



HOPEWELL VALLEY SOCCER ASSOCIATION DIVISION 1 (GRADES 1-2) FALL AND SPRING RULES OF COMPETITION (Effective 4/2022)

Our Division 1 rec program is meant to be a transition from the pop up goal games in kindergarten to the small sided 7v7 games in Division 2.

Though we were guided by the rules found in the most recent "FIFA Laws of the Game" manual, we have modified many to make for a positive experience for our children. For reference, the FIFA laws can be found here:

<https://www.ussoccer.com/referee-program/laws-of-the-game>

Players, coaches, and parents are encouraged to use this guide as an instructional tool and reference. Supporting and complimenting players is encouraged. Parents should allow the coaches to coach and the players to play and should act as nothing more and nothing less than a supportive and encouraging audience. Enjoy this soccer season with us.

Division 1 Rules

1. Coaches can and should be on the field during Division 1 soccer games. You are coaches AND referees at this level, ensuring that rules are followed and that players are safe.
2. Parents and spectators should remain on the opposite side of the field from the team. Coaching is not permitted from the spectator side of the field.
3. Each team will have 6 players on the field (5 field players plus 1 goalie).
4. Goalies should wear pinnies so they stand out from field players.
5. Games will use a size 3 ball.

6. Games will be four 10 minute quarters. There should be a 2-3 minute break between quarters and a 4-5 minute break at halftime. Coaches should coordinate at least one time keeper.
7. There are throw-ins. Please stop and instruct the players and give them a redo if it's a foul throw. Coaches should try to rotate so all kids get turns throwing the ball in.
8. There are corner kicks (stop and instruct the players on both sides). Coaches should try to rotate so all kids get turns attempting a corner kick.
9. There are goal kicks. On a goal kick, opposing players MUST go back to their half of the field. Coaches should try to rotate so all kids get turns attempting a goal kick.
10. Goalie Possession
 - When the goalie is in possession of the ball, opposing players MUST go back to their half of the field. Please give teams time and room to get the ball out of their half of the field.
 - There is no punting.
 - Goalies can put the ball down and kick it or they can throw the ball to a teammate but they should wait for the other team to retreat.
11. Penalty Kicks are allowed, but only for blatant fouls (intentional handballs, big push, etc). Any other inadvertent fouls in the box should just be moved outside of the penalty area.
12. No slide tackles are allowed.
13. No headers are allowed.
14. Stop the play if there is any potential for player injury. Any headshots or banged heads you must stop play and check on the player(s). Ask other players to take a knee or sit down during any of these stoppages. If any players are overly aggressive, please let the player's head coach know. Head coaches should talk to the player and remind them that arms must stay down, no pushing/shoving, etc. If the player continues to be dangerous despite warnings, talk to the parent and/or escalate to the Division Coordinator
15. There is no official offside, but please keep your players onside and do not allow any cherry picking. Call back any goals scored this way and restart with a goal kick.
16. All players should get equal playing time.

Players' Equipment

League supplied uniforms must be worn (shirts and shorts and soccer socks if applicable). Shorts may be substituted with gym-type shorts only (no buttons, zippers or snaps allowed). Players that are not properly attired will not be permitted to play.

No watches, bracelets, or jewelry will be allowed on players. Earrings are not permitted under any circumstances. No boxer shorts or other articles of clothing worn for adornment will be

permitted. Spandex shorts will be permitted under the league provided shorts. Unlike FIFA, the spandex color need not match the color of the shorts.

Shin guards are mandatory and must be worn under, and completely covered by, uniform/soccer socks. Shin guard sleeves may be used in addition to, but not in the place of, soccer socks. Spikes (formed sole soccer shoes) and athletic supporters with cups (where applicable), while not mandatory, are highly recommended although sneakers may be worn. Goalies may wear soft brimmed hats with the Referee's permission. Cold weather attire may be worn with shirt, shorts and socks showing.

A player with a hard cast is not permitted to play. A player in a soft cast is permitted to play following inspection by both coaches. The determination is final, regardless of the determination in any prior game. Additionally, if during the game either coach determines that the soft case is not safe, the player will be asked to leave the game.

A player whose shoelace is untied must immediately cease play and re-tie the lace.

Special Note on Eyeglasses:

Parents, please be advised that the State of New Jersey has passed legislation requiring that children participating in certain youth sports, including soccer, who require the use of eyeglasses, must wear glasses that meet certain minimum standards. We recommend that parents review the law (https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2004/PL05/306_.HTM) and consult with their child's eye doctor or ophthalmologist to determine whether the child's eyewear meets the statutory requirements. Compliance is to be determined by the parents and will not be made by the Referees. That said, as with any decision regarding a player's equipment and safety, if the Referee deems that the player's eyewear will be unsafe to that player or any other player, the referee can deny that player permission to play in the game unless the issue is corrected and the eyewear made safe.

Sportsmanship

Coaches are required to do their best to keep all games balanced. Strategies include:

- moving stronger players to defense and goalie
- encouraging passing
- instructing defenders to stay behind the midline
- lending the opposing team a strong goalie
- removing a player from the field

Score Differential – a team obtaining a five (5) goal lead over an opponent MUST reduce by one (1) player its total number of players on the field until this differential is reduced by the opponent scoring a goal. Subsequent scores by the leading team will be addressed similarly.

Other Important Rules

1. The Hopewell Valley Regional School District and/or local community groups have allowed us use of their grounds. The school system has rules regarding the prohibition of

firearms, alcohol, and illegal drugs on school grounds. They also forbid dogs being brought onto school grounds. The HVSA adheres to these policies at ALL field locations.

2. Every head coach in Division 1 must possess an NJYS State License or its equivalent issued by the New Jersey Youth Soccer (NJYS) or another USSF-sanctioned organization and all coaches (including assistant or substitute) regardless of Division must participate in the NJYS KidSafe program, and must possess a Concussion Awareness Training Certificate. All coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, setting a sportsman-like example. All coaches are also required to have participated in the township-mandated background check.