

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

Orange County Recreation Division Mission Statement

DEAPR-Recreation Division exists to provide Orange County residents of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and interests with a wide-variety of affordable recreation programming, open access to recreation facilities and opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, and engage in activities that promote healthy lifestyles, teach important life skills and build a stronger community.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Administration: Orange County DEAPR – Recreation Division
Bonnie B. Davis Environment and Agricultural Center
Suite 140
1020 US 70 West, Hillsborough

Mailing Address: PO Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Telephone: 919.245.2660

Inclement Weather: 919.245.2669

Website: <http://www.orangecountync.gov/599/Athletic-Programs>

League Staff:

Kevin Bradsher	(919) 245-2672	kbradsher@orangecountync.gov	Recreation Coordinator
Garrett Lowery	(919) 245-2663	glowery@orangecountync.gov	Recreation Supervisor
Jessica Volant	(919) 245-2660	jvolant@orangecountync.gov	Administrative Assistant

Facilities: Soccer.com Center (SCC)
4701 West Ten Rd.
Efland, NC 27243

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

I. LEAGUE OBJECTIVE:

The Orange County Youth Soccer League is a recreational youth soccer league that encourages good sportsmanship, teamwork, physical fitness, discipline as well as enhancing the basic fundamentals of the sport. We are dedicated to providing a fun and safe environment that will ensure a positive and educational experience for everyone.

II. LEAGUE MANAGEMENT:

The governing body shall be vested in the Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation – Recreation Division.

III. DIVISIONS/ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Registration

Each player must be registered with Orange County DEAPR – Recreation Division and approved by the league coordinator as to all qualifications prior to he/she will be eligible for the ratings/draft.

Divisions

The League will be comprised of several age and gender divisions.

A. Under 6 Division (U6)

The U6 Division is an instructional league where participants will concentrate on the basic skills of Soccer. No standings will be kept. No scoring will be kept. Coaches will serve as referees.

B. Under 8 Division (U8)

The U8 Division is a developmental league teaching participants the basic skills of Soccer in a fun environment. Scoring will be kept.

C. Under 9 Girls Division (U9G)

The U9 Girls Division is a developmental league teaching girl participants the basic skills of Soccer in a fun environment. Scoring will be kept.

D. Under 10 Division (U10)

The U10 Division is a youth developmental league teaching participants the basic skills of Soccer. Scoring will be kept.

E. Under 12 Girls Division (U12G)

The U12 Girls Division is a developmental league teaching girl participants the basic skills of soccer. Scoring will be kept.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

F. Under 12 Division (U12)

The U12 Division is a developmental league teaching participants the basic skills of soccer. Scoring will be kept.

G. Under 15 Division (U15)

The U15 Division is a developmental league teaching participants the basic skills of soccer. Scoring will be kept.

IV. DUTY OF THE COACH:

Coach Eligibility

All volunteers requesting to participate as a head coach/assistant coach are required to complete the following process through the Orange County DEAPR – Recreation Division.

- Complete an Orange County Recreation Volunteer Application.
- Complete a background check through Orange County Recreation.
- Attend a mandatory coach's meeting/clinic.
- Attend a mandatory ratings/draft for the division (head coaches only)

Ensure Player Eligibility

It is the duty of each coach to ensure all participants on his/her team have registered for the league and are eligible to participate in practices/games.

Instruction

The coach shall be responsible to instruct each of his/her players during games/practices based on each individual's skill and playing ability. Less skilled players may at times need more instruction and explanation than more skilled players.

Schedules/Communication

The coach shall be responsible to contact all players notifying them of scheduled practices and games, and when practices or games are cancelled by Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation – Recreation Division. All coaches will receive game and practice schedules that are to be distributed to all players.

Coaches are not permitted to alter or change game/practice times without approval of the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation – Recreation Division.

Maintain Control

The coach is responsible for controlling his/her players during all practices/games to ensure that a player's behavior adheres to all rules and regulations and objectives of the league.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation

Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations

Spring 2024

V. CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

(IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL OTHER DEAPR-RECREATION PROGRAMS)

All participants, coaches, officials and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in line with the goals and objectives of the Youth Soccer League. Any individual found to be in violation of any rule and regulation shall be sanctioned according to the below explained chart for Penalties and Sanctions.

In addition to the rules explained in the Penalties and Sanctions, any participant, coach, or spectator that is ejected by an official is automatically suspended for the remainder of the current day's games, and subsequent game in addition to ejection from the facility.

All penalties and sanctions levied by an official or Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks, and Recreation staff are determined on a case-by-case basis and are final. **No protest will be permitted.**

DEAPR – RECREATION DIVISION PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS FOR COACHES AND LEAGUE OFFICIALS

INFRACTION	DIRECTED TOWARDS	PENALTY/SANCTION(S)
Use of alcohol or drugs	During game, practice or other league or team event where players are present	1 st offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Knowingly requiring or allowing a player to play while having a serious injury creating unsafe playing conditions. (Failure to notify staff at occurrence of injury.)	During game, practice or other league or team event where players are present.	1 st offense-Two game suspensions and a meeting with league staff. 2 nd offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Foul or abusive language.	A player, coach, official or spectator	1 st offense-Ejection from current game and one game suspension. 2 nd offense-Two-game suspension and meeting with league staff.
Threatening/derogatory gesture or language.	A player, coach, official or spectator	1 st offense-Ejection from current game and two-game suspension. 2 nd offense-Suspension for remainder of season.
Knowingly permitting a player to participate in a game without having registered for the program.	League and league administrators	Ejection for the remainder of the league/activity season.
Striking or bodily assault resulting in contact and /or injury to	A player, coach, official or spectator	Lifetime suspension for all Orange County Recreation and Parks youth sports.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

**DEAPR – RECREATION DIVISION PENALTIES AND/OR SANCTIONS
FOR PARTICIPANTS, PARENTS, LEGAL GUARDIANS AND SPECTATORS**

INFRACTIONS	DIRECTED TOWARDS	PENALTY/SANCTION(S)
Use of Alcohol or drugs	Within any County facility during the game, practice or other league or team event where players are present	1 st offense-Ejection from facility 2 nd offense-Two-week suspension 3 rd offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Interference with the conduct of the game	Resulting in stoppage of play	1 st offense-Ejection from facility 2 nd offense-Two-week suspension 3 rd offense-Suspension for the remainder of the season.
Foul or abusive language	A player, coach, official or spectator	Ejection from facility park and a mandatory meeting with league administrators.
Threatening/Derogatory gesture and/or language	A player, coach, official or spectator	Ejection from the facility or park, a one-week suspension from DEAPR facilities and parks and mandatory meeting with league administrators.
Striking in any threatening fashion	A player, coach, official or spectator	1 st offense-Ejection from the facility or park, a one-year suspension (from the date of occurrence). 2 nd offense- Lifetime suspension from all OCRPD Youth Sports

Additional Conduct Rules

Communicating with Officials

Coaches are not allowed to communicate to officials on any matter while the game is in play. Coaches must take an official time-out to discuss any matter with an official in a quiet professional manner.

If you feel a call by the referee contradicts rules of Orange County Recreation Youth Soccer, you may call a time-out to discuss the rule discrepancy with the official and Recreation staff. If the call is indeed found to be in error, your team will not be charged a timeout. If the call was effectively correct the timeout will stand.

Coaches must control any discussion or comments to officials, from their bench or players, at all times.

Violations will draw a warning from the officials. Subsequent violations will warrant a red card and/or expulsion from the facility.

Mandatory Cordial Handshake

Opposing players and coaches will exchange a cordial mandatory, congratulatory handshake after each game.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

VI. PLAYER DRAFT & ASSESSMENTS

All eligible players (U8 Division and above) will be assigned to teams through a coach assessment and draft process. The draft process is as follows:

Objective

The objective of Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation – Recreation Division assessment/draft procedure for athletic leagues is to ensure that each parent, participant, and coach are given the opportunity to participate in a fun, enjoyable, and fair athletic league.

Attendance

All participants must register prior to the assessment to participate in the league. It is mandatory that all coaches and participants attend their designated assessment day and time. Players that do not attend an assessment will be assigned to teams based on numerical order. A coach (or team representative) who does not attend the assessments/draft will be assigned a team by Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation (DEAPR) Personnel.

Participant Responsibilities

1. To attend the mandatory scheduled assessment for your division or age group.
2. To participate in the assessment. (Participants should be dressed in the appropriate attire to athletically participate, i.e. cleats/sneakers, shorts, or sweats and shirts.)
3. Following a participant's assessment he/she is permitted to leave. A call from your selected coach or DEAPR personnel shall be made no later than two days prior to the start of practices. (At that time, the coaches will notify parents/participants of practice times and locations.)

Coach Responsibilities

1. To attend the mandatory scheduled assessment and draft for the division(s) or age group that you have volunteered to coach.
2. To fairly assess each participant in your coaching age group/division attending the assessment using the DEAPR draft/ratings sheet.
3. Select each player to your roster using the DEAPR draft procedure.
4. Contact each player you have selected for your team made no later than two days prior to the start of practices to notify them of your practice schedule and location.

Open draft

The purpose of the open draft is to permit all volunteer coaches to select members of their team based on their coaching philosophy. This system is in place to best fairly distribute each player on a team. However, this does not guarantee each team will complete the season with identical records. Team records are impacted by many factors, including player attendance at practices and games.

Assessment Process

1. All players must attend their scheduled assessment time.
2. Participants that arrive early must wait until their scheduled assessment time.
3. Coaches will be directed to one of four stations by DEAPR staff and given a roster of all registered players in the age division being assessed.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation

Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations

Spring 2024

4. Participants will be assigned numbers by DEAPR staff. These numbers mirror the roster given to the coaches and should be visible to coaches/staff throughout the duration of the assessment. Each participant will also be directed to a predetermined station to begin assessments.
5. Coaches will be at each station for 10-15 minutes. After which they will rotate in a clockwise fashion to the next station and group of participants.
6. During the time with each group of participants, coaches are free to conduct drills that will allow them to properly assess and prepare for the draft.
7. After the third rotation participants are free to go and will be contacted by the coach that drafts them no later than two days prior to the start of practices.

While this is the standard assessment process, the format is subject to change based on attendance.

Draft Order

Youth Soccer League will employ a snake draft method. Each coach will pick out of a hat a number designated one for each team in the division (for example: a 6 team division will have numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6). The corresponding selected number will be the coach drafting order. The first round (and all odd numbered rounds) will begin with coaches drafting in sequential order, with the coach drawing “1” taking the first pick, coach drawing “2” taking the second pick, and so on. The round continues until all coaches have made a selection. The second round (and all even numbered rounds) will begin with the coaches drafting in reverse sequential order, with the coach drawing the highest number taking the first pick and continuing downward until all coaches have made a selection.

Example using a 6-team league with 60 players:

Round	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6	Exceptions
Rd 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	None
Rd 2	12	11	10	9	8	7	None
Rd 3	13	14	15	16	17	18	Head Coach Child
Rd 4	24	23	22	21	20	19	None
Rd 5	25	26	27	28	29	30	None
Rd 6	36	35	34	33	32	31	Assistant Coach Child
Rd 7	37	38	39	40	41	42	None
Rd 8	48	47	46	45	44	43	None
Rd 9	49	50	51	52	53	54	None
Rd 10	60	59	58	57	56	55	None

Exception: If a coach does not have a child in the age division they automatically receive the first pick of the draft. If this rule applies to more than one coach, the affected coaches will draw numbers to determine their order.

Draft Rounds

Our Youth Soccer League allows for coaches to freely draft players that attend assessments based on ratings and observations of their own. After the order is established the draft process is as follows:

- a. Coaches are allowed to freely draft players who attended the assessment session

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

- b. Rounds 3 and 6 are reserved for coaches to draft their child and the assistant coach's child (if applicable). If neither the head coach nor the assistant has a child in the draft they may continue to freely draft players that attended the assessment.
- c. Once all players that attended the assessment are drafted, the remaining players will be distributed following the draft order starting with the next coach's pick
- d. Siblings must be drafted to the same team, any requests (i.e. carpooling, friends, preference) may be honored at the discretion of the coach but does not guarantee fulfillment.

Team Size

Any increase to team numbers will be made at the discretion of the Recreation Division.

Gender

In co-ed divisions, each team shall include on its roster a comparable number of girls and boys with each other team in the division.

Rosters

Rosters are set as of the first team practice.

A player must play on the team that he/she is assigned to through the draft process and may only switch teams at the discretion of the Recreation Division.

Teams that have players drop may request a replacement player, if available. The DEAPR staff and not the head and/or assistant coach from the team will select replacement players.

Knowingly permitting a player to participate in a game without having registered for the program shall result in ejection for the remainder of the league/activity season.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

VII. LAWS

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

	U6		U8/U9G/U10		U12/U12G/U15	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Length	20 yards	30 yards	45 yards	60 yards	70 yards	80 yards
Width	15 yards	25 yards	35 yards	45 yards	45 yards	55 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it. **Note: U6 circle radius is four (4) yards.**

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows:

U6

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, three (3) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

U8/U9G/U10

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, five (5) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of five (5) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

U12G/U12/U15

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, six (6) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of six (6) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows:

U6

None

U8/U9G/U10

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

U12G/U12/U15

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: None

Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball:

Division	Ball Size
U6/U8/U9G	3
U10/U12G/U12	4
U15	5

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of:

Division	# of Players on the Field	Minimum to Play
U6	4*	n/a
U8/U9G/U10/U12G	7	6
U12/U15	9	8

**no goalkeepers*

Failure to be able to field the minimum number of players at the scheduled start time will result in a forfeit. **U6 only:** *Short-handed play: If at any time a team is unable to field a full side (must play short-handed) the opposing team must equal the number of players on the field. A team unable to field a full side may “borrow” players from the opposing team in order to maximize the playing time for all players in attendance.*

Substitutions:

U6

Substitutions must be made at the half way point of all four quarters. The clock should stop at the half way point as play allows. All players on the bench must go in the game and stay throughout the rest of the quarter. Exception: Injured players can be substituted for as necessary.

U8/U9G/U10/U12G/U12

Substitutions must be made at the half way point of the first three quarters. The referee will allow substitutions at the half way point as play allows. All players on the bench must go in the game and stay throughout the rest of the quarter. Exception: Injured players can be substituted for as necessary.

Substitutions in the fourth quarter are allowed when:

- Any injury.
- When in possession: Any kick off, throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick.
- When not in possession: Any kick off; only when opposition is substituting on throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick.
- Please make sure the referee is aware when substituting!

U15

Substitutions must be made at the twelve (12) minute mark of the first half. All players on the bench must go in the game and stay throughout the rest of the half. The referee will allow substitutions at the twelve (12) minute mark as play allows. Exception: Injured players can be substituted for as necessary

Substitutions in the second half are allowed when:

- Any injury.
- When in possession: Any kick off, throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

- When not in possession: Any kick off; only when opposition is substituting on throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick.
- Please make sure the referee is aware when substituting!

Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but shirts must still distinguish teams.

U6/U8/U9G/U10: No casts are permitted.

U12/U12G/U15: Soft or padded casts permitted with a doctor’s note and upon inspection by the referee to ensure safety for all players.

Law 5 – The Referee: Registered USSF referee. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

U6 team coaches will act as referees. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referee: None

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

Periods of Play: The match lasts four (4) equal periods of ten (10) minutes each.

Quarter and Halftime Intervals: There shall be one (1) minute between the first and second and third and fourth quarters and a half-time interval of three (3) minutes.

U15 ONLY

Periods of Play: The match lasts two (2) equal periods of twenty-four (24) minutes each.

Halftime Interval: There shall be a half-time interval of three (3) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

U6/U8/U9G

The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

U10 & Above

The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside: None. *U12 and above conform to FIFA.*

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponent's penalty area.

Direct Free Kick Offenses	Indirect Free Kick Offenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If a player commits any of the following offenses considered by the referee to be careless, reckless, or using excessive force:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent• Trips or attempts to trip an opponent• Jumps at an opponent• Charges an opponent• Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent• Pushes an opponent• Tackles an opponent○ Holds an opponent○ Spits at an opponent○ Handles the ball deliberately	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If a goalkeeper inside his own penalty area commits any of the following four offenses:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controls the ball for more than six seconds before releasing it from his possession• Touches the ball again with his hands after he has released it from his possession and before it has been touched by another player• Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate• Touches the ball with his hands after he received it directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate.○ If, in the opinion of the referee, a player:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plays in a dangerous manner• Impedes the progress of an opponent• Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands• Commits any other offense for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions:

U6

That all free kicks are indirect and opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

U8/U9G

That all opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball.

U10/U12/U12G/U15

That all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:

U6/U8/U9G

No penalty kicks.

U10 and Above

Conform to FIFA with the exception that the penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

Law 15 – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

U6/U8/U9G with the exception that an improperly performed throw-in may be retaken once.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick:

U6/U8/U9G

The ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. Opponents remain behind the midfield line until the ball is in play. The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves outside of the goal area.

U10 and Above

Conform to FIFA.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception

U6/U8/U9G

That all offensive players must remain outside the goal area and at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

U10 and Above

That all offensive players must remain outside the goal area and at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Additional Rules:

Punting (U10 and Below) – Goalkeeper punts cannot clear the midfield line in the air. If they do it will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the midfield line.

Sportsmanship – During the course of a game if a team goes ahead by 5 goals the referee will notify the coach of the leading team and allow the coach time to make tactical adjustment to prevent unnecessarily running up the score before resuming play.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

Heading (U6):

Heading is not allowed

Heading (U8/U9G/U10):

If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick will be awarded from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

Heading (U12/U12G/U15):

Heading is strongly discouraged for all levels of youth recreational play.

Remember that this is youth league recreational play, instruction should focus on sport fundamentals – dribbling, passing, shooting, throw-ins, etc. – along with sport values such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play.

Tournament Play:

U8/U9G

The season will conclude with one final paired game. Seeding these games will be based on results from regular-season play and determined by:

1. Divisional record
2. Head-to-head match-up
3. Total goals allowed
4. Coin-toss

U10 and Above

The season will conclude with an end-of-season tournament. Seeding for this tournament will be based on results from regular-season play and determined by:

1. Division record
2. Head-to-head match-up
3. Total goals allowed
4. Coin-toss

For the purpose of tournament play, all regular season rules will be in effect. Additional rules will be instituted regarding overtime and penalty kick situations.

Tournament Overtime Rule

If the game remains tied at the conclusion of regulation, there shall be two (2) additional golden-goal (sudden death) periods of five (5) minutes with a one (1) minute break between periods. Just as at the start of the game, a coin toss shall determine kick-off and direction of play.

Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation
Youth Soccer Laws & Regulations
Spring 2024

If the game remains tied at the conclusion of the two (2) overtime periods, the game shall be decided by penalty kicks. A coin toss shall determine kicking order and direction of play. The first round of penalty kicks will be best of five (5).

If the game remains tied, penalty kicks will continue one to one. First team to score unmatched wins. All players in uniform must participate in the penalty kick process before a player may kick a second time.

Weather Policy and Rescheduling

All coaches/parents should call the weather hotline for cancellation information 919.245.2669.

Cancellations for games or practices that occur on weekdays will be posted at 4:00 p.m.

In the event of cancellation coaches will receive an e-mail notice by 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. any decision regarding cancellation is made at the field

The Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation – Recreation Division will reschedule games when there is availability in scheduling. Cancelled practices may not be rescheduled.