



PIKE SOCCER U6 GAME GUIDELINES-FALL 2021

Games will be played on Saturday mornings unless both coaches agree to move to another time due to scheduling difficulties. However, rescheduling U6 games is not encouraged.

Pre-Game - Encourage your teams to arrive 20 minutes before game time to allow time to warm up, get loose and other pre-game activities.

Equipment The basic equipment for soccer required by the FIFA Laws of the Game are:

- a jersey or shirt
- shorts
- stockings (long socks)
- shin guards
- footwear

Coaches will make sure all players have these items. Players should not be allowed on the field without shin guards. In cases of cold weather, sweaters, coats and hats are allowed. The jersey should still be visible if possible.

Before Kickoff: A team cheer is a good way of getting the team ready for the start of the game. Coaches will decide who gets to kick off first.

{Note – the coaches can help players at kickoff by pointing out the goal that they are attempting to score on by saying “we are going towards the playground!” or something similar.}

Length of Game: (2) 20 minute halves. Clock starts at kickoff and runs continuously until the end of the half. Coaches can coordinate on who is keeping the time.

Start and Restart: A kick-off is the way a soccer game is started or restarted:

- at the start of a game.
- after a goal has been scored.
- at the start of each quarter.

{NOTE -In U6, the teams DO NOT switch side at the end of the half. It saves some confusion.}

During a kickoff the defending team needs to be out of the circle.

Number of players: 4 vs 4 with no keeper.

Scoring: No official score is kept.

Ball – Size 3 balls will be used in U6. Please have several balls available near the half line to keep the kids from chasing the ball.

Referee: Two coaches or parent volunteers on the field. Their job is to instruct as much as to referee. Whistles may be used. One blast to start/restart of stop play. Two blasts for halftime and three blasts for full time (end of the game).

Substitutions: Unlimited so that every child plays at least a half (if they want to). Can substitute at any time there is a stoppage in play. If they go sit in Mom's lap, then we can encourage them to come back to the bench. If they refuse, we leave them there.

Ball over the touch line/sideline: The ball will be thrown in. If the Cosmos and the Novas are playing and the ball was kicked over the side line by a Cosmos player, then the Novas will have the throw in. A goal may not be scored by the person "throwing the ball in", unless it touched another player before going onto the goal.

{Note – the player kicking the ball in cannot throw it in to themselves. It has to touch another player first}

Ball over the end line/goal line and Attacking team touched it last: Defending team takes a goal kick from the edge of the goal box. {Note – the player kicking the ball in cannot kick it in to themselves. It has to touch another player first}. The ball must leave the goal box to be in play. Also, the coaches may allow redos to be sure the player understand the concept of a good kick off

Ball over the end line/goal line and Defending team touched it last: The attacking team takes a corner kick from the corner closest to where the ball crossed the end line. The kick must enter the field of play. Redos are allowed to teach the concept of where to place the ball and how much pace to put on the kick. Please allow the kick taker to have five yards.

{NOTE: During a corner kick, neither team may set up inside the goal box. All players must be on the edge of the box. Once the ball has been played into/near the goal box, players may enter into the box.}

Goal Box: Players cannot set up inside the goal box. This will discourage players from standing in front of the goal or hanging on the goals.

Handballs/other fouls: Handballs and other fouls will be at the discretion of the coaches and will be considered Indirect kicks (i.e., the ball must touch another player before it can go into the goal). Dropped balls may be used when there is an unexpected stoppage in play.

Parents in the Technical Areas (Benches): Parents are DISCOURAGED from sitting behind the benches on the player's side. One parent may sit to act as a bench manager, but other parents are

encouraged to sit on the other side in the spectator's area. This should cut down on distractions. **A line will be striped 2-3 yards off of the touch line for the parents to set up their chairs. This will allow for enough room for the kick-ins.**

Sportsmanship – At the end of the second half (Full time), both teams should line up on the touch line/sideline by the benches OR on the Half Line and approach each other and slap hands and say “good game” or some other appropriate words to encourage good sportsmanship.

SPRING 2021 NOTES -COVID protocols discourage handshakes or fist bumps after games.

After Game Activities – After the game is completed, the team should clear their drinks, snack wrappers, empty bottles, balls and other gear from the benches and make way for the next team. Any lost items should be taken to the concession stand.