

Perry Hall/White Marsh Soccer Association

Local soccer rules

- FIFA rules are followed except where local rules supersede FIFA rules.
 - <http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/official-documents/law-regulations/index.html#lawsOfTheGame>
- U8 and U10 age groups have additional rules.
- Go http://whitemarshrec.org/?page_id=54 for weather and field condition related announcements.
- **Start Time:** Games must start and end at the scheduled time. Game lengths may be shortened to ensure the following game starts at the scheduled time. This is at the discretion of the league official.
 - **Game length**
 - U6 – clinic session games - 6 minute quarters
 - U8 – 12 minute quarters
 - U10 – 25 minute halves
 - U12 – 30 minute halves
 - U14 – 35 minute halves (unless designated different on the schedule)
 - High School age groups – 35 minute halves (unless designated different on the schedule)
- Referees
 - Coaches will referee U8 games. (could change to referees during COVID-19 pandemic)
 - U10 – HS age groups: Referees will be scheduled for each game. In the event that a referee does not arrive for a game, coaches or other mutually acceptable parties may be used. Play the game.
- **Substitutions:** Unlimited substitutions are allowed during a game. Players may re-enter the game multiple times.
 - Substitutions are allowed at the following:
 - Throw in:
 - Both teams if team with possession substitutes
 - Goal kick: both teams
 - Goal scored: both teams
 - Injury: one for one substitution (both teams)
 - Half time: both teams
 - U-6 clinic substitutions can be made anytime.

- U-8 substitutions at quarters or out of bounds ball
 - No substitute for an eject player (red card).
 - Referee may limit substitutions in the last 2 minutes of the game (U10 and above)
 - Injury – If a player is injured, play must stop. Substitutions must be made for the injured player, regardless if the player can continue (with the exception to the goalie). The injured player may return to the field at the next stoppage in play. Players with bleeding injuries must be taken from the field and will not be allowed to return until the bleeding is stopped or the injury is bandaged.
- **Ties:** Game can end in a tie.
- **Ball size**
- U6 & U8 #3 ball
 - U10 – U12 #4 ball
 - U14 – HS #5 ball
- **All Players must play a minimum one half of the game.**
- Co-ed leagues: 3 girls must be on the field at all times
- All players must wear shin guards.
- All players must wear the team color jersey. The goalkeeper must wear a different color jersey or vest than the team jersey color.
- A player may only play half of the game as the goalkeeper (minimum of 2 goalkeepers per game). This is for U-8 and U-10 leagues.
- U-6 clinic has no goalkeepers.
- Players must remove all jewelry, exception is U8 may cover stud earrings only with tape or band-aid.
- Shirrtails must be tucked into their shorts.
- The goalkeeper has possession of the ball if part of their finger, hand or arm is on the ball, no player may challenge the goalkeeper when they have possession of the ball.
- Slide tackling is not permitted in U-12 and younger leagues. The penalty is a warning and an indirect kick, repeated occurrences by the same player will lead to a yellow card warning than a red card ejection.
- **Heading policy:**
All Players age groups U10 and younger shall not head the ball directly from the air in any match or competition, nor shall these players practice heading the ball in any

organized team setting. If a player age 10 or younger deliberately heads the ball in a match, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction. If the heading occurs within the penalty area, the referee shall move the ball outside the penalty area and award an indirect free kick to the opposing team. Players aged 11 and age 12 shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition. These players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session, but coaches shall monitor this practice so that no single player heads the ball more than 25 times per week, regardless of setting. Players age 13 and older shall be permitted to head the ball in any match or competition and these players may practice heading the ball in an organized team practice or skill session.

- The game will be forfeited if a team does not have the proper number of players 15 minutes after the official start of the game. A shorten practice game can still be played by one team lending the other team players.
 - U-8 and U-10: play 7 vs 7 minimum 5 players.
Game can be played as 5 v 5 or 6 v 6
 - U-12, U-14 (when scheduled as 9v9): play 9 vs 9 minimum 7 players (includes the goalie)
 - U-14, HS: play 11 vs 11 minimum 7 players (includes the goalie)
- Coaches and fans **will be asked to leave** the field area for inappropriate or bad sportsmanship like behavior.
 - I.e., cursing at or continuously berating a coach, referee, or player.
 - This is at the desecration of the referee and/or league official.
 - Failure to leave the field area will cause the associated team to forfeit the game.
 - Depending on the offense, the penalty to a player, coach, parent and/or fan could range from being suspended for a game, to being ban from all sports run by Perry Hall and White Marsh Recreation Councils.