



Southern Nevada Soccer Association

Fall 2021 Match Procedures U7-HS Divisions

All coaches, players, spectators, league officials and referees will observe the following match procedures for SNSA Fall 2021 youth recreational league games:

PRE-GAME PROCEDURES

- 1. AT HOME:** Conduct a Health Assessment Survey for the player and any family members attending the game.
- 2. WHAT TO WEAR/BRING:** Each player should wear the league-issued uniform, shin guards and athletic footwear (soccer cleats recommended). Each player should bring a soccer ball and water or other hydration drink. Hand sanitizer is also recommended.
- 3. FACE MASK/DISTANCING:** At this time there are no state or local outdoor mask or distancing mandates. Players and spectators may wear face masks if they wish, and we recommend spectators observe distancing along the sideline.
- 4. CHECK-IN TEAM STAFF:** Team staff should arrive at their assigned field a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff for check-in. Team staff members shall present their staff ID cards or a driver's license to the referee for verification. If a registered coach is unavailable for a game, he or she may designate a parent to serve as acting coach for the game, with prior notification to the league.
- 5. CHECK-IN PLAYERS:** Players should arrive at their assigned field a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff for check-in. The referees will line up the players to check for shin guards and for any illegal items (jewelry, hard casts, illegal shoes etc.). The referee will ask each player's name and will enter each player's jersey number on the game card.
- 6. SIDES OF THE FIELD:** The Home team and its spectators sit along the North or East sideline; the Visiting team and its spectators sit along the South or West sideline.
- 7. TECHNICAL AREA/SEATING:** Registered team staff and players sit or stand in the technical area, designated by a line parallel to the touchline and centered at the halfway line, with a length equal to the diameter of the center circle. Spectators sit along the touchline, outside the technical area at a minimum distance of three (3) yards from the touchline to allow space for throw-ins.
- 8. GAME CARDS:** Game cards will be pre-printed and kept in the possession of the referee.
- 9. JERSEY COLOR CONFLICTS:** If teams have similar jersey colors, the coach of the home team shall secure pinnies for his or her players from the field administrator. Goalkeepers need to wear a shirt that is a different color from both his or her own team and the opposing team.

IN-GAME PROCEDURES

- 1. IN-GAME COVID SAFETY** – The following safety protocol shall be observed during the game:
 - Face masks are optional; we recommend those adults who are not vaccinated wear a face mask.
 - Limit the handling of the game ball to the goalkeeper or throw-ins. If a dead ball needs to be moved or a stray ball returned to the field, do so with the feet.
 - Players should not share water bottles or any food.
 - Players should use hand sanitizer during game breaks and when substituted.
 - Avoid high-fives, handshakes, or any unnecessary form of touching.
- 2. GAME BALL:** The home team shall supply the game ball and locate spare balls near each goal.

3. **GAME DURATION:** The duration of the game is as follows:
 - a. 4v4 Format: four 9-minute quarters with a 1-minute interval between the 1st & 2nd quarters, a 5-minute halftime interval, and a 1-minute interval between the 3rd & 4th quarters.
 - b. 6v6 Format: four 12-minute quarters with a 1-minute interval between the 1st & 2nd quarters, a 5-minute halftime interval, and a 1-minute interval between the 3rd & 4th quarters.
 - c. 8v8 & 11v11 Formats: two 30-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime interval.
4. **KICK-OFF:** The Home team shall kick-off to start the game; the Visiting team shall select the side of the field to defend. For 4v4 and 6v6 formats the Home team kicks off for the 1st & 3rd quarters, and the Visiting team kicks off for the 2nd & 4th quarters. For 8v8 & 11v11 formats the Home team kicks off to start the game and the Visiting team kicks off to start the 2nd half. Teams change ends after halftime.
5. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Rules allow unlimited substitutions on any dead ball. Coaches must ask and receive permission from the referee before making a substitution. The substitute shall enter the field from the halfway line **after** the substituted player has left the field. The substituted player may leave the field at the closest sideline or goal line and return to the technical area. League rules require all players who attend practice regularly receive at least half of the game minutes (or equal minutes, if you have more than 2x the number of players on the field at the game).
6. **REFEREE COMMUNICATIONS:** Referees are instructed to limit communications to registered team staff. Refrain from persistently questioning a referee's calls or verbally abusing the referee in any way. Wait for a dead ball to make a polite inquiry if seeking an explanation about a call or making a rules inquiry. Show respect for the referees at all times.
7. **REFEREE ISSUES:** If a coach believes a referee is failing to ensure the safety of the participants or is misinterpreting the laws of the game, please do not engage in verbal abuse of the referee. Ask the field administrator or referee mentor on duty for rules clarification, or to observe the game if necessary.
8. **SPECTATOR CONTROL:** It is the responsibility of the head coach to try to control the behavior of the spectators along the sideline. Remind parents that they are to limit their communications to positive encouragement of the players on the field. Spectators shall not make comments to or about the referee in an audible manner, and shall refrain from speaking to the players, coaches, or parents of the opposing team. Spectators who engage in such conduct may be asked to leave the field; failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the game.

POST-GAME PROCEDURES

1. **HANDSHAKE/TUNNELS:** Handshakes with players and coaches from the opposing team and with the referee after the game are prohibited for the Fall 2021 season, as is setting up a parent tunnel for players to run through. Hopefully we will be able to resume these post-game traditions next spring.
2. **SNACKS:** Pre-packaged snacks may be distributed to the players during or after the game.
3. **CLEAN-UP:** Please remind your players and spectators to clean up litter along the sideline and exit the area in a timely manner so the team with the next schedule game can get set up. If you wish to have a post-game meeting with your team, please find an alternate location in the park.

EXPECTATIONS

Always remember the games are for the kids! We ask our team staff and parents to please help make the games a pleasant experience for all players on the field, not just the players on your team. All adults need to work together to create a positive atmosphere for our kids to learn and love the game of soccer!

Thank you for your cooperation in complying with league safety protocol and match procedures. Have a safe and fun Fall 2021 season!