

Wellington Recreation Official Age 4-5 Youth Soccer Manual



Wellington Recreation modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
FIFA Laws of The Game can be found at www.fifa.com

Purpose of League Play

The purpose of the league sponsored by Wellington Recreation is to provide kids with the opportunity for learning and fun in a safe environment. Friendly competition and clean sportsmanship will be emphasized. Our main goal is for ALL participants to have FUN while building athletic, team, and social skills.

Small Sided Play: All youth soccer leagues will utilize small sided soccer for game play. Small sided soccer is soccer played with fewer players on a smaller pitch (field). These are fun games that involve the players more since fewer players are sharing one ball. Small sided soccer is played without regards to positions (i.e. all players play both offense and defense and are expected to take shots on goal). Small sided soccer is the style of game play recommended by FIFA and US Youth Soccer.

Law I-The Field:

- A. Dimensions:** The field of play shall be rectangular, its length not more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards, its width not more than 20 yards nor less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- B. Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with a three (3) yard radius. Goal area: none
- C. Goals:** The size of hockey goals or 4 x 6 feet.

Law II-The Ball: Size three (3). Each team required to provide a game ball.

Law III-Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4). Exception: see Law III.E.**
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8).**
- C. There are NO Goalkeepers. Players may play the entire field.**
- D. Substitutions:** Allowed anytime ball is out of play- with the permission of the referee or game official.
- E. Playing time:** Each player who has regularly attended all practices shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- F. Teams and games may be coed.**
- G. If a team has less than 4 players they may use players from the opposing team if any are available.**

Law IV-Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear:** Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- B. Shin-guards are MANDATORY.**
- C. Each player should bring a water bottle with water to each game.**
- D. Reversible blue/white jersey must be worn on outside of clothing for game play.**

Law V-The Referee: Each team will provide an OFFICIAL (Observer, Parent/Coach, etc.). The home team's OFFICIAL will act as The Referee for the first half and the visiting team's official will act as The Referee for the second half. **Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child.** Duties shall be the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of The Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. **When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players WHY!** Take time to educate new players on the laws of the game.

Law VI- Assistant Referee: Provided by the teams (see **Law V**).

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters.**
- B. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.**
- C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.**

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

- A. Opponent must be outside the kick-off circle on their half of the field while kick-off is in progress.**

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play: Ball must completely cross line to be out of play.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA. Ball must completely cross goal line inside of goal frame to count.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside in small-sided games.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. No cautions or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.
- B. Slide tackling is illegal and shall result in a free kick at the point of the foul.

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. All free kicks will be indirect.
- B. Opponents must be three (3) yards away.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: There are no Penalty Kicks in small-sided games.

Law XV-Throw-In: Replaced by a Kick-in. Awarded when ball completely crosses sideline. A Kick-in is an indirect kick.

Law XVI-Goal Kick: If the team attempting to score a goal kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. The goal kick should be taken within 2-3 yards of the goal and opposing players must be 5-6 yards away.

Law XVII-Corner Kick: If team defending goal last touches ball before it crosses goal line, the attacking team puts it into play with an indirect kick.

Law XVIII-Illegal touching in goal area: When ball is touched in goal area it shall result in a free kick.

Miscellaneous:

- All players have a right to play every game and an equal amount of time if they have attended regular practices.
- Playing Conditions: Field supervisor will determine if games will or will not be played. Games will be called when safety is a concern.
- Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Wellington Recreation recommends that this age group should have practices limited to one 30-45 minute session per week.
- Games called due to inclement weather may not be rescheduled. One weekend at the end of each season will be set aside for make-up games. Coaches can set up a time, if any to make up a missed game.
- Participation awards, when awarded, will be given to ALL participants.
- Parent/coaches, non-playing players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- All coaches and officials are volunteers and as such are not employees of the Town of Wellington.
- Practice dates and times will be scheduled at the discretion of the coach.
- All coaches will be required to attend a training seminar and will be subject to a background check.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be allowed or used in the parks during games or practices.
- Swearing will not be tolerated by fans, participants, or coaches. All adults need to remember that they are role models and need to be positive in their words and actions.
- A parent or fan that is loud, obnoxious, or disrupts the event will be asked to leave the premises and will be expected to comply immediately.
- Elastic Clause: The league director shall have complete charge of the Youth Sports League. Any and all situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the league director and all actions by the league director will be final.
- The league director reserves the right to change or amend any of the rules or regulations contained in this manual. Any questions concerning Youth Sports should be directed to:

Wellington Recreation
Bryan Critchfield
PO Box 127
Wellington, CO 80549
(970) 568-7410
E-mail: recreation@wellingtoncolorado.gov