

FALL 2024-SPRING 2025

Where do our rules come from? Our club's rules are based in the Laws of the Game, established for international play by International Football Association Board, which are adopted by FIFA, then modified by US Youth Soccer and Indiana Soccer for youth soccer play. We modify them slightly further to suit our club's combined age divisions and recreational competition level. Our rules are compared to Indiana Soccer's Modified ISL Playing Rules to be sure we comply with those guidelines, although not all of the MSL Rules apply to us. You can find information about the rules of soccer at [usyouthsoccer.org/referees/rules-of-the-game](https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/referees/rules-of-the-game) and at <https://www.soccerindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/173/2023/09/CMP-ISL-Modified-Playing-Rules-092021.pdf>. Our referees are USSF Officials, educated and licensed through Indiana State Referee Association.

The purpose of Gibson County Soccer Club is:



- to promote the growth of and appreciation for the game of soccer by providing opportunities for the youth of Gibson County to learn the Laws of the Game and to participate in organizations, clubs, leagues and associations for youth up to and including those 19 years of age, and
- to encourage good, sporting behavior and fair play of all participants therein, including, but not limited to, referees, coaches, parents and players.

There is no rule in any division preventing a team from scoring at kickoff, HOWEVER we do not believe it promotes good sportsmanship or the fundamentals of the game. This is not a competitive league; **it is up to the coach**, with the support of the parents, to train in a way that encourages growth of individual players and the team as a whole.

Per the Laws of the Game, a match has equally timed halves. If start times are running behind, the referee may shorten the period of play by subtracting a minimal amount of time from each time period. Coaches should be notified before the game begins.

Coaches - Coaches must remain on their respective half of the field between a line at least 10 yards from the center or mid line and their own 18 yard mark. **Only two coaches** per team are allowed on the players' side of the field and **must wear the season-specific coach's shirt in order to be easily identifiable by the referee**.

Coaches and players should maintain a reasonable distance from the touch line, a minimum of 4'. *Coaches are not permitted to enter the field of play unless given permission to do so by the referee.*

The spectator area is directly across the field from the team benches. *Spectators are NOT PERMITTED near or behind a team's bench, in the team or officials' areas or behind the end lines of the field.*

Players - Pursuant to USYS guidelines for recreational soccer club play, all players are expected to play at least half the game. Coaches are encouraged to have players try as many positions as possible. Players at the Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels may not play more than two quarters as goal keeper during regular season matches.

Slide Tackling - Tackling the ball away from an opponent by sliding (aka slide tackling) is **NOT PERMITTED** in any division of Gibson County Soccer. Deliberate slide tackling is treated as a **red card offense** in Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors and determination as such is at the discretion of the referee. ***Any excessively hard challenge from behind is a red card offense.***

- If play is stopped for player injury, the injured player must leave the field in substitution.
- Per Law 4, "A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. **All items of jewelry** (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) **are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape (or bandaid) to cover jewelry is not permitted.**"
- SHIN GUARDS & SOCKS THAT COVER THEM ARE REQUIRED IN EVERY DIVISION.
- Player substitution is unlimited if substitutions are allowed in the division. A substitution may only occur when that team is in possession of a throw-in, following a score, on a goal kick for either team or following an injury. A referee may, at his discretion, also allow substitution for the opposing team on a throw-in if both teams have substitutions ready. >>**All substitutions must take place at the mid line.**<<
- On throw-ins, the defending players must be 2 meters from the player attempting the throw-in. An indirect kick will be awarded at the point of the infraction for violations. At starts and restarts for 10U and under, all opponents should be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is in play.

Per Indiana Soccer, NO intentional heading of the ball is allowed in players under 13U age and no header training is allowed. This rule applies to mini, junior, and intermediate players. An Indirect Free Kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the point of offense.

© Early teams are expected to retrieve benches if necessary at the start of the day, last teams of the day should return them to the barn. Teams are *expected to remove all trash* and recyclables from their bench area following each game. Everyone is encouraged to help keep the complex free of debris. ☺

**MINI DIVISION – 7&8U
(born 2017 or 2018)**

Field Size: 30x20 yards
Ball Size: #3 Format: 4 v 4 (minimum to play is 3)
Time: six 5 minute periods, 3-5 minute half time between periods 3 and 4.

- Single referee system is used.
- Score is not recorded. **NO PENALTY KICKS.**
- *No substitutions are allowed during period play except for injury.*
- Coaches are expected to have players ready to enter the field of play for substitution & play is expected to resume quickly between periods 1 & 2, 2 & 3, 4 & 5 and between 5 & 6.
- A goal coach is permitted, but goal keepers are **not**. Handling the ball is not permitted.
- Coaches are not allowed on the field **except** to instruct a confused player, but **ONLY** after obtaining the permission of the referee.
- A 15' arc encompassing the goal box and goal area will be in place at each end. The defense of both teams will be required to start outside the arc until play enters the area. Goal kick restarts will use the box within the arc, during which players must stand outside of the arc.
- No cards are issued, but a player committing repeated infractions may be removed from play at the referee's discretion.
- Normal FIFA restarts (e.g. throw-ins, goal kicks, corner kicks, etc.).

**JUNIOR DIVISION – 9&10U
(born 2015 or 2016)**

Field Size: 40x30 yards Ball Size: 4
Format: 7v7 (minimum to play is 5)
Time: 10 minute quarters

- single referee system is used.
- Score is not recorded. **NO PENALTY KICKS.**
- Substitutions will take place at half line only. Referees will summon players onto the field.
- Normal FIFA restarts (e.g. Throw-ins, Goal Kicks, Corner Kicks, etc.)
- **Goal keepers are used.** A player may only play 2 quarters as keeper. A goal coach is allowed.
- Coaches are not allowed on the field of play unless summoned by the ref.
- **Offside may be called at the discretion of the referee.**
- On throw-in violations, players may be allowed to re-throw the ball at the referee's discretion.
- **Cards will be issued for severe penalties.** A player committing two cautionable offenses at any point during a game will be treated as though he received a red card, removed from the game, and his team will play short.

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION – 11&12U
(born 2013 or 2014)**

Field Size: 80x50 yards Ball Size: 4
Format: 9v9 (minimum to play 6)
Time: 25 minute halves ***It is extremely important for coaches to have their players ready to begin on time.***

- Three referee system is preferred.
- Score is recorded.
- Substitutions will take place at the half line only. Referees will summon players onto the field.
- Excepting unlimited substitutions, all of the rules of soccer will apply.
- Normal yellow and red card procedures apply.
- Normal penalty kick rules apply.
- **Offside will be called.**
- Coaches are required to stay in the designated coaching area.
- NO goal coach is permitted.
- The same player may be used as goal keeper the full match during tournament play.
- Slide tackling is a red card offense.

• **ALL verbal offenses, including profanity, will be penalized with at least an Indirect Free Kick.**

**SENIOR DIVISION – 13, 14&15U
(born 2010, 2011 or 2012)**

Field Size: 65X100 yards Ball Size: 5
Format: 11v11 (minimum to play is 7)
Time: 35 minute halves

- 3 referee system is preferred.
- Substitutions will take place at the half line only. Referees will summon players onto the field.
- Excepting unlimited substitutions, all of the rules of soccer will apply.
- Slide tackling is a red card offense.
- ***ONLY during tournament play may the same player be used as goal keeper the full match.***