

# WOODSTOCK SOCCER LEAGUE OUTDOOR RULES

HOUSE LEAGUE - MINI FIELD PROGRAMS



Woodstock Soccer Club  
Revised July 2021

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# WOODSTOCK SOCCER CLUB

## HOUSE LEAGUE – MINI FIELD PROGRAMS

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### DURATION 2021 Outdoor season

1. U4 –program *includes* a 20 minute practice time and a game that will consist of 2x15 minute halves 5 per side (including goalie) (Note: coaches are permitted on pitch at this age level)
2. U5 – program *includes* a 20 minute practice time and a game that will consist of 2x15minute halves, 5 per side (including goalie) (Note: coaches are permitted on pitch at this age level)
3. U6 –program *includes* a 20 minute practice time and a game that will consist of 2x 25 minute halves, 6 per side (including goalie) with a 2-3 minute break at halftime (Reminder: Coaches are not allowed on the pitch)
4. U7(boys and girls) –program *includes* a 20 minute practice and a game that will consist of 2x25 minute halves, 6 per side (including goalie) with a 2-3 minute break at halftime
5. U9 (boys and girls) –program *includes* a 10 minute practice and a game that will consist of 2x30 minute halves, 7 per side (including goalie) with a 2-3 minute break at halftime.
6. U11(boys and girls) Games will consist of 2x35minute halves, 7 per side (including goalie) with a 2-3 minute break at halftime.
7. U13 Co-ed- Games will consist of 2x40 minute halves, 7 per side (including goalie) with a 2-3 minute break at halftime
8. Senior Coed- Games will consist of 2x45 minute halves, 7 per side (including goalie) with a 2-3 minute break at halftime
9. Teams change ends at half time, referee must enforce this rule.

### COVID outcomes

- Shared snacks between teammates are not permitted this season
- Handshakes or high 5's after games are not allowed

### BALL

1. Home team is responsible, for providing the game ball.
2. U4 to U7 divisions use a size 3 ball, (provided by the coaches).
3. U8 to U11 divisions use a size 4 ball. (provided by the coaches).

## GAME TIME

All programming or games begin at 6:30 PM

## NUMBER OF PLAYERS

The following rules apply to all 6v6 games number of players

1. The maximum number of players on the field per team is 6 and the minimum number is 4.
2. **In the event a team does not have 6 players on the field (excluding a red card ejection); the opposing team can only play to an advantage of one (1) extra player.**

The following rules apply to all 7v7 games – number of players

1. The maximum number of players on the field per team is 7 and the minimum number is 5.
2. **In the event a team does not have 7 players on the field (excluding a red card ejection); the opposing team can only play to an advantage of one (1) extra player.**

The following rules apply to all 9v9 games number of players

1. The maximum number of players on the field per team is 9 and the minimum number is 7.
2. **In the event a team does not have 9 players on the field (excluding a red card ejection); the opposing team can only play to an advantage of one (1) extra player.**

## EQUIPMENT RULE

1. The basic compulsory equipment of a player shall be a shirt, shorts and socks, shin guards and footwear.
2. The goalkeeper shall wear a colour different from other players and the referees whenever possible.
3. In a pinch, the goalkeeper may turn his jersey around to show the number in the front.
4. No jewelry, watches or other equipment, including hard casts, that can hurt any players or the player him/herself are allowed on any players.

## KICK OFF RULE

1. After a kick off, the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player. If this occurs, a retake of the kick off should occur.
2. The ball may move in any direction off the kick off & is permitted to be kicked back in a players own half if desired.

## BALL IN PLAY

1. The ball remains in play at all times unless it leaves the field, or the referee stops the game.
2. A shot taken on the goalkeeper is live until the goalie has a hold of it, or they smother it with their body. Referees must protect the goalie and give him/her the benefit of the doubt on questionable calls.
3. The goalie may not be interfered with. In the interests of safety, **IT IS AN OFFENSE FOR A PLAYER TO KICK THE BALL OUT FROM UNDER THE GOALIE'S HAND.** (This includes balls that are still on the ground, but under the goalkeeper's hands.)
4. The goalie will bring the ball back into play immediately by either throwing it or kicking it in any manner.

## SUBSTITUTIONS

1. May be made at the stoppage of play for any goal, goal kicks, own throw-in, injury, and half time. (If team with position of throw-in chooses to sub, then the other team may also make a substitution)
2. Please make responsible and not tactical changes.
3. The referees have been instructed to add time if any teams use changes as a tactical delay of the game.
4. A goalie on injured player may be substituted at any stoppage of play with the referee's permission. Always stop play if you suspect an injury to any player.

## FREE KICKS

1. Will be awarded for any infraction of the rules below.
2. Free kicks are taken at the spot where the offence occurred unless committed by a defensive player in his or her own goal area.
3. A foul committed by a defensive player in his or her own goal area will result in a penalty shot, see below.
4. The defensive team must stand a minimum of 6 yards from the spot where the free kick is being taken and they cannot move towards the ball until it is played.
5. Another player must touch the ball after a free kick is taken before the player that took the free kick can touch it.

## THROW INS **There are NO throw- ins this season due to COVID protocols**

1. A throw in is a method of restarting the game.
2. A throw in is awarded when the whole of the ball crosses the touch/side line, either on the ground or in the air.
3. A throw is to be taken by the opposing team from where it crossed the touch/side line.
4. The player must face the field of play and keep part of both feet on the ground behind the line.
5. Using both hands delivers the ball from behind and over his/her head.

6. The thrower may not touch the ball a second time, until it has touched by another player.
7. The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

## GOAL KICKS

1. Are awarded when the attacking team kicks the ball out of play past either side of, or over, the defensive team's net (over the goal line).
2. The ball is then placed on the edge of the defensive team's goal crease and is kicked back into play by any player on the defensive team.

## RETREAT LINE RULE

1. U6- U12 age groups: the Retreat Line will be placed 1/3 distance of the field from each end.
2. The Retreat Line will come into effect at two points during the game:
  - At a goal-kick
  - When the goalkeeper has the ball in his hands.
3. At these times, the "attacking" team is required to drop back to at, or behind, the Retreat Line.
4. The goalkeeper can then pass the ball to one of his team-mates without the pressure of an opposing player nearby.
5. The opposing players are only permitted to move inside the "Retreat Line" once the goalkeepers team-mate has touched the ball, or if the Referee deems that the player has the ball "under control" for a period of 3 seconds, no touch will be required.
6. The 3 second rule avoids a situation where a coach advises his player to not touch in order to waste time!
7. After all, the Retreat Line has been introduced to aid the technical development of our players not to be a time wasting tactic!
8. Referees and coaches are therefore reminded of this and that fact that the goalkeeper releasing the ball is NOT the activation point.

## Ball across the Retreat Line

1. In some instances, instead of the goalkeeper choosing to "play out from the back", they may decide to kick the ball directly over the Retreat Line.
2. Referees and coaches are advised that this is not against the rules (although clearly against the "spirit" of the Retreat Line), and so the game should not be stopped. Also, be advised that when the ball crosses the Retreat Line, it can be touched by any player on the field and can be deemed "live and in play".
3. We would hope that should this happen, the coach would calmly remind the goalkeeper of the benefit of playing out to a team-mate, and ask that they try that next time around.

## Goalkeeper Release

1. In the mini field version of the game, when the goalkeeper takes possession of the ball in their hands, and then decides to drop it to their feet, the ball is deemed to be "live". (Not when using the Retreat Line!)
2. Should the goalkeeper elect to release the ball from their hands, and hence, obviously plans to play out to a team-mate, the opposing team are still required to wait until the first touch of the team-mate (or use the 3 second rule explained above) before moving inside the Retreat Line.
3. Referees should be watchful of the time taken by the goalkeeper to pass the ball to a team-mate, and should enforce the 3 second rule here also if they feel time-wasting is occurring.

## CORNERKICKS

1. Are awarded when the defensive team is the last to touch the ball before it went out of play over the goal line.
2. The ball is then placed in the corner of the field nearest to where it went out and intersecting the sideline.
3. An attacking player kicking it in then brings the ball back into play.
4. After a corner kick, the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
5. If this occurs, an indirect kick is awarded to the opposing team at the place the infringement occurred.

## HANDBALL

1. The goalkeeper is the only player on the field that may use his/her hands, and this is only permitted when he/she is inside the marked penalty area.
2. A handball is defined as a **deliberate movement of the hand and arm intended to redirect the ball** (as distinct from the ball hitting the hand without the player making a voluntary movement towards it).
3. The referee is trained to distinguish between the two, and even then, may elect to play the Advantage Rule (that is: when the ball is deflected to the advantage of the opposing team, play is waved on).

## OFFSIDE RULE - This does not apply until the U9 division in house-league games.

1. It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position.
2. A player is in an offside position if: **"Player is nearer to his opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second last defender"**
3. A player is not in an offside position if:
  - player is in his own half of the field of play
  - player is level with second last opponent
  - player is level with the last two opponents

- or player receives the ball directly from a corner kick, goal kick and throw in.
- 4. A player in on offside position and is penalized if: at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of their team, the player, in the opinion of the referee, is involved in active play by:
  - interfering with play
  - interfering with an opponent
  - gaining an advantage by being in that position

## NO OFFENCE

1. There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:
  - a goal kick
  - a throw-in
  - a corner kick
  - Receives the ball from an opponent
2. For any offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

## NO ROUGH PLAY ALLOWED

This includes

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| ➤ charging,                                   | ➤ high kicks, |
| ➤ tripping,                                   | ➤ pushing,    |
| ➤ holding,                                    | ➤ kicking     |
| ➤ the ball out from under the goalie's hands. |               |

## FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS

Direct free kicks (**10 penal offences**)

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ➤ Trips,                    | ➤ Strikes,                  |
| ➤ Tackles,                  | ➤ Push or Attempts to Push, |
| ➤ Kicks or Attempts to kick | ➤ Handles the Ball,         |
| ➤ Charges                   | ➤ Hold,                     |
| ➤ Spits,                    | ➤ Jumps or Attempts to jump |

Indirect free kicks

- Goalkeeper Handles Ball 2nd Time (Puts ball down and picks it back up)
- Goal keeper touches the ball when thrown to him by his own player
- Goal keeper touches the ball when **intentionally** kicked to him by his own player using his feet only (goalie's own player may head, chest or knee the ball to the goalie)
- Goalkeeper takes more than 6 seconds to put ball back in play
- Plays in a Dangerous Manner (Slide tackles without contact to player)
- Impedes progress of an opponent (Obstruction)
- Prevents the Goalkeeper to release the ball in the penalty area



- Commits any other **offence** not previously mentioned, for which play is stopped to caution/dismiss, restart at the place where the **offence** occurred.
- **On all small field games, all free kicks are indirect except for the penalty shot. Penalty shot is awarded for any of the 10 penal offences which occur inside the defending penalty area.**

## CAUTION (Yellow Card)

1. Persistently breaks the laws
2. Shows unsporting behavior
3. Shows dissent by word or action towards the referee
4. Delays Restart
5. Leaves Field without the referee's permission
6. Fails to give required Distance for free kicks (6 yards for U4-12 and 10 yards for U13 and up).

## SENDING-OFF (Red Card)

1. Player receives 2nd Caution in the same game
2. Uses Insulting, Abusive, Offensive, Language or Gestures
3. Spits at someone
4. Exhibits Serious Foul Play
5. Exhibits Violent Conduct
6. Uses hand to Prevent ball to enter Goal (except goalie)
7. Foul to Prevent A Goal scoring opportunity

## PENALTY SHOTS

1. Will be awarded when a defensive player commits any of the **ten penal offences** inside his/her own goal area. (see Page 7 for **ten penal offences**)
2. The opposition takes the penalty shot from a spot marked on the field or 8 meters from the goal line.
3. The ball is to be placed on the penalty spot and is taken by any player on the playing field, chosen by the Coach whose team was awarded the shot.
4. The player will shoot the ball from the penalty spot on the opposing goalkeeper with all the players away from and behind the ball until it is kicked.
5. If a goal is scored, the game is restarted with a kick-off from center.
6. If the penalty shot does not score, but the ball stays in the field of play, it remains LIVE and is in PLAY, and may be played by any player.
7. ***The penalty kicker may not take a 2nd kick at it until it has first been touched by another player from either team.***

***Indirect free kicks may be given inside the penalty area for any offense an indirect kick is awarded.*** (See Indirect free kicks on page 7)

## CONDUCT

1. Coaches play a critical role in creating the climate for player achievement and their enjoyment of the game.
2. Coaches are, therefore, expected to conduct themselves accordingly.
3. To prevent player confusion about coaching instructions during the game, coaches should position themselves along the same touch line and **remain on the same half of the field for the duration of the game.**
4. Coaches must not encroach onto the field except when invited to do so by the referee to attend to an injured player.
5. Coaches may be allowed on the fields in the younger divisions with the referee's consent.
6. Spectators and parents are not allowed on the touch/side line of the field or near the goals. They are there to cheer on the players not to coach them.
7. **Conduct having the effect of intimidating the referees or players will not be tolerated.** Referees are encouraged to report anything they deem abusive to the field or ref convenor ASAP.
8. Of course, coaches must adhere to this personally, but, as well, they are expected to explain these requirements to team supporters and to promptly suppress any violations during the game.

## COACHING ON THE FIELD

1. ALL coaching must be on the touch/side line and only the players and the referee are permitted on the playing field. Coaches are permitted on the pitch in the Under 4 and Under 5 divisions only.

## GAME SHEETS

1. Must be filled in and handed to the referee before the game is completed.
2. The referee will return the yellow copy of the completed game sheet to the coach and the other copy to the designated official (usually the ref convenor.)

## GENERAL CLUB RULES

1. The Club provides each player with identical sweaters with differing numbers on their back.
2. The goalkeeper must wear a contrasting shirt, which also must be different from both team colours.
3. In a pinch, the goalie designate may turn his jersey around to show the number in the front.
4. Substitutions will be allowed only at a kick-off, goal kick, injury, or OWN throw-in (the other team may "piggy-back" on OWN throw-in subs).
5. The referee must be advised of substitutions and signal permission before they proceed.

6. The coach is responsible for all of his/her players and spectators at all times, and shall conduct himself/herself in a sporting manner in accordance with the "Laws of the Game".
7. Spectators must be on the opposite side of the field from where coaches/players are situated.
8. A player, coach or team official impeding, harassing, or otherwise intimidating a game official, opposing coach, or opposing players, will be subject to disciplinary action.
9. All games will be played as scheduled unless:
  - At the discretion of the referee, postponement is necessary due to unsafe conditions or
  - A game is postponed in advance at the discretion of the league or
  - A game is postponed at the discretion of a City of Woodstock park official.
10. Under no circumstances will teams be allowed to postpone games.
11. A game is deemed to be complete if 75% of the game has been played when abandoned.
12. A team shall be awarded 3 points for a win, and 1 point for a tie.
13. The home team is responsible to provide the game ball (If the home team does not have a suitable ball, the other team may provide it), and the referee will be responsible for returning it to the rightful owner.
14. Generally, for the players own and other player's safety, players recuperating from injuries through use of splints and/or hard plaster casts are not able to play. However, the Club recognizes that some players may have a permanent condition requiring that they wear braces or prosthesis of some kind. In these situations, at the discretion of the referee, they may be permitted to play; provided that these items are completely covered and cushioned such that it does not pose a risk of injury to other players.

**NOTE: The WSC may do assessments on players & teams at the start of the season & will have the right to move players to balance teams from time to time if felt required.**

## WEATHER

1. All teams must attend all games, regardless of weather.
2. The **Referee** will inform coaches whether a game is to be played, unless other instructions are given by the WS Executive.
3. The **Referee** SHALL stop any game in process at the **first sign of lightning**, whether it is raining or not. A siren will be sounded to advise everyone on the fields. The referee will record the duration of the match on the game sheet if possible.
4. In the event of any game halted or delayed due to weather, all teams must remain on the premises for 15 minutes - in vehicles or in the building - in case the weather does clear and games may continue. A second siren will be sounded if the games are cancelled. If the siren is not sounded a second time, the games will be re-started.

5. If the game is abandoned, record on the game sheet the match time that had elapsed, at the time the game was abandoned.

## REFEREE NO-SHOW

1. In the event of a referee no-show, the game may continue if both coaches agree on a club official to referee the game.
2. This individual will then hold the position of referee for the game, and have the powers issued to a regular referee.

## REFEREE DECISIONS ARE FINAL

1. Referees participate in the Woodstock Soccer Club Referee Development Program, and are typically also registered club members playing in older age groups.
2. They will occasionally be imperfect but are always doing their best. In any event, decision protests will not be entertained.
3. Suggestions/complaints can be filed by completing a "Suggestion/Complaint Form" which is available at the Soccer Office.

**NOTE: The WSC Board of Directors, from time to time, may make temporary rules or regulations governing specific cases, occasions or any other matter not herein provided for.**

**The Woodstock Soccer Club approves the proposed Outdoor 2021 Rules, and authorizes to implement the rules effective immediately.**