East Side Sports

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**Special Rules and Guidelines for Division1 - 2020**

**Kindergarten – 1st Grade**

1. Coaches should understand and embrace the fact that the players in Division 1 are very young children and for many this is their first “team” experience. As such, Division 1 is designed to provide an instructional soccer experience in a nurturing and supportive atmosphere. Competition is de-emphasized, but replaced with a shared expectation that kids should “do your best”, “be a good friend to all your teammates,” and, above all else, “have fun”.
2. During games coaches from opposing teams should work cooperatively to enhance the experience for everyone while focusing on the above three values. Coaches organize the game—there is no referee.
3. Teams will have a maximum of 10 players. The “official” games will involve two simultaneous games of 3 v 3. Each coach will divide all his/her players into three groups—they may have 3 or 4 players in each group, but no more than 4, and will play the opposing team in groups of 3 or 4, depending on how many players each team has. The playing field is approximately (25 x 15). Games will consist of twelve 4-minute periods so that each group/child plays for four (4) periods, alternating with the other two groups. Thus, each team will have four mini-teams of 3 players each, two playing on one field and two on the If the number of players on each team is extremely uneven, coaches should divide or share players for the best scenario.
4. Because of COVID, there will be no Saturday practices. Teams will practice for ½ hour before their game on the field where their game will occur. Practice begins at 1:00 pm and coaches should make every effort to start the game on time at 1:30 pm. Games will consist of 12 continuous periods of 4 minutes (or so) until the horn sounds to end all games at 2:20 PM. Coaches may agree to end games early, but cannot go beyond the 2:20 pm ending horn. ***We will not keep score.*** Every child plays the same amount of time and every child plays a LOT.
5. Teams should play 3 v 3 with no goalie, using mandatory, full-scale substitution at the beginning of each 4-minute period. Coaches should work together regarding keeping time, and substitutions should be smooth and quick. A non-coaching parent may be assigned to be the “official time keeper.”
6. One coach from each team is allowed on each field. Coaches should *work together* to instruct players and may stop play if necessary (injury, pile-up, etc.) particularly when an advantage is NOT gained. Coaches should casually officiate their own games and should be as unobtrusive as possible.
7. Coaches may help keep the ball inbounds to maintain the flow of the game. Players may inbound the ball by kicking or throwing it to a teammate. Inbounding kicks can be used to give a shy player the opportunity to kick the ball (without being defended) and, thus, participate more fully.
8. Coaches should enlist other parents to help with players who are not playing—tying shoes, giving them water, etc., AND helping to supervise them and in the “bench” area.
9. Coaches should NOT keep track of score—goals and passes should be applauded by both coaches.
10. Passing should be encouraged, taught, modeled and praised. A size 3 ball should be used.
11. Staying in position should be *gradually* and *appropriately* encouraged, although this is very difficult for the kids this age.
12. Good sportsmanship is required for all players, parents, and coaches. Coaches should model it, explain it, and demand it. General “pep talks” to the parents, particularly before the game, will help keep the parental atmosphere positive and supportive of the goals of this program.
13. When the game is concluded, coaches should line-up the players to congratulate the other team in a non-contact manner. A cheer or congratulatory shout to the other team is appropriate. Coaches should model appropriate behavior and monitor their players.
14. Post-game discussions and snacks are not permitted this year. Coaches should encourage parents to leave the field immediately while monitoring their players for social distancing.