

**Iredell County Parks & Recreation Youth Soccer
2017/2018 Rules & Regulations**

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* The official FIFA Rules of Soccer are in effect for all Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department Youth Soccer Games. Rules detailed herein are exceptions to FIFA rules.

**IREDELL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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RULES & REGULATIONS

Organizational Structure

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Athletic Director for the Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department, hereafter known as ICRPD, shall be the Executive Director of the Iredell County Youth Soccer Program, hereafter known as ICYS. His duties shall be to organize, supervise, administer and schedule all games. The Executive Director may also add a new rule or policy at any time if it is deemed in the best interest of the Iredell County Youth Soccer Program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board will consist of one (1) member from each community in Iredell County that operates a youth soccer program. This member shall be selected by the members of the community organization. This person will hereafter be known as the "coordinator" of that community. Each board member shall have one (1) vote if his/her community fields between (1) one & (12) twelve teams, and shall have (1) additional vote for each set of 12 teams, i.e. 13 teams - 2 votes. There must be at least four (4) directors present at any given meeting before any official action may be taken.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Aid the Executive Director in decisions when necessary.
2. Bring the complaints and input from their communities to the board meetings.
3. Aid in making rule additions and deletions as necessary.

DUTIES OF THE COORDINATORS

1. Register and assign all participants to teams in their communities and turn the information in to the ICRPD on or before the registration deadline.
2. Notify the teams within their community of schedule and additions or deletions as necessary.
3. Obtain coaches for teams within their community.
4. Submit rosters with pictures and any changes to the ICRPD. Players may be added to a team roster prior to the assigned deadline.
5. Administer and follow through on penalties to coaches or players or spectators that violate any portion of the rules.
6. To select a representative to replace him/her at the board meetings in his/her absence. This substitute will retain the voting privilege the coordinator had.
7. See that the home field is properly marked and maintained.
8. Fill out necessary forms to reserve the school facility for team practices.
9. To act as a liaison between the ICRPD, coaches and parents.
10. To see that the proper forms are filled out for each participant.

DUTIES OF THE IREDELL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. To arrange the use of the fields for all games.
2. Purchase of marking field paint.
3. Will schedule all regular season, and make-up games.
4. To schedule and assign referees to each match.
5. Will handle all late registrations.
6. Will submit all forms and rosters to NCYSA and act as a liaison from NCYSA to the community.

PARTICIPATION AND SCHEDULING

Each team in the ICYS must be entered as a separate and complete unit. **ICYS does allow players to be dual rostered.** The ICPRD will schedule games at locations and times necessary to complete the schedule. No schedule will be changed after the schedule is completed by the ICPRD. If a team cannot field enough players, the team must forfeit that game.

DUTIES OF TEAMS OR COMMUNITIES

Each community/team must furnish their own practice balls, goals, nets, first aid kits, corner flags, uniforms, and method of marking the field.

Games Personnel

PLAYERS

Players are required to sign up with birth certificates to identify age categories (See Appendix A). No player may remain in a lower division without a doctor's permission or move to a higher division without permission of ICPRD. Players are expected to be at all team practices and games. The penalty for playing illegal players will be forfeiture of any games played with an illegal player.

COACHES

Head coaches must be 18 years of age or older. Younger coaches may assist an adult coach, with prior approval from ICPRD. A maximum of three (3) coaches are allowed in a coaching capacity for the duration of the game. At least one coach must be present for a game.

Coaches are required to wear their coaching ID visible at all times while on the field. *Exception:* if the coach forgets his/her ID on game day they are allowed to coach if they are listed on the official laminated ICPRD stamped game roster that is produced to the referees by the team to start the game. No one else is allowed on the field to coach.

Coaching positions will be enforced! No coach is permitted to cross the mid field point. All divisions HS, U14, U12, U10, U8, U6 coaching staff may move from the top the penalty box to the bottom of the mid field circle on their teams side of the field.

Any coach on the field before, during, or after his game, whether or not his/her team is playing or not, shall refrain from calling opposing players, coaches, or referees by name or title, or by using language threatening in nature, either physically or mentally. Penalty shall be immediate removal from the field and suspension for one or more games. Coaches at games and practices shall

not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, nor have them in their possession. Penalty shall be automatic expulsion for the remainder of the season.

Coaches are not permitted to enter the playing field at any time unless summoned by the referee. **U6 may have one coach on field during play.**

Coaches must take any complaints to their area coordinator who will notify the ICPRD.

All coaches must complete an ICPRD coaching application, NCYSA online risk management training and concussion training prior to the beginning of the practice. If a team does not have a coach who has completed these coaching documents, that team will not be allowed to play any games and will be charged with a forfeit for any scheduled games.

SPECTATORS

All spectators must sit across from their team's benches on the other side of the field. No spectator shall be allowed behind the goal line or closer to the field than (3) three yards or (9) nine feet on any side. No spectator shall interfere with, or disrupt the progress or spirit of any game. If spectators disrupt the game or harass the referee, the referee may halt the game, postpone or terminate the game. (See Code of Conduct)

Area Served

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

1. ICYS shall serve the communities by using school boundaries of (1) Harmony; (2) Union Grove; (3) Central; (4) Cool Spring; (5) Cloverleaf; (6) East Iredell; (7) West Iredell includes: Scotts, Monticello, Sharon and Celeste; (8) Troutman; (9) SISA includes: Brawley, Coddle Creek, Mount Mourne, Lake Norman, Mooresville, Lakeshore and Shepherd; (10) Statesville Montessori; (11) American Renaissance; (12) Third Creek; (13) Northview IB School; (14) Statesville Christian.
2. A person must play or coach in the elementary school district he/she resides in.
Exceptions:
 1. If the person resides in one district and attends school in another, he/she may play in either district.
 2. Parental or guardian change of residence where child would reside in two districts.
 3. If the teams in your district are full or if there are no teams in your district, you may play in another district but must return to your district when the player moves up in age groups if team registration allows a team to form.
 4. Home coordinator may give permission for player to play out of district.

The Game

THE UNIFORM

If team colors are similar it will be the duty of the home team to make the necessary change. No clothing may extend below the waistline of shorts except for cold weather clothing of similar color. *No jewelry, hats, visors, ponytail holders with hard molded decorations, sunglasses are permitted.* Exceptions: protective head gear or goal keeper hats without hard surfaces. Referees in charge may request the removal of any item that may be deemed dangerous. The jersey of the goalkeeper shall be distinctly different from that of any team member, opponent, or official.

Shin guards are mandatory on all players and no exceptions will be permitted. Shin guards must be completely covered by the sock. Soccer cleats or tennis shoes may be worn; no baseball or football cleats (toe cleats) shall be permitted.

THE START OF PLAY

The start of play shall take place within (10) ten minutes of the scheduled starting time. A team not prepared to play shall forfeit the game. The referee's watch is official. **Coaches must supply the official ICPRD laminated and stamped picture roster before game time to the referee for player inspections.**

DURATION OF GAMES & BALL SIZES

The game ball shall be furnished by the home team listed on the schedule. The following will be used in the various age divisions. Ball sizes are also listed below:

Age Division	Minutes/Half	Half Times & Breaks	Ball Sizes
High School	40 Minutes	5 Minutes	5
U14	35 Minutes	5 Minutes	5
U12	30 Minutes	5 Minutes	4
U10	25 Minutes	5 Minutes	4
U8	4/10 Minute Quarters	2 Minutes between quarters/5 Minute halftime	3
U6	4/10 Minute Quarters	2 Minutes between quarters/5 Minute halftime	3

All games shall have a maximum of five (5) minutes at half time and two (2) minutes between quarters. In the event that the games are behind schedule this time may be shortened by the official. Games may be started ahead of schedule with the consent of both head coaches. In the event the games are behind schedule the next scheduled game will begin immediately after the previous game is completed.

PRACTICES

Total practice time will be limited to four and one-half (4 1/2) hours per week, per team, before the start of the season and three (3) hours per week, per team, after the beginning of the season. Practices may not begin before the pre-arranged date, provided all of the registration materials are turned into the ICPRD. Penalty for practicing too much, too early, or without proper forms turned into the ICPRD shall be game forfeiture.

TEAMS

The teams shall be comprised of boys and/or girls within the age category of the division in which they play. The following will be used in the various age divisions listed below:

Age Division	Playing Numbers	Min Starting Number	Goal Keeper	Offside
High School	11 v 11	7	Yes	Yes
U14	11 v 11	7	Yes	Yes
U12	8 v 8	6	Yes	Yes
U10	7 v 7	5	Yes	Yes
U8	6 v 6	Divide*	Yes	No
U6	5 v 5	Divide*	No	No

*Divide: NO minimum player size is required to begin and play because it is the recommendation of USYSA to divide (mix) the players, from both teams, that are present and PLAY!

THE FIELD

All fields must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Age Division	Length	Width	Maximum Roster
High School	110 yards	75 yards	18
U14	110 yards	75 yards	18
U12	70 yards	50 yards	14
U10	60 yards	40 yards	12
U8	45 yards	30 yards	10
U6	45 yards	30 yards	8

MODIFIED RULES (U8 & U6 ONLY)

The U8 and U6 leagues will play modified soccer rules. The field shall be downsized to 45 yards x 30 yards. The goals will be recommended 5' x 10' with a maximum size of 7' x 12'. U6 teams shall play five players versus five players, one of whom is a goalkeeper; U6 may have one coach on the field of play. Modified rules recommend that the goalkeeper position not be the responsibility of just one player, but for all team members to take turns playing this position.

No off-sides will be called and all penalties and fouls will result in indirect kicks. No direct kicks or penalty kicks are allowed in U8 and U6. Any infractions called by the referee will be briefly explained to the offending player. In U6 a second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on initial attempt. The referee will briefly explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

U6 and U8 during a goal kick, the attacking team must return to mid-field until ball is kicked back into play.

NCYSA HEADING POLICY

No heading is allowed in any U12, U10, U8 or U6 match/game.

PARTICIPATION

It is **REQUIRED** that each player play at least one-half of every game. A coach caught for not playing each player a full half will be suspended for one match. **The team will forfeit the match.** *Exception:* If a coach has a written note stating the player will not be able to attend due to blank reason and signed and dated the form.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any player or coach that is suspended from the game by the referee will remain inactive for the next game. Inactive is defined as having no contact in a coaching capacity with the team. This is to be understood as any means of communication. A suspended coach must leave the playing area before the game will be resumed. A coach that has been suspended may not participate in the following week's practices.

Referees will report cards and suspensions to the ICPRD, who will in turn notify the coordinator and coach of the team about the suspension.

If a head coach is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, one of the assistant coaches must take over as head coach. In the event no other coach named on the official team roster is available to take over as head coach, the game will be terminated by the referee.

Yelling of any type, by any player is to be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be treated as such.

SPONSORS

Teams in local leagues may be sponsored by those organizations or businesses whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of the communities' youth. The sponsor's fee shall be payable to the local team(s). If the sponsor wishes, he/she may have the name of his/her business printed on the team's uniforms and the team shall be called by that name for the season. A sponsor may coach a team. The sponsor is not allowed to hire a manager or coach of the team he/she is sponsoring.

PROTESTS

The only legal protest is one which involved violations of playing rules. ICPRD will not allow protests on a judgment call. The protesting coach shall submit a written report detailing the protest to the ICPRD within 48 hours after the completion of the match. A \$25.00 protest fee must accompany the protest for it to be considered. If the protest is denied the fee will not be refunded. If the protest is upheld the protest fee will be refunded. The Executive Director will submit the protest to three (3) officials employed by the ICPRD who did not officiate the match. The decision made regarding the protest will be a vote to uphold or deny the protest. Their decision is final. No appeal may be made.

HARASSMENT OF THE GOALKEEPER

When the goal keeper has taken possession, within his/her penalty are (i.e. has one hand on the ball), he/she must be permitted to make his/her play. It is mandatory that the defensive team give the goalie 10 yards. Anyone disregarding these rules will be charged with unsportsmanlike conduct & subject to the penalty of such.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of inclement weather the ICPRD may cancel games from their office by 4:00 PM on the Friday before the Saturday games or Saturday mornings 1 hour & 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the first game of the day. To receive ICPRD cancellations directly to your phone/email please visit www.rainedout.com and signup with the instructions below.

Signing up for rainedout.com

1. In the search bar type Iredell County Parks & Recreation and click search.
2. Click the link to in the green box under preferred results.
3. Type in your phone number or email address that you want a message sent to.
4. Check agree to terms and service.
5. Click Start Signup
6. You will receive a validation code to selected text/email.
7. Enter validation code and click validate code.
8. You are subscribed and will receive a message the next time one goes out.

Games stopped prior to the end of the first half will be rescheduled. If a game is stopped at half-time or during the second half it will be considered a full game and will not be rescheduled. The ICPRD will reschedule any and all games.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Players may be substituted (1) after a score, (2) between quarters or at half time, (3) their throw in or if other team subs during their throw in, (4) when a yellow card is issued and (5) for an injured player (6) goal kicks.

TIE GAMES

If at the end of the regular game time the game score is tied, the official score will remain a tie. There will be no shootouts or overtime play in regular season play.

APPENDIX A: Iredell County Fall 2017/Spring 2018 Soccer Birth Chart

Month	Year		Month	Year	
January	2004	←	January	2009	U10
February	2004		February	2009	
March	2004		March	2009	
April	2004		April	2009	
May	2004		May	2009	
June	2004		June	2009	
July	2004		July	2009	
August	2004		August	2009	
September	2004		September	2009	
October	2004		October	2009	
November	2004		November	2009	
December	2004		December	2009	
January	2005	←	January	2010	U14
February	2005		February	2010	
March	2005		March	2010	
April	2005		April	2010	
May	2005		May	2010	
June	2005		June	2010	
July	2005		July	2010	
August	2005		August	2010	
September	2005		September	2010	
October	2005		October	2010	
November	2005		November	2010	
December	2005		December	2010	
January	2006	←	January	2011	U8
February	2006		February	2011	
March	2006		March	2011	
April	2006		April	2011	
May	2006		May	2011	
June	2006		June	2011	
July	2006		July	2011	
August	2006		August	2011	
September	2006		September	2011	
October	2006		October	2011	
November	2006		November	2011	
December	2006		December	2011	
January	2007	←	January	2012	U12
February	2007		February	2012	
March	2007		March	2012	
April	2007		April	2012	
May	2007		May	2012	
June	2007		June	2012	
July	2007		July	2012	
August	2007		August	2012	
September	2007		September	2012	
October	2007		October	2012	
November	2007		November	2012	
December	2007		December	2012	
January	2008	←	January	2013	U10
February	2008		February	2013	
March	2008		March	2013	
April	2008		April	2013	
May	2008		May	2013	
June	2008		June	2013	
July	2008		July	2013	
August	2008		August	2013	
September	2008		September	2013	
October	2008		October	2013	
November	2008		November	2013	
December	2008		December	2013	
					U6

Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department (ICPRD)

APPENDIX B: Code of Conduct for Athletic Events

- I. ICPRD supports youth sports activities that are governed by a strong sense of individual and team sportsmanship. Opponents are to be treated with respect, regardless of their level of skill, race, creed, sex or national origin. The rules of the game are to be followed. Violent and/or dangerous conduct will not tolerated by any coaches, players or spectators.
- II. The following represents conduct that will **NOT** be permitted:
1. Vulgarity by coaches, players or spectators directed toward anyone.
 2. Harassment of referees, umpires, coaches or players by anyone.
 3. Debasement of referees, umpires, coaches or players by anyone.
 4. Physical violence or threat of violence directed toward anyone or encouraged by anyone.
 5. When a player, coach, manager, spectator or club official assaults a referee, umpire or anyone when such assault amounts to physical violence, such assault shall suspend the offender automatically for a period of 1 year from the time of the assault.
 6. The use of tobacco in any form by players or coaches in the playing area (including dugouts and bench areas).
 7. Arguing with an official on a judgment call.
 8. Entrance onto the field of play without permission from the official in charge.
 9. The possession of drugs, alcohol or anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 10. Players, coaches, spectators and league officials are prohibited from approaching a game official in an unsportsmanlike manner before, during or after a game.
 11. Participation in a fight.
 12. Assault of referees, coaches, league officials, players, spectators.

Non-compliance with these rules will mean suspension from coaching, officiating, attending game for the season or for one year depending on the nature of the occurrence.

III. **Support of the Officials**

ICPRD has taken action in support of good conduct and sportsmanship. The referees and umpires or other game or league officials are expected to use their authority to maintain acceptable conduct on the field as well as off the field during any sports function.

IV. **Coach, Official and Spectator Relationship**

Coaches cannot continuously attend to the spectators, but they are ultimately responsible for their team's part of the spectators. If a spectator engages in such conduct that the referee/umpire considers corrective action necessary, the referee/umpire will explain the situation to one or both coaches, as necessary. When a referee/umpire or league official speaks to a coach, it immediately becomes the coach's responsibility to correct the situation. If the coach does not or cannot correct the situation, the game may be terminated.

V. **Promoting Good Conduct**

1. **The Coach** - The behavior of the coach is the most important guide for player and spectator behavior. The coach can exert strong player and spectator control by the example he/she sets and by a few words of caution directed to the appropriate place when necessary. Any coach on the field before, during or after his/her game, whether or not his/her team is playing, will refrain from calling opposing players, coaches or officials by name or title or using language threatening in nature, either physically or mentally. Penalty shall be immediate removal from the field and possible suspension for one or more games depending on the nature of the occurrence.
2. **Movement of Coaches** - No coach is permitted in the opposing "team area" during games. Coaches must remain in designated team areas and shall be permitted to coach his/her team only. In baseball or softball, no coach may enter or coach from the opposing team dugout or from behind the backstop or sideline fences. A coach that has been asked to leave the premises or has been ejected from a game must leave the ball field. He/she may not go to the stands or parking lot. Ejection from any game will carry a suspension from the next week's practices and the next game. If a coach is ejected and no assistant coach is available, as named on the official roster, the game will be terminated. Coaches not leaving the site, after ejection, may be arrested for trespassing and suspended for 1 year from the date of infraction.
3. **Location of Spectators** - Spectators should remain in the area designated for spectators. Prohibited locations for spectators are the same as for coaches above. Spectators disrupting the spirit of the game may be asked by a league official, umpire or referee to return to seating or leave the area depending upon the nature of the disturbance. Spectators not leaving the premises as asked may be arrested for trespassing and banned from attending any ICPRD sports activities for one year from the date of infraction.
4. **Location of Teams** - Teams should locate themselves in the baseline dugouts or designated areas. No players should leave the team area without permission during a game. No player or coach shall wander into the opposing "team area". Spectators should remain in the designated seating area and not be near the team area.

- VI. **Violent or Rowdy Behavior** - Violent play, rowdy behavior, physical or verbal assaults and similar behavior will not be condoned and will be dealt with accordingly. Suspensions, periods of probation or team dissolution may result from prohibited conduct. Any member of any team in the ICPRD sports program can be penalized for unsportsmanlike behavior. This includes coach, player, official, elected official, spectators, referee, umpire or any member of the Board of Directors.

Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department (ICPRD)

APPENDIX C: COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all blood contaminated surfaces and equipment with a solution made from a proper dilution of household bleach (CDC recommends 1-100) or other disinfectants before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

*Referees will enforce rule #1. No player will be permitted to play with open or bleeding wound. ICPRD suggests that you follow all the guidelines.

Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department (ICPRD)

APPENDIX D: SIMPLE DRAFT - PLAYER DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

Purpose: To insure fair treatment of each player in team placement and to allow the yearly movement necessary to create team parity.

- A. The following method of player distribution and placement shall be used by each organization fielding more than one (1) team in any age group.
 1. All registration forms in each age group must be placed face up in an open setting with head coaches, or a team representative present.
 2. Each coach shall draw a number to indicate sequence of choice.
 3. Head coaches children/or child may be drawn first and "protected." Coaches may draw until each team representative has the same number of "protected" children as the coach with the most children.
 - A. This procedure shall be done each fall. Players are entitled to remain with the same coach for two (2) years (fall and spring). Requests to specific teams shall not be honored.
 - B. Absolutely no player shall be "grand fathered".
 - C. Basic guidelines for player distribution should be followed by organizations participating. Other decisions may be made on an individual basis as long as each player is treated fairly.

Situations that may arise:

1. Coaches with no children or coaches that don't wish to coach their child: may draw in the face-up draft to even up "protected" players.
2. Not enough coaches: have a team representative or another coach available.
3. Late registrations shall be assigned or distributed in the same method as draft guidelines.
4. Age groupings may be divided into single birth years to insure a more even draft if desired.