



A department of **MPS**

**Milwaukee Recreation**  
YOUTH SPORTS  
5225 W. Vliet St. Rm. 163  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
P: 414.475.8410  
**mkerec.net**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR SOCCER RULES**

Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports reserves the right to change rules at any time  
Rules are adapted from the 2019-2020 FIFA Rule Book  
Last Updated: March 19, 2022

### **SECTION 1 - GENERAL LEAGUE RULES**

**SPORTSMANSHIP** – Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in ejection from the contest. Officials, coaches, parents, players, and fans should always display leadership and sportsmanship qualities. Any players or coaches ejected from the game by officials/staff for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended until their case is reviewed by Milwaukee Recreation. The final disposition of the case will then be made. Sports Coordinators are required to check with the Youth Sports Office before allowing the player or coach in question to continue participation in Youth Sports Activities.

**SPECTATORS** – Spectators are to be seated opposite the player’s bench. All spectators are asked to show good sportsmanship and character and offer only positive reinforcement.

**COACHES** – Only coaches and players listed on the TEAM ROSTER FORM are allowed in the team bench area. A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed on the team bench. A coach must be present before a game may start.

**FACILITY REMINDERS** – Dogs, alcohol, smoking (including E-cigarettes), weapons, and grilling are prohibited during Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports activities.

**JEWELRY** – Head decorations, headwear, and jewelry cannot be worn during competitions. This means that rings, wristwatches, hair curlers, combs, beads, earrings, or barrettes cannot be worn while participating in Youth Sports Leagues.

**Exceptions:** Medic Alert medallions may be taped securely to the body only.

**GAME RE-SCHEDULING/CANCELLATIONS** – All school sport coordinator, coaches, or applicable staff will be notified of any reschedule games or game cancellations via email. Revised schedules will be posted on the Milwaukee Recreation Website: [www.mkerec.net/YouthSports](http://www.mkerec.net/YouthSports).

**WEATHER HOTLINE** – For inclement weather updates, contact the Weather Hotline at **414-475-8068**. The hotline is updated on league play days by 8:00 AM on Saturdays and 1:00 PM on weekdays when inclement weather is expected. The hotline is available in English and Spanish. Coaches are responsible for informing players and their families of the weather hotline number.



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**ROSTERS** – A copy of the team’s roster must be submitted to the Youth Sports Office one (1) week prior to the team’s first scheduled game. Roster additions are not allowed after a team’s 2<sup>ND</sup> scheduled game. All rosters **MUST BE TYPED**. There is no roster limit.

**ONE TEAM, PER SPORT, PER SEASON** – Athletes are permitted to play multiple sports per season by cannot play on more than one team in the same sports during the same season.

**Exception:** Athletes are only permitted to play on one (1) basketball team per academic year.

**COED LEAGUE RULES** – The term “COED” refers to the fact that both boys and girls are eligible to play on the same team. It is possible that teams will have varying numbers of boys or girls, but no special “coed rules” will apply. Teams made of one gender are allowed in the COED league.

**FORFEITS** – The Youth Sports Office must be notified in advance of all forfeit contests. Notification must be delivered to [youthsports@mkerec.net](mailto:youthsports@mkerec.net) at least 36-hours prior to scheduled game start time. Teams that forfeit will be charges a \$25.00 fee per occurrence. See the Youth Sports Opportunity Handbook for a list of forfeit situations.

**PROTEST** – Judgement calls made by the game officials are not eligible for protest and/or appeal. Protest on rule enforcement must be filed in writing with the Youth Sports Office with 48-hours following the incident. Protest on athlete eligibility may be filed any time during the regular season. Submit rules enforcement and athlete eligibility protest via email to [youthsports@mkerec.net](mailto:youthsports@mkerec.net).

**TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURES (TROPHY SPORTS ONLY)** – The Youth Sports Office will have full discretion determining the position and placement of all teams. Tie-break procedures are available online at [www.mkerec.net/YouthSports](http://www.mkerec.net/YouthSports).

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONS (TROPHY SPORTS ONLY)** – League Champions can be determined one of three ways.

- A. **Tournament** - A season ending tournament in which a championship game is played. The winner of the tournament will receive the league trophies regardless of their regular season record.
- B. **Position Day** - the number 1 and number 2 teams in the league standings will compete in a single game at the end of the season to determine the league champion. League record will not prevail as the determining factor, the single match up will.
- C. **Season Record** - Best overall season record in league play will determine the league champion.

**YOUTH SPORTS OPPORTUNITY HANDBOOK** – The current version of the Youth Sports Opportunity Handbook is available at [www.mkerec.net/YouthSports](http://www.mkerec.net/YouthSports). All sports coaches and sports coordinators are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the rules, regulations, procedures, and policies governing the Milwaukee Recreation Youth Sports Programs.



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## **SECTION 2 – ELIGIBILITY**

**AGE/GRADE LIMITS** – Students may not exceed the age and grade limits as listed below.

Age is determined as of September 1 of the current school year:

- 12 years old and under / 6<sup>th</sup> grade maximum
- 13 years old and under / 7<sup>th</sup> grade maximum
- 15 years old and under / 8<sup>th</sup> grade maximum

**SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS** – Any student suspended from school must be reinstated prior to the close of school on the Friday before their next scheduled game to be eligible.

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)** – Schools using the standards-based report card must use published requirements for eligibility.

- A student must have a **minimum 2.0 GPA** in their previous mark period report card to participate unless the school standard is higher, in which case the school GPA requirement would prevail.
- Middle School athletic eligibility is determined by report card mark period GPA only as there are no provisions for recertification in the program.
- Once a student is ineligible they must wait until the next report card is published to regain eligibility.

## **SECTION 3 – BEFORE THE GAME**

### **PLAYERS**

- **7v7 Leagues** – A regulation team shall consist of **7 (seven) players**, one of whom shall be a goalkeeper. A team must have a minimum of **5 (five) players** to start game and avoid a forfeit.
- **11v11 Leagues** – A regulation team shall consist of **11 (eleven) players**, one of whom shall be a goalkeeper. A team must have a minimum of **8 (eight) players** to start game and avoid a forfeit.
  - **Playing Time** – It is mandatory that all players who suit up for the game play a **minimum of ten (10) minutes** of the game or the game will be forfeited.
  - **Substitutions** – Unlimited substitutions can be made '**on the fly**' at any point. The player cannot come on to the field until the player is coming in for is completely off the field. The goalkeeper must wait until a dead ball to substitute.
  - **Late Arriving Players** – may enter the game when the player is fully suited, checked-in, and after notifying the referee that they are ready to join the game.
  - **Post-Game** – Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each match.



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## COACHES & PLAYERS

- A coach on the team roster form must be present before a game may start.
- Coaches and players shall be restricted to the team coaches box area, which is ten (10) yards on each side of the halfway line for twenty (20) yards and on the opposite side of the field from spectators.
- Teams do not change benches at half time.

## FIELD SIZE

Field size modifications may occur depending on league location

- **7v7** – 50 yards x 80 yards
- **11v11** – MPS High School Size Field (entire Stadium field)

## EQUIPMENT

- Milwaukee Recreation will provide a **SIZE 5** game ball (Wilson Stivale II NCAA Top Training Ball) for all league games.
- Teams should bring their own soccer balls to warm-up prior to the game if time allows.
- Teams are required to wear matching-colored jerseys with numbers except the Goalkeeper who must dress in different color jersey than their own team.
- Teams are responsible for providing their own pinnies or similar colored jerseys. If teams wear similar colors, the home team will change into different colored pinnies.
- Protective **shin-guards** are **required**.
- Tennis shoes or molded rubber-cleated soccer shoes are allowed. Metal cleats or open toed shoes are not allowed.
- Players must remove all watches, earrings, and any other jewelry.

## TIMING

- The game shall be divided into two **twenty-minute (20) halves**.
- There shall be a **half-time** break of **five (5) minutes**.
- The clock only stops during play if there is an **injury** requiring the referee's attention.
- There are **no time-outs**.
- To avoid a **forfeit**, teams will be given a **five (5) minute** courtesy grace period to get the minimum number of players on the field from the scheduled game time.
  - The game will begin when the minimum number of players from each team arrive.
  - If a team forfeits, teams may elect to scrimmage with remaining time.



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## OFFICIALS

- All match **officials** are contracted through Milwaukee Urban Soccer Collaborative (MUSC).
  - **7v7** – one (1) official on the field
  - **11v11** – two (2) officials on the field
- The official's decisions on point of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player as needed.
- The match official can stop, suspend, or abandon the match because of outside interference of any kind. (FIFA Laws of the Game, Rule 5, Pg. 24)

## SECTION 4 – GAME PLAY & RULES

- **Getting Started** – Five (5) minutes prior to the start of each game there will be a mandatory pre-game coaches meeting with a soccer referee. Coaches have the option of electing a captain for meeting. At this meeting, the soccer referee(s) will introduce themselves, there will be a coin toss to select possession and side, and a quick reminder of select rules.
- **The Start of Play** – Player must be on their own side of the center line before the kick-off. Opponents must be outside of the circle center mark or designated area while kick-off is in progress. Ball is in play when it moves forward or backwards. A goal can be scored directly from a kick-off.
- **Ball In & Out of Play** – The ball is out of play when completely crossing goal line or touchline.
- **Scoring** – One point is awarded for each goal scored. A goal is scored if the whole ball passes completely over the goal line between the posts and under the cross bar. A goal is not scored if the ball is on the line. The ball may roll along the line and even slightly over the line and yet not be ruled a goal.
- **Off-Sides (11vs11 only)** – A player is in an offside position when nearer to his/her opponent goal line than the ball with the following exception:
  - The player is not nearer to the opponent's goal line than at least two (2) opponents.
  - The player is penalized only if that player is involved in an active play.
  - In **7v7** leagues, off-side is not a penalty and game will continue without stoppage.
- **Indirect Kicks** –
  - Awarded when an offside is called.
  - Two touches by the same player taking either a free kick, corner kick or penalty kick.
  - When a goalkeeper illegally handles the ball inside of the penalty area, including dropping ball and picking ball up.
  - When a goalkeeper receives a pass back from his own teammates (only if the player uses his foot only to play the ball back WITH INTENTION) and picks up the ball with their hands in the penalty area.



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- **Free Kick** – Player commits a foul – Also known as a direct free kick.
- **Goal Kick** – Awarded to the defending team when ball crosses the defending team’s goal-line, and last touched by an offensive player.
- **Penalty Kicks** – Direct Kick – A penalty kick will be awarded when a defensive player commits any direct kick foul in his/her own penalty area.
- **Corner Kick** – Awarded to the offensive team when the ball crosses the defending team’s goal line, and last touched by the defending team.
- **Throw-in Line Infraction** – will be strictly enforced when player throwing the ball steps over the line before releasing ball from hands.
- **Slide tackles** – are legal, provided they are from the front and excessive force is not used (Officials Discretion).
- **Hand Balls** – A hand ball will be called if a player handles the ball deliberately, except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area. If the ball hits the arm, then the referee must decide whether this action was to deliberately block the ball or whether the player has raised their arms to protect themselves.
  - **Intentional Handball** – If a player slaps, hits, or catches the ball in attempt to gain control, a penalty should be called.
  - **Unintentional Handball** – If a player raises his/her arm in “self-defense” of a ball in the face and the player does not gain control after the offense, no penalty should be called.

## **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

The Official must explain **ALL** infractions to the offending player.

- No spitting, kicking, striking, tripping, and jumping at an opponent.
- No deliberately handling, carrying, or striking the ball with a hand or arm.
- Dangerous play defined as dangerous enough to cause injury to another player.
- No caution or ejection shall be issued to players except by the officials, soccer resource staff, or League Director (or Milwaukee Recreation representative).
- Additional consequences may be handed down by the Youth Sports Office and Milwaukee Urban Soccer Collaborative (MUSC) if deemed necessary.



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## **CAUTIONABLE OFFENSES**

### **Yellow Card**

A player that commits any of the following offenses will be sent off for two (2) minutes. Substitutions are allowed for player receiving yellow card. A direct free kick shall be awarded.

- Unsporting Behavior
- Shows dissent by word or action
- Persistently infringes the “Rules of the Game”
- Dangerous play defined as dangerous enough to cause injury or another player.
- Delays the restart of play

### **Red Card**

A player that commits any offenses listed below will be ejected from the game in-which the player will not be allowed to return to the game and may lose eligibility for the rest of the season. Substitutions are allowed for ejected player.

- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Spits at an opponent or any other person
- Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- Uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language
- Receives a second yellow card in the same match

## **SECTION 5 – PROTESTS**

- **Game Protests** – must be emailed by **5:00 PM** on the **Monday** following the game by emailing Youth Sports Supervisor, Ryan Broderick, at [ryan@mkerec.net](mailto:ryan@mkerec.net).
  - A game protest is an action by the coach of a team by which he disputes a ruling made on the field by a referee and seeks a review by the league office.
- **Eligibility Protests** – may be filed at any time before the conclusion of regular season play by emailing Ryan Broderick at [ryan@mkerec.net](mailto:ryan@mkerec.net).
  - Eligibility protest must have specific details about the player(s) name, teams played for, school attendance, and dates of infraction.