

## Hampshire Township Park District 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> (U8)

### 2024 Rules

1. Use a #3 ball and we inflate it about 85-90%.
2. Preferably 7 vs 7. There will be a goalie.
3. We will play 9 minute "running clock" quarters. Coaches are free to substitute players at any time to make sure playing time is equal.
4. All free kicks will be indirect (a second player must touch the ball before a goal can be scored)
5. No standings will be kept.
6. There are no offsides calls. However, intentional offsides will not be tolerated.
7. No sliding. We would like the children to remain on their feet.
8. Goal kicks will happen from the corner of the goalie box. Corner kicks will be taken from the flags when the defense last touched the ball and the ball crosses the end line.
9. Players should play all positions. With equal playing time for all participants. Try to keep at least 2-3 players back on defense to help spread out players. Coaches may use whatever formation they choose.
10. Penalty kicks will be called when applicable. Either intentional hand ball in the penalty box, or player foul within the penalty box. Penalty kicks will be taken from the penalty spot. When a coach chooses a player for a penalty kick due to hand ball calls in the penalty box, they should choose a different player each time to create equal opportunities for all players.
11. No Jewelry, watches and anything else the refs proclaim unsafe will be allowed.
12. When a goalie has control of the ball, the defense must retreat to the midfield line. The defense cannot cross the midfield until the other team touches the ball or the ball crosses midfield.
13. Plastic cleats or tennis shoes are appropriate for play. Shin guards are mandatory
14. If a team has a 4 goal lead, the trailing team may add one player on the field. This player may play offense or defense. If a team has an 8 goal lead, the trailing team may another player to the field to play offense or defense (9v7).
15. No spectators will be allowed on the same side as players and coaches.
16. Please do your best to keep games close. Even though we don't keep standings, the players usually are aware of both. Our goal is to keep kids interested in the game and looking forward to coming back to play each practice and game. Lastly, please remain positive at all times towards players, refs, and spectators. Nobody likes to be berated and belittled. Treat others how you want to be treated!