



Milwaukee Recreation
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2025 SOCCER RULES & REGULATIONS

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9 VS 9 OUTDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE

RULE INTERPRETATIONS

*The Milwaukee Recreation Adult Soccer Program shall follow the **National Federation of State High School Association Soccer Rules** with the following exceptions:*

1. **FIELD** - The playing surface is the standard soccer field as played in high schools (65x110 yards) and will use the standard goals.
2. **LENGTH OF GAMES** - Two 23-minute halves with a two minute half time.
3. **GAME BALL** – Each team must furnish an official leather or synthetic soccer ball - “Size 5” in good condition at least 27 inches in circumference but no more than 28 inches.
4. **TEAM COMPOSITION** - A team should be made up of a recommended 11 players. Nine players on the field (eight players and one goalie). A game may be played with a minimum of seven players on the field.
5. **STARTING TIMES - FIVE MINUTE GRACE PERIOD** – A minimum of nine players from the team must be present to begin a game.
REVISED SUBSTITUTION RULE - Any eligible league player may be used as a substitute to avoid a forfeit. The final score will count for league standings
6. **OVERTIME** - Tie games during regular season do not have an overtime period and will end in a tie. In the case of a tie during the postseason, a maximum of two, five minute sudden victory overtime periods will be played. In the case of a tie after the two overtime periods, a shootout will occur.
7. **SUBSTITUTIONS**
 - a. Unlimited free substitutions are allowed (except goalie) during the run of play and teams may sub as many players they wish at any time without asking the referee’s permission.
 - b. Goalie changes on dead ball only and can’t interfere with opponent’s flow of play, with permission from the referee.
 - c. Players must fully exit the field before a new player enters.
 - d. The player entering the field of play must enter from the centerline.
 - e. Proper personnel and number of players shall be the team’s responsibility.
 - f. A player entering the field may not directly involve himself/herself in the playing of the ball.
 - g. Any substitution violation will receive a yellow card.
8. **OFFSIDES** – The Offside rule shall be followed. A player is considered offside if he/she is nearer to the opponent’s goal than both the ball and the last opposing field player. The player in question must be involved in the play in order for the violation to be called – this is at the discretion of the official.
9. **FREE KICKS** – Five yards shall be given on all free kicks.
10. **KICK OFF**
 - a. On a kickoff, the ball may be played any direction. It does not need to be played backwards.
 - b. A goal may be scored directly from kick off.
11. **THROW-INS** – Throw-ins (and not kick-ins) will take place.

12. PENALTY KICK – The penalty kick must be taken three steps away from the top of the goal box.

13. GOAL KICK – Scoring is allowed off of a goal kick and does not need to touch another player.

14. SLIDE TACKLING

- a. No slide tackling allowed.
- b. Slide kicking (a slide that occurs with no other player in the immediate vicinity) is not considered a slide tackle.

15. GOALKEEPER RULES

- a. The goalkeeper may kick, punt, drop kick, roll, or throw the ball past the mid-field line.
- b. The goalkeeper is allowed to slide anywhere in the box and outside the box as long as part of their body is within the goal box. Dangerous slide tackles will be called.
- c. If the keeper holds the ball longer than five seconds, the opposing team will receive an indirect kick at the site of the foul.
- d. Unlimited goalkeeper changes only during dead balls.

16. RED CARDS FINES/SUSPENSIONS

- a. Blue Card – Serves as a warning. The player is not required to leave the game.
- c. Yellow Card – The player sits out five minutes, substitution is allowed. The player may not re-enter the game until permission is given from the referee.
- d. Non-Violent Red Card – The player is ejected from the game and suspended the next game. Two yellow cards in the same game are equivalent to one non-violent red card.
- e. Violent Red Card – player is ejected from the game, and suspended the next two games.
- f. **If a red card is issued, that team will play down a player for the remainder of the game.**
- g. Two violent red cards in one season, the player is ejected from the league.
- h. Any team that receives three red cards in one season will be ejected from the league.
- i. Any suspension due to fighting will be just cause for ejection from the league.
- j. Any coach/player who steps onto the field during a hostile situation, whether helping or not, is subject to suspension.

17. GAME OFFICIAL – Each game will be assigned two referees. The referees shall be the official scorer and timekeeper for each game.

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the manager to control the behavior of their players on the bench and on and off the field/park. Managers and players are responsible for their conduct from the time they reach the park until the time they leave.
- B. No person shall interfere with or in a manner hinder, threaten, harass, intimidate any participant or employee of Milwaukee Recreation. This includes affecting the enjoyment and betterment of the leagues. Conduct may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation with Milwaukee Recreation programs.
- C. Derogatory remarks, profanity, obscene gestures, threats, etc. - directed toward any game official, Milwaukee Recreation employee, MPS staff, other players or spectators will not be tolerated. These infractions may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation in Milwaukee Recreation programs.
- D. Fighting is defined as any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage anyone in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether there is contact or not. Any player involved in a physical confrontation (fighting) will be ejected immediately and is subject to further disciplinary action.
- E. Deliberate throwing of equipment or items in anger or disgust will not be tolerated. This will result in immediate ejection from the game without warning and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation with Milwaukee Recreation programs.
- F. Arguing on the judgment of an official will result in a team warning. A repeat offense will result in the ejection of that player, manager or coach. The official's decision involving judgment calls is final.
- G. The manager is the only person to confer with an official on a disputed play. Such conferences must be kept to a minimum and will be conducted in a sportsmanlike manner. Constant arguing, harassment, or intimidation will not be tolerated and could mean ejection from the game and may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation within Milwaukee Recreation programs.
- H. When a player, manager or coach is ejected, the following procedures will be followed:
 - a. The ejected player must produce a valid photo identification. The manager is required to comply with the official's request. Lack of cooperation from any manager or team in regard to such ejection may lead to discipline up to and including removal from participation with Milwaukee Recreation programs.
 - b. Ejected players are to leave the field/court of play immediately. This includes the player bench and the area around the bench. If necessary to control the game, officials have the authority to eject offenders from the park/gym. When ejected from the park/gym, they are to leave immediately. It is the manager's responsibility to see that the individual abides by such rules. If the manager is ejected, a team representative may fill in.
 - c. If a player is ejected and continues to harass the official, the manager will be warned to control their player's action. If the manager does not comply, the game will be forfeited. In any serious unsportsmanlike conduct incident such as teams fighting or complete loss of control of players by a manager, the official shall have the authority to forfeit the game without a warning.
 - d. Ejected players subject to discipline are notified of such action by the Adult Sports Office. The player disciplined has the right to a hearing if a suspension extends beyond three (3) games. Request for a hearing must be made to the Adult Sports Office within three (3) days of notification of such discipline if applicable.

COVID-19 RELEASE: I am aware there are risks to me of exposure, directly or indirectly, arising out of, contributed to, by, or resulting from an outbreak of any and all communicable disease; including but not limited to, the virus "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)", which is responsible for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and/or any mutation or variation thereof. I am choosing to participate in the above-named MPS Recreation event(s) at my own risk and extend the "Waiver" language previously signed as it relates to any and all known or unknown exposures to COVID-19. Further, I affirm the following statements regarding my current medical health are true within the last 14 days: (1) I have not tested positive for COVID-19; (2) I do not currently have any known COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea) ; or (3) I have not come in close contact (15 minutes of contact within 6 feet of an infected person) with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. I understand and agree that if I am not able to confirm any of the COVID-19 medical questions stated here I will not participate in, or be present at, any MPS facilitated events, practices, or activities, and I will quarantine for 14 days after the last/most recent contact with the infected individual, and/or I will quarantine until I am released from quarantine by a medical professional or the Department of Health. Lastly, I understand that my confirmation of the above medical information is an ongoing self-reporting process and that if my answers shall change at any time during my participation in the above-named MPS Recreation event(s), I will continue to adhere to the quarantine conditions as outlined above.