## RECREATIONAL GAME DAY GUIDE (U3 - U18)

## PLAYER ENVIRONMENT:

Enjoy a fun introduction to soccer in a supervised and safe team environment. Games are led by volunteer coaches at our first-class soccer facilities with the support of our full-time staff members.

## BEST PRACTICES:

All DDY Recreational players, parents, spectators, referees and coaches are to adhere to the Standards of Play and Game Formats outlined in this document. We encourage all spectators to cheer for 'teams and players' in a supportive and positive manner to create a fun and safe environment for the players.

The DDY Recreational Committee have the authority to step in and make adjustments to the Game Format and/or Standards of Play if necessary, to ensure that we can create a developmentally appropriate environment for players at every opportunity.

## UNIFORMS:

- All players must wear the DDY approved uniforms on game day.
- Game attire:
- Home team wear dark jersey \& Away team wear light jersey
- Shin guards are required


## PLAY TIME:

All players should receive $50 \%$ playing time unless they are late, sick or injured. Play time will not be even, but no player should get less than half a game. The opportunity to play is much more important than a win, loss, or draw.

## AGE GROUPS: U4 - U5 (MINI KICKERS)

## GAME FORMAT:

- Play 3v3 (3 field players, no goalkeepers)
- Size 3 ball
- No heading, no goalkeepers and no offside
- 30-minute games (4 quarters or 3 thirds). No added time.
- 2-3-minute break between each period
- Unlimited substitutions - at any stoppage in play
- Maximum roster: 6 players
- No results or standings
- No referees


## STANDARDS OF PLAY:

- No throw-ins and no penalty kicks
- To start or restart play, kick offs, dribble ins, free kicks, goal kicks and corner kicks are used
- When the ball goes out of bounds on a sideline, we encourage parents to act as 'bumpers' and pass the ball back onto the field to keep the game flowing
- Goal kicks and corner kicks should be taken near the goal area and corner of the field
- Format $3 v 3$ - if roster numbers are low then combine teams to play 3 v 3 or 2 v 2


## AGE GROUPS: U6 - U7

## GAME FORMAT:

- Play 3v3 (3 field players, no goalkeepers)
- Size 3 ball
- No heading, no goalkeepers and no offside
- 40-minute games (4 quarters or 2 halves). No added time.
- Short break between each period
- Unlimited substitutions - at any stoppage in play
- Maximum roster: 6 players
- No results or standings
- No referees


## STANDARDS OF PLAY:

- No throw-ins and no penalty kicks
- To start or restart play, kick offs, dribble ins, free kicks, goal kicks and corner kicks are used
- Goal kicks and corner kicks should be taken near the goal area and corner of the field
- Format $3 v 3$ - if roster numbers are low then combine teams to play 3 v 3 or 2 v 2


## AGE GROUPS: U8 - U9

## GAME FORMAT:

- Play 5v5 (4 field players \& 1 goalkeeper)
- Size 4 ball
- Goalkeepers (Yes)
- No heading. Throw In's \& Punting (Yes)
- Offside (Yes - in the final third only)
- 45-minute games (split into thirds or two halves). No added time.
- Unlimited substitutions, can occur at any stoppage in play
- Maximum roster: 10 players
- 1 Referee. No results or standings


## STANDARDS OF PLAY:

- To start or restart play, kick offs, throw-ins, free kicks, goal kicks and corner kicks are used
- Goal kicks and corner kicks should be taken near the goal area and corner of the field
- Format 5 v 5 - if roster numbers are low then move to 4 v 4 format
- In the event of a lopsided game, the team that is losing by 4 goals will be allowed to immediately add an extra player onto the field to give them a numerical advantage ( 6 v 5 ) until the gap is closed to a 2-goal lead at which point the team losing will need to take the additional player off the field and moving the game back to equal player numbers ( 5 v 5 ) on the field.


## AGE GROUPS: U10 - U11

## GAME FORMAT:

- Play 7v7 (6 field players and 1 goalkeeper)
- Size 4 ball
- No heading
- Goalkeepers (Yes)
- Throw In's \& Punting (Yes)
- Offside (Yes - in the final third only)
- 50-minute games (2 halves, 25 minutes each half). No added time.
- 5-minute break at half-time.
- Unlimited substitutions, can occur at any stoppage in play
- Maximum roster: 12 players
- No results or standings
- 1 Referee


## STANDARDS OF PLAY:

- To start or restart play, kick offs, throw-ins, free kicks, goal kicks, corner kicks and penalty kicks are used.
- Goal kicks should be taken inside the goal area box and corner kicks should be taken inside the corner arc.
- Format 7v7 - if roster numbers are low then move to 6 v 6 format
- In the event of a lopsided game, the team that is losing by 4 goals will be allowed to immediately add an extra player onto the field to give them a numerical advantage ( 7 v 8 ) until the gap is closed to a 2-goal lead at which point the team losing will need to take the additional player off the field and moving the game back to equal player numbers (7v7) on the field.

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AGE GROUPS: U12 - U14

## GAME FORMAT:

- Play 9v9 (8 field players and 1 goalkeeper)
- Size 4 Ball
- Goalkeepers (Yes)
- Throw In's \& Punting (Yes)
- Offside (Yes)
- 60-minute games (2 halves, 30 minutes each half). No added time.
- 5-10-minute break at half-time.
- Unlimited substitutions, can occur at any stoppage in play
- Maximum roster: 16 players
- No results or standings
- 1 Referee


## STANDARDS OF PLAY:

- To start or restart play, kick offs, throw-ins, free kicks, goal kicks, corner kicks and penalty kicks are used.
- Goal kicks should be taken inside the goal area box and corner kicks should be taken inside the corner arc.
- Format 9 v 9 - if roster numbers are low then move to 8 v 8 format
- In the event of a lopsided game, the team that is losing by 4 goals will be allowed to immediately add an extra player onto the field to give them a numerical advantage ( 9 v 10 ) until the gap is closed to a 2-goal lead at which point the team losing will need to take the additional player off the field and moving the game back to equal player numbers (9v9) on the field.


## AGE GROUPS: U15 - U19

## GAME FORMAT:

- Play 11v11 (10 field players and 1 goalkeeper)
- Size 5 ball
- Goalkeepers (Yes)
- Throw In's \& Punting (Yes)
- Offside (Yes)
- 70-minute games (2 halves, 35 minutes each half). No added time.
- 5-10-minute break at half-time.
- Unlimited substitutions, can occur at any stoppage in play
- Maximum roster: 20 players
- No results or standings
- 1 Referee


## STANDARDS OF PLAY:

- To start or restart play, kick offs, throw-ins, free kicks, goal kicks, corner kicks and penalty kicks are used.
- Goal kicks should be taken inside the goal area box and corner kicks should be taken inside the corner arc.
- Format 11 v 11 - if roster numbers are low then move to 10 v 10 format


## BUILD OUT LINE: U7 - U11

The build out line in the $5 \mathrm{v} 5 \& 7 \mathrm{v} 7$ play format gives teams the opportunity to play the ball out of the back with control, rather than having the players to send the ball a long distance and running after it every time. The build out line is marked between the penalty area line and halfway line as shown below.

- When the goalkeeper is taking a goal-kick or has possession of the ball in their hands, the opposing team must move back behind the line of restriction until after the goalkeeper plays the ball.
- The goalkeeper or player taking the goal-kick is not required to wait until the opposing team is behind the line of restriction to put the ball in play.
- Following the goal kick, punt, pass or throw, the opposing team can cross the line of restriction and play resumes as normal.


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