



Bay County Youth Soccer Association, Inc.



**Modified
Laws of the Game
&
Rules**

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www.BCYSA.org



Bay County Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
PO Box 10302 Panama City, FL 32404

BCYSA

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Vice Pres:	Chip Pitts
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Referee Development: Heinz Camenzind

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Legal Representative/ Community Relations	Doug Smith
Registrar:	Shannon Odom
Referee Assignor/ Head of Game Scheduling:	Heinz Camenzind
Head of Tournaments:	Chip Pitts
Fields and Equipment/ Uniform Coordinator/ Pictures and Awards	Quenton Nunnery
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Welcome to Bay County Youth Soccer

BCYSA is the oldest and largest non-profit, all volunteer organization serving the Bay County area. We are a United States Soccer Federation affiliated body governed by a board of elected officers and committee directors. The board meets monthly throughout the year in order to meet all goals and expectations.

Our mission is to encourage promote and stimulate interest and participation within BCYSA by organizing recreational and competitive soccer teams; developing our players, coaches, and referees; promoting sportsmanship; maintaining proper playing facilities; and operating in a financially responsible manner.

Our Vision is to be the Premier soccer club in Northwest Florida.

Most Importantly, **BCYSA emphasizes Kids having Fun.** Every child participating in the recreational league is guaranteed to play at least half of a game and we strive to see that they are instructed in a fun, safe and enjoy-able atmosphere.

I sincerely hope you have a great time and enjoy the BCYSA experience.

Jeremy Rey, President
Bay County Youth Soccer Association

BCYSA

Modified Recreation Rules and Laws of the Game

SECTION 1. Modified Laws of the Game

Rules of play, except as modified herein, shall be in accordance with FIFA "Laws of the Game" as modified by SAY Rules 2013-2014.

LAW I. The Field of Play

A. The field of play will vary depending on the age group and game location. (*See Table 1*)

B. One touchline will be for the sole use of the players and coaches, with each team occupying a separate technical area in their half of the field

C. The technical area shall conform to FIFA specification of "1 yard on either side of the designated seated area, extending forward up to a distance of 1 yard from the touchline."

D. During the game, the coaches and players must remain in their Technical Areas. Coaches are not permitted to roam the touchlines.

E. The remaining touchline will be designated as a spectator area. All spectators must remain behind the restraining line which will be drawn a minimum of two yards off the touchline. (*See SECTION 2. BCYSA Recreational Miscellaneous Rules, Item 4. Spectators.*)

LAW II. The Ball

A. The size of the ball will vary depending on the age group (*See Table 1*)

LAW III. Number of Players

A. The minimum and maximum number of players on the field will vary depending on the age group. (*See Table 1*)

B. The game will start with no fewer than the minimum number of players for the particular age group. A game will end when a team can no longer field the minimum number of players. If a team falls below the minimum due to the removal of a player for injury and the likelihood of the player returning is good, then play may continue while the player is made ready to return.

C. Rosters – U4-U19

1. Coaches must present an Official Team Roster (OTR) or player passes to the referee prior to the start of each scheduled game. An OTR is one that is signed by the BCYSA president and registrar.

2. Individuals must be listed on the OTR to be eligible to participate. ***No guest playing.***

3. Changes to the OTR must be made by the BCYSA registrar.

Pen & ink changes are not authorized.

A player who arrives at a game after team check-in may enter the game **only** after being checked by the referee/assistant referee, and verified against the OTR or player pass.

D. Substitutions

1. Players may substitute only at the discretion of the referee and they must wait for the referee's permission before entering or exiting the field.

2. Substitutions are unlimited

3. Substitutes must be at or approaching the centerline prior to the ball going out-of-play.

3. Substitutions may be made by either team:

- a. prior to Goal Kick
- b. prior to Kick-off after goal is scored
- c. between periods (half-time & quarter-breaks)
- d. during water breaks
- e. after stoppage for injury, prior to restart. ***The injured player must be substituted.***

4. Conditional substitutions may be made:

- a. prior to a Throw-in
- b. prior to a Corner Kick

(1) If the team awarded the throw-in or corner kick substitutes, then **BOTH** teams may substitute.

(2) If the team awarded the throw-in or corner kick does **NOT** substitute, then **NEITHER** team can substitute.

5. Following issuance of a caution the cautioned player only may be substituted. This is not mandatory.

LAW IV. Player's Equipment

A. Metal screw-in cleats are not permitted.

B. Metal tips on molded cleats are not permitted.

C. Casts **are not** permitted, regardless of type or coverings.

Jewelry **is not** permitted. This includes earrings of any type, even if covered by tape or other covering. Hair adornments made of hard material, such as plastic, metal or wood, are not allowed.

D. Players with oral braces **must** wear mouth guards in order to participate.

E. Jersey's must be tucked into the shorts.

F. Sleeves may be rolled up, but not cut off.

G. Shinguards **under** and fully covered by socks are mandatory.

H. Socks must match and be the same color as those provided by BCYSA with the uniforms, or a reasonable facsimile.

LAW V. Referee

A. 15 minutes prior to game start time the referee, with help from his/her assistants, will:

1. Check team rosters/player passes to ensure player eligibility,
2. Check the equipment of each player,
3. Perform the coin toss
 - a. The visiting team will call the coin toss. Home team is the team listed first on the schedule.
 - b. Winner has choice of direction or kick-off
 - c. Other team receives remaining choice

B. Immediately following the game the referee will

1. Complete the Game Sheet and deliver it to the designated collection area prior to departing the recreation complex.

2. Complete a BCYSA Referee or Incident Report for any send-off offenses or serious injuries, to include player name, pass number (U12 and older), team number, date and time.

3. U4 teams will be allowed one (1) coach per team on the field during the game. There will not be an assigned referee for this age division. The coaches from both teams will officiate at least one half of the game with only one coach acting as the referee each half. This means that there should be no more than 3 adults on the field at any given period (1-referee and two coaches).

4. U6 teams will be allowed one (1) coach per team on the field during the game. In the event a referee is unavailable to officiate the game, the coaches will facilitate the game. *Remember to explain all calls to the player.*

LAW VI. Assistant Referee

A. Every attempt will be made to have 2 assistant referees (AR) for U10 and older games. If necessary, club linesmen will be used in lieu of assistant referees. **Club linesmen will signal ball out-of-play only.**

B. When practical, a dual system utilizing 2 experienced referees may be used when a 2nd AR is not available. ***Not all referees are experienced in the dual system, therefore the dual system is not mandated.***

LAW VII. Duration of the Match

A. The duration of the match will vary depending on the age group (See Table 1)

B. U4-U8. Games will be divided into quarters with a 2 minute quarter break between the 1st & 2nd quarter, and 3rd & 4th quarter.

C. U10-U19. Games will be divided into halves with a 2-minute *mandatory water break* at the approximate mid-point of each half.

- D. Halftime break for all age groups is 10 minutes.
- E. A game called by the referee prior to the start of the second half may be rescheduled and played in its entirety subject to field and date availability,
- F. A game will NOT be rescheduled
 - 1. If it is terminated due to send-off resulting in less than the minimum number of players.
 - 2. In the event of forfeit in accordance with Law 12 – item A.
 - 3. if the game is called after the start of the second half.
- G. Goal Differential will be used in U10 and up
 - 4. If one team is ahead by **8** or more goals at half-time, the referee shall end the match.
 - 5. If one team secures a **8** goal lead at any point during the second half, the referee shall end the match at that time.
- H. Tie Games (U10 & Up) - games tied at the end of regulation play will proceed to a 5-person shoot-out, in accordance with FIFA’s “Procedures to determine the winner of a match – Kicks from the penalty mark” Games that remain a tie after the 5 players from each team have kicked :
 - 1. Regular Season - will remain a tie.
 - 2. Playoffs - a golden-goal shoot-out will be used to decide a winner. Players on the field that were not involved in the original 5 kicks will kick first.

LAW VIII. The Start and Restart of Play

The schedule start time of a game is the time indicated on the league game schedule. Teams will be afforded a 10-minute grace period from the scheduled start time in which to field a team. Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game, beyond the grace period, shall forfeit the game.

LAW IX. Ball In and Out of Play – No change

LAW X. The Method of Scoring

- A. U4 - U8 – No score is kept
- B. U10 & up – No Change

LAW XI. Offside

- A. U4 - U8 – No offside.
- B. U10 & up – No change.

LAW XII. Fouls and Misconduct

A. Each team is permitted **three** coaches in their technical area. If all three are “sent off”, and no other coach can be found to “fill-in”, the game will be forfeited.

B. Players, coaches and spectators are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of FIFA’s “Laws of the Game” and the BCYSA Coaches, Players, and Parents Codes of Conduct.

C. Any BCYSA official has the authority and responsibility to remove any person(s) from the vicinity of the playing field for abuses to good conduct. In addition they can enforce any disciplinary action brought about by other authority.

D. Any player or coach ejected from a game will be automatically suspended for at least the next scheduled league game. They may also be subject to further disciplinary action in accordance with BCYSA By-Laws and Rules.

E. Slide tackling is ***NOT*** allowed in U4-U8. Restart is an indirect free kick for the opposing team.

F. For U4-U8, all infractions must be explained to the player.

G. Any player who receives three (3) yellow cards (cautionable offenses) over the course of three games will be suspended for the next game. For any player who has served a three yellow card suspension, for each subsequent yellow card received the player will be automatically suspended for the next game.

LAW XIII. Free Kicks

A. U4 - U8

1. All kicks are indirect.

2. All kicks must be taken from outside the goal area.

B. U10 & up – No change.

LAW XIV. Penalty Kick

A. U4 - U8 – No penalty kicks (all kicks indirect).

B. U10 & up – No change.

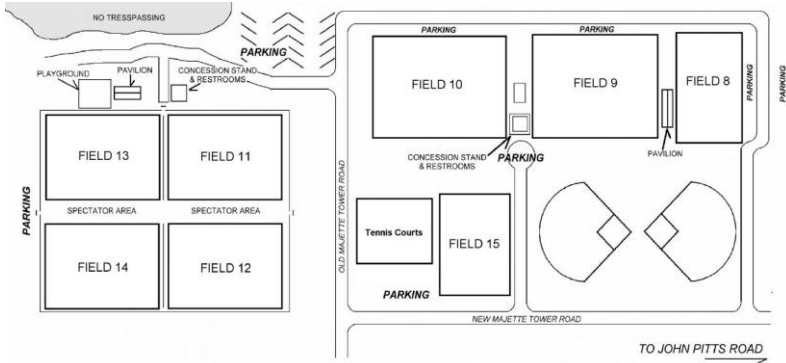
LAW XV. Throw-in

A. U6 & U8 – Receive a second chance on a improper throw-in, after explanation of proper method.

B. U10 & up – No change.

LAW XVI. Goal Kick – No change

LAW XVII. Corner Kick – No change



BAY COUNTY YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
H.G. HARDERS RECREATIONAL COMPLEX



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SECTION 2. BCYSA Recreational Miscellaneous Rules

1. Inclement weather (not including lightning)

a. U4 & Up – **At game time** if BCYSA has not cancelled the game, the coaches will make the decision on whether to play or not. Both coaches have to agree for the game to be cancelled. If the Coaches cancel the game there will not be a reschedule or make-up game. If BCYSA cancels the game it will be rescheduled.

2. Lightning. In the event of lightning, the referee will suspend play.

a. During the stoppage, coaches will instruct their players to seek cover and keep them there until the referee signals he/she is ready for the game to restart.

b. Due to scheduling constraints, BCYSA may choose to terminate a match that has been suspended for lighting. Coaches will be notified on whether or not games that end prior to half time will be rescheduled. (*See LAW VII. Duration of the Match, Item D.*)

3. Water Breaks. In U10 & up there will be a mandatory water break.

a. Breaks will be taken during a normal stoppage in play near the mid-point of each half,

b. they will be limited to 2 minutes, and

c. teams should retake the field promptly when the referee signals for play to restart.

d. U4 - U8 have mandatory quarter-breaks instead of water breaks. (*See LAW VII. Duration of the Match, Item B.*)

4. Spectators.

a. All spectators must view the game from the designated spectator area.

b. Spectators are not permitted to coach the players or move up and down the touchline, nor sit or stand behind the goal lines.

c. Spectators are not permitted behind the player benches. If spectators are outside a fence that is behind the player bench area they must refrain from comments that may interfere with the coach's ability to relay tactics and instructions, are confusing to the players, or are considered disruptive to the game.

d. Spectators who are disruptive or abusive will be asked to leave.

5. U4-U6 "Goal Keeper". In the U4-U6 age groups a coach cannot place a

player in front of their goal as purely a defensive player. (*This is not in keeping with the intent of not having a goal keeper in this age group*). All players must be involved in the entire field of play.

6. Player Participation.

a. All players **SHALL** be provided the opportunity to participate in at least 50% of every game or as closely as possible, except for reasons of injury, illness, absence, discipline or lack of required equipment (e.g., shin guards).

b. Should a coach determine that it is in the best interest of the player to discipline the player by denying participation in a game, the coach must submit a written request to the BCYSA president describing the reason(s) for such action and how this will benefit the player. The coach must receive approval from the BCYSA president in order to implement the request. If during a game a coach determines it is necessary to curtail a players playing time to less than half the game, they must submit an incident report within 48-hrs detailing why the action was taken.

c. U8 and U10 coaches should allow players to participate in, and experience, different playing positions throughout the season.

7. Practices. Soccer is a team sport and practices are a vital part of the game. As such players are expected to attend scheduled practices. Parents should notify the coach when their child will be unable to attend a scheduled practice. Parents are encouraged to stay throughout all practices and games. Parents dropping off players at practices or games are responsible, before departing the area, for insuring their children report to their coach. They are also responsible for picking their children up promptly at the end of practice.

8. SAY “Times-Two” policy. No less than two adults must be present at all team events. The adults present can be a combination of coaches, parents, board members, etc. Coaches cannot hold practice without a second adult present.

9. Protests and Complaints.

a. Protests: Recreational games cannot be protested.

b. Complaints: Incident reports are to be used to report any and all complaints or problems. BCYSA can only deal with issues if they are presented in writing. They may be filled out online on our website at <http://www.BCYSA.com>; or they can be downloaded, filled out and mailed to: BCYSA, P.O. Box 10302, Panama City, FL 32404.

10. Rescheduling Games.

a. The BCYSA president, or in his absence the vice president, is the only individual authorized to reschedule games prior to their schedule start time. He will coordinate with the scheduler, who will contact the appropriate teams to notify them of the change.

b. In the event that both teams fail to appear for a scheduled game, and no prior arrangements have been made with the league, the game will not be rescheduled.

11. H.G. Harders Recreational Complex Rules:

a. No Tobacco Products Allowed. This includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Chew
- (2) Cigarettes
- (3) Cigars
- (4) Pipes

b. No Alcohol Allowed. The consumption of alcoholic beverages near and around youth sporting events is prohibited.

c. No Dogs Allowed. Please do not bring your pet to the sports complex. They are not allowed on the fields and it is not advisable to keep them locked in a car.

d. Park in designated areas only. Please refrain from parking in areas marked as NO PARKING.

e. Stay within the confines of the complex. H.G. Harders borders several areas that are potentially hazardous and are marked No Trespassing. Parents should closely supervise young children to make sure they stay within the park complex and away from these areas.

f. Please observe speed limits. There are children everywhere during our soccer games. Please keep your speed limited to 5mph near the soccer fields and parking lots.



PLEASE DO NOT LITTER!

If you bring it with you, take it home with
you *or*

Place your trash in a trash can.

DO NOT BE A LITTER BUG!

SECTION 3. BCYSA Coach Responsibilities

1. Please review your *Coaches Code of Conduct*. We will not tolerate coaches teaching or encouraging players to play rough to the point of injurious play. Coaches need to set a good example to their players, teaching fair play and having fun.
2. Coaches should review the *Parents Code of Conduct* with their parents and emphasize the positive attitudes we want to display for the benefit of our players. Parents are encouraged to cheer for their teams, but using vulgar, insulting or demeaning language or gestures at players, coaches, or referees is not acceptable.
3. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. The referee may ask a coach to take care of a problem with a spectator. If a coach is unable to control a spectator then league officials, through the use of law-enforcement personnel if necessary, may remove that spectator from the park.
4. Coaches should ensure that their team area is cleaned-up after the game, prior to leaving the field.
5. Any roster changes need to be accomplished through the registrar. The registrar must provide a new roster or player pass to the coach before any new player can participate in BCYSA functions (games or practices.) ***Pen and ink changes to rosters or player passes are not authorized.***
6. Coaches should contact their coordinators with any questions they may have. This includes questions about uniforms, trophies, and plaques. Please do not contact vendors directly. We have committees set up to handle all functions of the league and the committee heads are the only ones with the authority to deal with our vendors. When coordinators request information from the coach, it should be provided in a timely manner.
7. Some of our teams may be short the maximum number of players during the season. In the event that a team is short players the opposing coach must match the number of players the other team has fielded. Coaches should not play down if the other team is short due to a send-off.
8. As a sign of good sportsmanship, following the game players and coaches from both teams should congratulate each other for a game well played.

Table 1- Specifications

	U3/4	U5/6	U8	U10	U12	U15/16	U19
Max Field	30x20	50x30	70x50	80x50	130x100	130x100	130x100
Max Goal	4x6	5x10	6x12	7x21	8x24	8x24	8x24
Ball Size	3	3	3	4	4	5	5
Game Length	32 min	40 min	48 min	50 min	60 min	80 min	90 min
Periods	4x8	4x10	4x12	2x25	2x30	2x40	2x45
Min # Players	4	3	5	6	7	7	7
Max # Players	6	5	7	8	11	11	11
Free Kicks	Indirect Only			Indirect and Direct			
Distance from Free Kick	5 yds		6 yds	8 yds	10 yds		

Players

Code of Conduct

- **I will** encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at all times.
- **I will** remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- **I deserve** to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
- **I will** do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as I do.
- **I will** treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and spectators with respect at all times, regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities; and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- **I will** concentrate on playing soccer, always giving my best effort.
- **I will** play by the rules at all times.
- **I will** at all times control my temper, resisting the temptation to retaliate.
- **I will** always exercise self-control.
- **I will** make every effort to attend scheduled practices and games.
- **I will** conduct myself during competition towards play of the game and all officials, in accordance with appropriate behavior and FIFA's "Laws of the Game", and in adherence to BCYSA and SAY rules.

Players are subject to discipline and sanctions as outlined by FIFA Laws of the Game, BCYSA Modified Recreational Rules, and BCYSA Discipline & Sanctions.

Coaches/Volunteers Code of Conduct

- **I will** never place the value of winning before the safety and welfare of all players
- **I will** always show respect for players, other coaches, and game officials.
- **I will** lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
- **I will** demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the game, and teach these rules to my players.
- **I will** never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.
- **I will not** tolerate inappropriate behavior, regardless of the situation.
- **I will not** allow the use of anabolic agents or stimulants, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol by any of my players.
- **I will** never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student-athlete.
- **I will** be the primary soccer role model. Youth have a greater need for example than criticism.
- **I will** at all times conduct myself in a positive manner.
- **I know** that coaching is motivating players to produce their best effort, inspiring players to learn, and encouraging players to be winners.
- **I will** maintain my actions on sidelines during games in the spirit of "good sportsmanship" at all times. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, shall require disciplinary action from the league.
- Alcohol, illegal drugs and unauthorized prescription drugs shall not be possessed, consumed or distributed before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex.

Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct

- **I will** encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, game officials, and administrators at all times.
- **I will** place the emotional and physical well being of all players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- **I will** support the coaches, officials, and administrators working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- **I will** remember that the game is for the players, not for the adults.
- **I will** ask my child to treat other players, coaches, game officials, administrators, and fans with respect.
- **I will** always be positive in word and action.
- **I will** always allow the coach to be the only coach.
- **I will not** get into arguments with other spectators, players, or coaches.
- **I will not** come onto the field for any reason during the game.
- **I will not** criticize game officials.
- **I will** make every effort to get my child to and from scheduled practices in a timely and consistent manner.
- **I will** refrain from using tobacco products inside the field complex.
- Alcohol, illegal drugs and unauthorized prescription drugs shall not be possessed, consumed or distributed before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field complex.

AFFILIATED AGENCIES

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Bay County—Parks and Recreation

H.G. Harder Recreational Complex

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Bay County Youth Soccer Association

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*Layout and Design
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