

Darien Sportsplex Soccer Rules

Updated June, 26, 2006

General Rules:

Players Equipment:

- Footwear: Turf or Outdoor soccer cleats are recommended.
- Shinguards: Are required for all ages with appropriate socks covering the shinguards.
- Shorts: Soccer or athletic shorts are permitted. Denim or Khaki/Dress shorts are not permitted.
- Make sure to bring an alternate jersey in case of color conflict.
- Players can not wear anything that would be dangerous to themselves or to others:
 - o Jewelry of any kind (rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, etc...)
 - o Barrettes, hair pins, or hard plastic hair clips are not allowed.
 - o Braces, casts, splints may be worn, but must be covered with at least 6 in. of foam and with no edges or hard surfaces exposed. Final decision lies with the referee.
 - o Bandannas, skull caps, baseball hats, visors, etc... are not permitted on the field. (Religious affiliations are the only exception.)

Coaches:

- A maximum of 3 coaches are allowed on the bench, no exceptions.
- Children not playing on the team are not permitted on the bench.
- Coaches are responsible for the actions of both players and fans of their team. Penalties can be assessed for player's/fan's actions.
- Rosters are limited to a maximum of 18 players for any age group.
- At least one coach must be present on the bench for age groups U-19 and below, no exceptions.
- Protests and/or complaints can be addressed to the soccer director **by the coaches only!** Protests must be submitted to the soccer director in writing.
- **Reschedules will only be granted if a mistake was made by DSX on the schedule, no exceptions!**

Referees:

- A referee will be provided by DSX for sanctioned games. Scrimmages and practices are not sanctioned and therefore no referee will be provided unless prior arrangements have been made.
- **All referees' decisions are final!** Any questions or concerns regarding the referee and/or rules can be directed to the soccer director, by coaches only. If a parent has a problem, he/she must take the concern to the coach and the problem will be addressed then.

Gameplay:

Duration:

- For all ages the game will consist of two 20 minute running time halves with a one minute halftime.

- Time will only be stopped in the event of a serious injury in which a player can not be removed from the field. This stoppage will only occur in the second half of the game.
- Play can be extended after the clock has run out for a penalty shot, after the shot, the game is over, no rebounds.

Forfeits:

- Each team must have a minimum of 4 field players for U13 and above (at least one woman for coed), 5 field players for U12 and below, and one goalie to start a game. A team has 5 minutes after the start of the clock to get the minimum number of players required. During this time, the game clock will be running and will not be reset.

Balls:

- Ages U13 and above will use a size 5 ball.
- Ages U9 to U12 will use a size 4 ball.
- Ages U8 and below will use a size 3 ball.
- No ball play permitted outside of the dasher boards. Non-compliance will result in loss of ball.
- Any outside ball that is brought into the facility is brought in at the patron's own risk and DSX is not responsible for lost or damaged balls.

Players:

- Ages U13 and above will play with 5 field players and a goalie.
- Ages U8 to U12 will play with 6 field players and a goalie.
- Players of any age group are not allowed to play on multiple teams in the same division.
- The minimum age for adult leagues is 19 years of age.

Substitutions:

- Substitutions may be made "on the fly," provided the player being substituted for is within 5 feet of their own bench before the next player comes onto the field. If a player leaves the bench early, a "too many men" on the field penalty may result.
- Goalie substitutions can only be made after acknowledgement from the referee whether the sub is being made "on the fly" or on a stoppage of play.

Method of Scoring:

- The whole ball must completely cross the goal line for a goal to be awarded. The decision of the referee is final!

Start of Play and Restarts:

Kick-Off:

- All players must be on their own half of the field and the defensive team must be outside of the center circle.
- The ball must travel forward to start play.
- A goal may be scored from the kick-off.
- After a goal, the game will be restarted from the center spot, by the team who has just been scored upon.

Restarts:

- All restarts are direct kicks and a goal can be scored from them.
- A player may only touch the ball once on any restart.

Free Kicks:

- All free kicks will be taken from the point of the foul.
- The defensive team must be at least 10 feet away from the point of the kick being taken.
- The offensive team has 10 seconds to get the ball back into play after the allotted 10 feet has been granted by the defense.

Goal Kicks:

- Can be taken from anywhere inside the penalty area.
- The ball is not in play until it has traveled outside the penalty area.
- Opponents may not enter the penalty area during a goal kick.

Corner Kicks:

- A corner kick will be awarded when the ball goes out of play behind the corner spots after having last been touched by a defensive player.
- The ball will be placed on the white corner spot for the restart.

Ball out of Play:

- The ball is considered out of play when any of the following occur and are acknowledged by the referee: ball touching the net surrounding the field of play, ball touching the rafters, lights, or HVAC ductwork, or if the ball leaves the field of play through either the benches or over the netting.
- The ball will be restarted from the area designated by the referee, close to where the ball went out of play.
- The ball remains "in play" until a stoppage is acknowledged by the referee. Play until the whistle.

Rules and Regulations:

Goalkeeping:

- The goalkeeper is restricted to "handling" the ball inside the penalty area.
- The goalkeeper can not pick up a ball that is intentionally passed back to the keeper by his own teammates. It is the referee's decision as to what is intentional or not.
- Balls passed back from any part of the body besides the foot, are legal to pick up.
- Once the ball is picked up by the keeper, he/she has 5 seconds to get the ball back into play.
- If a ball is thrown into the opposing teams net from the goalkeeper it is a goal.
- Punting the ball is allowed in ages U-11 and below.
- Goalkeepers must wear a color different than the color his/her team is wearing.
- A goalkeeper is allowed to gather a ball from outside the penalty area and dribble it back inside and pick it up as long as the ball was not played back to them by a teammate.

Offside:

- There is no offside rule.

5 Second Rule:

- Once the goalkeeper is deemed “in possession” of the ball by the referee, he/she has 5 seconds to put the ball into play. Failure to do so will result in a direct kick from the top of the arc.

10 Second Rule:

- A team has 10 seconds to get the ball back into play after the ball is set and the defensive players are at least 10 feet away. This rule applies to all restarts.

Three Line Rule:

- If a team plays the ball in the air, from their own defensive end, forward over all three white lines without the ball touching another player, official, or the perimeter wall will be penalized with a the other team receiving a direct free kick from the center of the white line closest to the offending teams’ goal

Penalties and Infractions:

2 Minute Penalties (Blue Card):

- A 2 minute penalty and a blue card will be issued for the following offenses:
 1. Too many players on the field.
 2. Unsportsmanlike conduct, this includes players, coaches, and fans.
 3. Equipment issue after a warning (ex. no shinguards).
 4. Persistent fouling.
 5. Intentional handball.
 6. Any foul deemed “hard” by the referee.
 7. Slide tackling (referee’s decision).
- If a goal is scored, the penalty is over.
- If two opponents are both given coinciding 2 minute penalties, a 4 v4 will result for the full 2 minutes.

4 Minutes Penalties (Yellow Card):

- A 4 minute penalty as well as a yellow card will be issued for the following offenses:
 1. Strong or foul language towards the referee.
 2. Persistent fouling after receiving 2 minute penalty.
 3. Boarding a player; this is intentionally checking or hitting an opponent into the boards.
 4. Any foul deemed “very hard” by the referee.
- The player receiving the penalty must serve the full 4 minutes even if your team is scored upon. You can bring another player on after being scored on, but not the player in the box.
- Receiving 2 yellow cards in one game will result in a red card, expulsion from that game plus a 2 game suspension.
- Receiving 5 yellow cards in a single season will result in a one year suspension.

5 Minute Penalties (Red Card):

- A 5 minute penalty as well as a red card will be issued for the following offenses:
 1. A foul that is reckless and with the intent to injure.
 2. Spitting at or on another player or official.
 3. Consistent abuse of the rules.
 4. Consistent abuse of the officials.
- During a 5 minute penalty, there is unlimited scoring allowed and the full 5 minutes must be served, no players can come back onto the playing field until that 5 minutes has expired.
- A red card given to any player/coach will result in an expulsion from that game, a 2 game suspension, plus the team will have to serve the full 5 minute penalty.
- A second red card given to any player/coach in a single season will result in a one year suspension.
- A red card that reduces a team to less than the minimum number of players will result in a forfeit.

Fighting:

- **Fighting will not be tolerated!**
- Fighting will result in an expulsion from the league with no refund, **No Exceptions.**
- Any player or coach who leaves the bench area, whether to get involved with the fight or to help break it up, will be thrown out of the league, **No Exceptions.**
- If the benches are cleared during an altercation, those teams will be expelled from the league and after facility review with officials and of video, a possible facility ban.
- **Any player/coach who threatens or strikes an official will be banned from the Darien Sportsplex for life, No Exceptions.**

Darien Sportsplex House Rules

1. Individuals utilizing this facility do so at their own risk. The Park District, property owners, league operators, referees, and staff of the Darien Sportsplex assume no liability for injuries or accidents that may occur.
2. Conduct within the facility should be in the spirit of good sportsmanship, as is on the field.
3. Players or spectators under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substance will be ejected from the facility.
4. Please keep hands and feet off the glass, boards, and netting.
5. The use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco is prohibited.
6. No food, drinks, chewing gum, or spitting is permitted on the playing surface.
7. No unsportsmanlike conduct including inappropriate language is permitted.
8. The soccer balls are to be used on the soccer field only. No ball play is permitted outside the playing surface.
9. Children must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or coach throughout the duration of the practice or game in which they are playing or watching.
10. The management of the Darien Sportsplex reserves the right to refuse play and/or service to anyone.