



cityofnovi.org

Novi Parks Soccer League Rules

Youth House Soccer League

Grades K, 1, 2, 3 & 4

Philosophy:

The philosophy of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department's youth sports program is to emphasize fun, fundamentals and sportsmanship. Our goal is to build confidence in the youth, teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and skill development. In an effort to meet this goal, a new system has been developed to create skill-balanced teams. Teams will be comprised of youth of all skill levels.

Any Child who is not registered is NOT allowed to participate in any practice or competition for reasons of liability both for you and the Novi Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

P & R programs are strictly recreational; therefore players are not required to attend practices to receive equal playing time. However, it is strongly recommended that participants attend practices. Individual requests are not allowed. Any coach who attempts to trade players will be dismissed.

The national Federation of State High School Association Rules are approved and adopted for this activity. Modifications and exceptions to these rules will be made as approved by the Novi Parks, Recreation Department. Such modifications and exceptions follow:

Why and how teams and coaches are selected –

COACHES:

- If too many have volunteered for one team, we will pull a name out of a hat
- Not enough have volunteered and we need to move players/coaches around
- Coaches did not move to the higher division
- Coaches did not return
- Coaches are no longer coaching together
- Divisions were combined or separated

TEAMS:

- (Fall to Spring ONLY) Players must register for fall and spring together to be placed on the same team for both seasons
- Players register late and re put into an open spot
- Not enough players returned from the same team
- Child with disabilities may be assigned to a particular team due to field accessibility
- Combined grades due to registration numbers
- Equal number of players on each team

Please do NOT tell children, especially your friends & neighbors, that you have a space on your team. All teams are full unless I have given you notification stating that I am trying to pull players from the waitlist. Individual requests are not granted.

Tell them to check with P & R for openings. They will be placed on a team that has an opening. It is very disappointing when the child anticipates playing then finds out they are put on a wait list because there are other children waiting to be placed.

Any Child who is not registered is NOT allowed to participate in any practice or competition for reasons of liability both for you and the Novi Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

A player can play with a cast as long as it is secured and covered with foam or towel.

PURPOSE

The Novi P & R Department sponsored leagues and activities are formed and operated on the principles of good sportsmanship, fair play, courtesy to others, development of physical fitness and other policies pertaining to all-around community understanding and development. Accordingly, the Novi Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to make decisions, which it feels, is in the best interest of this league and the community.

The average youngster can learn to play and enjoy soccer at an early age with the help of good instruction and day-to-day experience. For the beginner, the learning experience must be fun with ample opportunity to practice all the fundamentals of soccer.

BALL

- A size #3 soccer ball shall be used in the Pee Wee Division
 - A size #4 soccer ball shall be used in the Grades 1-4 Division
- No jewelry is allowed, including pierced earrings and metal hairpins.
Shin guards completely covered by socks are mandatory
Mouth guards are highly recommended

DIVISIONS

The player's grade as of December 1 of the current year shall determine the age division which the player will be placed.

TEAMS

The Parks and Recreation Department shall compile teams through the following procedures:

- New teams are formed each fall season. Teams remain the same for the spring season, as long as players register by the published deadline.
- Teams shall be comprised of equal grades or as close as registration allows.
- Teams are created by coach availability, etc.
- Once a player is assigned to a team, he/she is required to remain on that team (at the discretion of the Recreation Department). Requests are not considered.
- Player can only play on one team in Novi P & R's organized league.

*The Novi P & R Department has the discretion to change the number of members assigned per team, depending on registration.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

COACHES ARE INSTRUCTED TO TRY TO PLAY ALL PLAYERS AT LEAST 1/2 OF EACH GAME.

- Coaches should contact the League Coordinator if a player has missed several or all practices. The League Coordinator will evaluate the situation and determine if the player will be allowed to participate and to what extent.
- A team starting short only send additional players onto the field after receiving referee permission. The referee will signal the player onto the field.

GRADES 1-4 LEAGUES:

Games will be played with 6 players per team, one goalkeeper, (no game can be played with fewer than 5 players).

PEE WEE:

Games will be played with 5 players per team, one goalkeeper, two fullbacks, two forwards (no game can be played with less than 4 players).

CONDUCT

- A. Coaches are responsible, at all times, for the conduct of their players and for the conduct of all spectators on their team's side of the field. Please keep our positive philosophy in mind – children come first at all times.
- B. Foul or abusive language by a player, substitute or coach is cause for ejection from game.
- C. No smoking is allowed in the player bench area.

PARENTS: One warning will be given for unsportsmanlike conduct, which shall include dissent. If it persists, the coach is subject to ejection and/or the game will be abandoned.

EQUIPMENT

- A. Each player will be provided with a team uniform. Players must wear the uniforms issued by P & R for games and pictures. The uniform must be worn outside of any additional clothing (sweatshirt, pants, windbreakers, etc.) for the purpose of distinguishing teams.
- B. Soft cleat soccer shoes or tennis shoes shall be the only acceptable footwear.
METAL CLEATS AND SCREW-IN CLEATS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

- C. Each team is provided an off-colored penny for the purpose of distinguishing its goalkeeper.
- D. The first team listed on the schedule each game date, is the home team and is required to provide the game ball.
- E. Any type of safety devices must be approved by the Novi P & R Department prior to the game with adequate time to notify the referee; otherwise the player will not participate. A cast is an example.
- F. Shin guards are mandatory for all players and must be completely covered by socks during game.
- G. No jewelry allowed – no earrings, or metal hairclips.

Coaches are not allowed to use whistles during games

OFFICIALS

- A. If there is a shortage of referees, an adult may serve as a linesperson if mutually agreed upon by both coaches. Their job is to signal when the ball has gone out of play. As in all matters, the referee can overrule the linesperson.
- B. Hand signals used in this league are:
 - 1) Arm extended vertically until kick taken: Indirect Kick
 - 2) Arm extended horizontally: Direct Kick
 - 3) Arm extended toward corner: Corner Kick

Any lack of arm signal does not affect call.

DURATION OF GAMES

- A. Pee Wee – shall play four eight (8) minute periods. Two minutes will be allotted between periods and five minutes between halves.
- B. Grades 1 & 2 - shall play four ten (10) minute periods. Two minutes will be allotted between periods and five minutes between halves.
- C. C. Grades 3 & 4 - shall play four twelve (12) minute periods. Two minutes will be allotted between periods and five minutes between halves.
- D. Change of goals each half, change kick off each quarter/half.
- E. Each team is allowed 1 time out per half for re-grouping. The time out cannot last more than 1 minute in length.

SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Pee Wee – There shall be unlimited substitution anytime as long as the player coming off the field leaves before the substitute comes on. This must be done at a stoppage of play.
- B. Grades 1-4 – Substitutes shall only enter at the halfway line and only after being waved on by the referee and after a substituted player exits the field.

C. There is unlimited substitution only under the following circumstances:

- 1) On a goal kick (either team)
- 2) After a goal has been scored (either team)
- 3) Between periods (either team)
- 4) Throw-ins (only for team in possession of the ball)
- 5) In the event of an injury, the injured player may be substituted. Only the injured player may come out. The game is restarted with a drop ball.
- 6) When a player is cautioned. (yellow card)

NOTE: The opposing coach may substitute like number of players substituted by the other team for injured or cautioned players.

COACHING FROM SIDELINES AND ON THE FIELD

Teams and spectators will be on opposite sides of the field

Coaches and parents must not interfere with play and are not allowed in the goal areas at any time.

Coaches, players and spectators must maintain a clear way, 3 yards minimum back from the touchline, running from corner flag on either end of the field. Coach will receive a 1st offense verbal warning, 2nd offense will be a yellow card.

GRADES 3 & 4 – No coaching on the field.

GRADES 1 & 2 – One coach per team is allowed on the field.

PEE WEE – Two coaches per team are allowed on the field.

TIME OUTS

One time out per half is allowed for re-grouping. One minute in length.

****In the Pee Wee Division an extra time out is allowed for subbing, to allow equal playing time for all players.****

START OF GAME

With the signal being given by the referee and the ball being kicked forward (toward the opponent's defensive zone)

FOULS

The referee has certain discretion and may exercise the "advantage rule" and therefore, not call a foul as listed below.

(Our referees are learning to officiate, just as our players are learning fundamentals. Please keep this in mind.)

The goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball by touching it with any part of his/her hand or arms.

- A. These MAJOR fouls, if intentionally attempted against an opponent (exception for 9), shall result in a direct free kick for the other team, signaled
- 1) Tripping
 - 2) Kicking
 - 3) Jumping
 - 4) Charging Violently
 - 5) Charging from behind
 - 6) Striking (hitting, spitting or throwing and object, such as the ball)
 - 7) Holding
 - 8) Pushing
 - 9) Handling the ball intentionally (except goalie in goalie's penalty area)

NOTE: A penalty shot shall result for the other team if a player in his/her team's penalty area commits any MAJOR FOUL.

NOTE: If any major foul (except 9) is committed intentionally toward a teammate, an indirect free kick may be awarded to the other team. This is up to the referee's discretion.

- B. These MINOR fouls, if intentionally attempted against an opponent, may result in an indirect free kick for the other team, signaled by the referee with arm extended vertically until kick is taken:
- 1) Dangerous play (includes slide-tackle)
 - 2) Obstruction
 - 3) Goalkeeper taking more than four steps while handling ball.
 - 4) Goalkeeper holding ball to intentionally waste time or if a goalkeeper handles the ball after receiving it from a throw-in from his/her own team.
 - 5) Goalkeeper controlling ball with hands after putting ball in play from hands before it is played by an opponent or anytime goalkeeper handles ball deliberately/kicked to goalkeeper by teammate.
 - 6) A fair charge when the ball is not in playing distance.
 - 7) Play of the ball by a throw-in or by the kicker on any set in place kick, after it has gone into play and before another player has touched it.

MISCONDUCT (COACHES, PLAYERS, AND SPECTATORS)

- A. A caution (yellow card) is issued at the discretion of the referee for the following:
- 1) Dissent
 - 2) Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - 3) Persistent infringement of the laws of the game
 - 4) Entering or leaving the field of play contrary to the laws of the game.

NOTE: If play is stopped, an indirect free kick shall be awarded from location of ball.

- B. An ejection (red card) is exercised at the discretion of the referee for the following, and if play is stopped for any of these reasons, it shall be restarted with a free kick or penalty kick as listed:
- 1) Violent conduct – including attempted violent conduct (direct or penalty kick if in penalty area).
 - 2) Foul or abusive language (indirect).
 - 3) Persistent misconduct (indirect unless a major foul).

NOTE: All players and coaches formally cautioned or ejected must be reported to the Soccer Supervisor. An ejected player cannot play in his/her team's next scheduled game and is subject to additional suspension as determined by the Novi P, R & F Department.

PLAYING RULES

A. Method of scoring:

A goal shall occur when the entire ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, except where otherwise noted by F.I.F.A. Law. When the goal differential becomes, 5 the team with fewer goals shall play with one more player. For each goal differential increase above 5, the team with fewer goals shall add an additional player to a maximum of 11 players. For each goal the team with fewer goals scores, the team shall remove one of the extra players until the goal differential is back to 4 or less.

B. Ball out of play:

Shall occur when the whole ball crosses past the touch line or goal line.

C. Indirect free kick:

A goal can be scored only if a second player (either team) touches the ball after it has gone into play (traveled circumference).

NOTE: All indirect free kicks by attackers inside the penalty goal area line parallel to the goal line.

D. Direct free kick:

A goal can be scored against the penalized team following the kick.

E. Penalty kick:

Shall be awarded to the offended team if an opponent commits, within his/her penalty area, any of the nine major fouls listed in Fouls Section A. The kick will be taken only from the penalty mark, after the signal by the referee. The defending goalkeeper remains on his/her goal line, facing the kicker, between the goal posts, until the ball has been kicked. The goalkeeper is permitted to move his/her feet "i.e. moving sideways", but cannot step or lunge forward until the ball is in play. All players, except the goalie and kicker (properly identified), shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play (travel circumference).

F. Throw-in:

Ball must be delivered with part of both feet on or behind the touch line within one yard of where ball went out of touch. Both feet must remain on the ground when the ball is released, with both hands on the ball and with the ball thrown from behind and directly over the head. If the ball enters the field from an improper throw-in, the other team is then awarded the throw-in. (Pee Wee and Junior will be given a second chance.)

G. Heading the Ball:

All Pee Wee and Grades 1-4 participants are prohibited from heading the soccer ball at practice, or in the games. Heading the ball in the game will be treated as a minor foul. The opposing team will receive an indirect kick.

BODILY FLUIDS RULE:

Any player or coach who is bleeding or has an open wound shall be prohibited from further participation until appropriate treatment can be administered.

- A. As soon as the official(s) can see or has his/her attention called to a player that is bleeding or has an open wound, the game will be stopped as soon as possible.
- B. If proper treatment can be administered, the player may re-enter the game. At this point, Novi P & R substitution rules apply.
- C. If proper treatment CANNOT be administered, the player may not re-enter the game. Novi P & R substitution rules apply.
- D. Bloodied or exposed portions of the uniform must be properly disinfected, covered or changed before the player may resume or re-enter the game. Disinfectant information available on request.
- E. All contaminated surfaces and equipment must be cleaned before resuming the game.
- F. NOVI PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISALLOW PLAYERS TO PARTICIPATE IF SITUATIONS IN WHICH BODILY FLUIDS OR OPEN WOUNDS OCCUR.

NOVI PARK, RECREATION AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT**Park Partner:**

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