

WISCASSET PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2023 Youth Soccer Program

General Rules:

I. Game Structure:

Pee-Wee: Skills and drills weekly with pick-up games (3v3)

Mites: 3v3 with 3 in the field and NO goalie

Minors: 6v6 with 5 in the field and 1 goalie

Juniors: 6v6 with 5 in the field and 1 goalie

II. Game Duration:

Pee-Wee Division (Gr. Pre K, K) -one, 15 minute game if time allows

Mite Division (Gr. 1, 2) -two, 15 minute halves as time allows

Minor Division (Gr. 3, 4) -two, 20 minute halves or more if time allows (up to 5 min)

Junior Division (Gr. 5, 6) -two, 25 minute halves or more if time allows (up to 5 min)

All games are running time. Matches ending in a tie score at the end of regulation time shall remain as such. Overtime periods will not be played.

III. Substitutions:

A. All players shall play a minimum of one half (1/2) of each game's time period, unless there are special circumstances that make it necessary for coaches to make adjustments. (I.e., injuries, unsportsmanlike behavior, tardiness, etc.)

B. Substitutions may be made during any normal stoppage of play except during direct & indirect free kicks.

C. Substitute players need to be at mid-field before a stoppage of play. Coaches should alert the nearest referee when they desire to make substitutions and players should wait until the referee indicates they may make the substitution.

D. Any player with an open or bleeding wound shall be removed from play immediately and can return when the bleeding has stopped or is under control with a bandage. Players cannot play or practice with any blood soiled clothing.

IV. The Ball:

The Wiscasset Parks & Recreation Dept. will furnish soccer balls for each team before all practices and games.

Ball Size

Pee Wee Division (Gr. PreK, K) - size 3 foam ball

Mite Division (Gr. 1,2) – size 3 ball

Minor & Junior Division (Gr. 3, 4, 5,6) – size 4 ball

V. Modifications for each age group:

A. Coaches on the field

1. Mite Division- coaches are allowed to be on the field at all times to assist players in their proper positioning only. (Try not to be in a space that will interrupt the flow of the game)
2. Minor Division- coaches may enter onto the field to assist and teach certain aspects of the game during stoppage of play, such as off-sides or throw-ins when needed, but are encouraged to stay on the sidelines when possible.
3. Junior Division- coaches must remain on the sidelines.

B. Hand Balls

1. Mite Division- Deliberate handballs will be called by refs, coaches and refs remind/instruct players on the rule. If contact is incidental, play on.
2. Minor & Junior Divisions- All deliberate handballs will be called and enforced.

C. Throw-Ins

1. Mite Division- coaches and refs will instruct players how to make legal Throw-Ins at appropriate times.
2. Minor Division- Illegal Throw-Ins will be called by refs, coaches and refs instruct how to make legal throw-ins, but no infraction will be enforced on the first attempt, infractions on a player's second or third consecutive attempt will be enforced and the ball possession will be given to the other team.
3. Junior Division- All Illegal Throw-Ins will be called and enforced.

D. Off-Sides

1. Mite Division- No Off-Sides will be called.

2. Minor Division- Blatant Off-Sides (GOAL HANGING) will be called by refs, coaches and refs should instruct players about the rule, and no infraction will be enforced unless goal hanging.

3. Junior Division- Off-Sides will be called and enforced, Direct Kick given to the other team.

E. Field and Goal Sizes

1. Mite Division- Size appropriate goals will be used and play will take place on a shortened cross field.

2. Minor & Junior Division- Size appropriate goals will be used and play will take place on a shortened cross field.

F. Goal Kicks

1. Mite & Minor Division – Opponents must retreat to mid-field (Defensive end of the field) when the kick is taken. Opponents may attack once the ball has been struck.

2. Junior Division – Opponents must be back to the bottom of the center field circle (still on the offensive end of the field). Please place cones on the side lines at both ends of the field prior to the start of the match.

VI. Player Equipment:

A. All players will receive a team jersey which must be worn at all games.

B. Players need to furnish their own shin guards and they must be worn at all practices and games.

C. Regulation soccer shoes, multi-purpose athletic shoe with rubber molded cleats or sneakers are the recommended footwear. Leather street shoes, boots, baseball style cleats or shoes with metal cleats are not allowed.

D. Mouth guards are recommended but not required.