

# 5-A-SIDE FESTIVAL FORMAT AND RULES

Spring 2026

## 5-A-SIDE FORMAT

### Saluki and Terrier Brackets

- Each team will be divided into two squads: a Saluki squad and a Terrier squad, with one coach assigned to each. Teams are split into two squads to fit the smaller game format and give players more touches, more scoring chances, and more fun.
- Each squad will play the corresponding Saluki or Terrier squads from other teams within their age division.

### Location & Field Size

- Games will be played on Fields 6 and 7 (the largest fields closest to the playground and K/PreK fields). There will be six festival fields lined within Fields 6 and 7.
- Each field is approximately 35 yards long and 25 yards wide. A large pop-up goal is on each end line with a small goal box in front.

## 5-A-SIDE RULES

- **5v5 is played with a goalie and 4 field players on each team**
  - If a team does not have enough players for 5-a-side, both teams should play with 4 players (a goalie and 3 field players)
  - Must substitute every 2 minutes (at stoppage in play)
- No offside rule is in effect
- The goalie may only use his/her hands in the goal box
  - **Goalie may NOT punt or dropkick the ball**
- Restarts
  - **Every restart (except goal kick and penalty kick) can be passed in or dribbled in**
- **Restart on goal kick taken by goalie with ball in hands inside goal box**
  - **Goalie can either throw or roll the ball out or set the ball down to play out with feet**
  - **As soon as ball is out of goalie's hands (including if goalie sets ball down to play with feet), the ball is in play!**
- Penalty kick awarded only for denial of clear goal scoring opportunity (i.e., intentional hand ball to stop a shot on target, foul on player who is about to score)
- Games may end in a draw
- Tiebreaker shootout only if there is a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a division or needed to decide which team plays in championship or to decide championship game
- Shootout rules
  - One player from each team shoots a penalty against a goalie for the other team
  - If both players make or miss their shot, a different player from each team takes a penalty against the same goalie or a different goalie
    - No player can take a second penalty unless all other players have taken a penalty
  - Go until a round in which one team makes and the other misses

### Game Length

- **8-minute games**