

- 1) Washington City Youth Soccer League is based on NFHS (American High School) Rules, with modifications as stated herein.
- 2) Each team member must play at least half of the time that they are present at a game. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture.
- 3) Ball sizes (City will provide the game ball): [Size 3: K-1st all] [Size 4: 2nd-5th all,] [Size 5: 6th-9th all]
- 4) All players must wear an official Washington City Recreation reversible jersey. Layered clothing may be worn underneath the jersey. **SHIN GUARDS ARE ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED** and should be completely covered by the socks. No metal cleats or spikes; plastic 'toe' cleats are discouraged. No jewelry (earrings, necklaces, rings, etc), adornment, or unsafe or impertinent articles of any kind are permitted. Medical bracelets, cloth sweatbands, and hair-control devices are permissible. Casts are permitted if covered and not considered a safety risk. Goalkeepers may wear a soft-billed cap to shield eyes from the sun/inclement weather. Goalkeeper jerseys will be provided at the game.
- 5) Scores and standings will be maintained for all leagues. Ties at the end of all games shall be resolved by a shoot-out (kicks from the penalty mark) per NFHS Rules. Each league champion will be determined by best win/loss record at the end of the regular season. In the event of a tie for best record: head-to-head result(s) during the regular season will first be considered, then point differential. 6th-9th Grade Boys & Girls Leagues: a tournament is scheduled for week 7 – seeding will be based on win/loss records over the first 6 weeks of play. Players of all league champion teams are awarded a personalized, engraved plaque!
- 6) K & 1st Grade Leagues only: with respect to playing fields, the Goal Areas (GA) are relevant and shall function as such – Penalty Areas will not be utilized (if marked). There are NO penalty kicks; if a game ends tied then a shoot-out shall follow per Point 5 above. All free kicks are considered direct free kicks (DFKs) and thus a goal may be directly scored. Any DFK awarded to the attacking team inside its opponent's GA shall be taken from the nearest point on the GA line parallel to the goal line (akin to NFHS Rule 13-1-4). All opponents of any free kick (including a kickoff, goal kick, or corner kick) must be at least 5 yards from the ball – unless standing on their own goal line between the goal posts – until the ball is kicked.
- 7) Throw-ins: K-1st Grades: correct technique is encouraged, but the game shall continue uninterrupted if throw is improper. 2nd-3rd Grades: improper throws shall be retaken by the player; game will continue uninterrupted if 2nd throw is also improper. 4th+ Grades: NFHS Rule 15.
- 8) The Offside Rule will be enforced for grades 4th+ per NFHS Rule 11.
- 9) Slide tackling is EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN in this league. Any player attempting a sliding tackle – irrespective of whether personal contact occurs – shall automatically be whistled for committing a tripping foul (punishable by a Direct Free Kick), unless the referee invokes the Advantage Clause. In all cases the referee has the discretionary authority to caution or disqualify the offending player.
- 10) The field supervisor and referees are in charge at each field. Good sportsmanship, fair play, and dignified conduct are expected at all times of all players, coaches, adults – indeed all persons present. Coaches shall be held accountable for the conduct of their players and team followers. Injuries shall be referred to the Recreation Manager, Karrin Hunsaker (656-6383).
- 11) Any person not conducting his/herself in a dignified manner shall, at the discretion of a referee, Washington City employee, or other recognized authority, will receive one warning then may be barred without further warning from the park for the remainder of games that day, and/or shall be barred for the season, and/or other measures pursued. Players disqualified from a game shall remain quietly in the team area under adult supervision; players can be disqualified for the season. The referees reserve the right to terminate any game.
- 12) Games will feature two 20-minute halves and a 5-minute halftime rest. The game clock shall run continuously, but may be stopped solely at the referee's discretion for an unusual situation, injury, or if a team is engaging in unsporting delay tactics.
- 13) Maximum number of players (including goalkeeper) per team allowed on the playing field: grades K-1st = 8 players; grades 2nd-3rd = 9 players; grades 4th and up = NFHS standard of 11 players.
- 13a) GAMES WILL BEGIN ON TIME. Grades K-1st - Each team must have 7 eligible players ready to play at game time. Grades 2nd-3rd - Each team must have 8 eligible players ready to play at game time. If there is not enough eligible players, a 10 minute grace period will be allowed. Failure to have enough eligible players will result in a forfeit.
- 14) Player substitutions (NFHS Rule 3-3): either team may substitute an unlimited number of players: between periods, prior to a throw-in, corner kick, or goal kick restart, or following a goal, injury, caution, or disqualification. However, for grades 4th+ : during a throw-in or a corner kick – per NFHS Rules 3-3-3 & 3-3-4 – the team NOT in possession of the ball CANNOT substitute, UNLESS the team in possession of the ball elects to substitute. These rules (also fairness concerns) will be strictly enforced in grades 4th+, so please abide by them. In general: when a team is engaging in unsporting delay tactics, the clock shall be stopped, and the offending coach/players may be cautioned.
- 14a) NO substitutions or goalkeeper swaps/changes are permitted during a penalty kick situation unless: a player is injured or carded – in that event, unlimited substitutions may be made. However, an incoming sub may NEVER take a penalty kick (NFHS Rule 3-3)!
- 15) Penalty/shoot-out kicks for K-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th+ shall be taken from a penalty mark 8, 10, and 12 yards from the goal line, respectively.
- 16) All teams are responsible for their trash; please assist in maintaining the cleanliness and safety of our community's parks.
- 17) Help us to safeguard a POSITIVE, RESPECTFUL, AND PROACTIVE ENVIRONMENT for our youth! Thank you! 🌱