SOUTH BALDWIN COUNTY LEAGUES

2025 11U Soccer Rules

1. Girls and Boys will play 9v9.
2. Shin guards & cleats (rubber soled only) are to be worn at all times. NO metal, football, softball/baseball cleats allowed.
3. Play two 30 minute halves with a 5 minute break.
4. **Kick-off:** Beginning of game, restarts after goal has been scored, and after half will be performed at mid-field.
5. A goal-kick is no longer required to leave the penalty area before a teammate touches the ball, meaning the goal keeper can pass the ball to a teammate in his/her goal box. Opponents cannot attack until 2nd touch is made.
6. Punting is permitted.
7. Swap sides of the field at half time.
8. **Throw-ins.** During the month of September, if an illegal throw-in is performed, the referee will instruct the player on the error and give player another chance to throw the ball in. If a second illegal throw-in is performed, control of the ball will be given to the opposing team. During the month of October, an illegal throw in will result in control of the ball being given to the opposing team without a second opportunity.
9. Opponents must be at least 2 feet from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken.
10. **Handballs.** If a player intentionally uses hands to gain advantage call the foul. If not intentional continue with play. Direct kicks are awarded for all intentional hand balls and fouls.
11. Penalty kicks use FIFA Laws/Rules.
    a. Goalkeepers may now come slightly closer while defending a penalty, only required to have one foot on the goal line instead of required to stand completely on it.
    b. An attacker who required medical treatment may now be allowed to take a penalty once treatment is concluded.

12. **Free Kicks**

    a. During a free-kick – direct or indirect – the attacking team may NOT have a player within one yard of the wall. If they do, the referee can penalize the attacking team with a free-kick in the other direction.

    b. Quick free-kicks can now be taken before a referee shows a yellow card, and the referee is allowed to wait before showing his yellow card until the next stoppage in play. However, the rule still stands where a referee distracted by already beginning to display a caution may halt a quick free-kick until he finishes the action. In addition, if the referee was going to show a red card for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, the attacking team still may take a quick free-kick, but the punishment automatically reverts from a red card into a yellow as the attacking team is considered to have restarted its course of play.

13. **Drop Ball:** A drop ball will now be awarded if a ball strikes a referee and falls in possession of the opposition side, or if the ball strikes the referee and ends up in the back of the net. Drop balls can no longer be contested. However, along with that, drop balls can be taken by an attacking team wherever they possessed the ball when play was stopped, meaning an attacking team can continue from the point at which the attack was stopped. Drop balls are only awarded from a referee.

    a. Any play stopped in the penalty area will be returned to the goalkeeper no matter who possessed the ball at the stoppage.

14. **Offside is in effect.** We will continue to utilize a one-two referee system (depends on availability) and the referee will call clear and obvious offside infractions. Very close potential offside situations will be considered onside unless the referee has a good vantage point to make the call.

15. Goals cannot be scored from kick-off.

16. Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal

17. **No headers.** Any purposeful or accidental headers will be considered a foul and will award the opposing team with an indirect kick. All headers will result in an indirect kick outside of the box or where the header occurred. No PK's are awarded. PK's are considered direct kicks and should be reserved for handballs and fouls.

18. Slide tackling is permitted.

19. Substitute (UNLIMITED) at referee's discretion. Any substitute must leave the field of play at the nearest sideline point, unless the referee determines they can quickly make his way back to the team's designated touchline area.

20. All fouls will be IAW FIFA Laws/Rules.

21. **Mercy Rule:** If a team has a significant lead, the coach is encouraged to substitute players to avoid the mercy rule. If a team is ahead by 10 points or more after the 1st half, a mercy rule will be declared and the game shall end.

22. **Game Forfeiture:** Is declared if a coach or team refuses to start or restart game, and if a team is unable to field two less players than the number indicated to be on the field within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time.

	5U COED	7U COED	9U Boys	9U Girls	11U Boys	11U Girls	14U Boys	14U Girls
# of Players	4 vs 4	5 vs 5	7 vs 7	7 vs 7	9 vs 9	9 vs 9	9 vs 9	7 vs 7
Field Size (yards)	20 X 30	25 X 35	40 X 60	40 X 60	50 X 80	50 X 80	50 X 80	40 X 60
Goal Size	4 X 6	4 X 6 or 5 x 10	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	Regulation 8 x 24	Regulation or 7 x 21
Ball Size	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
Offsides	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Headers	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Punting or Drop Kicks	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Game Time	4 X 8 minutes (3 min half)	4 X 10 minutes (3 min half)	2 X 25 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 25 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)
Goal Keeper	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Slide Tackling	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Referees	1	2 preferred 1 accepted	2 preferred 1 accepted	2 preferred 1 accepted	2	2	2	2
Build-Out Line	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Penalty/Direct Kicks	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Indirect Kicks	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Handball Violation	Intentional only	Intentional only	Intentional only	Intentional only	YES	YES	YES	YES
Changing Sides at Half	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Coaches on Field	YES 1 only per team	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO