.
- Keep the game in the proper context. It is a match for youth players who are trying to learn the game and have some positive experiences.

Don'ts

- Never scream/degrade any child, always treat each child with respect.
- Never scream/degrade in any way, a coach, referee or league official, they are all volunteers and we should be happy to have them.