

****PYSA BASIC RULES****

(GRADES K – 6th ARE PLAYING SMALL-SIDED THIS SEASON)

KINDERGARTEN DIVISION

- Only one referee per game.
- Each team uses 3 players.
- **No goalies are used and no player should take a defensive position near the goal.**
- There are no penalty kicks. Instead, have the fouled team take a direct free kick from a spot on the line defining the penalty area near the place of the foul.
- One coach from each team is allowed on the field during the game.
- The coaches may not touch players when the ball is in play.
- In the case of a “bad” throw-in, the throwing team shall be given a re-throw.
- If the re-throw is “bad”, the ball shall be awarded to the other team for a throw-in.
- Do not call a “hand ball” unless it is intentional and is meant to gain an advantage or change the direction of the ball. Be alert for intentional handballs in the penalty area.
- Keep the players on their feet and discourage the use of slide tackles.
- There are 4 quarters of 8 minutes each.
- Teams alternate kickoffs each quarter.
- Ball size is 3.
- Teams may substitute only on their possession during a stoppage of play.
- Anticipate the play, move to where you should be, stay out of the way.
- You are the only referee and you know more than the players, coaches and parents.
- You make the calls; don’t let others make it for you.
- Remember the players are only 5 years old.

1ST / 2ND GRADE DIVISION

- Two referees per game. As a 2-man crew, discuss your game positioning before the game starts and know where the other referee is during the game.
- Run, do not walk the field.
- Each team has 4 players, including the goalie.
- There is no 6-second possession call on the goalie.
- In the case of a “bad” throw-in, the throwing team shall be given a re-throw.
- If the re-throw is “bad”, the ball shall be awarded to the other team for a throw-in.
- Do not call a “hand ball” unless it is intentional and is meant to gain an advantage or change the direction of the ball. Be alert for intentional handballs in the penalty area.
- Do not call a “penalty kick” unless the foul is blatant and was committed in the penalty box. Call “obstruction” or “dangerous play” if a call needs to be made and restart the game with an indirect kick. You are there to help assure safe play. If you think the game is getting too rough, consider calling “dangerous play” or “obstruction” a few times.
- Do not allow any touching of the goalie.
- Keep the players on their feet and discourage the use of slide tackles.
- There are 4 quarters of 10 minutes each.
- Teams alternate kickoffs each quarter.
- Teams may substitute only on their possession during stoppage of play.
- Ball size is 3.
- You are the referee and you know more than the players, coaches and parents.
- You make the calls; don’t let others make it for you.

3RD GRADE DIVISION

- Two referees per game. As a 2-man crew, discuss your game positioning before the game starts and know where the other referee is during the game.
- Run, do not walk the field.
- Each team has 5 players, including the goalie.
- Make the call if the goalie holds the ball more than 6 seconds (indirect kick).
- In the case of a “bad” throw-in, the ball goes to the other team.
- Do not call a “hand ball” unless it is intentional or gives the team committing the foul an advantage. A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself: Did the hand play the ball or did the ball play the hand?
- Do not allow any touching of the goalie. Be aware of any intentional roughness.
- Offside shall be called. Explain to the players and coaches at check-in the difference between being offside and being in an offside position. If you are not sure of what offside is, talk to your other referee or check with Mrs. Patchen before you go to your game.
- Keep the players on their feet and discourage the use of slide tackles.
- There are 4 quarters of 15 minutes each.
- Teams alternate kickoffs each quarter.
- Teams may substitute only on their possession during stoppage of play.
- Ball size is 4.
- You are the referee and you know more than the players, coaches and parents.
- You make the calls; don’t let others make it for you.
- Division may be combined with 4th grade, which then use the 4th Grade Division Rules.

4th GRADE DIVISIONS

- Two referees per game. As a 2-man crew, discuss your game positioning before the game starts and know where the other referee is during the game.
- Run, do not walk the field.
- Each team has 6 players, including the goalie.
- Make the call if the goalie holds the ball more than 6 seconds (indirect kick).
- In the case of a “bad” throw-in, the ball goes to the other team.
- Do not call a “hand ball” unless it is intentional or gives the team committing the foul an advantage. A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself: Did the hand play the ball or did the ball play the hand?
- Do not allow any touching of the goalie. Be aware of any intentional roughness.
- Offside shall be called. Explain to the players and coaches at check-in the difference between being offside and being in an offside position. If you are not sure of what offside is, talk to your other referee or check with Mrs. Patchen before you go to your game.
- Keep the players on their feet and discourage the use of slide tackles.
- There are 4 quarters of 15 minutes each.
- Teams alternate kickoffs each quarter.
- Teams may substitute only on their possession during stoppage of play.
- Ball size is 4.
- You are the referee and you know more than the players, coaches and parents.
- You make the calls; don’t let others make it for you.
- Division may be combined with 3rd grade, which then use the 4th Grade Division Rules.

5th/6th GRADE DIVISIONS

- Two referees per game. As a 2-man crew, discuss your game positioning before the game starts and know where the other referee is during the game.
- Run, do not walk the field.
- Each team has 8 players, including the goalie.
- Make the call if the goalie holds the ball more than 6 seconds (indirect kick).
- In the case of a “bad” throw-in, the ball goes to the other team.
- Do not call a “hand ball” unless it is intentional or gives the team committing the foul an advantage. A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself: Did the hand play the ball or did the ball play the hand?
- Do not allow any touching of the goalie. Be aware of any intentional roughness.
- Offside shall be called. Explain to the players and coaches at check-in the difference between being offside and being in an offside position. If you are not sure of what offside is, talk to your other referee or check with Mrs. Patchen before you go to your game.
- Keep the players on their feet and discourage the use of slide tackles.
- There are 2 halves of 30 minutes each.
- Teams alternate kickoffs.
- Teams may substitute only on their possession during stoppage of play.
- Ball size is 4.
- You are the referee and you know more than the players, coaches and parents.
- You make the calls; don’t let others make it for you.

7th-12th GRADE DIVISIONS

- The home team will provide either 2 or 3 referees per game. If there are 3, one will serve as a center referee and the other two will be linesmen. The linesmen should stay even with the “next to last defender.”
- There are 2 halves of 35 minutes each. The teams will alternate kickoff using a size 5 ball. Any game ending in a tie will be recorded as such. No overtime. No shootout.
- At check-in, a team may not have more players than what is on their original roster.
- Only players and coaches on the roster presented at check-in may be on the sideline.
- Maximum of 11 players including the goalie, minimum of 9 players including the goalie. If a team is short players, they must have all players on the field with no substitutions. The opposing team will play with an equal number of players plus one.
- Substitutions can be made before any kick-off, goal kick, and on a team’s own throw-in. Teams do not need referee permission to substitute on a kick-off.
- Do not tolerate poor sportsmanship or foul language from anybody. This includes players, coaches, and spectators.
- If you need to discipline a player for poor sportsmanship, give them a yellow card for unsporting behavior and send them off. Players receiving a yellow card will leave the field and stand at the centerline for 2 minutes (time kept by coach). They may return to the game (or be subbed for) at the next substitution stoppage.
- If a player receives a red card they will be ejected from the game and must leave the team area. The team may substitute for the ejected player. After the game, the league commissioners of the two involved teams will discuss and review the red card violation and decide if any additional disciplinary action is warranted. The center referee will call the referee coordinator immediately following the game and report on the red card.

- If the problem is with a coach, warn them once. If the problem continues, give them a red card for using offensive, insulting or abusive language and instruct them to leave the game area.
- If the problem is with a spectator, tell the coach he/she has 1 minute to deal with them and stop the game (**not the clock**) while they do. Do not restart the game until the coach has successfully dealt with the problem and it has ended. If the problem persists, issue a yellow card to the coach for delaying the restart of the game and ask the spectator to leave the game area. Do not restart the game until this has taken place to your satisfaction.
- Do not allow yourself to show poor sportsmanship when dealing with the poor sportsmanship of others. Keep your cool and put yourself above the problem.
- In the case of a “bad” throw-in, the ball goes to the other team. There are no re-do’s.
- Do not call a “hand ball” unless it is intentional or gives the team committing the foul an advantage. A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself: Did the hand play the ball or did the ball play the hand?
- Do not allow any touching of the goalie. Be aware of any intentional roughness.
- Offside shall be called. Explain to the players and coaches at check-in the difference between being offside and being in an offside position. If you are not sure of what offside is, talk to your other referees before your game.
- Slide tackling is NOT ALLOWED in this league. Players must stay on their feet. Discourage the use of slide tackling unless from directly in the front. If the slide tackle is from the side or back call tripping unless it is persistent then issue a card. If you are not sure, call the foul every time. The goal is to virtually eliminate slide tackling.
- Make the call if the goalie holds the ball more than 6 seconds (indirect kick).
- Run, do not walk the field. You are more likely to miss a call if you are out of position.
- Go over flag signals and positioning as a 3-man referee crew before the game begins.
- You should know where the other 2 referees are at any time during the game.