

APACHE JUNCTION PARKS & RECREATION

6-8 YEAR OLD - YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE – RULES 2019

Philosophy of the League

The Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department created its youth sports programs for the fun and enjoyment of everyone involved. We stress programs that emphasize maximum participation, maximum fun, and maximum learning opportunities. Volunteer coaches have a key role in promoting the above goals of our youth sports programs. We believe that every participant should walk away from this season with newly improved skills, a sense of team and sportsmanship, as well as the desire to continue making sports and recreation a positive part of their lives.

Playing Field

- The *touch lines* (side boundaries) and *goal lines* (end boundaries) are part of the playing field.

Equipment

Ball - We will use a size 4 soccer ball for games and practices.

Shoes - Participants may use any type of regular tennis shoe or cleat, as long as the cleats are rubber and there is not a toe cleat (as there is on baseball cleats).

Uniform - The Parks and Recreation Department will provide team shirts. All participants must wear their team shirt to all games. No participants will be allowed to wear a jacket or sweat shirt over their game shirt.

Shin Guards- All participants must wear shin guards as a safety rule. Coaches will check for shinguards prior to each game.

General Rules

- Each team has six players on the field. One must be the goalkeeper. The others, known in general terms as field players, will receive defensive and offensive duties by their coaches. Defensive players must stay in their half of the field at all times. Defensive players may straddle the midfield stripe, but may not cross into the other team's territory to keep the ball in the offensive zone. This is a rule to help with the flow of play, and discourage "mob ball." Officials will do their best to keep players on their own half of the field; however, the prime responsibility belongs to the coach. A violation of this rule will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team. One coach from each team will be allowed on the field during games. Please stay out of the way of the goal. NO HEADING!

Ball Play

Players must kick the ball or use their head or chest to play it. They may not play, move, carry or hit it with a hand or any part of an arm, with the following exceptions:

- At a throw-in
- Goalkeeper can use his hands and arms when it is in his own penalty area (the big box)

The ball is out of play:

- After it completely crosses a goal line or touch line on the ground or in the air.
- If the referee stops the game (on the whistle)

The ball is in play:

- After a throw-in
- After any free kick, including a goal kick
- If it bounces back on to the field after hitting a goal post, crossbar or corner post
- If it rebounds off an official who is on the field

Substitutions

- Wholesale substitutions will occur every five minutes of play. They may also occur due to injury or exhaustion. All substitutions must be run through the referee.
- The goalkeeper can only be exchanged with the referee's permission. We will not allow a goalkeeper to be exchanged right before a free *kick* or a *penalty kick*.
- Players must play both offense and defense within each half. Coaches should make sure players get to experience all positions throughout the season.

Game Length

- All games will be held to 20-minute halves (running clock). Time will only be stopped for injuries and time outs. There will be a 5 minute half time if time permits.

Time Outs

- Each coach receives only one time out (1 minute) per half.

Scoring

- **SCORE WILL NOT BE KEPT IN THIS LEAGUE!**
- A goal is scored after the entire ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar. **Note:** If the goalie catches the ball and is over the goal line, a goal is scored. If the goalie catches the ball in front of the goal line, but takes a step back into the goal, a goal is scored. Offensive players may be in the goal area (the small box).

Procedure

- The game starts with the team listed first on the schedule as the team to kickoff.
- All players must start in their half of the field at the beginning of the game and after each goal.
- Defensive players must stay outside the center circle until the ball is kicked and travels the distance of its own circumference.
- After the referees whistle, the kickoff is made (to a teammate) from midfield into the opponents half of the field. The kicker cannot play the ball again until another player has touched it.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.
- If the ball goes out of play, the game restarts by a throw-in (if the ball crossed the touch line) or by a goal kick or corner kick (if the ball crossed the goal line).
- Once the goalie touches the ball with his or her hands, all players must back off.
- After a goal is scored, a member of the team that did not score restarts the game with a kickoff at the center of the field.
- After halftime, the teams change ends and the kickoff is made by the team that did not kick off to start the game.

Drop Ball

- If the game is stopped by the referee for any reason where there is no infraction (rule violation) while the ball is in play, the game restarts when the referee drops the ball where it was when play was halted (i.e. when play is stopped by the referee because of players down on the field by the ball). The ball must touch the ground before players can play it.

Throw-in

- A throw-in is made at the touch line where the ball went out of play, and it is thrown in by a player from the team that did not touch the ball last.
- The thrower must face the field and keep part of each foot behind or on the touch line and both feet must stay in contact with the ground.
- The ball is thrown with both hands from behind and over the head.
- A goal cannot be scored from a throw in.
- The thrower cannot play the ball again until it has been played by another player.
- If the ball is not thrown correctly, the throw-in should be made by a player from the other team. In this league officials will give a player a warning if the throw-in is incorrect. He or she will get a second attempt and if it is again incorrect, the other team will get the throw-in.

Offside

Offside infractions will not be called in this league. Referees will remind players about it during play. This is mainly to avoid “cherry-picking”.

Free Kick

A free kick is a shot on goal awarded after a foul or misconduct. It is classified as direct or indirect.

Direct Kick

- A player can score on a direct free kick without the ball touching another player. It is awarded for major offenses that are committed intentionally, such as the following:

- Hand ball
- Tripping, pushing, holding, hitting, or purposefully kicking an opponent
- Charging an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner, except for shoulder to shoulder contact

Indirect Kick

A player can score on an indirect free kick only if the ball touches a player on either team before crossing the goal line. It is awarded for less serious offenses, such as the following:

- Repeated offside violations
- Dangerous play: kicking near an opponent's head, lying on the ball, or trying to play a ball held by the goalkeeper.
- Distracting the goalkeeper by making body contact in the goal area
- If a player takes a free kick outside his own penalty area (the big box), opponents must remain 10 yards away from the ball. Exception: When a free kick is taken 10 yards or less from the goal line, no more than four opposing players can stand at their own goal line between the goal posts.
- Any indirect free-kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's goal-area shall be taken from the part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal-line, at the point nearest where the offense was committed.
- A free kick awarded to the defending team within its own goal area (the small box) may be taken from any point within that area.

Penalty Kick

• A direct free kick awarded to the attacking team when an opposing player commits a major foul within his team's penalty area. All players except the goalkeeper and the player taking the penalty kick must stand outside the penalty area, at least 10 yards away from the ball. The goalkeeper must stand on the goal line between the goal posts and not move his feet until the ball is kicked. If the ball is stopped by the goalkeeper, play resumes. If the ball goes over the goal line but not between the goals, a corner kick or a goal kick is awarded depending on who touched it last.

Goal Kick

- A goal kick is taken by any defending player, including the goalkeeper, after the ball goes over the goal line (but not in to the goal) in the air or on the ground and was last touched by an attacking player.
- The ball must be stationary when kicked, and must be kicked into play beyond the penalty area from any point within the goal area. The kicker may not kick the ball a second time until it is touched by *another player*.
- Kicking team players may be anywhere on the field; opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball has cleared the penalty area.
- The ball must be touched by another player before a goal is scored.
- If the goalkeeper catches the ball or picks it up off the ground, it may be thrown to a teammate, drop-kicked (dropped to the ground and kicked before it hits the ground) or punted.

Corner Kick

- A corner kick is awarded to the attacking team after the ball goes over the goal line (but not into the goal) when it was last touched by a defensive player.
- The ball is placed inside the corner kick area nearest to where it went out-of-bounds. The corner flag may not be removed.
- Any player on the attacking team may take the corner kick, but cannot kick it again before it is touched by another player.
- Attacking players may be anywhere on the field; defenders must be no closer than 10 yards from the ball.
- A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick without another player touching the ball.

Fouls and Misconduct

• The penalty for the following rule violations is a direct free kick.

A *caution* (yellow card) is a formal warning to a player guilty of:

- Repeated disregard of game rules
- Unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, coach, or parents of the team
- Disagreement or arguing with the referee's decision (by a player, coach, or parents)

Sending off (red card) is when the referee removes a player from the game for:

- Violent conduct

- Foul or offensive language
- A second misconduct after receiving a caution

Officials (one coach from each team is the official)

- Enforces the rules
- Acts as timekeeper; starts, stops and restarts the game
- Cautions or ejects offenders of the rules by showing a yellow card for a warning and a red card for an ejection (an ejected player can be replaced in our league)
- Judge where and when a ball goals out of play (volunteers, one from each team, will be side line judges in the absence of having two officials.)
- Determine which team is entitled to a throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick

Rain Policy

While we do live in Arizona, there is a possibility for rain to cancel a day. In the event of rain, **YOUR COACH WILL CONTACT YOU IF THE GAME OR PRACTICE IS CANCELLED. CANCELLATIONS ARE ALSO POSTED ON THE APACHE JUNCTION PARKS & RECREATION'S FACEBOOK PAGE.** If you do not hear from your coach, assume everything is happening as scheduled. Remember, while it may be raining at your house or work, it may not be raining at the fields. Parks and Recreation makes the determination on canceling a program for the day, not the coaches. Parks and Recreation will let the coaches know if the game/practice is cancelled and then they will contact you.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Policy

Apache Junction Parks and Recreation promotes a tobacco-free, alcohol-free and drug-free environment for the children participating in our leagues. All tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug products are prohibited at the fields. Any person found in violation of this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Anyone who is found in repeated violation of this policy may be barred from attending future practices and games.

6-8yr & 8-11yr Small Sided Soccer Field

Updated 12/04/2018

