

2nd Grade Soccer

Gameday Rules and Reminders Updated FALL 2026



Items shown in **maroon** are changes from rules in effect for the previous age band.

- Single field format, **referee coverage, otherwise coaches manage games**
- **One game, with referee. Two 25 minute halves; 5 minute halftime;** Games must end on time.
- **5v5 format, including GKs / Size 3 ball / 10' x 5' Futsal goal/ Bownets**
- **Substitutions when ball goes out of bounds**
- Coaches and “player bench” from both teams should be on one side of the field; spectators on the **opposite** side from the coaches and “player bench” (and not on end lines)
- **No adults (coaches, parents, etc.) on the designated playing area (“the field”)**
- **Goalkeepers must wear shirt/scrimmage vest of different color from their team and opponent team**
- **A player playing as the goalkeeper can only play one half of the game maximum**
- **Pass back to GK is allowed, and they can pick ball up**
- **Build Out Line rules used for this age group. See [full explanation here](#).**
- Follow [lopsided game document](#) for games with 3 plus goal difference
- If a player needs medical attention on the field, they should be substituted out and can return later in the game, and a substitute can immediately enter.
- Shin guards are mandatory
- Closed toe footwear mandatory; cleats are optional
- No jewelry, no watches, no earrings (freshly pierced ears must be covered with bandaids)
- Nothing hard in players’ hair
- DCSC Socks, shorts, and club jersey required. On cold days, club jersey should be worn as outer layer.
- Coaches should introduce themselves and shake hands before and after games
- **Coaches supervise games from the sidelines, not on the field**
- No whistles or excessive sideline coaching
- **Parents/spectators on the sideline, not on the endline, and not interfering with GKs**
- **No more Continuous Play; Throw-ins allowed for this age group.** Teach the skill, but don’t stress about it. Ball thrown with both hands, back to front, both feet on the ground.
- **Goal kicks happen from the edge of the penalty area. There are corner kicks.**
- No offside rule
- No free kicks, no penalty kicks
- No Yellow or red cards, if there is a persistent issue with a player they may be asked by the referee to sit out for the remainder of the game at the refs discretion
- No dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct; No excessive celebrating
- No heading, no use of hands
- No slide tackling or tripping
- No over celebrating, or unsporting behavior
- No dogs allowed at any DC Soccer Club venues, practices or games
- Inclement weather and dangerous field conditions – cancel game, according to club’s safety

guidelines. See website.

Note on game play

Everyone is learning - coaches, players, referees, and parents. Coaches must work together to de-escalate games that are too rough or whenever the score differential reaches three. Follow these protocols when there need to be game adjustments:

- Coaches should introduce themselves and shake hands before and after games
- Coaches and “player bench” from both teams should be on one side of the field; spectators on the opposite side from the coaches and “player bench” (and not on end lines).
- If there is a safety problem, a coach should jointly work with the other team's coach and the referee to temporarily stop the game. Be courteous and compassionate.
- When the score differential reaches three (or more), coaches should work together to do something that helps out the losing squad. [lopsided game document](#)
- No adult should ever angrily yell at anyone - a player on the other team, their own player, the other coach, or the referee.
- If the coaches of both squads need to discuss a safety matter with the referee, both sides should do so together.
- If a parent is concerned about the game, they should walk around the field to talk to their own coach, who can then approach the other coach to temporarily stop the game.
- No DCSC staff will be onsite for these games. The Club asks the coaches, the referee, and the parents to work together on behalf of the kids on both squads.