East Side Sports

PO Box 41248

Providence, RI 02940 401-458-5651 rick@eastsidesports.net

**Special Rules for Division II - 2020**

Division 2 offers kids in East Side Sports their first opportunity in a “mildly competitive” soccer game—meaning we now keep score. As such, it is imperative that the score—or winning—is not over-emphasized by the coaches, but that coaches continue to emphasize teamwork, individual improvement, and having fun.

1. Games will be played on a field that is approximately 40 yds X 20 yds with goals that are approximately 4 ft X 7 ft.
2. A size 4 ball will be used.
3. Teams will play 6 v 6 with NO Goalie. Defenders should all play as defenders and not as a goalie.
4. Each game will have a referee assigned, but coaches should always work in a *positive* manner to support the officiating of the game in keeping with the philosophy of the league.
5. ONE coach per team may be on the field, but should *remain within 3 yards* of the sideline.
6. Games will be 40 minutes long (two 20-min halves) with a 5 minute break at half-time*.*
7. Practice before games begins at 2:00 pm; Games begin at 2:30 and end at 3:20 PM.
8. The referee will stop play at five-minute intervals for substitution. All players who were not playing during the period that just ended will go into the game—no player will sit out consecutive periods. *The clock will not stop* so coaches should be prepared to substitute the players quickly.
9. Each player must play an equal amount of time. Pre-determined substitution schemes should be used in order to ensure equal playing time for all players and to permit the coach to concentrate on instruction, coaching and encouraging—and not substituting.
10. The Goal Kick rule has been developed to help the kicking team get the ball out of its goal area without the risk of having a goal scored against it. As we are playing with no goalie, this is an important issue. In addition, the implementation of the rule will allow some of the “weaker” players to get more involved in the game and hopefully build their confidence by allowing them to dribble or pass the ball uncontested (for a short distance). Please understand the spirit of the rule and do all you can to assist its positive effects on the game.
11. Goal kicks will be awarded whenever the ball goes over the goal line, having been last touched by the attacking team. (If it was last touched by the defending team, a corner kick is awarded.)
12. The referees and the coaches will work together to move all the players on the attacking team back to midfield. (When possible, midfield will be marked by having two, side-by-side cones on each side line. Coaches can be sure the midfield markers are in place before the game.)
13. The kicking team will be allowed up to three, uncontested kicks, as long as they are all made from within their half of the field. The ref (or player) should place the ball to the side of the goal, not more than 5 yards from the goal line. The 1st player may kick the ball to a 2nd player, who may in turn kick the ball to a 3rd player. No defender may contest these kicks, as long as all 3 players are on their half of the field. If any kick crosses midfield, the ball becomes “live”.
14. The ball becomes “live” when it crosses midfield.
15. Coaches should work with their players to move the ball upfield quickly and not hold the ball. The flow should be as “natural” as possible, just without defenders until midfield is reached or after the 3rd kick—whichever comes first.
16. 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.