

# THE PARENT'S GUIDE TO YSA SOCCER

- *Information*
- *Codes of Conduct*
- *YSA Policies*
- *Laws of the Game*



*2016 Edition*

Coach's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Days/Times: \_\_\_\_\_

# WELCOME TO YSA!

Thank you for participating in our youth soccer program. Our organization is driven by parent participation and volunteer help. Below, please find a basic overview of what you and your child can expect this season.

## Soccer Practices

Practice times and locations are set by the volunteer team coach. Please make every effort to have your child arrive to practices on time, ready to play. Players should be equipped with the following at all practices (and games):

- ***Shinguards, completely covered by socks***
- ***Athletic shoes***
- ***Full water bottle***
- ***Soccer ball***
- ***Appropriate clothing for varied weather conditions***
- ***NO jewelry of any kind (including pierced earring posts)***

As a courtesy to your child's coach, please pick up your child on time at the end of practice.

## Times Two Policy

YSA requires that two, unrelated adults attend all practices and team functions. YSA's Times Two Policy is in place as a safety measure, to protect your child. Please help your child's coach and Team Parent by giving your time when needed.

## Soccer Games

YSA soccer games are played at Amend Park, located just north of King Avenue East and west of South Billings Boulevard. Each season will consist of 7

weekly soccer games. Games are played on Saturdays. Game schedules will be distributed by your child's coach.

### **Remember, at YSA Soccer Games:**

- *Parents must sit on the opposite side of the field as the team and coaches.*
- *No one may sit or stand at the ends of the field (near the goals or corner flags).*
- *Players may not wear jewelry of any kind.*

### **Amend Park**

Although Amend Park is a city park, it takes the effort of community volunteers to care for it and develop the park into a soccer complex. Please respect Amend Park and help YSA to improve its soccer program's impact on the park by adhering to the following:

- *No Dogs Allowed.*
- *No Smoking.*
- *Please dispose of litter properly.*
- *Please recycle! Recycling bins for plastic bottles are located by the garbage cans throughout the park.*

### **Inclement Weather**

Due to the unpredictability of Montana weather, it is not always possible to determine in advance whether practices and games can be held as scheduled. Please check with your child's coach if the weather appears questionable for practice.

YSA will cancel games when the weather has an impact on the safety of the players or will significantly damage playing fields. YSA will send an e-mail to all registered e-mail addresses and will leave a recorded message at 655-7842 in the event games are cancelled due to inclement weather.

### **Website**

Check YSA's website for field maps, schedules, camps, sponsor specials and all kinds of other information.

**[www.ysasoccer.org](http://www.ysasoccer.org)**

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## Foreword

In order to advance the principals of sportsmanship and fair play and to promote mutual respect among players, coaches, referees and spectators, YSA has established this “Code of Conduct.”

The Code of Conduct shall govern the actions of players, coaches and spectators. The Code is intended to provide behavioral guidance and establish clear expectations for all involved. The Code was not conceived to address every possible behavioral circumstance, however, it shall serve as YSA’s standard for behavioral evaluation.

It shall be the obligation of ALL program participants, spectators and volunteers, to comply with the terms and provisions of the Code of Conduct. Any person violating the Code shall be subject to administrative action, up to and including termination of his/her privilege to participate in or attend any or all YSA sponsored activities.

## Code of Conduct: Coaches

Coaches shall remain unconditionally supportive of YSA’s commitment to the ideals of good sportsmanship, team play, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority. Likewise, coaches shall remain sensitive to the physical and emotional well-being of the players on his/her team. In order to adhere to these doctrines the coaches agree as follows:

**Coaches will be positive role models.**

**Coaches will display and instill in their players the principals of good sportsmanship and team play.**

**Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.**

**Coaches will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.**

**Coaches will ensure that all players receive equal playing time and equal playing positions.**

**Coaches will ensure that winning and/or losing teams do so in a manner that exhibits respect and good sportsmanship.**

**Coaches will treat all players, parents, spectators, opposing coaches and league officials with respect.**

**Coaches will provide instruction in a manner that is constructive and supportive.**

**Coaches will not ridicule or demean players, other coaches or referees.**

Coaches will refrain from using inappropriate physical contact with players. “High Fives” and handshakes are appropriate; spanking, intimate physical contact and corporal punishment are not appropriate.

Coaches will not tolerate behavior that endangers the health or well-being of a child.

Coaches will teach the game of soccer to the best of their ability.

Coaches will be drug and alcohol free while attending any YSA athletic event.

Coaches will not use any tobacco products during their team’s practices or during their team’s soccer games.

Coaches acknowledge the need to demonstrate fundamental proficiencies with respect to the game of soccer and YSA’s league policies. Consequently, all coaches agree to attend any coaches’ meetings and/or skill sessions that may be required by the YSA Board of Directors.

Coaches will observe all rules, policies and procedures established or endorsed by YSA and will comply with the decisions of the YSA Board of Directors.

## **Code of Conduct: Players**

### **Players SHALL...**

Display good sportsmanship and team play at all times.

Follow the direction of the Coach and Assistant Coach.

Respect all, coaches, players, league officials, referees and spectators.

Make every attempt to be on time and ready to play for all games and practices.

### **Players shall NOT...**

Use abusive or profane language.

Taunt or humiliate any other player.

Argue a referee’s call.

Abuse, mistreat or mishandle any YSA equipment or property.

Wear any jewelry during soccer practices and soccer games.

## **Code of Conduct: Parents and Spectators**

The Parent and Spectator shall support the players, coaches, referees and league officials. Parents and Spectators shall not “coach” or “officiate”. Parents and Spectators agree as follows:

**Parents and Spectators will be positive role models.**

**Parents and Spectators will display and instill in all players, the principals of good sportsmanship and team play.**

**Parents and Spectators will conduct themselves in a manner that best serves the interests of the players.**

**Parents and Spectators will do their best to provide the players a positive experience.**

**Parents will make certain that their children show respect for all other players, coaches, officials and spectators.**

**Parents and Spectators will not undermine the efforts of coaches during games and practices.**

**Parents and Spectators will not ridicule or demean players, coaches or referees.**

**Parents will make every effort to ensure that their children attend team practices set by coaches.**

**Parents will make every effort to ensure that their children arrive to team practices on time and are picked up from practices on time.**

**Parents will inform the coach of any disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child.**

**Parents and Spectators will treat all players, coaches and referees fairly and with respect.**

**Parents and Spectators will not question a referee’s call.**

**Parents and Spectators will respect the opponent and avoid any confrontation with opposing players, spectators, or coaches.**

**Parents and Spectators will be drug and alcohol free while at any YSA athletic event.**

**Parents and Spectators will not use any tobacco products during YSA practices or during YSA soccer games.**

**Parents and Spectators will observe all rules, policies and procedures established or endorsed by YSA and will comply with the decisions of the YSA Board of Directors.**

## Other YSA Policies and Guidelines

**Conflict Resolution.** If a parent or player is having difficulties with a coach or referee, (or vice versa) YSA asks that you come to the office and fill out a conflict resolution form. A member of the YSA board will contact the appropriate parties and facilitate a resolution to the problem. ***Do not confront someone at a practice or on the field.***

**Poor Behavior.** If your behavior as a parent, coach or player is, in the opinion of a YSA official, detrimental to the game or its players, you may be asked to remove yourself from the premises.

**Team Assignments Final.** YSA cannot accommodate requests for placement for any reason including carpooling, scheduling and coach/player preferences. All team assignments are final and will not be changed for any reason other than for YSA administrative purposes.

**Players Must Play with Assigned Team.** Teams may not "pick up" additional players for any game — even if they are currently registered with YSA. If a team in a particular game is short players, they may borrow from the opposing team in that game only. If a player is discovered to be playing for a team other than the one he/she is rostered on, he/she may be subject to removal from the league.

**Concussion Procedures.** Soccer is a physical game involving player collisions with other players, with the ball, and with the ground. Player safety remains the foremost object for YSA, just as it is for parents of players. Recently, U. S. Soccer adopted new guidelines for youth soccer leagues regarding concussions. YSA has adopted those guidelines. Parents should read and familiarize themselves with these guidelines at the following link: <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/HealthandSafetyResourceCenter/>. Any coach or parent who suspects that a player may have a concussion may hold the player out of games and practice activities until the player's doctor clears the player, in writing, to participate in soccer activities. We appreciate the support and participation of parents in identifying and addressing signs and symptoms of player concussions. Parents can also help by making sure their children are properly equipped to play. Although not mandatory, various forms of approved head protection are available on the market and are finding increased acceptance at every level of soccer.

**YSA has a ZERO Tolerance policy regarding the verbal or physical abuse of referees. If you see this sort of behavior, please report it to a YSA official immediately.**

# The YSA Guide to the Laws of the Game

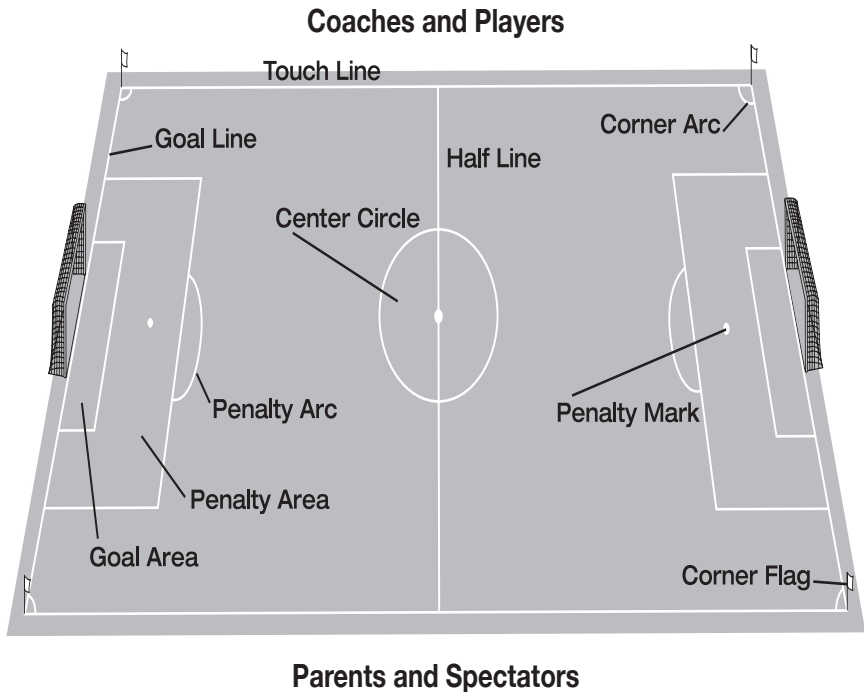
This is a brief summary of the laws of the game for parents and coaches of YSA players. YSA encourages parents to learn more about the game from the many resources available at the library, online and in bookstores. You can visit our web site at [www.ysasoccer.org](http://www.ysasoccer.org) for more information. **Remember this is the player's game. Let them play!**

## Introduction

YSA has adapted the laws of the game to recreational soccer to accommodate the wide age range of our players. Except where indicated, the following laws of the game adopted by YSA come from F.I.F.A. (*Federation Internationale de Football Association*), the international governing organization for soccer.

## The Field

YSA fields and goals vary in size to be age appropriate. The diagram below shows the parts of the regulation field referred to in the laws of the game. The younger age group fields may not have all the markings due to their age specific rule variations.





## The Players

11 players play on a full-sided soccer team. YSA teams are smaller, depending on player age, to promote faster individual player development with more ball touches.

Player positions include goalkeeper (*except grade K*), defenders (*sometimes called fullbacks*), midfielders (*sometimes called halfbacks*), and forwards (*sometimes called strikers*). YSA players play all positions during the season.

Players' primary roles: Goalkeeper defends the goal and may use their hands in their own penalty area; the other players primary role may be to either defend or attack, depending on their position, but understand ***that all players must share defending and attacking responsibilities. All players can score and all players can move anywhere on the field.***

The keys are communication and teamwork. If the other team has the ball, we need to defend as a team. If we have the ball we need to attack as a team.



## The Officials

The Referee: she/he is the timekeeper, enforces the laws of the game, starts, stops and restarts the game, maintains safe play, allows substitutions of players and cautions or penalizes players. Players, coaches and parents must respect his/her rulings on the field.

The Assistant Referee: she/he assists the referee by signaling when the ball is out of play and by signaling infractions by players.

## Laws of the game cont'd...

### Playing the game

Each half begins with a kickoff at the center circle on the half line.

A player may use any part of her/his body, except the hand or arm to control or score the ball.

***Slide tackling is not permitted in YSA.***

The ball is in play when it is on the field or if any part of it is touching the touch line or goal line.

The ***entire ball*** must cross the entire goal line in the goal to score.

Play is continuous (***no time-outs***) until a goal is scored, an infraction is whistled or the ball goes out of play.

Play is restarted by:

1. A THROW-IN—when the ball crosses the touch line out of play. The team that did not touch the ball last takes the throw-in. The player taking the throw must use both hands, bring the ball from behind their head, and both feet must be in contact with the ground when the ball is released.
2. A GOAL KICK—taken by the defensive team when the offensive team has kicked the ball across the goal line out of play. All players from the offensive team must be outside the penalty area until the ball leaves the penalty area. The ball may not be played by either team until it has left the penalty area.
3. A CORNER KICK—taken by the offensive team when the defensive team has kicked the ball across the goal line. The kick is taken from the corner arc on the goal side where the ball went out.
4. A FREE KICK—awarded by the referee after a player infraction. The free kick may be direct or indirect (see following) and may not be obstructed, meaning defending players must be an appropriate\* distance from the ball. ***All free kicks for 6th grade and below shall be indirect kicks.*** Meaning that the ball must be touched by another player on the field before it can score a goal.
5. A KICK-OFF—after a goal is scored. Taken by the non-scoring team.

\* Appropriate distance is determined by the size of the center circle for each grade level

# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

## When Can the Goalkeeper Use Their Hands?

A goalkeeper may handle (use her/his hands) the ball only in her/his own penalty area. A goalkeeper may not handle the ball when it is deliberately thrown in or passed to her/him by a teammate. Remember that the goalkeeper outside the penalty area is like any other player and has no special privileges.

## What is Offside?

YSA enforces the offside law in **4th grade and above**. In simplest terms, a player is offside if she/he is closer to the opponent's goal line than the ball, or two members of the defending team. If the offside player is involved in the play or gains an advantage for her/his team, she/he will be whistled offside and a free kick will be awarded to the other team at the spot of the infraction. Remember that a player is not offside in her/his team's own half of the field or on a throw-in.

## Free Kick - Indirect or Direct?

**In YSA games 6th grade and below, all free kicks are indirect**; meaning the ball must be touched by another player before it can be scored. **In games 7th grade and above**, the referee may award direct free kicks when appropriate under the laws of the game.

## Yellow Card? Red Card?

**In YSA games 4th grade and above**, referees may signal the most serious infractions with a yellow card (caution) or a red card (dismissal of the player from the game). Serious or deliberate dangerous infractions which could draw a card include slide tackling from behind, kicking or punching an opposing player and/or pushing or pulling a player to the ground. A player receiving a 2nd yellow card in the same game will be dismissed with a red card. A player (or coach or parent) who receives a red card in a game must also sit out the following game that the team plays.

## When is a Penalty Kick Awarded?

In YSA games 7th grade and above, the referee may award a penalty kick, when called for under the laws of the game, for a *direct* kick infraction by a defender in his/her own penalty area. The kick is taken from the penalty mark.

# YSA Format and League Rules “Quick Guide”

Grade(s)▶	K	1st-2nd	3rd	4th	5th-6th	7th-8th	9th-12th
<b>Players on Field</b>	4v4 No Goalkeeper	5v5 Including Goalkeeper	7v7 Including Goalkeeper	7v7 Including Goalkeeper	9v9 Including Goalkeeper	TBD Including Goalkeeper	TBD Including Goalkeeper
<b>Team Size</b>	≈7	≈8	≈10	≈10	≈12	TBD	TBD
<b>Game Length</b>	4 10 Minute Quarters	2 25 Minute Halves	2 30 Minute Halves	2 30 Minute Halves	2 30 Minute Halves	2 35 Minute Halves	2 35 Minute Halves
<b>Field Size</b>	≈20x30yd	≈30x40yd	≈40x60yd	≈40x60yd	≈50x70yd	≈70x100yd	≈70x100yd
<b>Goal Size</b>	4x6 ft	5x12 ft	6x12 ft	6x12ft	7x21 ft	8x24 ft	8x24 ft
<b>Ball Size</b>	3	3	4	4	4	5	5
<b>Goalkeeper</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Referee</b>	Coach	Coach	Coach	Center Ref	Center Ref	Center Ref	Center Ref
<b>Asst Referee</b>	No	No	No	When Available	When Available	Yes	Yes
<b>Offside?</b>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Goal Kicks</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Corner Kicks</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Throw-Ins</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Penalty Kicks</b>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Free Kicks</b>	All are Indirect					Direct & Indirect	
<b>Substitutions</b>	Any Natural Stoppage of Play			W/Ref Approval According to the Laws of the Game			
<b>Slide Tackles?</b>	Slide Tackles are NOT Allowed at Any Level of YSA Play						
<b>Recommended # of practices per week</b>	1	1-2	1-2	2	2	2	2

- All players **must** wear shinguards for practices and games. Shinguards **must** be covered by socks.
- **No jewelry** can be worn during a game.
- Parents should help to take down and put away equipment after the last game on the field that day.
- Please pick up litter and dispose of properly.
- Lost and Found is placed near the Concession Stand and bathrooms at Amend Park.
- By City Ordinance, no dogs are allowed in any City Park.
- **YSA and Amend Park support a non-smoking environment.**  
**Please respect your players by not smoking at the fields.**
- *Remember that this game is for the players! All players, coaches and parents must abide by the Codes of Conduct discussed in this booklet.*