



YMCA YOUTH SPORTS PHILOSOPHY

Over the past few years, the YMCA has noticed some alarming trends in youth sports programs: the pressure for more rigorous competition and higher achievement. These trends come from adult-oriented attitudes and the misconception that youth sports programs are scaled-down versions of professional sports. This is not only false, but also dangerous.

The YMCA stresses child-oriented attitudes by keeping winning in perspective, having fun, improving physical fitness, and working with the whole child. The YMCA wants the quality of play to improve in order to meet the needs of all participants whatever their ability and skills.

The YMCA accomplishes this by training adult volunteers in clinics and workshops. **The YMCA believes that the child is first and winning is second.**

The YMCA does not encourage the elimination of competition or winning. Winning is essential to enjoyable competition. However, it is the "striving to win" that yields the joy of sports.

The key for parents and coaches is to keep winning in perspective. It is this key that holds the YMCA Youth Sports program together. Competition will happen in youth sports without any external pressures. **It is important to keep competition at a level appropriate for the athlete.**

The YMCA would not be whole without its commitment to a Christian emphasis. The goal of the Youth Sports program is to help the child grow to his/her fullest potential in mind, body, and spirit: activity helps the body grow; thinking advances the mind; and belief makes our spirit grow.



The Mission of the YMCA is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Rules:

1. There is no goalkeeper in Kinder Soccer
2. There are no penalties
3. Parents should line up around the field to keep the ball in play
4. Each quarter begins with a team kicking from midfield. Teams alternate quarters. Balls that the parents cannot keep in play should be thrown in by a player currently on the field.
5. No score is kept in kindersoccer.
6. Each participant should play an equal amount of time alternating between starting and ending quarters and games.
7. All players will be required to wear their own set of shin guards while they are playing.

Time:

1. Teams are to spend the first 20-25 minutes of their game time as practice and warm-up time. Working on soccer drills- passing, shooting, dribbling, etc.
2. Games are composed of 4-6 minute quarters. These quarters can be shortened for weather, lack of substitute players, etc. Game officials keep time.
3. In Kinder soccer there will be a break of 1 minute between quarters and the half times will consist of 3 minutes.
4. Please try to help keep games on time and moving along to avoid a delay in the beginning of the games following yours.

Game Officials: will be on the field and are responsible for game time and making calls. They will also make sure equipment is available.

Safety: All players are required to wear shin guards and socks at all times. Those without the appropriate gear will not be permitted to play.

Playing time:

Every player in attendance **MUST BE ALLOWED TO PLAY** at least one half of each game and **MUST BE ALLOWED TO START** at least half of the games throughout the season. Coaches should make every effort to play each child equally.

Delays/Forfeits:

If one team does not have the designated number of players at the beginning of the game, a 10 minute grace period will be allowed. The game will then be started with both teams playing with an **equal** number of players, and the amount of time lost will be deducted from the game.



**When the referee is ready to begin to play, you should start at that time. The referee may ask the coach to find a volunteer parent to help watch the sidelines during play.

SEVERE WEATHER:

-The YMCA will decide by 8:00am, the day of the game, if any cancellations are necessary.

-If severe weather occurs during play, a decision will be made by the onsite referee in regards to game cancellations.

- A full season consists of at least seven games. If additional cancellations occur, games will be rescheduled. If at least half a game has been played, that game will not be rescheduled.

-Any delays/cancellations will be posted on Playerspace, as well as the YMCA youth sports webpages.

YOUTH SPORTS PLEDGE:

At the start of each game, all players, coaches, and referees will meet at the center circle to recite the Youth Sports Pledge and address any rule clarifications.

YOUTH SPORTS PLEDGE

**I PLEDGE TO PLAY THE GAME,
THE BEST THAT I CAN,
TO BE A TEAM PLAYER,
TO RESPECT MY OPPONENTS,
THE RULES AND OFFICIALS,
AND IMPROVE MYSELF IN MIND,
BODY, AND SPIRIT.**

Please remember that by volunteering to be a coach, you have chosen to be a role model for all participating children, and that you represent yourself and the YMCA at all games and practices throughout the year.