



### Message to Parents:

It cannot be stressed enough that the RYSL program is for the children. Our focus is FAIR PLAY, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND HAVING FUN. Parents, coaches, and officials are all role models for our players. Therefore, overzealous behavior is inappropriate. Every effort will be made to make sure that all children have a fun soccer playing experience. With all of this in mind, please take some time to review the RYSL policies.

Thank you in advance for your support!

### Soccer Conduct:

1. Be a positive role model.
2. Cheer positively. Have fun!
3. Do not put down the other team.
4. Make sure your child is on time to each game & practice.
5. Children may not be dropped off at either games or practices. They must have an adult present who is responsible for them.
6. Call your child's coach ahead of time, if your child cannot attend a practice or game.
7. Make sure your child arrives for games and practices with the proper uniform and equipment. (Please see Uniform & Equipment section.)
8. During league games, both teams (players and two coaches only) are to be located on the same side of the field.
9. All spectators are to be on the opposite side.
10. No one is allowed behind the goal line and everyone is required to be at least one yard away from the sidelines.
11. Referees and coaches have to do a difficult job,, and mistakes will be made. Arguing or yelling with the referees or coaches is unwarranted and useless.
12. Please keep the fields clean and free of litter.

### Uniforms & Equipment:

1. The issued uniform is required to be worn at all games.
2. Each player must be dressed as follows:
  - a. Issued jersey (tucked in)
  - b. Issued shorts
  - c. Issued socks, covering shin guards
  - d. Shin guards
  - e. Soccer shoes, or athletic shoes
  - f. No shoes with toe cleats or metal spikes allowed. This includes football and baseball cleats. No bare feet or sandals allowed.
  - g. No jewelry may be worn by a player. This includes, but is not limited to watches, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and barrettes.
3. Anyone not wearing the issued uniform and proper equipment will not be allowed to play in the game.
4. Sweatshirts and sweatpants may be worn under the uniform in cold or wet weather.

### Inclement Weather Policies:

1. The following is our inclement weather procedure: Rockford Park District contacts the RYSL League Administrator and makes a decision as to if games will be played. If games are to be

cancelled, the RYSL website [www.raptoryouthsoccer.com](http://www.raptoryouthsoccer.com) will have the announcement on the front page, as well as posted on Facebook. Please check here prior to making any calls. This will be the quickest and easiest way for you to find out if games have been cancelled.

Or you may call the Rockford Park District weather line at 987-1644, after 4:00pm. If parents have doubts as to whether games will be played due to weather, they should first check the website, then check with their child's coach, and lastly call either weather line.

2. We will schedule make up games within the season for games missed due to weather cancellation. Parents will be given several weeks' notice as to when the make up game will occur. The Make-up game will be played on a Tuesday.

## CONDENSED SOCCER RULES:

### Substitutions:

Unlimited substituting of players may be done on your team's own possessions.

### Length of Game, Players on the Field, & Offsides

1. Ages 4-5, 6-7      2 x 16 minute halves      6 v 6 no Offsides
2. Ages 8-9-10-11      2 x 25 minute halves      9 v 9 Offsides enforced
3. Ages 12 & up      2 x 35 minute halves      11 v 11 Offsides enforced

Teams must play with equal numbers of players on the field. If one team has 9 players and the other has 7 players, then both teams play with 7 players on the field.

### Referees:

1. Referees shall enforce the RYSL policies, as well as the rules of the game as stated by FIFA Laws.
2. Referees shall at all times put great emphasis on the welfare of the players, and promote good sportsmanship.
3. While their decisions may not always be agreeable, their decisions are final and do not warrant arguing.
4. No useful purpose is served by arguing with the referee, so please show courtesy and respect, as they are volunteering their time.
5. The referee may address a coach or spectator who is not conducting themselves with a positive attitude.
6. The referee has the right to ask an individual to leave the field should inappropriate behavior warrant.
7. The referee may suspend or terminate the game due to interference by a spectator(s).

### Playing the Game:

1. The home team kicks off first each game, and the visiting team selects which goal they will defend first.
2. Each team must stay on its own half of the field and the defending players must be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked. (4-5-6-7's must be at least 2 yards from the ball).
3. After a goal, the team scored upon will kick off.
4. After halftime, the teams change ends and the kickoff will be taken by the opposite team which started the game.
5. A ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or sideline, whether on the ground or in the air.
6. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar.
7. A Throw In is awarded to the team who did not touch the ball last when it goes

out on the sidelines. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in. The ball should be thrown overhead with two hands and both feet should be in contact with the ground at time of throw. An infraction of such, requires that the ball go over to the other team for a throw in at the same location.

8. A Goal Kick is awarded to the defense if the offense touches the ball last and it goes out of bounds at the goal line. The opposing players should leave the penalty area before the goal kick takes place. The ball must be kicked out of the penalty area before anyone else can play it.

9. A Corner Kick is awarded when the defense last touches the ball and it goes out at the goal line. It is put back into play by a kick from the corner of the field on the side the ball went out. The kicker cannot play the ball twice before being played by another player and that the opposing players must be moved back to at least a 10 yard distance. If a kicker plays the ball twice, the other team takes a free kick from the point of the second touch.

### Fouls and Misconduct:

A player who intentionally (1) kicks or attempts to kick, (2) trips, (3) jumps at, (4) charges violently, (5) makes a sliding tackle from behind, (6) strikes or attempts to strike, (7) holds, (8) pushes an opponent, or (9) intentionally handles the ball, shall be penalized by a direct free kick. (from which a goal can be scored directly against the other team).

Any one of these nine offenses committed in the penalty area by a defender will result in a penalty kick to the offensive team. A penalty kick is a direct free kick taken at the penalty mark. All players except the player taking the kick and the goal keeper must stay outside of the penalty area and at least 10 yards from the ball. The defending goalkeeper will stand on the goal line, between the goalposts, until the ball is kicked. The player taking the kick must wait until the referee blows the whistle and must kick the ball forward and shall not kick it a second time until it has been touched by another player.

A player committing less flagrant violations such as offsides, goal keeper playback, dangerous plays, obstructing, or unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized by an indirect free kick. (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been touched by a player other than the kicker before entering the goal.)

For all free kicks, the offending team must be at least 10 yards away from the ball until it is kicked. For age groups 4-5-6-7's all free kicks will be direct.

### Red & Yellow Cards:

The referee may give a verbal warning to a player after a foul or misconduct. The next warning issued by the referee for a continued infraction will be the showing of the yellow card. The yellow card signals that a player has received the final warning prior to ejection from the game, and will be recorded by the referee as such. If the infraction continues, or the referee deems an action abusive such as fighting, bad language, or disrespect to the official, a red card shall be issued. A red card signals that a player has been ejected from the game. A substitution is not allowed for the remainder of the game and the player is suspended from the next scheduled league game. For age groups 4-5-6-7's, yellow and red cards will not be used. When a red card is given to a spectator or coach, they are ejected from the playing field. If they do not leave, the referee has the right to terminate the game. After the game, the referee shall notify the league administrator of any red cards issued. Any player issued a red card, will not be able to play in the next scheduled league game.

### Goalkeepers:

Goalkeepers may handle the ball any time the ball is in the penalty area. The goal keeper has six (6) seconds in which to put the ball back into play. Once the goal keeper has fingertip control of the ball, he/she may not be charged, nor be interfered with while attempting to put the ball in play. If a field player deliberately kicks the ball to his/her own goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is not permitted to touch the ball with the hands. If the goalkeeper does touch the ball with the hands, he/she shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the point of infraction.

### Offsides:

A player is offside if he/she is involved in the play and if he is nearer his opponent's goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played by a teammate unless (a) he is in his own half of the field of play, (b) he is not nearer to his/her opponent's goal line than at least two of his/her opponents, (c) the ball was last played by an opponent, or (d) he/she receives the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in. Offsides is not enforced in ages 4-5-6-7's.