

2025 FALL SOCCER



7-8 Girls & Boys

BPAR SOCCER RULES & COMMITMENT GUIDELINES

1. The BPAR **FALL** Soccer season runs from September to October. It is imperative that coaches, players and parents commit to their scheduled games.
2. A player or team may participate in other leagues or tournaments but not interfere with BPAR games. Missing BPAR games for outside events may result in forfeits or removal from the program. **Starting 2026**, BPAR players may **NOT** play in more than 1 soccer league **OR** team during the BPAR playing season.
3. **Only registered players may participate.** Players are only allowed to play for the one BPAR team they were officially assigned to at the start of the season. Fill-in players, including those from other teams or age groups, are not permitted. Any violation of this rule will result in an automatic forfeit.
4. Coaches must attend the preseason meeting where additional rules and clarifications will be addressed.
5. Coaches must check emails regularly for league updates, as it will be the main correspondence from BPAR.
6. FIFA rules apply with local exceptions & points of emphasis. BPAR may adjust rules, as needed, to maintain league integrity. The rules listed below are NOT all inclusive.

GAME SCHEDULING

- If a division has an odd number of teams, teams may be required to play more than the standard seven (7) games. BPAR will strive to ensure that all teams have as equal a number of games as possible.

PLAYER AGE & ASSIGNMENT

- Playing Age is as of September 30th, 2025.
- Coaches may turn in a roster for requested players. Furthermore, players will be assigned to teams, first by the players' residential zip code or school attended. Players may be assigned to teams not within their residential zip code or school attended to accommodate the league.

PLAYER SAFETY

1. To protect the safety of all players in the program, any participant wearing a cast will prohibit them from participating in BPAR games or practices. Exceptions can be made with approval from the Youth Sports Supervisor and documented approval from a physician.
2. Soft casts will be permitted if approved by officials.
3. All types of jewelry or headbands (earrings, bracelets, necklaces, metal barrettes, hair beads, hair clasps etc.) or hats must be removed before the game.
4. Adaptive or medical aids are approved on a case-by-case basis.

PROTESTS

There are no game protests in this league. All game official and/or BPAR staff decisions are final.

WEATHER

- Games will proceed in rain but will be canceled for lightning or any weather creating unsafe conditions.
- **Weather-Interrupted Games:** If a game is stopped due to severe weather after reaching halftime, it will be considered a complete game and will not be rescheduled. **If the game is stopped before halftime**, it will be rescheduled and resume from the point it was stopped, including half, possession, and score.
- BPAR officials will assess field conditions and may shorten periods, suspend, or cancel games if fields become unsafe due to heavy rain.
- **Communication** regarding cancellations or weather updates will be sent by email to head coaches and/or parents.
- In the case of multiple cancellations, the schedule may be adjusted (e.g., doubleheaders), but rescheduling is not guaranteed due to external factors.
- BPAR's goal is to do our best to provide every team with the standard 7 games each season. However, **we will not schedule beyond November 1st** as stated in the registration, in order to respect all participants' time and previously planned commitments.
- If a rescheduled game cannot be made up by one or both teams involved, it will result in a forfeit and will not be rescheduled at a later date.

UNIFORM

1. Each player must have on their BPAR issued jersey. Advertisements are not allowed. Individuals or teams are allowed to have players name on the back of the jersey.
2. Age specific shin guards underneath their socks are **required**.
3. **Cleats are recommended** but not required. Players may wear any color cleats, but they **must be soccer-specific—NO football cleats** (cleats with a front toe stud) or **metal/steel cleats** are allowed.
4. **Shorts:** Any Color, No pockets, Entire team must be uniform **Socks:** Black, white, or team color
5. Non-uniform/Under kit clothing is allowed but must match the uniform color or black.

SPORTSMANSHIP – Coaches, Players & Spectators

- **Unsportsmanlike / Unbecoming Behavior**

- Unsportsmanlike behavior toward officials, coaches, players, teams, or spectators is strictly prohibited.
- BPAR staff and officials have the authority to determine inappropriate conduct **by coaches, players, teams or spectators** including but not limited to intoxication, verbal abuse, taunting, profanity, or physical intimidation.
- Offenders will be required to leave the event immediately and may face permanent bans from BPAR events.

- **Game Safety & Enforcement**

- Officials may end a game if the atmosphere is unsafe or violates BPAR values.
- Any conduct, which is deemed unsportsmanlike in the opinion of the referee, will result in a warning. Depending on the severity, the game may be stopped, and the player, coach, or spectator may be ejected from the game without a warning.
 - Ejected individuals must leave immediately.
 - The game will not continue until the ejected party has left the premises.
 - If they do not leave, the referee will forfeit the game immediately and award the win to the opposing team.

- **Suspensions & Dismissals**

- If ejected, that individual would fall under suspension from BPAR and would not be allowed on any BPAR premises until reinstated by BPAR.
- Ejected individuals may face suspensions ranging from one (1) game to the entire season.
- If a 2nd ejection occurs, they will subject to dismissal from the BPAR league.
- BPAR reserves the right to remove any coach, player, or spectator at any time for unsportsmanlike or unbecoming misconduct for a BPAR event.

See the *Cautions* section for more details on the handling of yellow and red cards.

COACHES

- Must show respect toward ***spectators, opponents, referees*** and BPAR staff.
- A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed on the sideline during the game.
- One (1) coach per team may be on the field for instructional purposes but must stay along the sides, not in the middle or near the goals.
- Inform parents about the consequences of inappropriate behavior towards officials.
- Are responsible for cleaning up their bench area after the game.
- **BPAR-Specific Rule:** BPAR assigns officials; if BPAR officials are unavailable, coaches must referee the game. Games will stop 50 minutes after the scheduled start time to maintain scheduling.

SPECTATORS

- Must show respect toward other spectators, players, coaches, referees and BPAR staff.
- Must sit on the opposite side of the field from players and **behind the outermost line**.
- Are NOT allowed to sit or stand behind the soccer goals.
- Anyone using inappropriate language or yelling at anyone will be required to leave the field.

REFEREES

- The referee is the **final** authority on the field.
- Disrespectful words or behavior toward referees will not be tolerated.
- Games may be stopped, suspended, or terminated due to interference from coaches, players, or spectators.
- Referees can remove coaches, players, parents, or spectators if necessary to maintain control and a positive atmosphere.
- **BPAR-Specific Rule:** BPAR assigns officials; if BPAR officials are unavailable, coaches must referee the game. Games will stop 50 minutes after the scheduled start time to maintain scheduling.

7-8 Girls & Boys Basic Breakdown – 7 Game Season – No Playoffs

Age Division (as of Sept. 2024)	# Players on Field (Includes Goalie)	Goalie	Game Length* (5 Min. Half-Time)	Offsides	Heading	Yellow/Red Cards	Ball Size	Goal Size	Field Size
7 - 8 yrs	7 v 7	Yes	2 x 20 min halves	No	No	Yes	3	6.5'H x 12'W	35 yds x 50 yds

SOCCER RULES

NOT ALLOWED in 7-8's

- Heading – Intentionally, hitting the ball with the forehead to control it
- Slide Tackling – a defensive move, where a player slides on the ground to take the ball from an opposing player.
- Hand Ball – Will result in a free kick taken from the point of the foul.
- Offsides – when the offense is in the opponent's half of the field and closer to the goal than the ball and the second-to-last defender. **Offsides will not be enforced; however, after three warnings to the same team, the referee will call a foul.**
- No Rough Play is allowed.

PLAYERS & GOALIE

- Games are played with 7 vs. 7 on the field.
- This division uses a goalkeeper, who must wear a different-colored jersey than their teammates.
 - BPAR provides a limited supply of pennies for goalkeepers on game days.
- **Everyone must play and No player is allowed to play the entire game, except for the goal keeper.**

PLAYER PRIVILEGES

All players may play the ball with their feet, head, knees, chest, body, or shoulders. Only the goalie may touch the ball with upper arms, forearms, or hands as long as they remain in the penalty area.

START OF PLAY/ KICK OFF

To start a game, a half and after a goal, the kick-off is performed at the mid-field line by one of the offensive players.

The ball will be considered in play when it has been kicked and is moving in any direction. The defensive team must line up ten (10) yards away from the ball (outside of the circle) and cannot touch the ball until it is in play. Both teams must be in their respective halves of the field at the kick-off. **The player kicking off cannot touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.**

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions are allowed during the following situations:

- Restarts of play, your own throw-in, your opponent's throw-in, if they are also substituting
- Goal kicks or after a goal is scored
- If a player becomes ill or injured
- If a player receives a yellow card
 - They may be substituted, and the opposing team may match the sub
- If a player receives a red card
 - They must leave the field, and the opposing team may match the sub
- **Additional Guidelines:**
 - Teams must request substitution permission from the referee
 - Substitutes should kneel at the midfield line before requesting to enter
 - No player may enter the field until the referee signals them on

RESTART

When a ball goes out of play, the game is restarted by one of the following:

- The ball crosses over the sidelines, a throw-in will be taken.
 - **Throw-Ins:** The ball must start behind the players head with 2 hands on the ball & 2 feet on the ground. The player must follow through after the throw.
 - If a foul throw-in occurs, the coach explains the correct method & allows the throw-in to be retaken by the same player one (1) more time.
 - If the player repeats the foul, the other team gets possession & must throw it in.
 - This is an instructional rule; please use it to help the player learn.
- The ball crosses over the end line and was
 - Last touched by the attacking team, a goal kick is awarded.
 - Last touched by the defending team, a corner kick is awarded. Any offensive player may take the kick.

KICKS

All opposing players must be at least *ten (10) yards* from the ball on all free kicks, goal kicks, or corner kicks. Player kicking the ball is not allowed to touch the ball again until another player touches it.

SCORING

- A ball that is kicked between, but not over the goalposts at the opponent's goal line, is considered a score equal to one (1) point. The ball must be completely over the entire goal line to be considered a goal. **The ball does not have to touch the net to be considered a goal.**
- Goals can be scored anywhere on the field. Goals may not be scored directly from a throw in.
- Scores will be recorded and published online.

FOULS, MISCONDUCT & PENALTIES

- All Fouls (tripping, pushing, handling the ball, etc.) result in a free kick taken from the point of the foul.
- If the foul occurs within the penalty area, the ball is placed approximately 2 yards in front of the penalty area and an indirect free kick will be taken.
- An indirect free kick means the ball must be touched by another player (not the kicker) before it can be kicked into the goal to score.

DIRECT FREE KICKS

A direct free kick is awarded to the team fouled by a member of the opposing team after the fouls listed below occur outside the penalty area by either team. A direct free kick is awarded to the opponents at the spot of the foul. The ball is placed on the ground and may be kicked in any direction. The defending team may block the ball but must be standing at least ten (10) yards from the ball when it is kicked. A direct free kick can score a goal if it passes through the goal. It does not need to touch another player to be a good goal.

Foul(s) made:

- Handball (except for the goalie). Cannot touch with upper arm, forearm, or hand.
- Carrying or handling the ball outside the penalty area (goalie).

INDIRECT FREE KICKS

An indirect free kick is awarded to the team fouled by a member of the opposing team if any of the below occurs. **The indirect free kick cannot score a goal until another player other than the kicker has touched the ball.** Regardless of if the foul occurred inside or outside the penalty area, the indirect free kick is awarded to the opponents at the point of the foul.

Foul(s) made:

- If the goalie carries the ball more than five (5) seconds.
- Charging the goalie or any player when he does not have the ball.
- A player collision that the referee deems significant enough to warrant a foul.
- Playing or attempting to play a ball held by the goalie, or interfering with the goalie as he attempts to clear the ball.
- If the kicker or thrower plays the ball before a second player touches it on a throw-in, free kick, corner kick, or penalty kick.
- If the ball is not kicked forward on a penalty kick.
- If a player stands closer than ten (10) yards at the time of an indirect or direct free kick.
- Any obstruction other than holding.
- Intentional pass back to the goalie. The goalie may not use his or her hands if the ball is passed back from his or her own team.
- Illegal Headers.

PENALTY KICKS

1. A penalty kick is awarded as punishment for any infringement of the rules which ordinarily requires the awarding of a direct free kick if the foul is committed by a defending player within the penalty area.
2. The foul must be deliberate. A defensive player should never make a penalty kick. When awarded, the penalty kick will be made from the penalty spot.
3. All players, except for the players taking the kick and defending the goalkeeper, must be outside of the penalty area. The ball must be kicked forward. If a foul is committed by the attacking team inside the opposing team's penalty area, the defending team will be awarded a direct free-kick from the point of the foul.

CAUTIONS

YELLOW CARD (CAUTION)

Player Cautions:

- **A player may be cautioned (shown a yellow card) for reasons including, but not limited to:** persistent fouling, dissent (arguing with the referee), delaying the restart of play (time-wasting), unsporting behavior, failing to respect the required distance during restarts (free kicks or throw-ins), or entering/leaving the field without the referee's permission.
- Not all fouls warrant a yellow card. A player may be shown a caution if, in the opinion of the referee, the player has acted unsportsmanlike (as defined by BPAR), carelessly, recklessly, with excessive force, or dangerously.

Player In-Game Consequences:

- Player is warned and may stay in the game (coach may sub for a "cool down").
- Referees will briefly **explain the reason** for the caution if needed.
- Two yellow cards = red card (ejection).

Coach Cautions:

- A coach may be cautioned (shown a yellow card) for reasons including, but not limited to, dissent, unsporting behavior, or failure to control sideline conduct.

RED CARD (EJECTION)

Player Ejections:

- **A player may be sent off (shown a red card) for reasons including, but not limited to:** violent conduct or serious foul play, using offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures, spitting, or denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by handball or foul. A second yellow card in the same match will also result in a red card and ejection.
- A player may be shown a red card and sent off, in the opinion of the referee, for slide tackling, causing bodily harm, continued violations, inappropriate behavior, unsportsmanlike conduct (as defined by BPAR), or any other form of dangerous play.

Player In-Game Consequences:

- Player is ejected and cannot be replaced. Team plays down one player.
- The player must leave the field and may remain on the bench, unless the referee directs them to leave the complex.
- Referee files a game report describing the incident.

Coach Ejections:

- If a coach is shown a red card, they must leave the complex immediately.
- The game will not continue until the ejected party has left the premises.
- If they do not leave, the referee will forfeit the game immediately and award the win to the opposing team.
- Coaches may not communicate with the team or referee once ejected.

Post-Game Consequences:

Player:

- 1 Red Card or 2nd Yellow Card in Same Game = Ejection
- Red Card = Automatic 1 game suspension
- Multiple yellow cards over multiple games (typically 3) may result in a 1-game suspension.
- Serious misconduct (ex. Fighting, referee abuse) may result in multiple-game suspensions or possible removal from the league, pending BPAR review.
- Ejected individuals may face suspensions ranging from one (1) game to the entire season.
- BPAR has the right to review any and all actions as it pertains to BPAR events and the persons involved.

Coach:

- The ejected coach would fall under BPAR suspension and would not be allowed on any BPAR premises until reinstated by BPAR.
- Ejected individuals may face suspensions ranging from one (1) game to the entire season.