

## **CHEMUNG VALLEY SOCCER ASSOCIATION HOUSE LEAGUE LAWS**

The CVSA has established some special rules to govern the different age groups. Rules for the younger age groups are intended to provide more time with the ball and to create a learning atmosphere in which the basic skills can be developed and enhanced. As the players advance to the older age groups, competition becomes more important and the rules of the game are more strictly enforced. Any situation not covered by a special House League Law as stated in the enclosed, will be governed by the F.I.F.A. "Laws of the Game", with the approval of the C.V.S.A. Board of Directors.

Approved:  
March 2017

100 & 200 Teams  
6 & 7 year olds  
Small Size Field

The special rules of this age group are intended to DE-EMPHASIZE THE COMPETITIVE ASPECT of the game, and promote the fun element. Parents and coaches should keep in mind that these youngsters are very sensitive and need to be **ENCOURAGED** to learn the basics.

1. **BALL** – Size 3.
2. **PLAYERS** – 6 per side, including a goalkeeper. Minimum players needed for a game is 5. Coaches are required to play down to minimum number of players if opposing team only has minimum number.
3. **DURATION** – Two 25 minute periods – 5 minutes between periods – **NO OVERTIME** in this age group. If quarters are requested by either coach, play 12 min per quarter. No added time for normal injuries/delays during the game.
4. **SUBSTITUTIONS – UNLIMITED – ANY TIME**, provided substitution is not done to delay the game. Sub must **TAG** (touch) player he/she is replacing before he/she can play the ball.
5. **KICK OFF** – The ball can be kicked in any direction but cannot be touched by the player taking the kick until it has been touched by another player on the field.
6. **FOULS** – All fouls result in an indirect free kick from the place of foul. **NO PENALTY KICKS / NO DIRECT KICKS** in this age group.
7. **GOAL KICKS** – Will be taken from the line 6 yards from the goal line. On indirect free kicks and goal kicks, opponents must be at a **MINIMUM** of 6 yards away from the ball.
8. **IMPROPER THROW-IN** – Shall be **REPEATED ONCE**. Referee may instruct players after **FIRST INSTANCE ONLY**. Second incorrect throw-in results in a throw-in **AWARDED TO THE OTHER TEAM**. *Note: FIFA Laws of the Game pg. 39-18 states that players are forbidden from standing directly in front of the footballer who is taking the throw-in so as to harass him.*
9. **DANGEROUS PLAYS AND SLIDING TACKLES** – This play **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED**. The first violation results in a warning. The second violation will result in removal from the game for the duration of the remaining half.
10. **HEADING** - Player at this level **SHALL NOT** head the ball directly from the air during any match. If a player deliberately heads the ball during a match, the referee will award an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction. If the heading occurs within the penalty area, the referee shall move the ball outside the penalty area and award an indirect free kick to

the opposing team. Players are also strongly discouraged from heading the ball during practices.

- 11. GOALKEEPER** – Each team must play **AT LEAST TWO PLAYERS AS GOALKEEPER** in each game. **MAXIMUM PLAYER TIME AS GOALKEEPER IS ½ OF GAME.** Each goalkeeper **MUST SPEND TIME EACH GAME IN A FIELD POSITION.**
- 12.** To encourage players to learn the **OFFSIDE LAW**, no player will be allowed to **CONTINUALLY** remain in an **OFFSIDE** position. If the situation persists, the referee can award an indirect free kick in favor of the other team.
- 13. COACHES ARE NOT TO BE ON THE FIELD** during the play of the game. **EXCEPTION:** When the referee calls the coach out onto the field because of an injured player. In this case the player must be removed from the field, **FOR SAFETY REASONS**, for a reasonable period of time to allow the player time to recover from the injury. The injured player can be substituted.
- 14. NO PLAY-OFFS OR STANDINGS** with this age group.
- 15. ALL PLAYERS** are required to wear **SHIN GUARDS FOR SAFETY REASONS.**
- 16. FOOTWEAR** - Shoes with rubber cleats are not required but are strongly encouraged, especially for U7 division and above. The following types of cleats are prohibited:
  - Metal cleats of any kind will not be permitted.
  - Shoes with toe cleats (i.e. baseball, football, lacrosse cleats), the toe cleat is in a prime position to cause injury to the feet, shins and knees of another player.

The referee has the final say on whether the footwear is safe for play.

- 17.** No player may wear any equipment that, in the opinion of the referee, could be hazardous to another player or himself. This includes non-orthodontic braces, watches, barrettes, rings, earrings, etc. This also includes improper shin guards. (Only the sock-type or socks over shin guards are allowed.)
- 18.** Goalkeeper must wear an official shirt of a color different from the colors of either team.
- 19.** All hats must be approved by the referee. Head bands may be worn only to control player's hair or perspiration. All hoods must be tucked in shirts. Goalkeepers are allowed to wear gloves, all other players can wear gloves but not of a goalkeeper type.

300, 400 & 500 Teams  
8, 9 & 10 year olds  
Mid Size Field

1. **BALL** – Size 4.
2. **PLAYERS** – 9 per side, including a goalkeeper. Minimum players needed for a game is 7. Coaches are required to play down to minimum number of players if opposing team only has minimum number.
3. **DURATION** – Two 25 minute periods – 5 minutes between periods – **NO OVERTIME** in this age group. If quarters are requested by either coach, play 12 min per quarter. No added time for normal injuries/delays during the game.
4. **SUBSTITUTIONS** – Substitutions will be made only with the consent of the referee, at the following times:
  - Prior to a throw in by the team in possession.
  - Prior to a goal kick by either team.
  - Prior to a corner kick by the team in possession. (“Taking the kick”)
  - After a goal by either team.
  - After an injury, when the referee stops the play. (only for the injured player)
  - At half time.
5. **KICK OFF** – The ball can be kicked in any direction but cannot be touched by the player taking the kick until it has been touched by another player on the field.
6. **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT** – Conform to FIFA, listed as FIFA Laws.

**Fouls from which direct free-kicks are awarded:**

- Charging from behind, unless opponent is obstructing.
- Charging opponent in a violent or dangerous manner.
- Jumping at opponent.
- Tripping at opponent.
- Kicking or attempting to kick opponent.
- Striking or attempting to strike or spitting at opponent.
- Pushing opponent.
- Holding opponent.
- Handling the ball (except by goalkeeper in his own penalty-area).
- Slide tackles.

To be penalized, one of the above fouls must be committed **INTENTIONALLY TO THE EYES OF THE REFEREE, NOT COACHES OR PARENTS.**

**Fouls from which indirect free-kicks are awarded:**

- Dangerous play.
- Fair charge when ball is not within playing distance.

- When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent.
- Charging a goalkeeper, unless he leaves the penalty-area.
- When playing as a goalkeeper, taking more than four steps while in possession of the ball, or otherwise intentionally wasting time.
- When a player is in the off-side position.
- Intentionally heading the ball from the air

## 7. MISCONDUCT – THE YELLOW AND RED CARDS

### Misconduct resulting in cautions (yellow card)

- Dissent with referee's decision.
- Ungentlemanly conduct.
- Persistent infringement of the laws.
- Entering, re-entering or leaving the field of play without receiving a signal from the referee.

### Misconduct resulting in ejections (red card)

- Serious foul play or violent conduct.
- Abusive or foul language.
- Persisting in misconduct after having received a caution (i.e. committing a second cautionable offense).

If a red card call is made during a game, the person who received the red card (player or coach) will be ejected for the rest of the game and the next scheduled game. The player(s) or coach(es) can be substituted so the team can play with the full number of players (9) and a coach. **MORE THAN ONE PLAYER OR COACH FROM THE SAME TEAM CAN BE EJECTED FROM THE SAME GAME.**

If the red card call is made after the game is finished, the player(s) or coach(es) will not be allowed to play or coach during the next game.

8. On a direct free kick, indirect free kick, corner kick and penalty kick opponents must be at a **MINIMUM** of 8 yards away from the ball.
9. **IMPROPER THROW-IN** – will result in a throw-in **AWARDED TO THE OTHER TEAM.** *Note: FIFA Laws of the Game pg. 39-18 states that players are forbidden from standing directly in front of the footballer who is taking the throw-in so as to harass him.*
10. **HEADING** - Player at this level **SHALL NOT** head the ball directly from the air during any match. If a player deliberately heads the ball during a match, the referee will award an indirect free kick at the spot of the infraction. If the heading occurs within the penalty area, the referee shall move the ball outside the penalty area and award an indirect free kick to the opposing team. Players are also strongly discouraged from heading the ball during practices.

**11. GOALKEEPER** – Each team must play **AT LEAST TWO PLAYERS AS GOALKEEPER** in each game. **MAXIMUM PLAYER TIME AS GOALKEEPER IS ½ OF GAME.** Each goalkeeper **MUST SPEND TIME EACH GAME IN A FIELD POSITION.**

**12. OFFSIDE LAW** – Conform to FIFA.

**13. COACHES ARE NOT TO BE ON THE FIELD** during the play of the game. **EXCEPTION:** When the referee calls the coach out onto the field because of an injured player. In this case the player must be removed from the field, **FOR SAFETY REASONS,** for a reasonable period of time to allow the player time to recover from the injury. The injured player can be substituted.

**14. NO PLAY-OFFS OR STANDINGS** with this age group.

**15. ALL PLAYERS** are required to wear **SHIN GUARDS FOR SAFETY REASONS.**

**16. FOOTWEAR** - Shoes with rubber cleats are not required but are strongly encouraged, especially for U7 division and above. The following types of cleats are prohibited:

- Metal cleats of any kind will not be permitted.
- Shoes with toe cleats (i.e. baseball, football, lacrosse cleats), the toe cleat is in a prime position to cause injury to the feet, shins and knees of another player.

The referee has the final say on whether the footwear is safe for play.

**17.** No player may wear any equipment that, in the opinion of the referee, could be hazardous to another player or himself. This includes non-orthodontic braces, watches, barrettes, rings, earrings, etc. This also includes improper shin guards. (Only the sock-type or socks over shin guards are allowed.)

**18.** Goalkeeper must wear an official shirt of a color different from the colors of either team.

**19.** All hats must be approved by the referee. Head bands may be worn only to control player's hair or perspiration. All hoods must be tucked in shirts. Goalkeepers are allowed to wear gloves, all other players can wear gloves but not of a goalkeeper type.

600 & 700 Teams  
11-12 & 13-14 year olds  
Large Size Field

1. **BALL** – Size 5
2. **PLAYERS** – 11 per side, including a goalkeeper. Minimum players needed for a game is 9. Coaches are required to play down to minimum number of players if opposing team only has minimum number.
3. **DURATION** – Two 30 minute periods for the 600 and two 35 minute periods for the 700. Both have 5 minutes between periods.
4. **SUBSTITUTIONS** – Substitutions will be made only with the consent of the referee, at the following times:
  - Prior to a throw in by the team in possession.
  - Prior to a goal kick by either team.
  - Prior to a corner kick by the team in possession. (“Taking the kick”)
  - After a goal by either team.
  - After an injury, when the referee stops the play. (only for the injured player)
  - At half time.
5. **KICK OFF** – The ball can be kicked in any direction but cannot be touched by the player taking the kick until it has been touched by another player on the field.
6. **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT** – Conform to FIFA, listed as FIFA Laws.

**Fouls from which direct free-kicks are awarded:**

- Charging from behind, unless opponent is obstructing.
- Charging opponent in a violent or dangerous manner.
- Jumping at opponent.
- Tripping at opponent.
- Kicking or attempting to kick opponent.
- Striking or attempting to strike or spitting at opponent.
- Pushing opponent.
- Holding opponent.
- Handling the ball (except by goalkeeper in his own penalty-area).
- Slide Tackles

To be penalized, one of the above fouls must be committed **INTENTIONALLY TO THE EYES OF THE REFEREE, NOT COACHES OR PARENTS.**

**Fouls from which indirect free-kicks are awarded:**

- Dangerous play.
- Fair charge when ball is not within playing distance.
- When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent.

- Charging a goalkeeper, unless he leaves the penalty-area.
- When playing as a goalkeeper, taking more than four steps while in possession of the ball, or otherwise intentionally wasting time.
- When a player is in the off-side position.

## 7. MISCONDUCT – THE YELLOW AND RED CARDS

### Misconduct resulting in cautions (yellow card)

- Dissent with referee's decision.
- Ungentlemanly conduct.
- Persistent infringement of the laws.
- Entering, re-entering or leaving the field of play without receiving a signal from the referee.

### Misconduct resulting in ejections (red card)

- Serious foul play or violent conduct.
- Abusive or foul language.
- Persisting in misconduct after having received a caution (i.e. committing a second cautionable offense).

If a red card call is made during a game, the person who received the red card (player or coach) will be ejected for the rest of the game and the next scheduled game. The team will play short one player for the rest of the game; the coach can be substituted. **MORE THAN ONE PLAYER OR COACH FROM THE SAME TEAM CAN BE EJECTED FROM THE SAME GAME.**

If the red card call is made after the game is finished, the player(s) or coach(es) will not be allowed to play or coach during the next game.

8. On a direct free kick, indirect free kick, goal kick, corner kick and penalty kick opponents must be at a **MINIMUM** of 10 yards away from the ball.
9. **IMPROPER THROW-IN** – will result in a throw-in **AWARDED TO THE OTHER TEAM.** *Note: FIFA Laws of the Game pg. 39-18 states that players are forbidden from standing directly in front of the footballer who is taking the throw-in so as to harass him.*
10. **HEADING** - Player at this level are permitted to head the ball directly from the air during any match. Players should limit heading the ball during practices to no more than 25 times per week.
11. **GOALKEEPER** – In this age group it is not required to change the goalkeeper during the game, but it is recommended.
12. **OFFSIDE LAW** – Conform to FIFA.



**13. COACHES ARE NOT TO BE ON THE FIELD** during the play of the game. **EXCEPTION:** When the referee calls the coach out onto the field because of an injured player. In this case the player must be removed from the field, **FOR SAFETY REASONS**, for a reasonable period of time to allow the player time to recover from the injury. The injured player can be substituted.

**14. NO PLAY-OFFS** with this age group.

**15. ALL PLAYERS** are required to wear **SHIN GUARDS FOR SAFETY REASONS**.

**16. FOOTWEAR** - Shoes with rubber cleats are not required but are strongly encouraged, especially for U7 division and above. The following types of cleats are prohibited:

- Metal cleats of any kind will not be permitted.
- Shoes with toe cleats (i.e. baseball, football, lacrosse cleats), the toe cleat is in a prime position to cause injury to the feet, shins and knees of another player.

The referee has the final say on whether the footwear is safe for play.

**17.** No player may wear any equipment that, in the opinion of the referee, could be hazardous to another player or himself. This includes non-orthodontic braces, watches, barrettes, rings, earrings, etc. This also includes improper shin guards. (Only the sock-type or socks over shin guards are allowed.)

**18.** Goalkeeper must wear an official shirt of a color different from the colors of either team.

**19.** All hats must be approved by the referee. Head bands may be worn only to control player's hair or perspiration. All hoods must be tucked in shirts. Goalkeepers are allowed to wear gloves, all other players can wear gloves but not of a goalkeeper type.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

- **EVERY** player **MUST PLAY 50% OF EVERY GAME.** In order to enforce this general rule, members of the CVSA Board of Directors will be attending games at random. Also, parents' complaints regarding this issue will be investigated and handled appropriately.
  - **EXCEPTION:** injury or sickness. The referee must be notified prior to the game, as well as the opposing coach.

If there is a violation of this or any of the CVSA rules, penalties could be:

- Warnings (if it was the first offense)
  - Removal of coach or player from the game
- 
- Coaches are encouraged to allow **ALL PLAYERS** equal playing time **at all positions**, including goal. This is a time for learning the game and **HAVING FUN.**
  - **Parents** should always be encouraged to display a spirit of **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, FRIENDLINESS AND FAIR PLAY AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE CHILDREN.** This includes **REACTION TO COACHES, REFEREES AND ALL PLAYERS.**
  - **Referees** should always try to foster a **spirit of fair play** and to **enforce the rules** in an educational manner, **without harsh criticism or over zealousness.**
  - Teams must sit on opposite sides of the field. Spectators and players should all be on the same side of "their" team. Home team gets the first choice with which side they will be on.
  - **Player and coaches' game shirts are not to be altered in any way**, such as adding the player's name, etc.