

SCVAA Soccer
6/7/8 Grade Division Summary

Coaches' Responsibilities:

- Serving as instructor and teacher
- Exhibiting good sportsmanship
- Informing team members regarding schedule changes
- Explaining the rules to youth and parents
- Ensuring equal playing opportunity for all players regardless of skill level.
- Officiating their teams matches in case of referee no-show

Player Equipment (provided by parents/guardians):

- Shin guards; required for safety
- Size 5 soccer ball; recommended
- Goalie gloves if desired
- Molded cleats optional; no metal spikes
- Team jersey and socks from VAA will be provided to each player

Team Equipment (VAA will provide to coaches):

- Equipment bag
- Two size 5 soccer balls
- 2 pairs of goalie gloves (gloves should not be shared)
- A jersey and a pair of socks for each player
- Dozen cones/discs
- Dozen yellow pinnies
- 1 small bottle of hand sanitizer and a first aid kit

Division Format:

- One 60-minute team practice weekly using half of standard size field; coaches choice of practice day and location
- Game are 60 minutes in duration with 2 thirty-minute halves with 5-minute break between halves
- Coaches should coach from sideline unless no referees are available, in which case one coach from each team should function as a referee.
- Due to Covid- no throw ins this year, instead please have players do free kick from sideline with 10 ft buffer.
- Players may be substituted during quarter breaks, on a goal kick, or after a goal scored by either team.
- Substitutions may also be made at a time when you'd typically do a throw-in (now doing a free kick), but only when the team that has possession requests substitution. If the team that has possession requests to make substitutions, both teams may substitute.
- Preferred format is 11 v. 11 with 4 offense, 3 midfield, 3 defense and 1 goalkeeper

Additional Details:

- Player Rotation
 - Players should be given opportunity to try different positions, but may be limited to certain positions by mutual agreement between player and coach.
- Goalkeeper rules:
 - Goalkeeper can only use hands inside both the goalie crease and the larger penalty box.
 - Goalkeeper can only use hands if the ball was last handled by a player from the opposing team. If ball is kicked to the goalkeeper by a teammate, the goalkeeper must handle the ball with his feet as though he were a defender.
 - For goalkeeper safety, forwards should be taught that once a goalkeeper goes down to his knees (or chest) and is arm's length or less away, they need to disengage and not kick the ball one last time. If the goalkeeper mishandles the ball and it pops out by more than an arm's length, the forward may re-engage the ball and attempt a shot on goal.
- No slide tackling! A slide tackle is a player sliding on the ground in to a player and/or the ball feet first. Besides the safety reasons, I always remind my players that when you are off your feet, you are no longer very helpful to your team. Encourage players to stay on their feet!