

## Farmville Parks & Recreation Rules 2023

1. As a Coach, you are an important representative of our soccer program. Just a good reminder, many players will have their first introductions to soccer via your instruction. The younger they start the more impressionable they are to that experience. Let's make every effort to provide quality instruction and guidance for those we serve. Thanks again for your time and dedication to our community.
2. The rules that follow are subject to modification by Parks & Recreation Staff as needed to ensure the safety of the players as well as protect the game of soccer. Our program follows FIFA rules with some modifications where needed. Please keep in mind some of the referees are first year refs and will make mistakes—please treat them professionally. There will be some exceptions the USSF rules, and hopefully they have all been identified. If you want greater detail, the below website has a pdf of the Laws of the Game—which is updated each year. If you are interested in referring, please visit the USSF (United States Soccer Federation) or NCHSAA websites to be certified.
3. Serious game conduct or playing questions directed at the referee will wait until the appropriate time—after the game and privately. We welcome comments or concerns about how refs are doing both good and bad, as well as changes to exceptions or adjustments to playing rules.
4. A special “local” Rules Modification will be in **bold**. These are in addition to FIFA, and different from exceptions.
5. FIFA Laws of the Game can be found at here: [Laws of the Game \(ussoccer.com\)](http://ussoccer.com)

### Equipment & Dress Code

Shoes – Athletic shoes must be worn. May be soccer cleats, turf shoes or tennis shoes. Metal cleats are not allowed – No leading toe on the cleats (no baseball or football)

Shin guards – **REQUIRED** - No Shin Guards No play! Shin guards should be age and size appropriate and must be covered with soft material or socks. The referees will check these before each game.

Team shirts – must not be defaced or altered in any way from originally issued.

Shirts will be given to the coaches for distribution prior to the first game of the season – sizes that the parent ordered are listed on the roster.

**NO JEWELRY** – No Earrings, watches... etc. (except medical alerts)

No sport bras or camisoles without t-shirt covering at games or practices. Players will be asked to leave the complex if not appropriately dressed.

No hairbows, hairband, hats, hair beads, glasses that are not prescription, nothing knotted or hard.

Medical bracelets or necklaces are allowed if they are taped down (don't cover the medical information).

If wearing a cast player may play with doctor's permission and that the cast is completely covered in at least ½ inch of padding and no hard areas are exposed.

### 6. Start of Play

10 minutes before game time: Referee will conduct a Coin toss

For the kick-off, the ball is placed in a stationary position in the center of the field. The referee will blow the whistle for the start of play for the kick-off.

Opposing players must be outside of the circle and remain on their own half of the field until the ball is kicked

The kicker will not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player

## 7. Schedules

Game Schedule will be posted on the website [www.farmvillencparks.com](http://www.farmvillencparks.com) and a copy will be emailed to the email address listed at the time of registration.

Practice Schedules will be determined by the coaches.

## 8. Volunteer Information/Background Check

Farmville Parks & Recreation will conduct a background check on all coaches, referees, team parents.

Volunteer background check form will be emailed to coaches, referees and be available at Farmville Town Hall.

## 9. Keeping the Fields clean

Please clean up any trash around the bench area after the game. There are trashcans provided.

## 10. Sportsmanship

Please remember that you are a model for the players. Anything you do and say is observed and mimicked. Please try to be positive when talking to the teams.

Reward good sportsmanship on your team. Enjoy the players to be supportive of each other.

No Tobacco at the fields.

No Pets at the fields.

## 11. Referees

Any questions regarding our referees should be directed to the referee director or Farmville Parks & Recreation Staff.

## 12. Inclement Weather

Farmville Parks & Recreation will be in control of the complex with regard to the impact weather has on playing games. We may play in the rain (for the older, 2-4 & 5-6 may reschedule). Farmville Parks & Recreation and the referees will determine the field conditions for the purposes of determining if play will commence or continue during rain. Games that are rained out may be made up if it effects the standings.

Makeup game schedules will be posted on our website

## 13. Ejections

Player will leave the game for a Red Card sendoff offense

The referee determines if the red card offense requires the player to leave the sight of the playing fields

Any player receiving 2 red cards during a season will be reviewed by the referee director, Parks & Recreation Department, and coaches of the teams involved when the red card was served, and the referees of that game before being allowed to play any further in that season. The Parks & Recreation staff will notify the player of the review team before the player's next schedule game.

Coaches –

Referee, director of referees or Parks & Recreation staff will ask the Coach to leave the sight of the playing field if their conduct is not appropriate.

Any ejection of a coach will be reviewed by Parks & Recreation Department to determine if they will return to coaching or if they will have a game or season suspension.

Poor sportsmanship will also result in disciplinary action.

Players or coaches ejected from the game will be required to leave the sight of the playing fields.

**Spectator or parents violating these rules will also be requested to leave the area.**

Cautions

All cautioned players will come out of the game until the next substitution opportunity for that player's team.

#### 14. Injured Player

Injured players will come out of the game until the next substitution opportunity for that player's team.

A player is considered injured if the referee has to blow the whistle and stop the game for a player.

This rule does not apply to a player removed for suspicion of concussion.

#### 15. NO Profanity.

Automatic expulsion from the game and is the penalty.

#### 16. Officials' judgments are final.

Questions of interpretation will be discussed only between the coach, officials and the Parks & Recreation Staff before or immediately following the game.

#### NO Physical Contact

Between players, coaches, spectators, or officials.

Any contact at all with an official may result in legal action.

Forfeit will occur if any team is unable to field at least 7 players at the scheduled game time.

A ten-minute grace period will be allowed from the game time.

2-4 & 5-6 year-old teams will forfeit if they cannot field at least 3 players.

#### 17. Fall Season Tournament Play

##### Tied Game

If a game ends tied during the Fall Tournament a winner will need to be declared.

The Referee will conduct a coin toss to establish which team begins with field position or possession of the ball.

There will be two 5-minute sudden death (gold goal) periods.

A team that first scores during the two 5-minutes sudden death periods is the winner.

Penalty Kick Shootout: If the game is still tied after two 5-minutes sudden death periods, a shoot-out will occur in accord with the Laws of the Game.

Players participating in shootout must have been on the playing field at the end of the sudden death.

Sudden Death Penalty Shootout: If the shootout score is tied after the first 5 players participating in the penalty shootout complete their penalty kick there shall be a sudden death penalty kick shootout until a winner is determined.

The first players in the sudden death penalty kick shootout, dependent upon the number of players on the field, shall not be the first 5 players that participated in the penalty kick shootout.

## **Farmville Parks & Recreation Younger League (2-4 & 5-6 yr. olds)**

### **No Heading**

**Law 1-The Field of Play** will be a reduced dimension field as designated by Farmville Parks & Recreation

**\*A team can have a (1) representative (Coaches or Assistant Coach) on field to assist with the management of the team during the match for the 5-6.**

**Law 2-The Ball: Size Three (3)**

**Law 3 – The Number of Players: Will be determined by the number of players per team, but usually 6 on the field at a time.**

**The number of players can be less but must be equal.**

**Substitutions-Generally, substitutions should take place during the quarter and half-time breaks. However, substitutions can take place as need otherwise.**

**Law 4 – The Players' Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.**

**Law 5 – The Referee: Farmville Parks & Recreation may use certified or non-certified U.S.S.F. registered referees. All rule infringements should be briefly explained to the offending player.**

**Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:**  
2-4 yr. olds 4-6 Minute quarters  
5-6 yr. olds 4-7 Minute quarters

**There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes. There shall be two (2) minutes between the quarters.**

Depending on variables such as heat, number of players or other variables, the coaches can agree to modify the period of time played and/or the number of periods played. The coaches must do so in consultation with the referee.

**Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.**

**Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.**

**Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.**

**Law 11 – Offside: No Offsides, but sportsmanship requires fairness in the positioning of players during the match.**

**Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.**

**All kicks will be indirect free kicks.**

**Law 15 – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.**

**Referee will allow the players to have no more than 2 attempts to properly throw a ball in. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> throw the referee will allow play to continue. (5-6 age group)**

**Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight 4 yards from the ball until it is in play.**

**\*Rules may be slightly modified with the 2-4 & 5-6 age group.**

## Farmville Parks & Recreation Older League (7-9 & 10-13 yr. olds)

### Rules for 7-9

#### No Heading

#### Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The Parks & Recreations Department is responsible for the size of the fields and will endeavor to meet the Laws of the Game requirements.

Length: minimum 45 yards maximum 60 yards Width: minimum 35 yards maximum 45 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) yard from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The goal sizes should be six (6) feet high and twelve (12) feet wide, six (6) feet high by eighteen (18) feet wide or seven (7) feet high by twenty-one (21) feet wide.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

**\*Coaches will be permitted to have an assistant on the opposite side of the field. This coach is positioned on the half of the field diagonally opposite to the team bench and between the halfway line and the “18” or penalty area.**

Law 2 – The Ball: Size Four (4).

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of

an equal number of players. The goal is to play 7 v. 7, however, depending on number of players and teams the number of players may be less than 7 but not less than 6. Each team will have a goalkeeper.

Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at the following times.

1. Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession. **\*Team not in possession may also sub at this time but, ONLY if team WITH possession is subbing.**
2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
3. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play. If the team with the injured player substitutes, the opposing team can substitute a like number.
4. At half-time
5. After a goal by either team.
6. After a yellow card has been awarded, for the player receiving the card. The opposing team can also substitute a player.
7. A substitute may not enter the field of play until they have been given a signal to do so by the referee and until the player substituted for has left the field.

**Playing time: Each player SHALL play in each half of the game and each player shall have playing time equal to half of a game.**

**Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

**Law 5 – The Referee:** Use U.S.S.F. registered referees. All rule infringements should be briefly explained to the offending player.

**Law 6 –The Assistant Referees:** U.S.S.F. registered

**Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty (20) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 10 – The Method of Scoring:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 11 – Offside:** Conform to FIFA. *Should a match only have one referee, all attempts will be made to call offside.*

**Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA with the exception **that no ball may be kicked or punted from one penalty area DIRECTLY IN THE AIR into the opponent’s penalty area. Meaning that if the ball is not played or bounces before reaching the opponent’s penalty area, it is an infraction punished by awarding an indirect free kick to the opponent to be taken from the kick-off spot at mid-field.**

**Law 13 – Free Kicks:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

**Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 15 – The Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 16 – The Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 17 – The Corner Kick:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

### **Rules 10-13**

#### **No Heading**

##### **Law 1 – The Field of Play**

**Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. Farmville Parks and Recreations Department is responsible for the size of the fields and will endeavor to meet the Laws of the Game requirements.

**Length:** minimum 60 yards maximum 80

**yards Width:** minimum 45 yards maximum

55 yards

**Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

**The Goal area:** Conform to FIFA.

**The Penalty Area:** A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost.

These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

**Flag posts:** Conform to FIFA.

**The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.



Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The goal sizes should be six (6) feet high by eighteen (18) feet wide, seven (7) feet high and twenty-one (21) feet wide or eight (8) feet high and twenty-four (24) feet wide.

**Law 2 – The Ball: Size Five (5).**

**Law 3 – The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of an equal number of players. The goal is to play 9 v. 9, however, depending on number of players and teams the number of players may be less than 9 but not less than 7. Each team will have a goalkeeper.

Substitutions may be made, with the approval of the referee, at the following times.

1. Prior to a throw-in, by the team in possession. **\*Team not in possession may also sub at this time but, ONLY if team WITH possession is subbing.**
2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
3. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play. If the team with the injured player substitutes, the opposing team can substitute a like number.
4. At half-time
5. After a goal by either team.
6. After a yellow card has been awarded, for the player receiving the card. The opposing team can also substitute a player.
7. A substitute may not enter the field of play until they have been given a signal to do so by the referee and until the player substituted for has left the field.

**Playing time: Each player SHALL play in each half of the game and each player shall have playing time equal to half of a game.**

**Law 4 – The Players' Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

**Law 5 – The Referee:** Use U.S.S.F. registered referees. All rule infringements should be briefly explained to the offending player.

**Law 6 –The Assistant Referees:** U.S.S.F. registered

**Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 10 – The Method of Scoring:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 11** – Offside: Conform to FIFA. *Should a match only have one referee, all attempts will be made to call offside.*

**Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

**Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.