

HAWKS

Soccer Rule Book

First Edition



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Section 1. Weather

Games:

- At the first sign of inclement weather, league representatives and/or game officials will decide whether to delay or suspend the game(s). The safety and welfare of participants and fans is paramount. Any sign of lightning in the area will delay the game for 30 minutes from the last sign of lightning.
- If inclement weather disrupts game play in the 2nd half, the game will end and will count as full game played. All rescheduled rainouts are at the sole discretion of the soccer director.

Practice:

- The league will send out a cancellation notice due to weather. Head Coaches are not to cancel practices. This enables league administration to know that practices are occurring with all Head Coaches.
- If the league cancels practices' then make up practice time will be available. The current practice schedule is a living google form document that all coaches have access to see if space on fields is available.
- If a Head Coach needs to cancel practice due to unforeseen, circumstances please notify the Director or other league administration.

Section 2. Equipment

Games and equipment shall be as follows:

EQUIPMENT	U4	U6	U8	U10	U12/14
Ball	Size 3	Size 3	Size 4	Size 4	Size 5
Footwear	Sneaker or Soccer Cleat only	Sneaker or Soccer Cleat only	Sneaker or Soccer Cleat only	Sneaker or Soccer Cleat only	Soccer Cleat only, no toe cleat.
Shin Guards	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Player Uniform	Team issued must be worn in game time.	Team issued must be worn in game time.	Team issued must be worn in game time.	Team issued must be worn in game time.	Team issued must be worn in game time.
Coach Uniform	SHHS Coach Shirt	SHHS Coach Shirt	SHHS Coach Shirt	SHHS Coach Shirt	SHHS Coach Shirt

GAMES	U4	U6	U8	U10	U12/14
Players	4 vs 4, Min 3v3	4 vs 4, Min 3v3	7 vs 7, Min 4v4	7 vs 7, Min 4v4	9 vs 9, Min 7v7
Goalkeeper	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duration	4 – 10-minute Quarters, 2-minute break	4 – 10-minute periods, 1-minute break	2 - 20-minute periods	2 – 25-minute periods	2 – 30-minute periods
Halftime	2 min break between quarters	2 min break between quarters	5 minutes, maximum 10 minutes	5 minutes, maximum 10 minutes	5 minutes, maximum 10 minutes
Referee	Head Coaches	Head Coaches	Referees	Referees	Referees
Substitutions	Anytime, Unlimited	Anytime, Unlimited	At throw in, team has possession, with Ref permission.	At throw in, team has possession, with Ref permission.	At throw in, team has possession, with Ref permission.
Playing Time	Each player 50%	Each player 50%	Each player 50%	Each player 50%	Each player 50%
Offside Rule	Not enforced	Not enforced	Not Enforced	Enforced	Enforced

- All players must remove watches, earrings, and any other jewelry that the officials deem hazardous. Earrings may not be worn, even if covered with band-aid or tape. No hair bows or clips. Only hair rubber bands or cloth headbands are allowed. No metal.

Section 3. Medical Devices and Conditions

- All medical devices (casts, supports, braces, etc.) are subject to approval of Referee with respect to player safety.
- Players with medical devices should have them padded in advance of the game and check in with the Head Referee or at the Coaches Table prior to the match for approval.
- Any “special circumstance” player must be made known to all Referees and Head Coaches before the start of every game. Parents are responsible to make any known health condition to their Head Coach as it may affect player’s abilities on and off the field. This is for the safety of every player.

Section 4. Player Placement

- Each team is allowed one Head Coach and One Assistant Coach. As such, each team may begin with a maximum of those coach’s children, if age division appropriate.
- The remainder of the team will be formed by random assignment before the start of the season.
- The maximum number of players per team will be determined based on the total number of players per age group, each season. All team rosters must be updated to reflect jersey numbers assigned to players; updated rosters must be submitted via Head Coach to the Soccer Director prior to the first game.
- Teammate and Coach requests must be made during registration, prior to the start of the season. These requests are not guaranteed.
- The league is coeducational athletics, where teams are formed using both sexes, jointly and evenly, at the same time across all teams. Each team is required to have a minimum of at least one female athlete on the field at any time during game play. *If no female player is available from the roster an exception maybe made if both Coaches and all Referees agree.

Section 5. Practice

- Practice time will be determined by the team’s Head Coach. Times are based on field and Coach availability. Practices will be twice a week, one-hour slots, before the start of the season. One practice is during weekdays and the second practice can only be scheduled on the weekend.
- Please respect the time slots scheduled. Plan to start and end on time. This allows everyone across all athletics to use fields as scheduled.

Section 6. Coaching

- All persons Coaching Spring Hill Hawk's Soccer (SHHS) players must be registered with the league and TN State Soccer Association (TSSA.)
- All Head and Assistant Coaches must complete and submit TSSA SafeSport, Intro to Grassroots Coaching, Concussion form, and Cardiac form prior to the first game of the season. Directions will be sent by the Soccer Director.
- All Head and Assistant Coaches must submit for a background check prior to the first game of the season. Directions will be sent by the Soccer Director.
- Participation in the onsite TSSA Level 1 Coach Training is highly encouraged but is not required for all Coaches. There is no cost for this training as it is league paid. More information can be found at <https://www.cca.thevdoc.com/level1>.
- Only registered/approved Coaches may Coach/Referee games or participate with players during team activities practice.
- Coaches are the only non-players allowed on the field at any time. U6 and under only two Coaches may be on the field total at any time. Spectators are not allowed to enter the field of play, either during practice or a game. This is for the safety of everyone on the field.

Section 7. Referees

- Recreational Referee or higher (Registered 09 recommended) is desired but not mandatory.
- All infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending players.
- Assistant Referees – two (2) (please note, emergencies could cause there to not be an assistant referee)

Section 8. Fields of Play

The SHHS is responsible for providing proper field markings, equipment, and grounds.

Category	U4	U6	U8	U10	U12/U14
Field Size Ranges (Yards)	Length 25-35 Width 15-25	Length 25-35 Width 15-25	Length 55-65 Width 35-45	Length 55-65 Width 35-45	Length 70-80 Width 45-55
Maximum Goal Size (Feet)	Height 4' Width 6'	Height 4' Width 6'	Height 6' Width 12'	Height 6.5' Width 18.5	Height 7' Width 21'
Penalty Area	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corner Flags	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Captains	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coin Toss	None	None	Yes	Yes	Yes

Section 9. Play of Game – Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game, exceptions noted

- Home team is responsible for providing Head Referee a proper size ball that is inflated correctly. Referee discretion on game ball choice. A “backup” game ball should also be Referee inspected and ready for immediate game use.
- Home Team has kick-off at the beginning of the game. Away team has kick-off at the beginning of the second half.
- Opponent must be eight yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.
- A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off. A goal can be scored by a Goalkeeper restart with a kick or punt only in division U12 and up.
- **Ball In and Out of Play**
 - The ball is out of play when it has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air.
 - Play has been stopped by the referee.
 - The ball is in play at all other times.
- **Fouls and Misconduct**
 - All fouls and misconduct will result in a direct kick with the opponent eight yards away.
 - All infractions must be explained to the offending player(s).
 - Slide Tackles are not permitted. Any player engaging in slide tackles should be counseled one time not to repeat. Repeated infractions will result in the player be cautioned with yellow card and or ejected with a red card.
 - No “heading” for any age. If the child purposefully heads the ball it will automatically turn over. The Head Coach or Referee will explain infraction. If a player continues to repeat offense, they will be removed from the game.
- **Referee Ordered Kicks, Direct and Indirect**
 - Free kick– the opponents must be eight yards away before kick is allowed.
 - Penalty kick- FIFA Laws apply, and penalty mark will be 10 yards from the goal.
 - Corner kick- FIFA Laws apply, but opponents must be eight yards from the ball.
 - Goal kick- FIFA Laws apply, but goal kick is taken anywhere within the goal area. Opponents must be at least 8 yards away from kicker. No drop kicks, punts or bounce kicks allowed. U12/14 any form of “punt” is allowed.

- **Player Throw In**
 - U6 and U4 divisions should be instructed to “dribble in” or “pass in” by their Referee / Head Coaches. U8 and up age divisions are a regular “Throw In.”
 - Referee will advise other age divisions by blow of whistle when player may perform throw in. This rule should only be if the Referee has stopped play by blow of whistle or if there is a substitution occurring at the time of the throw-in, which is also on a whistle stoppage. Typically, if the ball goes out of bounds, the team awarded the throw-in can pick it up and throw it in right away. This movement keeps the tempo of the game going. The Referee will blow the whistle and indicate that they need to hold the ball due to the substitution and the hand signal and blown whistle again will tell players they can proceed with the throw-in.
 - Any other age division, the player selected to throw must keep both feet on the ground while the ball is being thrown into play. Further, a portion of both feet must be on or behind the line as the ball is being thrown.
 - The ball must be thrown by player, with two hands, from over his or her head.
 - If there is a foul throw in, the referee must explain the proper method to the player and the opposing team shall be awarded the throw in at the same spot on the field.

Section 10. Scores & Standings

- The league playoffs and score keeping pertain to U8 and up only.
- All scores are to be recorded, U8 and up divisions only, on the game form by the Referee or team designated score keeper and verified by each Head Coach at the conclusion of the match.
- If a result or score is to be protested, the Head Coach that is protesting, should note such on the game form and file a protest in writing to the Soccer Director within 24 hours.
- The Referee or designated score keeper will turn in the completed forms to the Appropriate SHHS Representative at the Coaches’ Table at the conclusion of the match.
- Scores and standings are used to assist in seeding teams for the playoffs.
 - “The Mercy Rule” – there will be a 10-goal mercy rule if the losing Coach requests it be used. The Mercy Rule cannot be applied until the first half has ended and the game is in halftime. The losing Coach must notify the Referee at halftime if invoking it.

Section 11. Sportsmanship, Spectator Expectations, Code of Conduct

- No Spectator is allowed on the field of play at any time during the game. Referee will stop all game play. Spectator will be cautioned and maybe ejected.
- All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well played with a verbal “GOOD GAME.” Due to Covid-19 circumstances it is no longer recommended to high five or handshake.
- Any spectator is encouraged to cheer for players in a respectful and decent manner. No foul language or lewd remarks will be tolerated on the property. Referees, Coaches, and SHHS Administrators have the

right at any time to eject any person or party for violating these rules and conducting themselves in a manner deemed inappropriate around our Community's children.

- Teams shall be seated on the technical area side of the field. Division U6 and U4 may allow parents to sit in the technical area to support young children.
- Coaches are required to remain within their respective technical areas unless invited onto the field of play by the Referee.
- Only official team Coaches and Designated Score Keepers as listed on the game form may be in the technical areas and provide instruction to players. This does not apply to U6 and below age divisions.
- Providing "Coaching" instructions from outside of the technical area is not permitted. No Goal Tender Coaching.
- Spectators shall be seated on the opposite side of the field from the teams. U8 and above age divisions.
- Spectators must remain behind the painted standoff line. Typically, a blue line marking spectator area outside the field of play.
- No one, no coaches, parents, other players, etc. will be allowed behind the goal area while games are in play. This includes the entire width of the playing field.
- No Referee Abuse will be tolerated. Person(s) will be ejected from playing field area. Coaches, players, and spectators maybe cautioned or ejected by the Referee for violation of Code of Conduct and or Referee Abuse.
- Game Officials and SHHS Administration have all authority to prematurely end a game if it is warranted due to violations.
 - **Grounds Clean-Up** is expected by each team and all its' spectators. Trash receptacles are provided throughout the park. Infractions will be noted and "clean up duty" for the entire park will be assigned to teams on a rotation basis to ensure the grounds are properly maintained after games if we cannot keep grounds clean.

- Example of Game Day Field Spectator Layout: Team A is Home; Team B is Away. Home team, team A is closest to the field house and parking lot side of fields. Team B is tree side of fields.
- Coaches are to remain in their Team technical area, Coaches are not allowed to cross the mid field line and enter another team's technical area. Such violation may draw Referee yellow or red sanction.

