



Southern Nevada Soccer Association

Fall 2021 Match Procedures MK, U5-U6 Divisions

All coaches, players and spectators will observe the following match procedures for SNSA Fall 2021 youth recreational league games:

PRE-GAME PROCEDURES

1. **AT HOME:** Conduct a Health Assessment Survey and temperature check for the player and any family members attending the game.
2. **WHAT TO WEAR/BRING:** Each player should wear the league-issued uniform, shin guards and athletic footwear (soccer cleats recommended). Each player should bring a soccer ball and water or other hydration drink. Hand sanitizer is also recommended.
3. **FACE MASK/DISTANCING:** At this time there are no state or local outdoor mask or distancing mandates. Players and spectators may wear face masks if they wish, and we recommend spectators observe distancing along the sideline.
4. **MINI KICKERS SKILLS COMPONENT:** Mini Kickers gather near field AC1 for the skills training component.
5. **SIDES OF THE FIELD:** The Home team and its spectators sit along the North or East sideline; the Visiting team and its spectators sit along the South or West sideline.
6. **SEATING:** Team staff, players and spectators sit along the touchline, a minimum distance of three (3) yards from the touchline to allow space for kick-ins/throw-ins.
7. **STAFF ID CHECK:** All registered team staff shall have their staff ID cards available for presentation to a league official upon request. If a registered coach is unavailable for a game, he or she may designate a parent to serve as acting coach on a temporary basis, with prior notification to the league.
8. **EQUIPMENT CHECK:** Prior to the start of the game, inspect your players to ensure they are not wearing any jewelry, and that they are wearing shin guards and proper footwear.
9. **JERSEY COLOR CONFLICTS:** If teams have similar jersey colors, the coach of the home team shall secure pinnies for his or her players from the field administrator.

IN-GAME PROCEDURES

1. **IN-GAME COVID SAFETY** – The following safety protocol shall be observed during the game:
 - a. Face masks are optional; we recommend those adults who are not vaccinated wear a face mask.
 - b. Kick-ins are recommended as an alternative to throw-ins for the 3v3 play format. If a dead ball needs to be moved or a stray ball returned to the field, do so with the feet instead of the hands.
 - c. Players should not share water bottles or any food.
 - d. Players should use hand sanitizer during game breaks and when substituted.
 - e. Avoid high-fives, handshakes or any unnecessary form of touching.
2. **U5-U6 OFFICIATING:** For the U5-U6 divisions one adult from each team (usually the coach) serves as acting referee for the game. This role is a coaching/educational role in which the acting referees teach the players the rules of the game and keep the game flowing (not every double-kick or handball needs to be called!). For safety we recommend kick-ins instead of throw-ins for balls out of bounds of the sidelines. Acting referees have full authority to enforce the laws of the game and remove an abusive spectator if necessary. If the acting referees have a disagreement, request that the field marshal on duty resolve any disputes.

3. **GAME BALL:** The home team shall supply the game ball and locate spare balls near each goal.
4. **GAME DURATION:** The duration of the game is as follows:
 - a. Mini Kickers: a 20-minute skills session is followed by game play consisting of two 8-minute halves, with a 5-minute halftime interval.
 - b. U5-U6: four 8-minute quarters with a 1-minute interval between the 1st & 2nd quarters, a 5-minute halftime interval, and a 1-minute interval between the 3rd & 4th quarters.
5. **KICK-OFF:** The Home team shall kick-off to start the game; the Visiting team shall select the side of the field to defend. The Home team kicks off for the 1st and 3rd quarters, and the Visiting team kicks off for the 2nd and 4th quarters. Teams change ends to start the 3rd quarter.
6. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Rules allow unlimited substitutions on any dead ball. The substitute shall proceed to the halfway line and may enter the field **after** the substituted player leaves. The substituted player may leave the field at the closest sideline or goal line and return to his or her seating area. League rules require all players who attend practice regularly receive at least half of the game minutes (or equal minutes, if you have more than 2x the number of players on the field at the game).
7. **SPECTATOR CONTROL:** It is the responsibility of the head coach to try to control the behavior of the spectators along his or her team's sideline. Remind parents that they are to limit their communications to positive encouragement of the players on the field. Spectators shall refrain from making comment to or about the players, coaches or parents of the opposing team. Consult the field administrator to mediate if a dispute arises. Spectators who engage in such conduct may be asked to leave the field; failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the game.

POST-GAME PROCEDURES

1. **HANDSHAKE/TUNNELS:** Handshakes with players and coaches from the opposing team and with the referee after the game are prohibited for the Fall 2021 season, as is setting up a parent tunnel for players to run through. Hopefully we will be able to resume these traditions next spring.
2. **SNACKS:** Pre-packaged snacks may be distributed to the players during or after the game.
3. **CLEAN-UP:** Have your players and spectators clean up litter along the sideline and exit the area in a timely manner so the team with the next scheduled game can get set up. If you wish to have a post-game meeting with your team, please find an alternate location in the park.

EXPECTATIONS

Always remember the games are for the kids! We ask our team staff and parents to please help make the games a pleasant experience for all players on the field, not just the players on your team. All adults need to work together to create a positive atmosphere for our kids to learn and love the game of soccer!

Thank you for your cooperation in complying with league safety protocol and match procedures. Have a safe and fun Fall 2021 season!