

SCVAA Soccer
2/3 Grade Division Summary

Coaches' Responsibilities:

- Serving as instructor and teacher
- Exhibiting good sportsmanship
- Informing team members regarding schedule changes
- Explaining the rules to youth and parents
- Ensuring equal playing opportunity for all players regardless of skill level.
- Officiating their team's matches

Player Equipment (provided by parents/guardians):

- Shin guards; required for safety
- Soccer socks
- Goalie gloves if your child want to play goalie (no sharing of gloves this year)
- Size 4 soccer ball; recommended
- Sneakers or molded cleats optional; no metal spikes
- Team jersey from VAA will be provided to each player

Team Equipment (VAA will provide to coaches):

- Equipment bag
- Two size 4 soccer balls
- A jersey for each player
- Dozen cones/discs
- Dozen yellow pinnies
- 1 small bottle of hand sanitizer and a first aid kit

Skill Development Goals:

- Individual soccer skills – dribbling, shooting
- Team soccer skills – passing
- Role of player positions – offense/defense, left/center/right

Division Format:

- One 60-minute team practice weekly using half of standard size field; coaches choice of practice day and location, sign-up via Sign-up Genius provided by VAA
- Game are 40 minutes in duration with 4 ten-minute quarters with 2-3 minutes breaks between quarters
- Coaches also serve as referees and should actively coach and ref from the field during games
- Players may be substituted during quarter breaks and during quarter after a goal scored by either team
- Preferred format is 7 v. 7 with 3 attack, 3 defense and 1 goalkeeper per team
Optional format is 8 v 8 with 3 attack, 3 defense, 1 midfield and 1 goalkeeper

- Players should now know about throw-ins, goal kicks, hand ball and penalty kicks
- No midfield limit; Defenders may cross mid-field line

Additional Details:

- Rotate players each quarter. Players will complain if they sit two quarters in a row or keep ending up in the same positions. Coaching need to develop rotation to ensure even and varied position assignments.
- Kick-off rules
 - Teams alternate starting play each quarter at the center of the field
 - Team that gets to kick-off gets a buffer to start play. The size of the buffer is the circle lined at mid-field. Players of the opposing team must clear the circle until the ball is started in play. Ball must move forward on initial kick.
- Due to Covid- no throw ins this year, instead please have players do free kick from sideline with 10 ft buffer.
- Offside rule is NOT enforced in 2/3 grade division.
- Goalkeeper rules:
 - Goalkeeper can use hands inside the penalty box and the goalie crease, which is the smaller box in front of the goal.
 - Goalkeeper can only use hands if the ball was last handled by a player from the opposing team. If ball is kicked to the goalkeeper by a teammate, the goalkeeper must handle the ball with his feet as though he were a defender.
 - For goalkeeper safety, forwards should be taught that once a goalkeeper goes down to his knees (or chest) and is arm's length or less distance from the ball, they need to disengage and not kick the ball one last time. If the goalkeeper mishandles the ball and it pops out by more than an arm's length, the forward may re-engage the ball and attempt a shot on goal.
- Corner kick rules:
 - If the ball is kicked out of bound on the back line extending behind the goal (not the sideline) by the defending team, the team on offense gets to kick a corner kick.
 - Team on defense should get most of their players (4-5 out of 6) near or inside the larger box to defend the goal.
 - Team on offense should have at least 1-2 players close enough to corner to receive ball. At this grade level, few players have the leg strength to get the ball from the corner to the closest edge of the large box around the goal.
- Goal kick rules:
 - The goalkeeper must kick the ball from the ground, not drop-kick it.
 - The attacking team must clear the larger box around the goal.
 - The defending team may have defenders inside the box to receive the kick, but once a defender handles the ball, the forward may re-enter the box.
 - If a goalkeeper mishandles the kick, they may not handle the ball with their hands until the ball has been handled by an opponent.
- No slide tackling! A slide tackle is a player sliding on the ground in to a player and/or the ball feet first. Besides the safety reasons, I always remind my players that when you are off your feet, you are no longer very helpful to your team. Encourage players to stay on their feet!
- Suggestion – request a parent on sideline to keep track of game time and call quarter end so that coach can concentrate on game.