



## EBYA Soccer – Fall 2025 Rules



Regular season games will be played in \*2 halves\*. This chart specifies the half length and number of players on the field by age group. The number of players INCLUDES the goalkeeper.

Division Name	Legacy Name	Timeframe	Players	Soccer Ball Size
High School COED	HS COED	2 x 35 minutes	11v11 or smaller-sided	5
Middle School Boys/Girls	BOYS 3/GIRLS 3	2 x 30 minutes	11v11 or smaller-sided	5
4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls	BOYS 2/GIRLS 2	2 x 25 minutes	8v8	4
2nd/3rd Grade Boys/Girls	BOYS 1/GIRLS 1	2 x 25 minutes	7v7	4
1st Grade Boys/Girls	COED 6	2 x 20 minutes	6v6	3
Pre-K Boys & Girls Kindergarten Boys & Girls *Note - no goalkeepers	COED 4/COED 5	2 x 20 minutes	3v3	3

\*Division commissioners may communicate alternate formats season-to-season based upon team sizes.

Coaches on the Field: Coaches can be on the field to assist for the Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st Grade Boys/Girls divisions.

Referees for 1st Grade Boys/Girls: In the final \*2\* weeks of the season, referees will be scheduled to manage the game. Coaches are requested to be off the field for the final \*2\* weeks.

All other divisions' Coaches in 2nd/3rd Grade and older are not allowed on the field during the game unless there is an injury and the referee has stopped play.

Coaches on the Sideline: Only approved coaches may be on the coach/player sideline during games.



### **Short-handed, short-sided games**

If both teams are short players, please decrease the length of the halves and increase the break between the halves. You must inform the referee before the game starts of this change.

Players from another team at the same or lower level can play if a team is short players. The team getting the players gets a loss in the league standings for teams with a playoff. These substitute players should play back positions, so the team's regular players can play the forward positions.

### **Regular Season Rules:**

Matches are governed by FIFA rules (<https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/laws-of-the-game-2018-19.pdf?cloudid=khhloe2xoigyna8juxw3>)

\*Please also review the following US Soccer Federation 2025/2026 Laws of Game - Changes and Clarifications - <https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/changes-to-the-laws-of-the-game-2025-26?l=en>

We will not enforce the Goalkeeper - 8 second rule for EBYA Soccer.

**Our soccer league follows the rules above with the following East Brandywine changes:**

- **Player Substitutions occur on the fly at any time during the game**
- **The goal keeper (goalie) can only play ½ of the game in Net.**

### **Red Cards**

If a player or coach is issued a red card, they are suspended from the following game.

### **Slide tackles:**

All sliding tackles are not allowed, and will result in the other team being awarded an indirect kick. Goalkeepers are permitted to slide when making a save, as long as the goalkeeper's effort is not judged to be reckless, and the keeper is going for the ball, not the opposing player.

### **Header Rule:**

Headers are allowed in Boys 3, Girls 3 and HS COED Division Only.



### **Build Out Line for 2nd/3rd Grade Boys/Girls and 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls:**

Build out Line rules are in effect for 2nd/3rd Grade Boys/Girls and 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls. Punting is NOT allowed in 2nd/3rd Grade Boys/Girls and 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls divisions.

The defending teams must retreat beyond the buildout line for goal kicks and when the goalkeeper (goalie) has possession, the goalie cannot punt or perform drop kicks.

Offside is enforced from the Build out Line to the goal, not the center line.

### **Punting**

There is no punting in the 4th/5th Grade divisions and younger.

### **Goal Kicks**

Follow East Brandywine standards, so please inform the referee(s) before each game.

Pre-K and Kindergarten: No goal kicks

1st Grade Boys/Girls: all Goal kicks are from the 10-yard box (Not the goal box)

2nd/3rd Grade Boys/Girls, 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls: all Goal kicks from the 6 yard box with Build Out Line rule

Middle School Boys/Girl, High School COED: all Goal kicks from the 6 yard box

### **Penalty Kicks**

For divisions 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls and younger – there are no penalty kicks during normal game play.

\*Playoff ties for 2nd/3rd Grade Boys/Girls and 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls will still be decided by a penalty kick shootout.

In the divisions 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls and younger – any infraction that occurs in the penalty area will result in a kick (direct or indirect, as appropriate) placed on the penalty line. Players defending inside the penalty area are allowed to protect themselves from the kicks.

### **Throw-In**

- Pre-K/Kindergarten - No throw-in's. Let the player kick the ball in.
- 1st Grade Boys/Girls - Practice throw-in. Let the player re-do until they get it correct.
- 2nd/3rd Grade Boys/Girls and 4th/5th Grade Boys/Girls
  - For the first \*3\* weeks let the player re-do throw-in's until they get it correct.
  - From week \*4\* on, an incorrect throw-in results in the loss of the ball.
- Middle School Boys/Girls and High School COED - an incorrect throw-in results in the loss of the ball

### **Playing time:**

All players should have equal playing time and experience all positions. DO NOT pigeon hole a player into one position on the field. This is a recreational league and every player should experience both forward and back positions during the season.



### **Big Leads:**

If you see the games getting out of hand, please put your best players into a back position to limit the scoring. If you are up by 4 goals you should pull one player or more, and the other team can add a player. Please also encourage the players to pass the ball more or shoot with their weaker foot. Please don't let the score get out-of-hand.

### **Coaching Boundaries:**

No coaching can take place from within the 18-yard line or from behind the goal. Coaches - stay on your half of the sideline. Do not cross the center line. Maximum 3 coaches on the sideline during games. Once distributed, Coach ID Badges must be worn and displayed during games.

### **Fan Boundaries - No Sitting or Standing behind the End Line**

Please ask anyone that is behind the goals to move. Some fields have a trail behind the end line/goal line - fans may sit on the opposite side of the trail from the field. But fans in such location should be aware of the game situation at all times - for errant shots beyond the goal.

Please remember EBYA is a recreational soccer league. EBYA does not allow coaches or parents to coach from the back of the goals and from within the penalty box (18 yard line is smaller for the younger players). Please do not direct the goal keepers (goalies) during a game when to come out and get a ball.

### **Post-game Handshake:**

Coaches and players shake hands after the game. Include the referee where possible.

### **Medical:**

Parents please email/talk to your coaches about special medical conditions or allergies. Please inform the parents of players that need an EpiPen that they or someone responsible that knows how to use one must be at the field for games and practice. Please remind parents not to send players with asthma to the field with their inhaler.

Forearm casts will be permitted in 2nd/3rd Grade through HS COED, provided a doctor's note is given to the commissioners for the age group clearing the player. All casts must be bubble wrapped and inspected by the referee prior to the start of any game. If a referee at any time thinks that the cast is presenting a safety hazard for other players, he or she reserves the right to take the player out of the game.

### **Two-deep Leadership:**

Do not stay at the field waiting for a parent without another adult present. Inform all parents that if someone is late at pickup time, another adult must stay with you.



#### **Weather Guidelines:**

Leave the field and end practice if you hear thunder. If parents are waiting in their cars - Inform the parents to return to the field if they hear thunder to collect their child. Games or practice must end if you hear thunder!!! If the Ref does not hear the thunder - tell the Ref.

In the event of bad weather on Game Day, we will cancel games by 7:00 AM and we will update the website at [www.ebya.org](http://www.ebya.org) The league will also send an email blast to all impacted divisions.

#### **Player/Parents:**

Players must wear shin guards at all times during practices and games. Players cannot participate if they are not wearing shin guards.

No jewelry or removable earrings of any kind can be worn during the game or practice. Note: Please do not have your child's ears pierced during the season. Exception: Band aids or Medical Tape over newly pierced earrings are allowed. Jewelry also includes watches, bracelets, Fitbits, etc.

Hair adornments, such as beads, may be worn in the hair if they are secured to the head and do not present a risk of injury to the player, teammates or opponents.

#### **Post-practice & Post-game Cleanup**

Please review the sidelines after the game and have the kids pick up water bottles and trash that often gets left behind.



All participants, parents and volunteers agree to the EBYA Soccer Parent and Player Code of Conduct upon registration. A copy of the Code of Conduct is displayed on the EBYA Soccer Parent web page: <https://www.ebya.org/Default.aspx?tabid=630835>

*I agree to abide by the EBYA code of conduct.*

*I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.*

*I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan.*

*I will, and I will ask my child to, treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials, with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.*

*I will not undermine EBYA, coaches, or the referees.*

*I will adhere to the highest standards of fair play and sportsmanship.*

*No profanity or intimidating/taunting language or actions will be tolerated.*

*No intimidating mail, email or phone calls to EBYA administrators or referees will be tolerated.*

*Failure to comply with the code of conduct could mean expulsion from EBYA, EBYA events, or cause the team of the offending spectator to forfeit the game.*

Please remember that this is just a game for our kids. Keep this perspective and stay in control!



**Playoff Rules - Fall Season Only:**

If your division participates in post season play, the following rules apply:

- A goal keeper (goalie) can play the entire game during the playoffs
- Game durations will be the same as the regular season. If the score is tied at the end of regulation it will go straight to penalty kicks. Only players on the field of play at the end of regulation can participate in penalties.