

3rd & 4th Grade Soccer



Gameday Rules and Reminders

Fall 2021

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

- One game, with referee. Two 25 minute halves; 5 minute halftime; Games must end on time.
- 7v7 format, including GK / Size 4 ball
- 3rd Grade: 6' x 12' goals. 4th Grade: 7'x18' goals. GOALS MUST BE WEIGHTED (for practices and games). Children are NOT allowed to hang on or climb on goals!
- Substitutions when ball goes out, with permission of referee
- 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 on the designated playing area ("the field")
- Goalkeepers must wear shirt/scrimmage vest of different color from their team and opponent team
- Goalkeepers can only play one half. Pass back to GK is allowed, and they can pick ball up.
- Build Out Line rules used for these age groups. See [full explanation here](#).
- 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
- Socks, shorts, and club jersey required. On cold days, club jersey should be worn as the 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 an endline!), and not interfering with GKs
- Proper throw-ins. Ball thrown with both hands, back to front, not sideways, both feet on the ground. Ball turns over after 2nd improper throw-in.
- Goal kicks happen from edge of penalty area. There are corner kicks.
- Offside rule enforced when deliberate use of being offside gains an advantage; called by referee
- Free kicks are generally indirect. No penalty kicks.
- No dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct
- No heading (results in indirect kick or drop ball, depending on intent, at discretion of referee), no use of hands.
- "Intentional/deliberate" use of hands is a handball
- No slide tackling or tripping (results in direct or indirect kick, at referee discretion)
- No excessive 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.