

APACHE JUNCTION PARKS & RECREATION

6-8 YEAR OLD - YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE – RULES 2020

REVISED 11/23/2020

Philosophy of the League

The Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department created its youth sports programs for the fun and enjoyment of everyone involved. We stress programs that emphasize maximum participation, maximum fun, and maximum learning opportunities. Volunteer coaches have a key role in promoting the above goals of our youth sports programs. We believe that every participant should walk away from this season with newly improved skills, a sense of team and sportsmanship, as well as the desire to continue making sports and recreation a positive part of their lives.

Playing Field

- The *side lines* (side boundaries) and *goal lines* (end boundaries) are part of the playing field.

Equipment

Ball - We will use a size 4 soccer ball for games and practices.

Shoes - Participants may use any type of regular tennis shoe or cleat, as long as the cleats are rubber and there is not a toe cleat (as there is on baseball cleats).

Uniform - The Parks and Recreation Department will provide team shirts. All participants must wear their team shirt to all games. No participants will be allowed to wear a jacket or sweat shirt over their game shirt.

Shin Guards- All participants must wear shin guards as a safety rule. Coaches will check for shinguards prior to each game.

General Rules

- Each team has 6 players on the field. 3 offensive, 3 defensive, no goalie. The others, known in general terms as field players, will receive defensive and offensive duties by their coaches. Defensive players must stay in their half of the field at all times. Defensive players may straddle the midfield stripe, but may not cross into the other team's territory to keep the ball in the offensive zone. This is a rule to help with the flow of play, and discourage "mob ball." Officials will do their best to keep players on their own half of the field; however, the prime responsibility belongs to the coach. A violation of this rule will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team. One coach from each team will be allowed on the field during games. Coaches need to NOT interfere with play and shall NOT be in front of either goal. NO HEADING!

Ball Play

Players must kick the ball or chest to play it. They may not play, move, carry or hit it with a hand or any part of an arm, with the following exceptions:

- At a kick-in

The ball is out of play:

- After it completely crosses a goal line or touch line on the ground or in the air.
- If the referee stops the game (on the whistle)

The ball is in play:

- After a kick-in
- After any free kick, including a goal kick
- If it bounces back on to the field after hitting a goal post, crossbar or corner post
- If it rebounds off an official who is on the field

Substitutions

- Wholesale substitutions will occur every five minutes of play. They may also occur due to injury or exhaustion. All substitutions must be run through the referee.
- Players must play both offense and defense within each half. Coaches should make sure players get to experience all positions throughout the season.

Game Length

- All games will be held to 20-minute halves (running clock). Time will only be stopped for injuries and time outs. There will be a 5 minute half time if time permits.

Time Outs

- Each coach receives only one time out (1 minute) per half.

Scoring

- SCORE WILL NOT BE KEPT IN THIS LEAGUE!
- A goal is scored after the entire ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar.

Procedure

- The game starts with the team listed first on the schedule as the team to kickoff.
- All players must start in their half of the field at the beginning of the game and after each goal.
- Defensive players must stay outside the center circle until the ball is kicked and travels the distance of its own circumference.
- After the referees whistle, the kickoff is made (to a teammate) from midfield into the opponents half of the field. The kicker cannot play the ball again until another player has touched it.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.
- If the ball goes out of play, the game restarts by a kick-in (if the ball crossed the side line) or by a goal kick or corner kick (if the ball crossed the goal line).
- After a goal is scored, a member of the team that did not score restarts the game with a kickoff at the center of the field.
- After halftime, the teams change ends and the kickoff is made by the team that did not kick off to start the game.

Drop Ball

- If the game is stopped by the referee for any reason where there is no infraction (rule violation) while the ball is in play, the game restarts when the referee drops the ball where it was when play was halted (i.e. when play is stopped by the referee because of players down on the field by the ball). The ball must touch the ground before players can play it.

Kick-in

- A kick-in is made at the side line where the ball went out of play, and the ball is kick inbounds by a player from the team who did not touch the ball last.
- All players must be at least 5 yards away from the ball.

Offside

Offside infractions will not be called in this league. Referees will remind players about it during play. This is mainly to avoid “cherry-picking”.

Free Kick

A free kick is a shot on goal awarded after a foul or misconduct. It is classified as direct or indirect.

Direct Kick

- A player can score on a direct free kick without the ball touching another player. It is awarded for major offenses that are committed intentionally, such as the following:
 - Hand ball
 - Tripping, pushing, holding, hitting, or purposefully kicking an opponent
 - Charging an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner, except for shoulder to shoulder contact

Indirect Kick

A player can score on an indirect free kick only if the ball touches a player on either team before crossing the goal line. It is awarded for less serious offenses, such as the following:

- Repeated offside violations
- Dangerous play: kicking near an opponent’s head, lying on the ball.
- If a player takes a free kick outside his own penalty area (the big box), opponents must remain 10 yards away from the ball. Exception: When a free kick is taken 10 yards or less from the goal line, no more than four opposing players can stand at their own goal line between the goal posts.
- Any indirect free-kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's goal-area shall be taken from the part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal-line, at the point nearest where the offense was committed.

- A free kick awarded to the defending team within its own goal area (the small box) may be taken from any point within that area.

Penalty Kick

- A direct free kick awarded to the attacking team when an opposing player commits a major foul within his team's penalty area. If the ball goes over the goal line but not between the goals, a corner kick or a goal kick is awarded depending on who touched it last.

Goal Kick

- A goal kick is taken by any defending player after the ball goes over the goal line (but not in to the goal) in the air or on the ground and was last touched by an attacking player.
- The ball must be stationary when kicked, and must be kicked into play beyond the penalty area from any point within the goal area. The kicker may not kick the ball a second time until it is touched by *another player*.
- Kicking team players may be anywhere on the field; opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball has cleared the penalty area.
- The ball must be touched by another player before a goal is scored.

Corner Kick

- A corner kick is awarded to the attacking team after the ball goes over the goal line (but not into the goal) when it was last touched by a defensive player.
- The ball is placed inside the corner kick area nearest to where it went out-of-bounds. The corner cone may not be removed.
- Any player on the attacking team may take the corner kick, but cannot kick it again before it is touched by another player.
- Attacking players may be anywhere on the field; defenders must be no closer than 10 yards from the ball.
- A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick without another player touching the ball.

Fouls and Misconduct

- The penalty for the following rule violations is a direct free kick.

A *caution* (yellow card) is a formal warning to a player guilty of:

- Repeated disregard of game rules
- Unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, coach, or parents of the team
- Disagreement or arguing with the referee's decision (by a player, coach, or parents)

Sending off (red card) is when the referee removes a player from the game for:

- Violent conduct
- Foul or offensive language
- A second misconduct after receiving a caution

Officials (one coach from each team is the official)

- Enforces the rules
- Acts as timekeeper; starts, stops and restarts the game
- Cautions or ejects offenders of the rules by showing a yellow card for a warning and a red card for an ejection (an ejected player can be replaced in our league)
- Judge where and when a ball goals out of play (volunteers, one from each team, will be side line judges in the absence of having two officials.)
- Determine which team is entitled to a kick-in, goal kick, or corner kick

Rain Policy

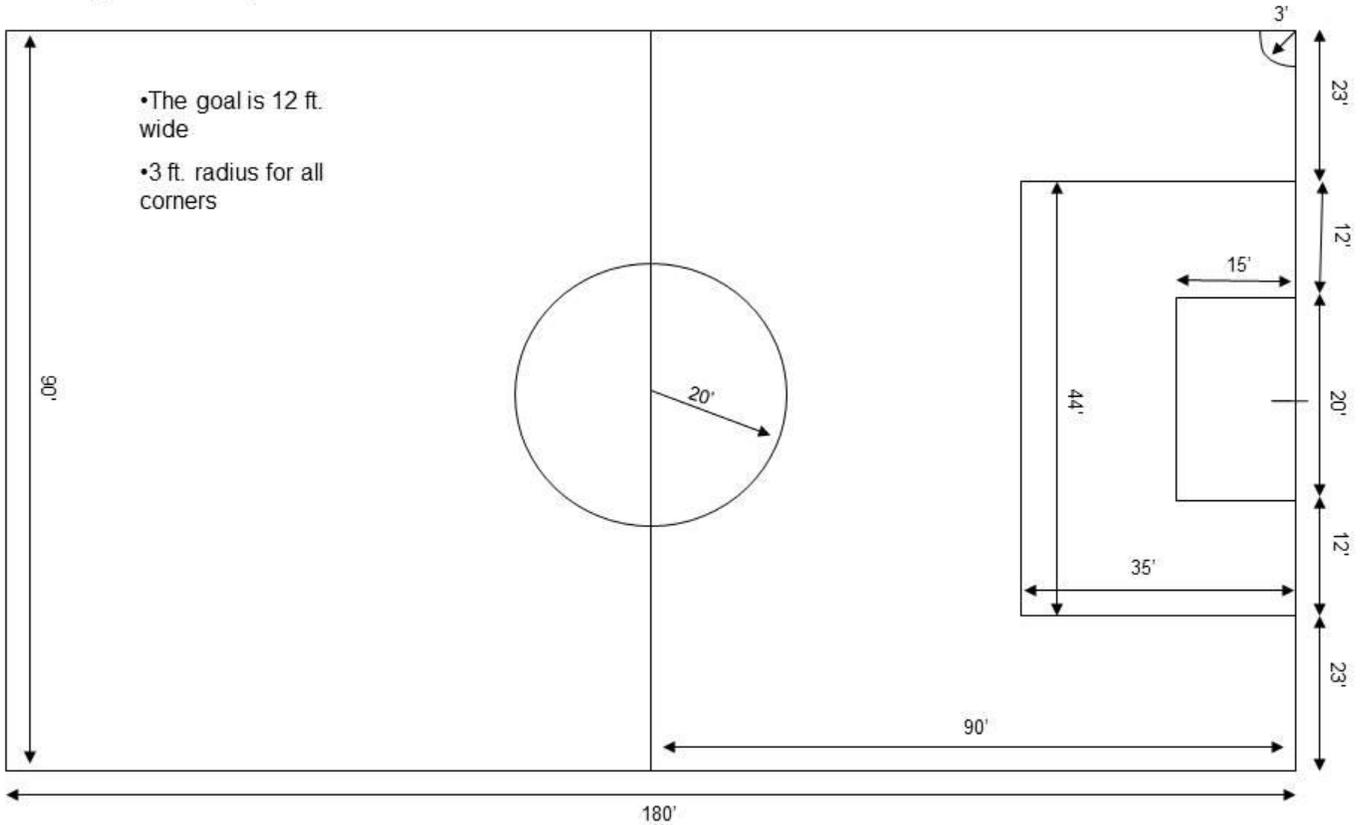
While we do live in Arizona, there is a possibility for rain to cancel a day. In the event of rain, **YOUR COACH WILL CONTACT YOU IF THE GAME OR PRACTICE IS CANCELLED. CANCELLATIONS ARE ALSO POSTED ON THE APACHE JUNCTION PARKS & RECREATION'S FACEBOOK PAGE.** If you do not hear from your coach, assume everything is happening as scheduled. Remember, while it may be raining at your house or work, it may not be raining at the fields. Parks and Recreation makes the determination on canceling a program for the day, not the coaches. Parks and Recreation will let the coaches know if the game/practice is cancelled and then they will contact you.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Policy

Apache Junction Parks and Recreation promotes a tobacco-free, alcohol-free and drug-free environment for the children participating in our leagues. All tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug products are prohibited at the fields. Any person found in violation of this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Anyone who is found in repeated violation of this policy may be barred from attending future practices and games.

6-8yr & 8-11yr Small Sided Soccer Field

Updated 12/04/2018



RETURN TO PLAY:

We are happy to be able to get back on the fields to play some ball! In order to continue offering sports programs persons must wear masks when unable to physically distance from others and when not actively participating. We are taking extra precautions and in order to keep leagues/programs going we will need the help from all players to follow the outlined items below.

Youth Soccer Programs

Season Length

*6-7 Weeks (2-3 times per week for 50 minutes each)

*No Program: 11/11, 11/21, 11/25, 11/28

*No League opening clinic.

*Each team will distribute their own award at the end of the season if large group restrictions remain in place.

Youth Sports Offered

*Parent/Tot Soccer.....(Ages 3 to 5) Sat Starts: Nov. 07 & Ends: Dec. 12

*Soccer League.....(Ages 4 to 5) Mon&Wed Starts: Nov. 09 & Ends: Dec. 16

*Soccer League.....(Ages 6 to 8) Mon&Wed&Sat Starts: Nov. 07 & Ends: Dec. 19

*Soccer League.....(Ages 8 to 11) Mon&Wed&Sat Starts: Nov. 07 & Ends: Dec. 19

Maximum Roster Sizes

*Parent/Tot Soccer.....(Ages 3 to 5): Max 20 participants plus 1 parent each. (no teams)

*Soccer League.....(Ages 4 to 5): Max 6 per team. Play 4v4. Max 4 teams.

*Soccer League.....(Ages 6 to 8): Max 8 per team. Play 6v6. Max 4 teams.

*Soccer League.....(Ages 8 to 11): Max 8 per team. Play 6v6. Max 4 teams.

**Requests: Only sibling, immediate family (living in the same household), and coach/child requests will be considered this season and MUST be made at time of registration.*

Schedules

*Parent/Tot: Sa: 9:45am-10:30am (not on 11/21 & 11/28)

*Soccer (Ages 4 to 5): M&W: 5:45pm-6:35pm (not on 11/11)

*Soccer (Ages 6 to 8): M&W: 6:00pm-6:50pm, & Sa: 10:00am-10:50am (not on 11/11, 11/21, 11/25, 11/28)

*Soccer (Ages 8 to 11): M&W: 7:15pm-8:05pm, & Sa: 11:15am-12:05pm (not on 11/11, 11/21, 11/25, 11/28)

**Parents will be emailed: Schedule, Rules, Code of Conduct, Link to website, & Coach's contact info. Coaches can meet with their team at first practice. Team lists will be posted in the Youth Soccer section at www.ajcity.net/sports.*

League Modifications

*Soccer (Ages 4 to 5) No Goal Keeper w/ *modified rules for 2020 Fall season* / Coaches will officiate games.

*Soccer (Ages 6 to 8) No Goal Keeper w/ *modified rules for 2020 Fall season* / Coaches will officiate games.

*Soccer (Ages 8 to 11) w/ *modified rules for 2020 Fall season* / Coaches will officiate games.

Are You Sick? Please Stay Home!

*We ask that if you do not feel up to par, have a fever, or if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; please stay home.

*If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, we ask that you do not come to a City of Apache Junction Youth Sports program until you have been cleared by a doctor or have had no symptoms for 10 days.

*We also ask that if someone on your team has recently practiced or played in a game and has tested positive for COVID-19, notify our youth sports coordinator immediately (ggartner@ajcity.net or 480-474-5119).

Face Masks

*Face masks are not required but highly encouraged for all spectators, coaches, and players. Face masks are required when unable to physically distance and when not actively participating.

*All on-site program staff will wear masks when 6 feet physical distancing is not possible and when requested to do so.

Sharing of Equipment, Water, Etc.

*Please do not share water or snacks. No post game team snacks.

*Please do not share equipment.

*Individual shin guards are required for all practices and games. Not required for Parent/Tot.

*The league will provide soccer balls and cones for each team to use during practices and games. Players may bring their own to use. Parent/Tot & 4-5yr use size 3 foam balls. 6-8yr & 8-11yr use size 4 balls.

*League provided equipment will be sanitized before and after each practice/game.

Limiting Physical Contact Outside of Practice / Game Activity

*No High Fives

*No Fist Bumps

*No Pre / Post-Game Handshakes

*No Pre / Post-Game Tunnels

Time Between Practices and Games

*We have scheduled additional time between practices and games to allow for teams to transition to and from the field.

Please leave the playing field / park promptly after your practice or game. Please do not linger at the field or park.

Fields

*We have decreased the overall amount of practice fields in order to provide increased area for teams to be able to physically distance.

Practice Specific Guidelines

*Prior to every workout, practice or game; check for virus signs / symptoms. Parents must not allow their children to participate in any activity if they've shown virus signs or symptoms or have possibly been exposed to the virus in the past 14 days.

*Set-up an area where players can leave their personal items 6-feet apart. Players should clearly label their water bottles and other personal items.

*Players and coaches should sanitize their hands upon arrival and throughout practice.

*Have stations for drills set-up for groups to rotate through during the course of the practice.

*Player should maintain proper physical distancing while not actively participating in a drill or exercise, during water breaks and in between activities.

*Coaches and on-field personnel working directly with the players should wear a mask or face covering.

*Players or coaches who are considered at high-risk for COVID-19 by CDC standards (cdc.gov) should not participate in practices or games.

Game Specific Guidelines

*Players, coaches and spectators need to keep proper distance with staff, officials and players at all times; during and after games, etc.

*Teams will not meet at midfield after games. No handshakes will occur. No post-game team cheers.

*Halftime talks with the team must allow for proper physical distancing between players and coaches.

*In order to prevent everyone from arriving and leaving at the same time, start/end times will be staggered.

*Players will need to provide their own hand sanitizer and to use frequently, especially when not actively playing in the game.

Spectator Guidelines

*Spectators should be kept to a minimum per player at practices and games.

*Please keep 6 feet apart while in common, sideline, and spectator areas.

*Spectators must bring their own chair and set chairs to keep 6-foot physical distance from others and set up on their own team's sideline.

*Players not actively playing should wait with their spectator.

*Any spectator who is considered at high risk for COVID-19 by CDC standards (cdc.gov) should not attend practices or games.

These are definitely unusual times that have affected all parts of our lives and the way we do things. We also realize that things are ever changing and we must prepare to make adjustments as we move forward. We appreciate everyone's cooperation to make everything as safe as possible. Together we can help end COVID-19 and get back to play with less guidelines.

On-Site Staff

- *Stay home if feeling ill for any reason.
- *Sanitize league provided equipment and frequently touched areas before games/practices and when requested.
- *Educate and enforce Return to Play protocols.
- *Encourage spectators and participants, when not engage in activity, to wear masks.
- *Maintain minimum 6 feet physical distancing when communicating with others. Wear a mask when 6 feet distance is not possible and when requested.
- *Set out equipment and team designation signs prior to players/coaches arrival.