

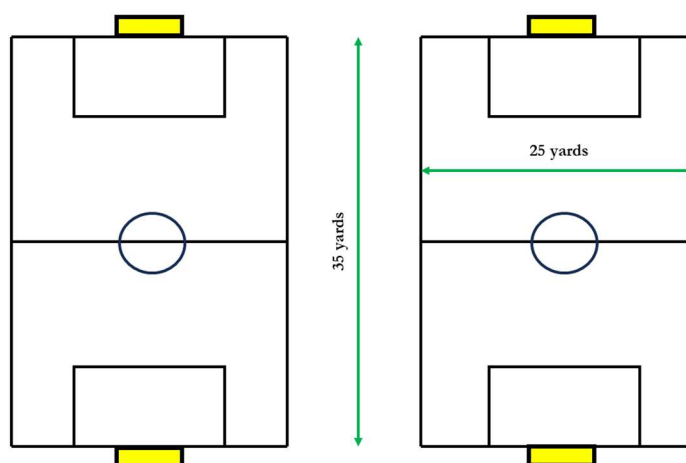
MSI Recreational Program

2nd Grade Game Format

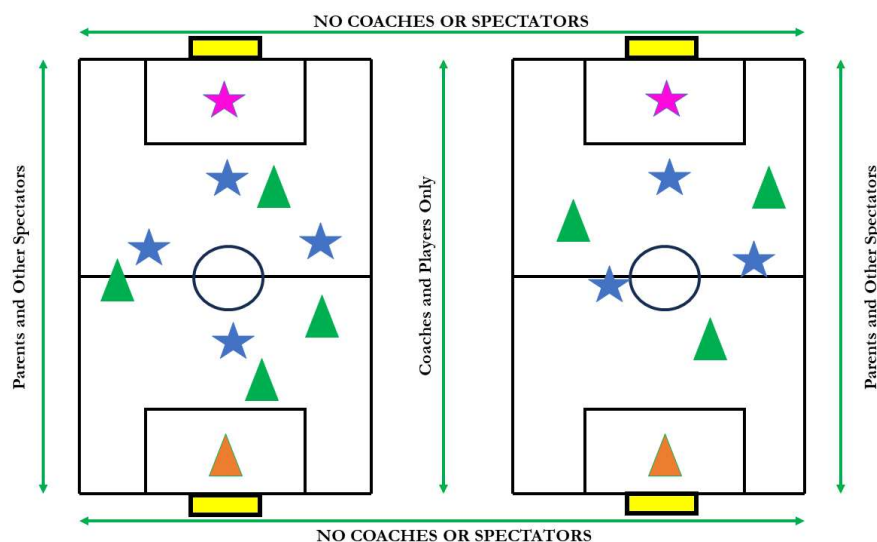


Summary	<p>MSI has adopted a new game format for the Fall 2024 season of 2nd Grade to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce larger goals and goalkeepers • Stay aligned with US Soccer Player Development standards • Maintain a fun, player-centered environment • Focus on fun and growth as opposed to the score
Description	<p>Teams will play 5 vs. 5 soccer, including goalkeepers, on two parallel fields. Each team will have a Youth Game Leader or referee. For example, if both teams have a full complement of players, both fields will be 5 vs. 5. In the event that either team has fewer than 10 players, one or both fields can be adjusted to 4 vs. 4.</p>
Field of Play	
<p>The field will measure 35 yards in length and 25 yards in width. In addition to sidelines and endlines, it will include the following markings. (See Diagram 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Midfield Line separates the two halves of the field. A spot in the middle of the line indicates the location for kickoffs to be taken. • The Center Circle marks the area where players from the defending team may not stand on a kickoff. • The Penalty Area extends 8 yards from the end line and measures 10 yards wide. Inside this area, the goalkeeper may use their hands. Goal Kicks may be taken anywhere inside the Penalty Area. <p>One side of the field will be reserved for teams and coaches, while the other side of the field will be reserved for parents and other spectators. Coaches and spectators may NOT stand along the end lines behind either goal. (See Diagram 2)</p>	

Diag. 1
Field
Dimensions



Diag. 2
Coaches,
Players, Fans



Rules of Play

Laws of the Game

With the exceptions of the rules below, play shall follow the FIFA Laws of the Game. The International Football Association Board has an excellent resource at <http://www.footballrules.com>.

Number of Players

Each team shall play with 5 players on the field. A minimum of 3 players on a team is required for play to commence or continue. If either team has fewer than 10 players, one or both fields will be adjusted to 4 vs. 4.

Restarts

All restarts will be indirect kicks, including out of bounds. Infractions in the penalty area will result in an indirect kick from the top of the area. Opposing player must be at least 6 yards away for all restarts.

Ball	<i>The game shall be played with a Size 3 soccer ball.</i>
Duration	<i>The game shall be divided into 10 minute quarters. There shall be a 2 minute break between the first and second quarters, a five minute halftime between the second and third quarters, and a 2 minute break between the third and fourth quarters.</i>
Goalkeeper	<i>Each quarter, a new player shall play goalkeeper. No player shall play goalkeeper more than two quarters in one game, and no player may play two consecutive quarters as the goalkeeper. No team is to have a designated goalkeeper. Please rotate as many players as you can through the goalkeeper position. Goalkeepers may wear an MSI goalkeeper jersey or a training vest.</i>
Officials	<i>A referee will conduct each field.</i>
Scores	<i>Neither the referees nor the coaches will keep score. Standings will not be posted.</i>
Offside	<i>The Offside rule will not be implemented in this game format.</i>
Subs	<i>Substitutions are unlimited and may be made on the fly. A substitute may not enter the field until the player they replace has left the field. Goalies should only be substituted during the quarter breaks. All players must play at least 50% of the game.</i>
Heading	<p><i>Per US Soccer guidelines, there is no heading of the ball in this game format.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• A headed ball results in an Indirect Free Kick for the other team.</i> <i>• If the ball is headed inside the Penalty Area, the ensuing restart is moved to the top of the area.</i>
Safety	<i>In addition to the heading restriction, for safety reasons there is NO slide tackling. Additionally, per FIFA rules, no jewelry of any kind may be worn. Earrings must be removed in order to play.</i>
Build-Out Line	<i>When the Goalkeeper gains possession (ball in hands) or a Goal Kick occurs, the opposing team must retreat behind the midfield line. Once the ball is put back into play, they may cross the line and defend.</i>
Coach and Parent Conduct	

In laying the foundation of our children's soccer experience, we must create an environment that is safe, fun, and supportive. The attitudes and conduct of our coaches and parents are of paramount importance.

- *At no time should any adult challenge the judgement of a Youth Game Leader or referee. Our YGLs are future referees, coaches, and supporters of the game. We must create a positive environment for them as well as for the players. Any questions about YGLs or referees can be addressed to the 2nd grade league coordinator.*
- *All parents are encouraged to join the Soccer Parent Resource Center, free to MSI families, and to complete the Sideline Project course, a 15 minute guide to improving the game environment.*
 - [*Join the SPRC!*](#)
 - [*The Sideline Project*](#)
- *Parents may cheer their support and encouragement. No negative comments will be tolerated.*
- *Parents are not to give instructions from the sideline. Players learn the game and develop skill when they can make their own decisions.*
- *Coach instructions should be specific and brief. Constantly directing the players stifles development and reduces fun.*
- *Coaches are collaborators with one another in creating a player-centered environment where children can learn, grow, and have fun!*

Conclusion

We are excited to see our new 2nd grade 5v5 game format in action! Remember that the most important results are not determined by goals scored or conceded, but by how much the players enjoy playing and how they develop as players. Please reach out to your league coordinator with any questions.