

Catholic Youth Sports
Grade School Soccer Rule Addendums*
Version 2026 -2027

The Grade School program follows standard FHSAA Soccer rules **except as noted below**. These modifications are intended to ensure a safe, fair, and positive experience for our young athletes.

Eligibility

- Grade K – 5 school students may participate in program.

Roster Size

- K-2
 - Minimum of 6 players per team
- 3-5
 - Minimum of 9 players per team

Format

- Grade K–2 play **4v4 format (no goalie)**
- Grade 3–5 play **7v7 format (includes goalies)**
 - Format may be modified based on number of players on game day

Ball Size

- K-2
 - Size 3 Soccer Ball
- 3-5
 - Size 4 Soccer Ball

Gameplay

- **Play Time – every player should have an equal amount of playing time**
- Two (2) Twenty-Minute Halves
- 30 second water break around the 10 minute mark
- Half-Time – 2 Minutes
- Officials may shorten half equally if teams are not ready on scheduled time.
- NO OVERTIME

Miscellaneous

- Fouls within 8 yards of the goal (normally indirect kick) will result in the ball being moved 8 yards from the goal line for an indirect free kick.
 - A wall may be set. Referee must clearly indicate it is an IDK.
- Penalty kicking fouls will still result in a penalty kick.
- Offsides - Only called for Grades 3-5

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- Build Out Line may be used at Grades 3–5.
- “Cherry Picking” is not permitted for any grade
- Punting is not permitted. Goalie must pass the ball to a teammate.
- **No slide tackling or heading the ball at any level**
- Officials must verbalize the call against a player after each whistle to assist with development
- Substitutions may occur during a dead-ball with permission from the official.
 - Players must check in at the center line between the bench area. No direct substitution from the bench.

Red Cards

- Any player or coach that receives a red card will be suspended from their next game without exception.
- Coaches/Athletic Directors/Site Administrators must notify Catholic Youth Sports Administration as soon as possible. Catholic Youth Sports will further review each situation.

Coach on field

- K-2
 - One coach for each team is permitted on the field during active play but shall not impede active play.
- 3-5
 - No coaches on the field during active play

Coaches on the sideline

- Each team can have up to five (5) coaches on the Roster
- Each team can have up to three (3) coaches at a game.
- During the game, there will be two (2) coaches on the sideline and one (1) on the field per the “Coach on field” rule above.
- All three (3) coaches must have a blue CYS lanyard with CYS ID badge and a CYS coaches’ shirt.

NO JEWELRY

- **Including earrings - NO BANDAIDS or TAPE over ears to cover earrings.**
- Except for Medic Alert Labels that must be worn inside the uniform, taped to body or under cloth wristband.

Noisemakers

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- The use of artificial noise producing devices (air horns, megaphone, whistles, etc.) by teams or spectators prohibited at all games.

Coaches and Parents are expected to realize this is a developmental league and should treat all players and officials with respect and kindness.

CYS Coach Responsibility - Code of Conduct & Sportsmanship

- CYS coaches represent Catholic Youth Sports and serve as **sport ministers**, modeling Catholic values both on and off the field/court.
- Coaches are expected to teach and demonstrate:
 - Teamwork
 - Sportsmanship
 - Commitment
 - Compassion
 - Dedication
- Coaches must always place the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of their student-athletes above winning.
- Coaches are expected to treat all players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators with respect and dignity.
- Coaches must avoid "running up the score" and always demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Violations of the CYS Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action by the school and/or Catholic Youth Sports Administration.
- Any coach who is ejected from a contest must leave the facility immediately. The Athletic Director/Site Administrator must notify CYS Administration immediately following the incident. Ejected coaches will serve a **minimum one-game suspension**, with additional disciplinary action determined following a review of the incident.

Coaches are expected to live by the **Golden Rule** in all practices, games, & interactions.