

HTRSA Playing Rules Matrix

Area of Law	Div 7	Div 6	Div 5	Div 4	Div 3	Div 2/A*
Player Ages **	U5 and U6	U7 and U8	U9 and U10	Spring: U11- U13 Fall: U11 - U12	U13 and U14	Div 2: U15 to U18 Div A: U13 to U18
Field of Play	Mini-Fields	Short-Sided		Full Field		
Game Format	4 v 4 / 5 v 5; No Goalkeeper	9 v 9		11 v 11		
Coaches on Field	Yes		No			
Duration of Match	8 min quarters	10 min quarters		15 min quarters	30 minute halves	
Referees	0 Coaches run game	1		2		
Soccer Ball Size	3	4			5	
Substitutions	Unlimited; may be made at any time	Unlimited (at your throw in, any goal kick, after a goals, or after other team's substitution). Substitutes may not enter the field until recognized by the referee.			Unlimited (at any stoppage). Substitutes must be at midfield and may not enter until recognized by the referee.	
Ball in and out of play	Kick-ins; "Flexible Sidelines", Coach directed	Throw-in; instruction given on foul throw, 1 additional try and let play continue	Throw-in; instruction given on foul throw, 1 additional try before losing possession	Follow FIFA's Laws of the Game.		
Offsides	Not Enforced Coaches are to discourage players from intentionally staying in an off-sides position when the ball is not in their attacking half of the field especially in Division 5.			Enforced		
Fouls & Misconduct	All fouls result in indirect kicks. Direct kick violations within the penalty area will result in an indirect free kick taken from a point on the penalty area line nearest to where the infraction took place.		Follow FIFA's Laws of the Game.			
Slide Tackles	No Slide Tackling at ANY AGE . An attempted slide tackle will considered a dangerous play. A caution will be issued if contact is made with an opposing player. A repeated slide tackle, regardless of contact, will result in a red card.					
Heading	No: Intentional heading will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the point of the infraction			Yes		
Standings (Fall Only)	No			Yes		
Equipment	<u>All players must wear shin guards.</u> Soccer cleats are required (no metal spikes or studs). No watches, barrettes, or jewelry of any kind, including necklaces, hard or soft bracelets, earrings & posts. Hard casts must be sufficiently padded and approved by referee. Hair may be tied up with soft bands. Only safety-rated eyeglasses are permitted. Players may wear extra clothing to stay warm so long as it is safe and referee can identify opposing teams.					

*Division A is used in place of Div 3 and 2 when registrations for the older ages are low

**The cutoff for ages is 7/31; however, HTRSA will adjust the age groups for the divisions per season if our signup numbers warrant it.

Note:

The Rules of Play of the Association and NJYS shall be the "Laws of the Game" as published by FIFA and the USSF with all specific modifications determined by and published the Association's Playing Rules Committee as shown above.

HTRSA Playing Rules

Coaches

- A. All Coaches MUST have a KidSafe form for the current year on file with the Association and be fingerprinted pursuant to Association policy.
- B. Coaches are encouraged to play the children in all positions throughout the season and for playing time to be equal as possible during the games in order to fully develop each player's soccer skills.
- C. When leading another team by a large margin, the leading coach is responsible for managing the team so as not to "run-up" the score. A 5-goal differential is the maximum allowed although we understand Division 7 can be tough to tighten up the scoring. Make adjustments before having a substantial lead (i.e. develop weaker players, work on the passing game, work on defense, etc.). In a Division with standings games that end with a goal differential exceeding the maximum, for any reason, will be recorded in the standings as a 0-1 forfeit loss.
- D. During the game, coaches in Division 2 through 5 must remain behind the touchline and on their assigned side of the midline, and may not enter the field unless recognized by the referee. In Division 6, one coach is allowed on the field (opposite the players bench) to facilitate play as required. **For player safety, the field coach is not to be near the ball.** In Division 7, the coaches run the game. For all divisions: after each game, coaches will line up the teams along the touchline to shake hands.
- E. For DIVISION 7 - Use "flexible" side-outs. Use common sense when deciding to blow the whistle for a ball out of bounds. If the ball is not going back into play or it is behind the net or in-between spectators, blow whistle and have it kicked into play at the touch line/end line nearest to the ball when the whistle was blown.
- F. Officials are in charge of the game in Divisions 2 through 6--**NO EXCEPTIONS**. If you have a problem with an official, contact your division commissioner in writing for the issue to be addressed.
- G. If a referee identifies misconduct by players or spectators, coaches must assist the referee in properly handling the situation. It is the coach's responsibility to keep the parents/spectators under control. Cautioned players must be substituted immediately and must be out until the next stoppage. Any ejected players/coaches/spectators must leave the playing field and its surroundings immediately.
- H. Home team will report scores to league website.

Spectators and Parents

- A. Spectators are to stay on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players. The sole exception to this rule is when the parent is running the sideline flag.
- B. Spectators and Parents are to adhere to the HTRSA Code of Conduct as displayed on the HTRSA website. Everyone is encouraged to support the players, referees and the volunteer coaches in their efforts.

Game Cancellations/Suspensions

- A. If a game is cancelled all remaining games for that day will also be cancelled.
- B. A game cancelled or suspended or terminated for any reason prior to one-half (1/2) being played shall be rescheduled in its entirety, except the game may be canceled and not rescheduled upon agreement between the two managers involved and the Division Commissioner **with** approval by the Association President. Any game having been played at least one-half (1/2) its scheduled length shall be declared official with the score at the time play stops prevailing. This rule may be superseded by the Forfeiture and Protest provisions of Rules of the Association only.

Age Group Policy

The age group calendar year is set by US Youth Soccer. The age group divisions for the calendar year are set by the age your player is as of July 31st. Your player will be placed into the Division mentioned above according to his age group definition. For example, U12 (Under 12) means your player was under the age of 12 by the cut-off date, of July 31st OF THE CURRENT YEAR. Any requests to play up or down an age group MUST be approved by the Board.

Everyone associated with HTRSA is bound to the HTRSA Code of Conduct.