

**City of Goose Creek Recreation**  
**U6 (4-5) & U8 (6-7) SPRING By-Laws**  
**Age Cut-off is March 1st of current year**

1. **THE FIELD:** DIMENSIONS- U6 & U8 (25 x 35 yds or 55 x 70 ft)  
MARKINGS- U6 (No goal area, Center Circle/4yds) & U8 (Goal Area 6yds x 3yds, Center Circle/4yds)  
GOAL SIZE- 4ft x 6ft
2. **THE BALL:** Size 3
3. **PLAYERS:** U6 & U8 (6 v 6) and teams are Co-ed. Everyone plays a minimum of 50% of the game. Substitutions are allowed any time the ball is out of play.
4. **Goal Keepers:** U6- NO GOALIES / U8- GOALIE
5. **PLAYERS UNIFORM:** Players will wear a shirt, shorts, socks, and a good pair of running shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes (Cleats may not have a cleat on the toe). Shin guards are required for safety reasons and should be covered by high socks.
6. **Jewelry:** No Necklaces, bracelets, watches, earrings, rings or any type of jewelry worn. (Unless medically necessary) Hair beads must be secured so they do not swing. Wrist bands and head bands may be worn in correct manner.
7. **OFFICIALS:** U6 & U8 (Coach, Volunteer Parent) Keep playing environment FUN, SAFE, and focused on the players. In addition, keep time, enforce rules, stop and restart the game. When the game is stopped because of a foul, ball out of play, goal, or another reason, take the time to explain to the players why! For some of them this is their first experience with soccer, and this is the BEST time to educate all on the laws of the game.
8. **PARENTS and SPECTATORS:** Must sit on the opposite side of the field than team benches. Do not stand or sit behind goals. Also, must sit back from out of bounds line.
9. **COACHES and TEAM MOM:** Allowed to sit with players on benches.
10. **DURATION OF THE GAME:** Substitutions are recommended between quarters so that all players play a minimum of 50% of the game (2 quarters).  
U6- 4 x 8 min quarters- 5 min halftime- 2 min between quarters  
U8- 4 x 8 min quarters- 5 min halftime- 2 min between quarters
11. **START OF PLAY:** All players must be on their own half of the field with one team kicking off. Opposing players must be 4yds from the center mark at the kickoff. Each quarter will start with a kick. Home team starts the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters and guest team 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. Kick off must go forward to a teammate.
12. **BALL IN & OUT OF PLAY:** When the WHOLE of the ball goes over the WHOLE of the boundary line, the ball is out of play. Remember, the FUN of the game is the movement of the ball. Try to keep the ball moving and not be too eager to call the ball out of play.

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13. **METHOD OF SCORING:** A goal is scored when the WHOLE of the ball has crossed the WHOLE of the line between the goal posts. Give players every opportunity to score a goal!
14. **OFFSIDE:** Not used in these leagues.
15. **FOULS & MISCONDUCT:** Fouls can and will occur even at this level. All fouls shall result in a DIRECT FREE KICK with opponents at least 4yds away.  
Types of fouls: Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent; trips or attempts to trip an opponent; jumps at an opponent; charges an opponent; strikes or attempts to strike an opponent; pushes an opponent; tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball; making contact with a player before the ball; holds an opponent; spits at an opponent; handles the ball deliberately; plays in a dangerous manner; impedes the progress of an opponent  
Soccer is a contact sport, and each action is dealt with at the time it occurs. Explain the foul in simple terms.
16. **FREE KICKS:** All free kicks will be direct. All opposing players must be 4 yds away.
17. **PENALTY KICK:** Not used in these leagues.
18. **KICK-IN/THROW-IN:** U6 will bring the ball back into play with a kick. U8 will use a normal throw-in. Players will be given another chance to throw the ball in if not done correctly the first time (feet must stay on ground).
19. **GOAL KICK:** If the team attempting to score a goal kicks the ball over the goal line outside the posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. U6 will kick the ball in from the goal line on either side of the goal and the opposing players must be at mid-field. U8 will kick the ball in from anywhere inside of the goal box and the opposing players must be at mid-field.
20. **CORNER KICK:** Direct free with opposing players 4yds away. A corner kick is awarded to the attacking team when the defending team last touches the ball before it crossed the goal line.

**Let's remember that it is more FUN to keep the ball moving!**

**Explain why the game is being stopped but use common sense when calling fouls at these ages.**