

**Iredell County Youth Soccer
Rules & Regulations**

Index

	Page #
Executive Director.....	1
Board of Directors	1
Duties of Board of Directors	1
Duties of Coordinators	1
Duties of ICRD.....	1
Participation and Scheduling.....	2
Duties of Teams or Communities.....	2
Game Personnel:	
Players	2
Coaches	2
Spectators	3
Geographical area.....	3
Uniform	3
The Start of Play.....	4
The Ball	4
Practices.....	4
Teams	4
The Field.....	4
Participation.....	4
Modified Rules	5
Duration of Game.....	5
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	5
Sponsors	6
Protests	6
Harassment of Goalkeeper	6
Rain Games	6
Substitutions	7
Tie Games.....	7
Age Groups.....	7
Code of Conduct.....	8
Communicable Disease Procedures	10
Player Distribution Guidelines	11

THE OFFICIAL FIFA RULES OF SOCCER ARE IN EFFECT FOR ALL IREDELL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT YOUTH SOCCER GAMES. ANY RULE IN THIS BOOKLET WILL SUPERSEDE THE FIFA RULES.

THE IREDELL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY THE:

**IREDELL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 788
STATESVILLE, N.C. 28687
704-878-3103**

IREDELL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM

RULES & REGULATIONS

Organizational Structure

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Athletic Director for the Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department, hereafter know as ICRD, shall be the Executive Director of the Iredell County Youth Soccer Program, hereafter know as ICYS. His/her duties shall be to organize, supervise, administer and schedule all games. The Executive Director may also add a new rule or policy at any time if it is deemed in the best interest of the Iredell County Youth Soccer Program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board will consist of one (1) member from each community in Iredell County that operates a youth soccer program. This member shall be selected by the members of the community organization. This person will hereafter be known as the "coordinator" of that community. Each board member shall have one (1) vote if his/her community fields between (1) one & (12) twelve teams, and shall have (1) additional vote for each set of 12 teams, ie 13 teams - 2 votes. There must be at least four (4) directors present at any given meeting before any official action may be taken.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Aid the Executive Director in decisions when necessary.
2. Bring the complaints and input from their communities to the board meetings.
3. Aid in making rule additions and deletions as necessary.

DUTIES OF THE COORDINATORS

1. Register and assign all participants to teams in their communities and turn the information in to the ICRD on or before the registration deadline.
2. Notify the teams within their community of schedule and additions or deletions as necessary.
3. Obtain coaches for teams within their community.
4. Submit rosters and any changes to the ICRD. Players may be added to a team roster prior to the assigned deadline.
5. Administer and follow through on penalties to coaches or players or spectators that violate any portion of the rules.
6. To select a representative to replace him/her at the board meetings in his/her absence. This substitute will retain the voting privilege the coordinator had.
7. See that the home field is properly marked and maintained.
8. Fill out necessary forms to reserve the school facility for team practices.
9. To act as a liaison between the ICRD, coaches and parents.
10. To see that the proper forms are filled out for each participant.

DUTIES OF THE IREDELL COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. To arrange the use of the fields for all games.
2. Purchase of marking lime and/or field paint
3. Will schedule all regular season, and make-up games.
4. To schedule and assign referees to each match.

5. Will handle all late registrations
6. Will submit all forms and rosters to NCYSA and act as a liaison from NCYSA to the community.

PARTICIPATION AND SCHEDULING

Each team in the ICYS must be entered as a separate and complete unit and have no connections with any other team/s. The ICRD will schedule games at locations and times necessary to complete the schedule.

No schedule will be changed after the schedule is completed by the ICRD. If a team cannot field enough players, the team must forfeit that game.

DUTIES OF TEAMS OR COMMUNITIES

Each community/team must furnish their own practice balls, goals, nets, first aid kits, corner flags, uniforms, and method of marking the field.

Game Personnel

PLAYERS

Players must fall into the age category for qualifying play. (see birth chart). No player may remain in a lower division with out a doctors permission or move to a higher division with out permission of ICPRD Athletics Director. The maximum limit shall be eighteen (18) players on a team, although a fewer number of players is recommended. Players are expected to be at all team practices and games. ICRD strongly recommends that birth certificates be verified for all players. The penalty for playing illegal players will be forfeiture of any games played in by the illegal player.

COACHES

Head coaches must be 18 years of age or older. Younger coaches may assist an adult coach, if desired. A maximum of three (3) coaches is allowed in a coaching capacity for the duration of the game. At least one coach must be present for game. This must be one of the coaches on the roster that has been turned into the ICRD. Coaching positions will be enforced. No coach is permitted to cross the mid field point. In divisions U12, U14 and U16 the coaching staff must remain in the twenty (20) yard coaches box. In Divisions U8 and U10 one member of the coaching staff may move from the top of the penalty box to the mid field line.

In all divisions the coaches must remain on the same side of the field.

Any coach on the field before, during, or after his game, whether or not his/her team is playing or not, shall refrain from calling opposing players, coaches, or referees by name or title. or by using language threatening in nature, either physically or mentally. Penalty shall be immediate removal form the field and possible suspension for one or more games. Coaches at games and practices shall not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, nor have them in their possession. Penalty shall be automatic suspension for the remainder of the season.

Coaches are not permitted to enter the playing field at any time unless summoned by the referee.

Coaches must take any complaints to their area coordinator who will notify the ICRD.

All coaches must complete an ICRD coaching application prior to the beginning of practice. If a team does not have a coach who has completed a coaching application, that team will not be allowed to play any games and will be charged with a forfeit for any scheduled games.

SPECTATORS

No spectator shall be allowed behind the goal line or closer to the field than (10) ten feet on any side. No spectator shall interfere with, or disrupt the progress or spirit of any game. If spectators disrupt the game or harass the referee, the referee may halt the game or postpone the game. (See Code of Conduct)

Area Served

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

- #1. ICYS shall serve the communities by using school boundaries of (1) Harmony (2) Union Grove (3) Central (4) Cool Spring (5) Ebenezer (6) East Iredell (7) West Iredell includes Scotts, Monticello, Sharon and Celeste (8) Troutman (9) SISA includes Brawley, Mount Mourne, Lake Norman, Mooresville, Lakeshore and Shepherd (10) Montessori includes Statesville City Limits excluding elementary schools paired with East, Monticello, Ebenezer. These paired schools may register with Statesville Montessori or the organizations in which their schools feed to. (11) Statesville Christian. (12) Third Creek (15) YMCA players from their membership.
- #2. A person must play or coach in the elementary school district he/she resides in.
Exceptions:
1. If the person resides in one district and attends school in another, he/she may play in either district.
 2. Parental or guardian change of residence where child would reside in two districts.
 3. If the teams in your district are full or if there are no teams in your district, you may play in another district but must return to your district when the player moves up in age groups if team registration allows a team to form.

The Game

THE UNIFORM

If team colors are similar it will be the duty of the home team to make the necessary change. No clothing may extend below the hemline of shorts except for sweats in cooler weather. These sweats must be to the ankle. *No jewelry, hats, visors, ponytail holders with hard molded decorations, jams or sunglasses are permitted. Referees in charge may request the removal of any item that may be deemed dangerous. The jersey of the goalkeeper shall be distinctly different from that of any team member, opponent, or official.

Shin guards are mandatory on all players and no exceptions will be permitted. Shin guards must be completely covered by the sock. Soccer cleats or tennis shoes may be worn, no baseball cleats shall be permitted. Shoes shall conform with the specifications set forth in the High School Federation Rule Book.

THE START OF PLAY

The start of play shall take place within (15) fifteen minutes of the scheduled starting time. A team not prepared to play shall forfeit the game. The referee's watch is official. **Coaches must supply a copy of their team roster prior to game time.** In the event that no referees are present at game time, the ICRD recommends that volunteers be found and agreed on by both teams, and that the game be played. The game will count as an official game.

THE BALL

The game ball shall be furnished by the referee in charge. A #3 ball will be used in U6 and U8, a #4 ball will be used in U10 and U12, and a #5 ball will be used in division U14 and up. If no game ball is available one of the teams may furnish a ball.

PRACTICES

Total practice time will be limited to four and one-half (4 1/2) hours per week, per team, before the start of the season and three (3) hours per week, per team, after the beginning of the season. Practices may not begin before the pre-arranged date, provided all of the registration materials are turned into the ICRD. Penalty for practicing too much, too early, or without proper forms turned into the ICRD shall be game forfeiture.

TEAMS

The teams shall be comprised of boys and girls within the age category of the division in which they play. Teams shall be limited to a maximum of eighteen (18) players. Each game will be played by two (2) teams, each consisting of eleven (11) players, one (1) of whom shall be the goalie. There must be seven (7) players present to start the game in order for the game to be an official game. In U10 teams may not have more than 14 players on roster. The game will be played by two teams of 8 players, one of whom is a goal keeper. The minimum number to begin and maintain play will be six (6) players. In U8 teams may not have more than 12 players on roster. The game will be played by two teams of seven (7) players, one of whom is a goalkeeper. The minimum number to begin and maintain play will be five (5) players. In U6 teams may not have more than 10 players on the roster. The game will be played by two teams of 5 players, one of whom may be a goal keeper. The minimum number to begin and maintain play will be 3 players. U12 teams may not have more than 14 players on the roster. The game will be played by two teams of 8 players, one of whom is a goal keeper. The minimum number to begin and maintain play will be six (6) players.

THE FIELD

Community fields should be approximately 100 x 50 for all age groups. Individual communities may play on a downsized field of approximately 75 x 50 for U10. Downsizing a field is optional as eleven (11) players will constitute a team. The U10 league will play on a recommended 70 - 80 yard x 40 yard field with a goal size of 7' x 21'. The U8 and U6 leagues will play on a recommended 50 yard x 30 yard field with a maximum goal size of 7' x 12' & a recommended goal size of 5' x 10'.

PARTICIPATION

It is **REQUIRED** that each player play at least one-half of every game. A coach caught for not playing each player a full half other than the above reasons will be suspended for one match.

The team will forfeit the match.

MODIFIED RULES (U8 and U6 ONLY)

The U8 and U6 leagues will play modified soccer rules. The field shall be downsized to a recommended 50 yards x 30 yards. The goals will be recommended 5' x 10' with a maximum size of 7' x 12'. A size 3 ball will be used. Teams shall play seven players versus seven players, one of whom is a goalkeeper. Modified rules recommend that the goalkeeper position not be the responsibility of just one player, but for all team members to take turns playing this position. **The maximum roster size is twelve (12) players for U8, U6 maximum 10 on roster, 5 v 5 on field.**

No off-sides will be called and all penalties and fouls will result in indirect kicks. No direct kicks or penalty kicks are allowed in U8 and U6. Any infractions called by the referee will be briefly explained to the offending player. A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on initial attempt. The referee will briefly explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

DURATION OF THE GAME

- U6: Four (4) eight (8) minute quarters
- U8: Four (4) eight (8) minute quarters
- U10: Four (4) ten (10) minute quarters
- U12: Two (2) twenty-five (25) minute halves
- U14: Two (2) thirty (30) minute halves
- U16: Two (2) thirty-five (35) minute halves
- U19: Two (2) forty (40) minute halves

All games shall have a maximum of five (5) minutes at half time and three (3) minutes between quarters. In the event that the games are behind schedule this time may be shortened by the official. Games may be started ahead of schedule with the consent of both head coaches. In the event the games are behind schedule the next scheduled game will begin immediately after the previous game is completed.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any player or coach that is suspended from the game by the referee will remain inactive for the next game. Inactive is defined as having no contact in a coaching capacity with the team. This is to be understood as any means of communication. A suspended coach must leave the playing area before the game will be resumed. A coach that has been suspended may not participate in the following week's practices.

Two yellow cards in any single game, or throughout the season, will equal one red card. Referees will report cautions and suspensions to the ICRD, who will in turn notify the coordinator and coach of the team about the suspension.

If a player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the team must play one player short for the remainder of the game.

If a head coach is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, one of the assistant coaches must take over as head coach. In the event no other coach named on the official team roster is available to take over as head coach, the game will be terminated by the referee.

Hollering of any type by any player is to be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be treated as such. During a penalty kick the goalie must remain stationary and may not wave his/her arms in a flagging motion.

SPONSORS

Teams in local leagues may be sponsored by those organizations or businesses whose activities or products are not detrimental to the welfare of the communities' youth. The sponsor's fee shall be payable to the local team(s). If the sponsor wishes, he/she may have the name of his/her business printed on the team's uniforms and the team shall be called by that name for the season. A sponsor may coach a team. The sponsor is not allowed to hire a manager or coach of the team he/she is sponsoring.

PROTEST

The only legal protest is one which involved violations of playing rules. ICRD will not allow protests on a judgment call. The protesting coach shall submit a written report detailing the protest to the ICRD within 48 hours after the completion of the match. A \$25.00 protest fee must accompany the protest for it to be considered. If the protest is denied the fee will not be refunded. If the protest is upheld the protest fee will be refunded. the Executive Director will submit the protest to three (3) officials employed by the ICRD who did not officiate the match. The decision made regarding the protest will be a vote to uphold or deny the protest. Their decision is final. No appeal may be made.

HARASSMENT OF THE GOALKEEPER

When the goal keeper has taken possession, within his/her penalty are (i.e. has one hand on the ball), he/she must be permitted to make his/her play. It is mandatory that the defensive team give the goalie 10 yards. Anyone disregarding these rules will be charged with unsportsmanlike conduct & subject to the penalty of such.

RAIN GAMES

In case of inclement weather the ICRD may cancel games from their office by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the Saturday games. In case of rain or bad weather on a Saturday morning the coordinator may call off the games at his/her location. This must be done 1 hour & 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the first game of the day. The coordinator, then, shall make every effort to notify the coordinators of the areas whose teams will be playing in their community. After a coordinator or a referee cancels a game at the site, he or she is to call the ICRD at 873-6858 ASAP and leave a message stating which site has been cancelled and the time of the call. Coaches should be instructed to call 873-6858 for the day's cancellations. If a game has not been called off the team should plan to show up at the playing field at the regularly scheduled time. When games are called off due to weather, the entire days schedule must also be called off.

Once the days games have begun, the official in charge may suspend play due to weather conditions. The officials, as employees of the ICRD, have the final decision in postponing a game due to bad weather. When games have been cancelled due to the weather, the referees or coordinators are to place a red corner flag in the middle circle before leaving the field. This will signal to anyone arriving at the field later that games are cancelled. Please remember our sites are run by volunteers who make the best decisions they can given all available information. No system is perfect.

If a game is stopped prior to the end of the first half, it will be rescheduled. If a game is stopped at half-time or during the second half it will be considered a full game and will not be rescheduled. The ICRD will reschedule any and all games.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Players may be substituted (1) after a score, (2) between quarters or at half time, (3) their throw in or if other team subs during their throw in, (4) then a yellow card is issued and (5) for an injured player.

TIE GAMES

If at the end of the regular game time the game score is tied, the official score will remain a tie. There will be no shootouts or overtime play in regular season play.

**FALL 2009 / SPRING 2010
SOCCER PLAYER
BIRTH CHART**

CO-ED

U6.....	AUGUST 1, 2003 - JULY 31, 2005
U8.....	AUGUST 1, 2001 - JULY 31, 2003
U10.....	AUGUST 1, 1999 - JULY 31, 2001
U12.....	AUGUST 1, 1997 - JULY 31, 1999
U14.....	AUGUST 1, 1995- JULY 31, 1997
U16.....	AUGUST 1, 1993 - JULY 31, 1995

ICRD CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

- I. The ICRD supports youth sports activities that are governed by a strong sense of individual and team sportsmanship. Opponents are to be treated with respect, regardless of their level of skill, race, creed, sex or national origin. The rules of the game are to be followed and violent or dangerous play is to be discouraged by coaches, players and parents.

- II. The following represents conduct that will **NOT** be permitted:
 - A. Vulgarity by coaches, players or spectators directed toward anyone.
 - B. Harassment of referees, umpires, coaches or players by anyone.
 - C. Debasing of referees, umpires, coaches or players by anyone.
 - D. Physical violence or threat of violence directed toward anyone or encouraged by anyone.
 - E. When a player, coach, manager, spectator or club official assaults a referee, umpire or anyone when such assault amounts to physical violence, such assault shall suspend the offender automatically for a period of 1 year from the time of the assault.
 - F. The use of tobacco in any form by players or coaches in the playing area (including dugouts and bench areas).
 - G. Arguing with an official on a judgment call.
 - H. Entrance onto the field of play without permission from the official in charge.
 - I. The possession of drugs, alcohol or anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - J. Players, coaches, spectators and league officials are prohibited from approaching a game official in an unsportsmanlike manner before, during or after a game.
 - K. Participation in a fight.
 - L. Assault of referees, coaches, league officials, players, spectators.

Non-compliance with these rules will mean suspension from coaching, officiating, attending game for the season or for one year depending on the nature of the occurrence.

III. **Support of the Officials**

ICRD has taken action in support of good conduct and sportsmanship. The referees and umpires or other game or league officials are expected to use their authority to maintain acceptable conduct on the field as well as off the field during any sports function.

IV. **Coach, Official and Spectator Relationship**

Coaches can not continuously attend to the spectators, but they are ultimately responsible for their team's part of the spectators. If a spectator engages in such conduct that the referee/umpire considers corrective action necessary, the referee/umpire will explain the situation to one or both coaches, as necessary. When a referee/umpire or league official speaks to a coach, it immediately becomes the coach's responsibility to correct the situation. If the coach does not or can not correct the situation, the game may be terminated.

V. **Promoting Good Conduct**

- A. **The Coach** - The behavior of the coach is the most important guide for player and spectator behavior. The coach can exert strong player and spectator control by the example he/she sets and by a few words of caution directed to the appropriate place when necessary. Any coach on the field before, during or after his/her game, whether or not his/her team is playing, will refrain from calling opposing players, coaches or officials by name or title or using language threatening in nature, either physically or mentally. Penalty shall be immediate removal from the field and possible suspension for one or more games depending on the nature of the occurrence.
- B. **Movement of Coaches** - No coach is permitted in the opposing "team area" during games. Coaches must remain in designated team areas and shall be permitted to coach his/her team only. In baseball or softball, no coach may enter or coach from the opposing team dugout or from behind the backstop or sideline fences. A coach that has been asked to leave the premises or has been ejected from a game must leave the ball field. He/she may not go to the stands or parking lot. Ejection from any game will carry a suspension from the next week's practices and the next game. If a coach is ejected and no assistant coach is available, as named on the official roster, the game will be terminated. Coaches not leaving the site, after ejection, may be arrested for trespassing and suspended for 1 year from the date of infraction.
- C. **Location of Spectators** - Spectators should remain in the area designated for spectators. Prohibited locations for spectators are the same as for coaches above. Spectators disrupting the spirit of the game may be asked by a league official, umpire or referee to return to seating or leave the area depending upon the nature of the disturbance. Spectators not leaving the premises as asked may be arrested for trespassing and banned from attending any ICRD sports activities for one year from the date of infraction.
- D. **Location of Teams** - Teams should locate themselves in the baseline dugouts or designated areas. No players should leave the team area without permission during a game. No player or coach shall wander into the opposing "team area". Spectators should remain in the designated seating area and not be near the team area.
- VI. **Violent or Rowdy Behavior** - Violent play, rowdy behavior, physical or verbal assaults and similar behavior will not be condoned and will be dealt with accordingly. Suspensions, periods of probation or team dissolution may result from prohibited conduct. Any member of any team in the ICRD sports program can be penalized for unsportsmanlike behavior. This includes coach, player, official, elected official, spectators, referee, umpire or any member of the Board of Directors.

Adopted 8/88

Revised 8/94

Iredell County Youth Soccer

Page 10

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- *
 1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
 2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
 3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
 4. Clean all blood contaminated surfaces and equipment with a solution made from a proper dilution of household bleach (CDC recommends 1-100) or other disinfectants before competition resumes.
 5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
 6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
 7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
 8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
 9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.
- * Referees will enforce rule #1. No player will be permitted to play with open or bleeding wound. ICRD suggests that you follow all the guidelines.

SIMPLE DRAFT: PLAYER DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

Purpose: To insure fair treatment of each player in team placement and to allow the yearly movement necessary to create team parity.

- A. The following method of player distribution and placement shall be used by each organization fielding more than one (1) team in any age group.
 - 1. All registration forms in each age group must be placed face up in an open setting with head coaches, or a team representative present.
 - 2. Each coach shall draw a number to indicate sequence of choice.
 - 3. Head coaches children/or child may be drawn first and "protected." Coaches may draw until each team representative has the same number of "protected" children as the coach with the most children.
 - A. This procedure shall be done each fall. Players are entitled to remain with the same coach for two (2) years (fall and spring). Requests to specific teams shall not be honored.
 - B. Absolutely no player shall be "grand fathered".
 - C. Basic guidelines for player distribution should be followed by organizations participating. Other decisions may be made on an individual basis as long as each player is treated fairly.

Situations that may arise:

- 1. Coaches with no children or coaches that don't wish to coach their child: may draw in the face-up draft to even up "protected" players.
- 2. Not enough coaches: have a team representative or another coach available.
- 3. Late registrations shall be assigned or distributed in the same method as draft guidelines.
- 4. Age groupings may be divided into single birth years to insure a more even draft if desired.