

2020 RVSC Fall Rec Soccer Program

Recreation Rules of Play

1. **Playing time.** All players should be given equal playing time as much as possible. Alternate starting players each week.
2. **Uniforms.** ALL Players must wear shin guards and reversible pinnie assigned to the player. NO hooded sweatshirts are permitted. No jewelry may be worn. NO taping of earrings. Referees will inspect all players before each game.
3. **NO Slide Tackling!!**
4. **Length of Games.** Running time to be used for all games.
Micro: Run by Trainers.
Freshman: 25 min halves
Juniors: 30 min halves
Seniors: 30 min halves
5. **Number of players on the field**
Help Me Grow, Watch Me Grow and Micro: Trainers to regulate
Freshman: (5v5) 4 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
Juniors: (7v7) 6 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
Seniors: (7v7) 6 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
Keepers are required for Freshman, Junior and Senior Division Games!
6. **Mercy Rule.** At no time should a goal differential become 5 or more. Make adjustments early.
Ways to avoid this issue;
 - Use weaker player(s) as attackers
 - Restrict shooting to certain areas on the field. e.g., outside the penalty box, behind the build out line
 - Make 5 passes before shooting
 - Use weaker foot only
 - Reduce number of players on field by 1 (use as last resort)
7. **Ball in play.** The entire ball must cross the touch lines and goal lines to be considered out of play. If between the goal posts, it is a goal!
8. **Handling (Hand-Ball).** The interpretation of “Handling” has changed many times over the years. The referees have been instructed how to manage this call. Intent to use the hands or arms to “play” the ball must be present to make the call. Players may protect themselves as an instinct.
9. **Coaching.** NO coaches on the field during play. Instruction from the sidelines should be minimal at best. Let the game be the teacher! (exception: Micros!)
10. **Freshman special rules.** These rules are designed to help the players learn shape and make good passing decisions
 - a. Goal kicks will be taken from the corner of the 6 yard line by the goalie. The ball does not have to leave the penalty area. Players should start at the pink dots on their respective sides of the field.



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- b. Kick offs (start of game, at half-time or when a goal is scored) the players should be on their respective pink dots and the ball must be played backwards
- 11. Offsides.** A player is in an offside position if: He is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.
- a. Freshman Offside Rule: There will be NO offsides in the Freshman division.
 - b. Juniors Offside Rule: The build out line will be used to start where offside position may begin. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and the goal.
 - c. Seniors Offside Rule: Being in an offside position is NOT against the Laws of The Game. A player is considered offsides when he/she is in their attacking half of the field, is closer to the goal than two opponents and in the opinion of the referee becomes part of the play. Part of the play is playing the ball, interfering with an opponent in the attacking half or blocking the view of the goalkeeper.
- 12. Throw-ins.** Due to COVID, there will be no throw ins. All out of bounds balls will be played in from the sideline with feet. Players on the opposing team should give the team kicking the ball in at least 5 yards.
- 13. Substitutions.** During any stoppage of play or for injury.
- 14. Time.** NO time outs. A running clock is always used except for a major injury.
- 15. Referees.** Decisions by referees are final.
- 16. Spectators.** Must remain 6 feet from the sideline, outside the field of play and on the opposite side of the teams. No spectators will be allowed behind the end lines or behind the team benches. Spectators must always remain positive toward players, coaches and referees.

The purpose of the RVSC Rec Program is for players to have a safe environment to play soccer and have fun. Enjoy the season. Questions or concerns may be sent to: rsvscrecsocer@gmail.com.

