



Evanston AYSO Soccer

<https://www.evanstonsoccer.org>

Key Reminders for Coaching 8U

- Games START at the time listed on the website. This is important to keep on schedule and help families with multiple kids make their games. Coaches and players need to arrive 15-20 minutes early to warm up and get ready to play.
- Set up and take down portable goals and flags each week; please secure goals with stakes.
- Ask all parents to download the GameChanger app and use it by Saturday to let you know whether their child is coming. This will help you plan and balance playing time.
- If one team doesn't have enough players (or you have 4 substitutes and they have none), please lend players/mix teams as needed. Players should have both uniforms, and you have pinnies you can use.
- Ask parents and other spectators to sit separately from you and your players so you can keep track of the kids and keep their attention. Involve parents as needed for injuries or managing player behavior.
- Managing player behavior: If players are unable to listen and follow instructions during practice, or otherwise participate appropriately for their age, you can have them sit out an activity or send them over to their parents for a short break (but don't forget about them!). If you need support managing persistent issues, email coach@evanstonsoccer.org or commissioner@evanstonsoccer.org.
- Please let us know about problems or concerns before they escalate! via coach@evanstonsoccer.org and commissioner@evanstonsoccer.org

Game Management:

- Games are 5v5. Make sure you're using a size 3 ball. Switch sides at half time.
- Play 10 minute quarters. Please time the quarters.
- Substitute at the quarter breaks **only** except for injuries. This helps players build endurance and continuity of play.
- Everyone gets equal playing time. Aim to balance total quarters played across games, since not all kids can play the exact same number of quarters each week.
- Referees:
 - If there's a certified referee, they are the referee.
 - If there's no referee, choose 1 or 2 coaches to referee. Coaches who are acting as referees should not be coaching from the field - only instruct players in the rules as needed.
 - Other coaches are not allowed on the field during the game.
- Keep any directions to players during play short and minimal. You should not be directing every move.
- Rule reminders:
 - Players are not allowed to stand in or directly in front of the goals as pseudo-goals. Move them out of the goal areas.
 - Non-kicking team must back up to midfield for goal kicks; they can move when the ball is kicked.
 - Throw-ins: redo improper throw-ins once (provide instruction), then let play go on
 - Focus on instruction over calling penalties, but do call penalties as needed, especially for hand balls and pushing; all free kicks are indirect.
 - Enforce out-of-bounds (full ball must cross the line)
 - Kick-off can be in any direction; first player to kick the ball can only touch it once.
- If teams are clearly unbalanced in skill or the score becomes very uneven, see the laminated cheatsheet for options and strategies.