



# Rules & Regulations

## 2017 - 2018

# Content

## GBYS Rules& Regulations

- I. MATCH CONDUCT
- II. TEAMS
- III. REGISTRATION
- IV. TRANSFER OF TEAM MEMBERS
- V. DURATION OF REGISTRATION
- VI. EQUIPMENT
- VII. INCIDENTS AND INJURIES
- VIII. GAME SCHEDULE

## PURPOSE OF THESE RULES AND GUIDELINES

The purpose of this supplement is to clarify the Rules for GBYS Soccer which is the 2017-2018 Edition. This supplement supersedes and clarifies all of the rules and pertains to Divisions 1 – 4. Our Mission at **GBYS is to honor Christ by making disciples and teaching them to love God and people.** We believe that our mission will help make soccer at GBYS the best possible soccer experience for all families. This supplement is for distribution to all coaches and parents who participate in the GBYS Soccer program.

## I. MATCH CONDUCT

GBYS Soccer matches shall be conducted in accordance with the current Rules and Regulations.

### A. COMPETITION

1. Coaches, officials and spectators shall not enter the field of play unless requested by the referee.
2. Except for Division 4(Micro) a scheduled match shall not commence nor be continued unless both teams can field the minimum number of players.

### B. DURATION OF MATCHES

1. Matches shall be of two equal halves, not to exceed the following maximum durations:

Division	Maximum Duration of Half
Division 1	35 minutes (17.5 minute quarters)
Division 2	30 minutes (15 minute quarters)
Division 3	20 minutes (10 minute quarters)
Division 4	6 - Seven Minutes Periods

2. Except for Division 4(Micro), half-time periods shall be a minimum of five and a maximum of ten minutes as designated by the referee.
3. Player Safety is paramount. Water breaks are allowed at the referee's discretion when heat conditions warrant this consideration.
4. Where necessary due to scheduling time constraints, the duration of the two halves is to be reduced by an equal amount to allow for substitution in accordance with Article I.C.1.

## C. PLAYING TIME AND SUBSTITUTION

1. Except as noted in Article I.C.3 all eligible team members in attendance at GBYS matches must play at least half of the match, excluding overtime. Such participation is controlled as follows:
  - a. Substitution are allowed only during a regular stoppage in play, and the match is resumed with the appropriate restart (i.e. throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, kick-off, free kick, penalty kick or dropped ball). Only the team with possession of the ball, during regular game play, may request a substitution.
  - b. Substitutions may also be made at half-time and at the start of any overtime periods.
  - c. During such stoppages, the coach of each team may substitute as many teammembers, or none, including previously substituted team members, as long as all eligible team members meet the minimum playing requirements.
  - d. The referee shall allow for any time lost due to substitution or other cause by stopping his/her watch or adding playing time.
  - e. Goal Keepers are only allowed to player two quarters during regular match time and does not include overtime
2. Substitution for injury:
  - a. If a player is injured, the coach may provide a substitute for the player, in which case the injured player may not return until the beginning of the next "quarter".
  - b. The coach may choose to not substitute and "play short" thereby allowing the injured player to return during the "quarter" in which he or she was injured.
  - c. The player must receive a signal from the referee in order to return to the match.
3. Late arriving team members shall be substituted as follows:
  - a. If the team member arrives during the first "quarter", the team member must play a minimum of two of the remaining three "quarters".
  - b. If the team member arrives during the second or third "quarter", the team member must play a minimum of one "quarter".

**D. OFFICIATING**

1. Referees shall officiate in accordance with the current versions of *GBYS Rules & Regulations* and any other Rules and Regulations for Youth Soccer not covered in these Rules and regulations.

**E. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES, REFEREES, OFFICIALS, OTHER VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, TEAM MEMBERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

1. It shall be the duty of each coach, referee, official, other volunteer, spectator, team member and other participant to:
  - a. Conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming of a member of GBYS and consistent with the GBYS Philosophies and the highest standards of conduct.
  - b. Work together as a team in support of the children playing the match and to promote a safe, fair, fun environment.
  - c. Encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship.
  - d. Abstain from making negative comments & complaints about officiating.
  - e. Present a healthy and safe athletic environment for team members, including but not limited to, not consuming alcoholic beverages, using tobacco products or smoking or simulating smoking or the use of tobacco products during practices or matches or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.
2. It shall also be the duty of each coach to:
  - a. Remain within the coaches' area (Article I.G.2) during the match.
  - b. Limit his/her sideline participation during GBYS matches to comments that are positive and/or encouraging.
  - c. Coaches are expected to turn in a completely filled out game card to the referee 15 minutes before game time. Each player shall be listed in order of jersey number with the first and last name. If a player is absent, the player should still be on the card with a notation in the quarters played area i.e. sick or absent.

- d. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the spectators supporting his or her team. Although we enjoy the competitive nature of the game at GBYS, we also want to make sure God is glorified in all that is said and done on the field and on the sidelines.
- e. If the coach has a problem with or a question about the referee's call, he or she can discuss it with that referee after the game, or briefly at the halftime. If the coach needs further clarification or discussion, then they can contact the head referee.
- f. If a coach has any challenge or issue with a player, parent or other coach, they should speak with their Division Director. The Division Director can then address the issue and at their discretion speak with the League Director and/or have that coach speak to the League Director.

## F. SIZE OF BALL

1. Ball size for each division shall be as follows:

Division	Size	Circumference	Weight
1	5	26.5-28.0 inches	14-16 oz.
2	4	25.0-26.5 inches	12-14 oz.
3	4	25.0-26.5 inches	12-14 oz.
4	3	23.0-25.0 inches	10-12 oz.

## G. FIELD OF PLAY

1. The dimensions and markings of the field of play and goals shall be at the discretion of GBYS Soccer. All field sizes are based on the division and available space. All fields will be clearly marked prior to opening day. Adjustments may also be made for goal size, goal box, and penalty box as appropriate.
2. A coaches' technical area on each side of the halfway line shall be marked by two lines off the field of play and perpendicular to the touch line. The area shall be as long as the diameter of the center circle.

3. Spectators should keep at a distance of at least three yards from the touch line. Coaches and officials should help the assistant referees keep spectators at this distance throughout the game.
4. Coaches and spectators shall not be allowed behind the goal lines or end line

#### **H. HEADING THE BALL**

1. Consistent with the US Soccer mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for all divisions in GBYS Soccer.
2. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if any player deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a match.
  - a. The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head.
  - b. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area, must be taken on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head.

#### **I. THROW-INS**

1. Opposing players must be at least two yards from the ball until it has been thrown.
2. Training of throw-in technique may begin at age 7 and up.

#### **K. GOALKEEPER PUNTS**

1. At this time, GBYS Soccer does not have any rules against Goalkeeper punting. Players down field of a goalkeeper's punt are not allowed to head the ball as described in Article I.H.1.

## II. TEAMS

### A. TEAM PARTICIPATION

1. Teams shall participate only in GBYS scheduled matches. No team of the GBYS organization may play in any games or against any teams outside of the GBYS Soccer Program.

### B. TEAM SIZE

1. The following are the recommended team sizes:

Division	Maximum players per team on field	Minimum players per team on field to start a game
1	10 + Goalie	7 + Goalie
2	9 + Goalie	6 + Goalie
3	8 + Goalie	5 + Goalie
4	2 + Goalie	2 + Goalie

2. With the exception of division 4 (micro), teams that can only play with less players than the maximum number of players allowed on the field, but equal to the minimum number of players, may do so. The opposing team is only REQUIRED to reduce the number of players on their team by 1 player. At the discretion of the opposing team, the opposing team may reduce the number of players by more than 1 to allow a more even level of play.
3. Each player is REQUIRED to play at least two quarters each game except for the following:
  - a. Discipline – Decided prior to the game time and explained to the referee and approved by the Division Director



- b. Health and/or Safety – If a player is injured or if a player has some other type of health problem, i.e. asthma attack, he or she may be removed from a game and re-enter in the same quarter.
4. Substitute players from other teams within the same division may be allowed provided that:
- a. The player is a register GBYS player
  - b. The substitute players parents have been notified and approve of the request.
  - c. The substitute players has a bye week for that game day or has had sufficient time to rest either after their previous game or prior to their regularly scheduled game.
  - d. The substitute player may only play as a defensive player. They may NOT play as a goalie, mid-fielder or forward.
  - e. Play-ups are allowed and may only play as a defensive player. They may NOT play as a goalie, mid-fielder or forward.
  - f. Play-downs from other divisions are not allowed.

### III. REGISTRATION

#### A. REGISTRATION AGE

1. The standard age divisions for the Boys and Girls programs are as follows:

Division	Age*
1	11, 12 & 13
2	9 & 10
3	7 & 8
4	4, 5 & 6

\* *Players may play up a division with GBYS league approval*

**B. Cut-off date for age determination is September 1<sup>st</sup>**

1. The effective date of age determination shall be determined by GBYS Soccer and may change year to year. These requirements are typically determined before GBYS Soccer registration is open to the public or before online registration opens up.

**IV. TRANSFER OF TEAM MEMBERS**

**A. PLAYER TRANSFER**

1. After players have been assigned to a team as determined by the GBYS team drafts, players may be reassigned to another team to help accommodate practice schedules or other family request. Transfers are not guaranteed and need to be approved by the division and league director.

**V. DURATION OF REGISTRATION**

**A. TIME**

1. The period of time for open registration is determined by GBYS Soccer and may change year to year.

**VI. EQUIPMENT**

**A. PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

1. Each GBYS Soccer team shall provide for team members to wear a matching team uniform consisting of a jersey, shorts and socks.
2. Athletic footwear (with or without cleats) are permissible in all GBYS competitions subject to the referee's approval regarding their safety. Cleats CANNOT have a single cleat or stud at the toe (such as football or baseball cleats). No steel cleats are allowed.

3. Team members must wear shin guards that provide a reasonable degree of protection, and that are completely covered by their socks, to participate in any practice or match.
4. Team members shall not be allowed to practice or participate in any match with any type of cast or splint. Removal of any type of cast or splint at the field or surrounding area in order to participate shall disqualify the team member from practice or match participation.
5. Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to either themselves or another player, such as any jewelry during games, including but not limited to earrings, necklaces of any kind, or anything a referee considers an issue.
6. Ponytails MUST be held back with a soft rubber band or scrunchies (no hard objects)

## **VII. INCIDENTS AND INJURIES**

1. All incidents, injuries or property damage involving an GBYS participant or occurring at an GBYS event shall be immediately, or within a reasonable amount of time, reported to the Division Director, League Director or any assigned Safety Director.

## **VIII. Game Schedule**

1. Due to rain-outs or other unforeseen circumstances, changes may be made to the game schedule in order to ensure a balance rotation throughout the season. These changes can be made at the sole discretion of the League or Division Director.