SPRING & FALL OFFICIAL RULES

All games shall be played in accordance with the rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), EXCEPT that local league rules shall take precedence in cases of conflict.

RULE 1 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

All teams must meet the minimum requirement for a team to start the game. If a team does not have the minimum number of players to start the game and the other team has ample subs, that team is **required** to lend player(s) to the other team in order to reach the correct number of players on the field.

The minimum number of players is outlined below ex: Pee Wee (5), K-2nd (7), etc...

For 3rd Grade - HS, Referees will determine the format of the game based on the amount of players who attend the game; in the case there is a turnout that does not meet minimum requirement of players.

A. **Pee Wee Teams (5v5):** The game shall be played by two teams consisting of five (5) players each on the field, with **NO** goalkeeper. At no time should you play more than 5v5.
B. **K - 2nd Teams (7v7):** The game shall be played by two teams consisting of seven (7) players each on the field, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. At no time should you play more than 7v7.
C. **3rd - 4th Grade Teams (9v9):** The game shall be played by two teams consisting of nine (9) players each on the field, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. At no time should you play more than 9v9.
D. **5th - 6th Grade Teams (11v11):** The game shall be played by two teams consisting of no more than eleven (11) players each on the field, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. At no time should you play more than 11v11.
E. **7th - 8th Grade Teams (adjusted based on attendance):**
    a. New Teams predetermined each week
    b. Players will receive home and away uniforms
        i. Player must bring both shirts with them each week
    c. Game format based on number of players at 8:20 AM
        i. 32 players or more- 4 teams will be made (2 small sided games **8v8** will occur)
        ii. 31 & under players- 2 teams will be made (Full sided game **11v11** will occur)
    d. (2) Referees will facilitate games (2 on a full side game; 1 per game if small sided)
    e. **No later than 8:20am: Game format will be determined by the Recreation Supervisor.** These games need to start on time at 8:30am. We can not wait for straggler players to show up as we have other games and a time limit on Iron Peak fields every Saturday. The game format will **NOT** change once the game has started.
F. **9th - 12th Grade Teams:**
    a. New Teams predetermined each week
    b. Players will receive home and away uniforms
        i. Players must bring both shirts with them each week
    c. **11v11** Full Sided Game or 1 **8v8** small sided Game. Format dependent on number of players at start of game
    d. (2) Referees will facilitate games

RULE 2 – SUBSTITUTION

A. Free substitution is permitted (for all players, excluding goalies). There is no limit to the number of times a player may enter or leave a game.
   a. A goalie can only be substituted at half time unless an injury has occurred.

B. Substitutions may be made during any stoppage of play. Players waiting to come on should stand by the halfway line.

C. Coaches wishing to make substitutions shall notify the referee. The referee may elect not to grant the substitution at a particular time in a game if, in the referee's opinion, substituting by the coach is delaying the game or intended to delay the game, particularly during the closing minutes of a game. Coaches should attempt to keep the games moving and able to be completed within the time allotted for the game, and shall conduct their substitutions promptly. **ALL players MUST have equal playing time.**

RULE 3 - DURATION OF GAMES

The duration of play will be as follows:

Peewee:
- 30 minute practice
- 30 minute modified game

K - 2nd:
- 15 minute practice
- 15 minute small sided scrimmage against your team (Use of popup goals)
- 30 minute full field game

3rd - 4th:
- Two 25 minute halves

5th - 6th:
- Two 30 minute halves

7th - 8th:
- 2 small sided games against each other or 1 full size game (subject to change based on amount of players - See Rule #2)

9th - 12th:
- 2 small sided games against each other or 1 full size game (subject to change based on amount of players - See Rule #2)

RULE 4- CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS

A. The **coach** is responsible for the conduct of his or her spectators, parents and players on the field and bench. COACHES, SPECTATORS AND PLAYERS SHALL NOT DISPUTE CALLS MADE BY THE REFEREE. Coaches, players, parents or spectators who are verbally abusive to the referees, players or each other may be ejected by the referee or coordinator and must immediately leave the vicinity of the playing field.

B. The referee shall report all ejections to the league supervisor as soon as possible after the game is

completed, together with a brief statement of the occurrence. A player and/or coach expelled from a game may be automatically suspended by the league for one or more games, and/or other appropriate disciplinary action may be taken.

C. Coaches & subs must remain in an area on their side of the field within 20 yards of the halfway line. If, in the referee' s opinion, a coach on the field is interfering with play or otherwise violating these rules, the referee may ask the coach to leave the field and the team shall thereafter be entitled to one less coach on the field for the remainder of the game. Failure to leave the field upon request of the referee may result in the game being declared a forfeit.

D. In Pee Wee-2nd Grade games, two coaches may remain on the field of play for each team; provided however that they shall not interfere with play. Coaches shall stand away from the play and shall not run alongside the play. One coach will be permitted to be on the field of play while the other coach will be required to stand out of bounds near the goalkeeper, (Coaches are not permitted in the goal box). With fewer coaches on the field this will cause less cluster during play.

RULE 5 - THE REFEREE

A. The referee's decision during play shall be final. The referee should communicate all calls made during the game. The referee should explain the call to the younger players. Play shall be stopped for all serious injuries. The referee's duty is to ensure that the game is played fairly for the maximum enjoyment of the players with as little interference by the referee as possible. If the referee makes a bad call, in your opinion, keep your feelings to yourself, deal with the call and move on. If you have any referee questions please call the Parks & Recreation office at 908-369-4832.

B. Peewee: Coaches are the referees (2 per team on field) ***1 coach on field and 1 coach standing near goal***

C. K-2nd: Coaches are the referees (2 per team on field) ***1 coach on field and 1 coach standing near goal, not to interfere with game of play***

D. 3rd-12th: Two referees per game are provided

RULE 6 - EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS

For any violation below; the player shall be ordered off the field and shall not return without reporting to the referee during substitution to verify that the player's equipment is acceptable and safe.

A. No player wearing a cast of any kind on any part of his/her body may participate in a game.
B. No metal cleats, boots, or football shoes are allowed.
C. **No jewelry of any kind** is allowed; with the exception of medical bracelets. A Yellow Card will be issued for violation.
    a. This includes but is not limited to any kind of earrings, piercings, necklaces, bracelets and watches (smart, fitness or traditional). Taping over earrings or piercings is **NOT** acceptable. The player MUST remove the piercing in order to play.
    b. Religious necklaces may be worn but must be taped to the player's chest.
D. All players are required to wear shin guards **UNDER THEIR SOCKS** at all times, for all grade levels.
    a. There will be no grace period at the beginning of the season. Players will not be allowed on the field without shin guards. If it is noticed during the game that a player does not have shin guards, that player will immediately leave the playing field and shall not return to the game until shin guards are worn. Delay of game will not be allowed for the player to put on shin guards; a substitution should be made.
E. All players in K-12th are required to wear soccer cleats
F. The goalkeeper shall wear a different color shirt than the uniform color of the players on his/her team;

as well as the opposing team. The referee shall be notified when a team changes the goalkeeper during a game.

G. Both teams shall bring a suitable game ball provided by Hillsborough Parks & Recreation
    a. Peewee-Kindergarten: Size 3 Soccer Ball
    b. 1st- 4th Grade: Size 4 Soccer Ball
    c. 5th-12th Grade: Size 5 Soccer Ball
H. Sports glasses are **MANDATORY**
    a. **C.5:18-1 Protective eyewear for certain children participating in sports.**
        i. Any child who wears corrective eyeglasses while participating in racquetball, squash, tennis, women's lacrosse, basketball, women's field hockey, badminton, paddleball, **soccer**, volleyball, baseball or softball, sponsored by a school, community or government agency, shall be required to wear protective eyewear that meets the frames standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F803 and lens standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1.

RULE 7 – MISCELLANEOUS

A. **NO SLIDE TACKLE RULE:** All slide tackles that take the ball away or attempt to take the ball away from a player are banned. The first attempt by a player will result in the player receiving a YELLOW CARD. The second attempt by the same player will result in a RED CARD.
B. **3rd/4th Grade & younger as follows:** On goal kicks, free kicks inside the penalty area & when the goalie has possession in their hands, all opponents must retreat & remain behind the 18 yard penalty area until the ball is "in play" before they can pressure the ball. The ball will not be considered “in play” until the ball has been touched by a teammate. If the ball goes directly past the 18 yard penalty area or if it comes to a complete stop within the penalty area, it will also be considered "in play". If an opponent pressures the ball before the ball is “in play” (encroachment), the restart will be an indirect free kick at the place where the infringement occurred.
C. Heading the ball is not allowed in grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade leagues
D. **Snacks:** While we all enjoy getting a special treat at the end of a game. We have too many children with allergies and food sensitivities in our league. ***Due to this no snacks are to be handed out.*** Parents are more than welcome to bring their own individual snack for their child.

Any other questions may be directed to league officials at recreation@hillsboroughnj.gov.
Coaches should be familiar with the general rules (laws) of the game of soccer.

THANK YOU!