



Ministry of Football

Children's Rules of Play & Code of Conduct

Ministry of Football Mini-League rules

- Goalkeepers cannot kick from hands.
- Teams must change goalkeeper so everyone gets a turn in goal, unless you have someone on your team who wants to play in goal all the time. The referee will ask teams every few minutes if they want to change goalkeepers.
- A back pass can be picked up by the goalkeeper.
- Goalkeepers can come out and play anywhere on the pitch, but are only allowed to handle the ball near the goal.
- The goalkeeper's area is not marked out, but common sense applies, and the referee will give a free-kick to the opposing team if the goalkeeper handles far from their goal.
- No sliding tackles, no tackles from behind, no pushing or shoulder barging.
- If ball goes out of play, you can place ball on the floor and pass or dribble it back into play. You cannot score directly from a pass-in.
- There is a 3-second rule for taking re-starts: The player must not take more than 3 seconds to get the ball back into play.
- We will play with corners.
- If a goal is scored play from the goalkeeper, rather than the centre. The referee will signal the goal with a raised hand to let all the players and spectators know that the goal has been given.
- If a team is winning a game by 5 goals or more: Each player on that team must now touch the ball in the build-up to a goal in order for that goal to count. If the winning margin becomes lower than 5 goals again, then normal rules resume.
- All parents, families and spectators will remain outside the playing area for the duration of games.

Children's Code of Conduct

I will:

- Not touch goalposts or sandbags.
- Play fairly and respect my opponents and team-mates.
- Keep trying, even if the other team is stronger.
- Understand that the referee's decisions are final, and not argue with the referee.