



**Rancocas Valley Soccer Club
Recreational Soccer Rules of Play
Fall 2024**

All games will operate under the IFAB Laws of the Game, except as outlined below.

1. All players should be given equal playing time as much as possible. Alternate starting players each week. Players should be given the opportunity to play different positions.
2. All Players must wear shin guards and uniform assigned to the player. NO hooded sweatshirts are permitted. No jewelry may be worn, no apple watches, necklaces or bracelets. NO taping of earrings. Referees will inspect all players before each game.
3. NO Slide Tackling!!
4. Length of Games: running clock to be used for all games. 5 Minute halftime for Junior and Senior games. 2 minutes in between quarters for Freshman games.
Freshman: 10 min quarters (4 quarters)
Juniors: (2) 25 min halves
Seniors: (2) 25 min halves
5. Number of players on the field:
Freshman: (6v6) 5 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
-if both teams are low on players and both coaches agree, freshman games can be modified to 5v5 if needed (4 field players plus 1 keeper)
Juniors: (7v7) 6 field players plus 1 goalkeeper
Seniors: (9v9) 8 field players plus 1 goalkeeper

****Keepers are required!****

Keepers must wear a pinnie or different color shirt than the field players on their team and the opposing team.

6. Mercy Rule:

At no time should a goal differential become 6 or more. Make adjustments early.

Ways to avoid this issue:

- Restrict shooting to certain areas on the field. (outside the penalty box, behind the build out line)
- Make 5 passes before shooting
- Use weaker foot only to shoot
- Reduce number of players on field by 1 (use as last resort)

7. Ball in play- the entire ball must cross the touch lines and goal lines to be considered out of play.

8. Handling- (Hand-Ball). The interpretation of “Handling” has changed many times over the years. The referees have been instructed how to manage this call. Intent to use the hands or arms to “play” the ball must be present to make the call. Players may protect themselves as an instinct.

9. Coaching- NO coaches on the field during play. Instruction from the sidelines should be minimal at best. Let the game be the teacher!

10. Build Out Line- Freshman and Junior Divisions:

GOAL KICK:

When a team is awarded a goal kick, the defending team must back-up behind the build out line in a timely fashion. Once the ball is put into play, the defending team may pressure the ball. The attacking team may choose to restart play before the defending team retreats to the build out line-when this occurs, the defending team may pressure the ball.

GOALKEEPER POSSESSION WITH HANDS:

The same process that occurs with goal kicks (defending team retreats past the build out line) must also occur when the goalkeeper has possession of the ball in their hands. Once this occurs, the goalkeeper may distribute the ball by roll, throw, or kick. The defending team may pressure the ball once it's put back into play.

Senior Division and U14 Riverfront League Team will be playing 9v9 and will not use a buildout line.

11. **No punting for Freshman or Junior Division.** Goalkeepers may pass with their feet or throw the ball to distribute. If a goalkeeper punts the ball, the referee will blow

the whistle and stop play, and give the ball back to the goalkeeper to pass with their feet or throw the ball.

12. Offsides-

a. Freshman Offside Rule: There will be NO offsides in the Freshman division.

b. Juniors Offside Rule: (IFAB) The build out line will be used to start where offside position may begin. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and the goal. Being in an offside position is NOT against the Laws of The Game. A player is considered offsides when he/she is in their attacking half of the field, between the build out line and the goal, is closer to the goal than the opponents, and in the opinion of the referee becomes part of the play. Part of the play is playing the ball, interfering with an opponent in the attacking half or blocking the view of the goalkeeper. If they are in an offsides position but are not part of the play, it will not be called.

C. Senior Division: (IFAB) The halfway line starts where the offside position may begin. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense on their defending half of the field, only after they cross the halfway line into their attacking half of the field. The offsides rule is caused when an attacking player is closer to the goal line than the second-to-last defender at the time a pass is made (the goalkeeper being the last defender for the team).. The player must be even or in front of the second-to-last defender at the time the ball is kicked to be onside. Being in an offsides position is not against the Laws of the Game, unless they become part of the play. Part of the play is playing the ball, interfering with an opponent in the attacking half or blocking the view of the goalkeeper. If they are in an offsides position but are not part of the play, it will not be called.

13. Throw-ins:

a. Freshman Throw-ins: In place of throw-ins, an Indirect free kick will be used. Ball is to be placed on the ground, on the line where the ball first left the field. The purpose is to allow players to work on their passing.

b. Junior/Senior Throw-ins: A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole ball crosses the touch line, either on the ground or in the air.

14. Substitutions- During any stoppage of play or for injury.

15. NO time outs. A running clock is always used except for a major injury.

16. Freshman, Junior, and Senior Division: No Head Balls. Deliberately heading the ball will result in an indirect kick for the opposing team.

17. Referee Decisions: All decisions by referees are final.

18. Spectators: Must remain outside the field of play and on the opposite side of the teams. NO spectators will be allowed behind the end lines or behind/next to the team benches.

Coaches and players must be on one side of the field. All spectators must be on the other side of the field. NO PARENTS on the team side of the field, unless you are called over by a coach or a referee due to an injury. Let the coaches do the coaching.

Spectators must always remain positive toward players, coaches and referees. **There will be absolutely no negativity towards any referees tolerated. If you are negative towards the referees, you will not be permitted to attend games.**

Any behavior unbecoming of a PARENT, COACH OR PLAYER will be asked to leave the field.

The purpose of the RVSC Rec Program is for players to have a safe environment to play soccer and have fun. Enjoy the season.

Questions or concerns may be sent to Kat Atmore at: rvscrec@gmail.com