

**LAWRENCE HAMNETT SOCCER ASSOCIATION
POLICIES & PROCEDURES
RECREATIONAL LEAGUE**

1. Everyone associated with Lawrence Hamnett Soccer Association is bound to the LHSA Model Code of Conduct, including but not limited to the players, coaches, referees, spectators, and parents. Everyone is encouraged to support the players, referees and the coaches in their efforts.

2. League games are played and officiated according to the Laws of the Game published by FIFA and as recommended by United States Youth Soccer, with the following modifications:

Area of Law	Age 5/6	Age 7/8	Age 9/10	Age 11/13	
Field of Play	Bazooka Goals (3.5'W x 2'H) 18 x 30	Youth Goals (9'W x 4.5'H) 26 x 44	Youth Goals (12'W x 6.5'H) 35 x 55	Junior Goals (21'W x 7'H) ~ 45 x 75	
	Most divisions will play small-sided soccer on appropriately sized and marked fields. Field and goal size may vary from dimensions above. The goal of small-sided soccer is to develop soccer skills by increasing the frequency that players make contact with the ball.				
Soccer Ball	Size 3	Size 3	Size 4	Size 4	
Players	3 v 3 no keepers	5 v 5	6 v 6	8 v 8	
Goalkeepers	None	Yes, no punting	Yes, no punting	Yes	
Substitutions	Players may be substituted "on the fly," without ref recognition.		Both teams may sub any number of players when play is stopped ONLY for throw-ins, goals, goal kicks, injuries, and misconduct. Substitutes may not enter the field until recognized by the referee. Each player is entitled to play a minimum of half the game.		
Player Equipment	All players <u>must</u> wear shin guards. Soccer cleats are recommended but not required, no metal spikes. No watches, barrettes, or jewelry of any kind, including necklaces, hard or soft bracelets, earrings & posts. Hard casts must be sufficiently padded and approved by referee. Hair may be tied up with soft bands. Players may wear extra clothing to stay warm so long as it is safe and referee can identify opposing teams.				
Duration of Match	(3) 10-minute periods	15-minute halves	25-minute halves	30-minute halves	
	Games will be divided into equal periods. There will be approximately 5 minutes between halves and 2 minutes between other periods. Periods will restart with a kickoff; teams alternate kickoffs, starting with the team that lost the coin toss. Teams will change ends of field at half-time only.				
Ball in and out of play	Coach Directed	Kick-In (always indirect kicks)	Throw-in (second try given all season)	Throw-in	
Goal Kicks & Saves	N/A	Defending team must not cross the midfield line until goal kick is taken. After saves, keeper may not drop-kick or punt, and distribution may not be intercepted.		No restrictions.	
Offside & "Pass Back"	Not Enforced		Enforced		
	In the younger divisions, referees will not enforce offside infractions and will allow goalkeepers to handle a ball kicked or thrown-in to them by a teammate.				
Fouls & Misconduct	N/A	All fouls result in indirect kicks, except that there WILL be penalty kicks awarded in the 9/10 division.		Both direct-kick fouls and penalty kicks will be called. Trivial incidents or handling that is not deliberate will not be whistled anywhere on the field.	
	No slide tackling at any age. Sliding is OK, but slide tackles will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team for playing in a dangerous manner. The first offense will result in a caution; second offense requires an ejection from the game.				
Standings	No		Yes		

3. Balanced team play is required as follows:

- Sessions scheduled for the Age 7/8 and Age 5/6 divisions will begin with a practice for the first 25 minutes and then teams will organize to compete in two (Age 7/8) or three (Age 5/6) simultaneous small-sided mini-games against an opposing team that has likewise split. Games must start no later than 25 minutes into session. After each mini game, the away teams will switch fields, ensuring that all players compete against each other during the session.
- For the Age 5/6 division, each team will split into 3 groups when the small-sided games are ready to begin. If both teams have 8 or fewer players present then you will split into 2 groups playing 3v3 with a substitute. In the event that fewer than 3 players are present for a given team after splitting, the team with a greater number of players will lend the other team as many players as necessary to balance the teams.
- For the Age 7/8 division, each team will split in half when the small-sided games are ready to begin. If both teams only have 8 or 9 players then you will still split into two groups but play 4v4 instead of 5v5, if necessary. In the event that fewer than 5 players are present for a given team after splitting, the team with a greater number of players will lend the other team as many players as necessary to balance the teams.
- For Age 9/10 division, games will begin at the scheduled time and there is no warm-up time allocated. Teams wishing to warm-up can plan to arrive early and do so prior to the start of their game. A team will forfeit the game after a 10 minute grace period if they have fewer than 6 players on the field. In the case of a forfeit, teams will play a scrimmage after balancing the squads. A team may not compete with more than a one player advantage.
- For Age 11/13 division, games will begin at the scheduled time and there is no warm-up time allocated. Teams wishing to warm-up can plan to arrive early and do so prior to the start of their game. A team will forfeit the game after a 10 minute grace period if they have fewer than 7 players on the field. In the case of a forfeit, teams will play a scrimmage after balancing the squads. A team may not compete with more than a one player advantage.

4. Coaches

- Coaches are encouraged to play the children in all positions and for at least half the game in order to fully develop each player's soccer skills.
- When leading another team by a large margin, the leading coach is responsible for managing the team so as not to "run-up" the score. A 6-goal differential is the **maximum allowed** in a division with standings. Games that end with a goal differential exceeding the maximum, for any reason, will be recorded in the standings as a 1-1 tie.
- During the game, coaches must remain behind the touchline and on their assigned side of the midline, and may not enter the field unless beckoned by the referee. In the 6 & under division coaches are allowed on the field to facilitate play as required. After each game, coaches will line up the teams along the touchline to shake hands.
- Coaches must always have first aid kits and ice at the field during play.
- If a referee identifies misconduct by players or spectators, coaches must assist the referee in properly handling the situation. Cautioned players should be substituted immediately. Ejected players must take no further part in the game, but may, at the coach's discretion, remain on the sideline. Coaches must inform ejected spectators that they are required to leave the field and its immediate surroundings.

5. Parents and Spectators

- Spectators are to watch from **designated areas only**. At LIS this is 5 yards behind the goal line that is nearest the parking lot. At the Armory this will always be the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players and at least a yard outside the touchline or 10 yards outside the goal line, and never directly behind a goal.

- Parents and spectators who violate the LHSA model code of conduct will be asked to leave the field and its immediate surroundings for the duration of the match. The game will be suspended until they depart. They may wait in the parking lot. If they return to the field or refuse to leave, the game will be abandoned and the police notified.

6. Referees

- LHSA referees are primarily adolescents who are learning the art and science of refereeing, just as the players are learning to master their soccer skills and tactics. Everyone is expected to encourage the referees just as we encourage the players.
- LHSA assigns a referee coach to monitor and improve the quality of the refereeing with pre-season training and in-season assessments for all referees. Any advice regarding referee behavior should be discussed with the referee coach and not the referee directly.
- Referees should wear dark shirts, shorts, socks, and footwear (preferably all black), and must be equipped with a whistle, watch, coin, pen and paper, and misconduct cards. LHSA typically provides new referees with a black T-shirt, whistle and card pack.
- Referees have the authority to disqualify players, coaches and/or spectators for infractions such as verbal abuse and dissent.
- There will be no referees assigned to the 6 & under division matches; rather the coaches will monitor play. The older division matches will typically be assigned one center referee.

7. Injuries

- Referees are trained to immediately stop play when they recognize a player is injured, regardless of whether there was a foul. The injury will supersede the advantage rule or any continuation of play in 8 & under divisions. An injury stoppage will only be delayed in older age groups if there is an immediate scoring opportunity in close proximity to the goal, or clear evidence that the player intends to continue unassisted.
- The coach should not enter the field until beckoned by the referee. After assessing the possible injury, the coach may choose to remove the player. Spectators should avoid entering the field of play unless requested by the referee or coach.

8. Awards

- Teams in the 9 year-old and over divisions will be awarded 1st and 2nd place trophies if the division has 5 or fewer teams. 3rd place trophies will be awarded to divisions having at least 6 teams.
- Participation awards will be given to all other teams.
- Points will be awarded as follows: Win=4pts, Draw=2pts, Loss=1pt, Forfeit=0pts. First tiebreaker will be head-to-head competition. Second tiebreaker will be fewest goals allowed. Final tiebreaker will be resolved with kicks from the penalty mark.

9. Smoking is prohibited at all Lawrence Hamnett practices, games and events.

**updated August 21, 2014*