

WESTPORT SOCCER BASIC GAME RULES FOR REC SOCCER – REFEREE CHECKLIST

Pre-Game Checklist: (arrive at least 15 minutes before K.O.)

- **Ensure the goals are secure with sandbags** for 3/4th gr and up (2nd gr no sandbags needed)
- **Place corner flags as needed, check field and goal nets for safety issues.**
- Introduce yourself to the coaches; review substitution rules; confirm home team.
- Introduce yourself to your ref crew; review flag & hand signals; answer any questions.
- Check all players' equipment (shin guards inside socks, proper jersey color, **NO JEWELRY**).
- Make sure you have a whistle, flag set, score pad (red-yellow cards for 5/6th and up only)
Wear a WRIST WATCH TIMER. NO smartphones as timers. Do NOT wear whistle around your neck!
- Referee Jersey/T-shirt MUST be worn as the top layer. No jackets over jersey. Dress for the weather!

2nd GRADE - 5v5 players Game length: 4 x 15 minutes – (up to 2min breaks & 5 min halftime)

- **NO Jewelry** – (no earrings, necklace, rings, etc. NO EXCEPTIONS)
- NO goalies
- NO offside
- NO heading
- NO coaches on the field, must stay behind sideline
- NO penalty kicks
- NO slide tackles
- YES throw-ins (feet must always be on the ground)
- YES corner kick
- YES goal kick
- YES substitutions anytime (just like hockey)

3/4th GRADE – 7 v 7 – Game length: 2 x 25 minutes

- All laws of the game apply except for **liberal offside calls** – i.e., blatant or goal scored
- NO slide tackles (any repeat offender should be benched)
- NO jewelry
- NO coaches on the field, must stay behind sideline
- **OFFSIDE when using BUILD OUT LINE**
- A player will **not** be deemed in an offside position until they cross the BUILD OUT LINE to place themselves between that line and the goal line. In other words, the offside rules move from the HALFWAY LINE to the BUILD OUT LINE. ARs and lines-people will no longer need to run to the HALFWAY LINE. They will be able to stop at the BUILD OUT LINE.
- For Build Out Line info, Google search for 7v7 build out line rules or Player Development Initiatives, US Soccer.

5/6th GRADE – 9 v 9 – Game length: 2 x 30 minutes

- All laws of the game apply
- YES offside calls should be made
- YES yellow or red card can be given if incident warrants
- NO slide tackles (any repeat offender should be benched)
- NO jewelry
- NO coaches on the field, must stay behind sideline

7/8th GRADE – 11 v 11 Game length: 2 x 40 minutes

- All laws of the game apply

BE SURE YOU KNOW THE LAWS OF THE GAME: <https://www.ussoccer.com/referees/laws-of-the-game>

Questions? WSA Referee Advisor, Robby Casey: robby.casey@cibc.com

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