

PreK Soccer Rules

Game Day

- First game – Wamego Rec will make every effort to have goals in place. Coaches should assist Rec supervisor's setting up goals if not in place before the first games.
- Last game – coaches/parents pick up trash on or near field. Remove the three stakes and move goals to storage location on the sidewalk. Nets remain on the goals. Supervisor will be on hand to assist.
- Games need to start on time, on field warm up time is not provided past game times. If you would like to warm up, please arrive 15-30 minutes prior to your game and practice in a clear area. Referees will check shin guards, cleats, and ensure jewelry prior to game start.

Level Specific Info – PreK

- Four 6-minute quarters with a 3-minute halftime and a 1-minute other quarter breaks for water and substitution.
- Field Size: 60' x 75'
- No official score kept
- Size 3 ball
- • Play 4v4. Minimum 3v3. Scrimmage if short on players.
- **Substitutions only at quarter breaks or for an injury.**
- No goalies, teams **are not** to permanently station a player near the goal box
- Substitutions for an injury allowed at any time, time will be paused
- One coach per team allowed on field; other coach, and resting players must be on the sidelines
- All individuals (except in-game players/coach) must remain outside the buffer line on the sidelines
- Kickoffs may be kicked in any direction; game start coin toss winner may choose to take first kickoff
- Illegal throw-ins are retried once (opponent is then awarded the throw-in)
- No deliberate heading at any time including in practices (violations result in an indirect free kick for the other team)
- No penalty box will be marked but a goal box will be marked on the field
- No penalty kicks (instead a direct free kick from the top center of the goal box will be used)
- No offside
- Coaches are encouraged to share the "Code of Conduct Agreement" with your team's parents, and coaches are responsible for their team's spectator actions during the games.
- Any coach violating the "Code of Conduct Agreement" during the game may be shown a yellow card by the referee as a warning. Two warnings or a single extreme incident will result in the referee showing a red card and thus requiring the coach to be removed from the game field.

Key Soccer Rule Reminders – Pre-K

The following is a reminder of some key soccer rules especially applicable to this age group. Any specific detail questions about rules can be directed to a referee or more details can be found in the official soccer rule Laws of the Game, which a link is included in the "Helpful Websites" section of this packet.

- **Ball Out of Bounds:** The ball is out of bounds when it completely crosses the field edge line, either in the air or on the ground. A ball touching the line is still in play.

- **Dangerous Play:** Players should “keep their feet” during play. If a player endangers him/herself (e.g. being/staying on the ground) or endangers others (e.g. kicking high near someone’s face), the referee will reward a free kick for dangerous play to the other team.
- **Foul:** Term for illegal, careless physical contact by a non-bench player against a non-bench opponent while the ball is in play. Examples of fouls include pushing, holding, striking/hitting, throwing/kicking an object, tackling, tripping, kicking, jumping, charging, impeding, spitting, and biting. A handball offense is also considered to be a foul. Note; not all physical contact in soccer is illegal contact. All fouls will result in a direct free kick from the spot of the foul.
- **Handball Offense:** When a player with their arm/hand, either deliberately touches the ball or unnaturally makes their body bigger resulting in touching the ball. Note: the ball being touched by a player’s hand/arm is not always an offense. The top of the arm is defined as in line with the top of the armpit. Additionally, any player cannot even accidentally touch the ball with their hand/arm and then immediately score a goal.
- **Throw-in Technique:** Remember the following is required when delivering the ball for a throw-in
 1. The throw takes place where the ball went out of bounds
 2. Part of each foot must touch the ground on the line and/or out of bounds
 3. Two hands must be used to perform the throw
 4. The throwing motion must take the ball behind and over the head of the thrower
- **Double Touch Violation:** For a kick off, corner kick, goal kick, free kick, or throw-in, if the player taking the restart touches the ball a second time before another player (from either team) touches the ball, the opponent is rewarded an indirect free kick.
- **Injuries:** Play may be allowed to continue for a minor injury. The referee will stop play upon identifying a more serious injury.
- **Direct Free Kicks:** These are free kicks after a foul that can be scored directly by the kicker.
- **Indirect Free Kicks:** These are free kicks after non-foul violations that must touch one other player (from either team) before being scored. The referee will indicate these situations during the kick by holding an arm straight up in the air.

Wamego Recreation Specific Rules and Reminders – PreK

The following are specific changes and points of emphasis that Wamego Recreation has put in place in addition to or in place of standard soccer rules. Questions on these modifications can be directed to a Wamego Recreation Supervisor or a referee.

Player Safety – No Slide Tackling

No slide tackling is allowed. Slide tackling is defined as challenging the opponent for the ball by sliding. Slide tackling will be penalized as a foul.

Player Safety – Equipment

- Players must wear shin guards; hard plastic ones must be completely covered by socks or pants.
- Cleats may be worn and if worn should be safe and ideally soccer designed. Any unsafe portion of any shoe like a dangerous toe cleat at the front of the shoe, such as is found on many baseball and football cleats, would need to be cut off.

- Jewelry may not be worn, even if it is covered by tape or is a new piercing. Medical ID jewelry is allowed if made safe.
- Accessories like non-prescription eyewear/sunglasses, caps with bills, etc. may not be worn.

Wamego Recreation Referees

The referees are not volunteers. They are current or former nationally certified, trained Kansas USSF referees. Normally one referee will be assigned to each game of this age group. They are the ultimate authority in charge of the game, enforcing the Laws of the Game and upholding the spirit of the game, but they will also be there to help educate and provide reminders regarding the rules.

Coaching Games/Drills/Tips

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/lesson-plans/>

<https://www.soccerxpert.com/drills/u6-u8-soccer-drills>

<https://www.soccerxpert.com/drills/details/id1201>

<http://www.freeyouthsoccerdrills.com/free-soccer-drills.html>

https://www.soccerhelp.com/U-4_U-6_U-8_Soccer_Coaching.shtml

https://www.soccerhelp.com/Soccer_Tactics_Soccer_Tips_Index.shtml

<https://learning.ussoccer.com/coach/courses/available/16/details/1546>

https://www.soccerhelp.com/Soccer_Coaching_Tips_New_Soccer_Coach.shtml

Coaching Course and Tips:

Free – Intro <https://learning.ussoccer.com/coach/courses/available/16/details/1546>

There is a 4v4 online course that is available, but it is not required by WRD.

https://www.soccerhelp.com/Soccer_Coaching_Tips_New_Soccer_Coach.shtml

Helpful Websites

WRD Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WamegoRecreationDepartment>

Soccer (IFAB) Laws of the Game: <http://theifab.com> > Laws of the Game Laws 1-17

Kansas Youth Soccer: www.kansasyouthsoccer.org

US Youth Soccer: www.usyouthsoccer.org

Laws of the Game Made Easy (not updated since 2011 so some rules have changed since then):

<https://soccerrefereeusa.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/laws-of-the-game-made-easy.pdf>

Kansas USSF Referees: www.kansasreferee.org