



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**PARKS
& REC**

2022 U8 Youth Soccer Guidelines and Rules

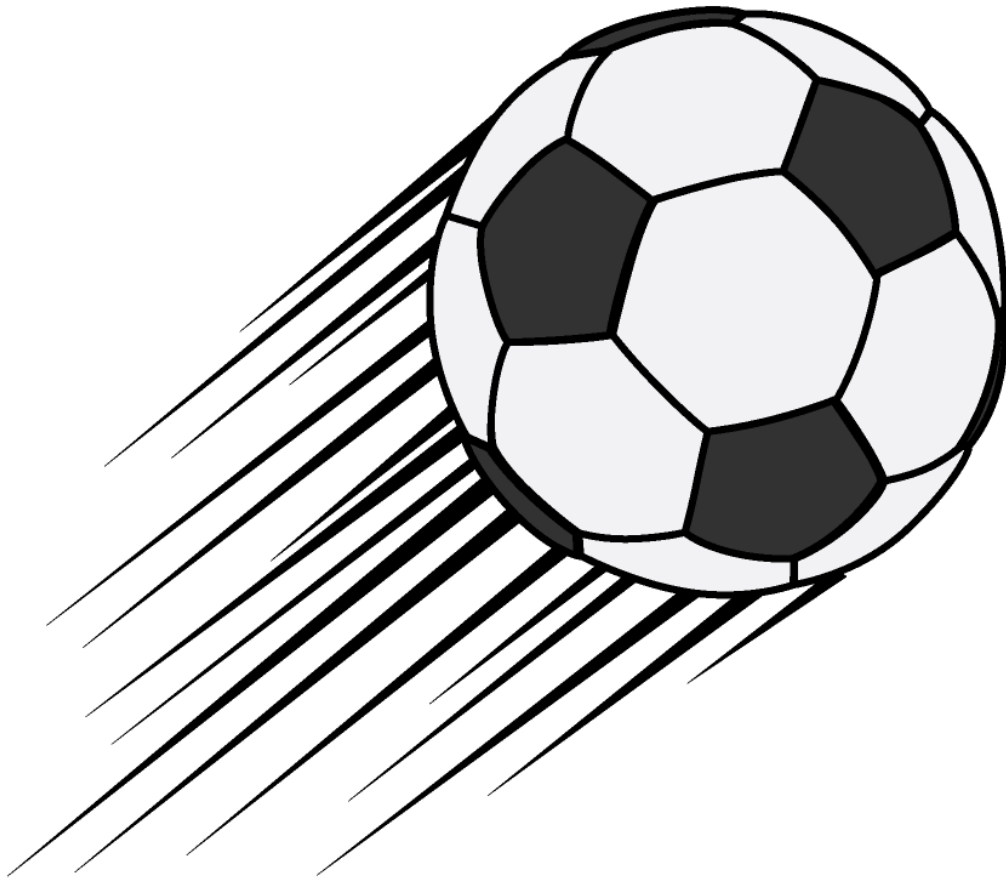


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Article 1: Mission/Vision Statement

City of Harrisonburg Mission Statement

The mission of the Harrisonburg Department of Parks and Recreation is to enhance the quality of life and meet the needs of the community by providing comprehensive leisure service opportunities and to develop and maintain a safe system of open spaces and public facilities for the use and enjoyment by the public.

Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Values

Integrity

We are committed to taking initiative, being accountable, and adhering to our mission vision and values.

Teamwork

We engage in effective communication to build professional and respectful relationships while being open minded to and welcoming of diverse perspectives.

Innovation

We utilize technology, processes, and protocols of operation to enhance efficiency and pride in our organization's ability to be a leader in Parks and Recreation.

Safety

We are proactive in creating a safe working and recreational spaces for our employees and community.

Public Service

We provide consistent quality service by building relationships through diverse opportunities that appeal to our community.

Article 2: League Contact

Athletic Coordinator	Courtney Carawan	540-433-9168	Courtney.Carawan@harrisonburgva.gov
Athletic Specialist	Zach Staton	540-433-9168	Zachary.Staton@harrisonburgva.gov
Athletic Coordinator	Steven Hollister	540-433-9168	Steven.Hollister@harrisonburgva.gov

Article 3:

Soccer League Guidelines/ U8 (Ages 7-8): Below are the standards and rules in which this league will operate. These rules shall serve as guidelines for those playing, coaching, officiating, and administering. Some rules may be modified during the season if the league administrator's see it is in the best interest of the participants.



Equipment and Field Specifications

Size of Ball	3
Goal Size	4x6
Field size	25x35
Match Size	4 v 4
Roster Size	8 Max

Game Structure

Game Length	Four 10-minute quarters
Substitutions	Every 5 minutes of each quarter, in a dead-ball situation.
Time Between Periods	5 minutes
Extra Period	N/A
Scoring	Score is not kept in this division
Timeouts	Will be during scheduled substitution times. Injury substitutions as needed.
Start of Game Possession	Away team will kick into play the start of the first half; Home team kicks into play the start of the second half
Penalties	N/A
Red Cards	N/A

Game Tactics

Player Participation	Equal playing time (substitutions on 5-minute mark of each quarter)
Set Defense	N/A

Highlighted Game Play Rules

Running Clock/ Clock Stoppage	There will be a running clock during play except: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substitutions• Injury
Offsides	No offsides
Heading	No heading shall be allowed. If a player contacts the ball with their head intentionally or on accident, a free kick shall be rewarded to the opposing team.
Free Kicks	Only to start or restart play, i.e. out of bounds balls. No direct kicks.
Penalty Kicks	N/A
Corner Kicks	Only to start or restart play, i.e. out of bounds balls.
Throw-Ins	Done when the ball exits play on the sideline. Team that clears the ball out of bounds on the sideline gives possession to other team via throw-in opportunity. Must use proper technique and thrower must not be the first player to touch the ball once in play. No offsides will be called as this is an age group is being introduced to throw-ins.
Unsportsmanlike	Players who receive 2 in a game will be ejected. Coaches who receive 2 in a game will be ejected and must vacate the facility.

Article 4: Rationale

- Substitution rules:
 - This helps ensure all participants are having an opportunity to experience the game with equal and fair playing time.
- Clock stoppage:
 - The balance of clock stoppage allows for better game flow, and proper substitution of players.

Article 5: No Tolerance/Sportsmanship Policy

- Spectators that show poor sportsmanship including, booing, harassing coaches, arguing calls, negative behavior or comments, threats, or obscene gestures shall be given 1 warning, and then ejected from the facility. Play will not resume until spectator has vacated. If they refuse to leave, the game will end, and the individual will be issued a trespass notice which will apply to all Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation facilities and parks.
- Cheering in a positive manner for both teams is highly encouraged. Remember, it takes a lot of nerve for our players to get in front of a crowd and PLAY. Please remember this during the game and help us build the positive experiences through the game of soccer.
- Please refrain from coaching our players from the sidelines. We have coaches who volunteer their time to do this, let them coach! This is also very distracting to our players. Again, do not be the reason for increased anxiety to our players.

Article 6: Registration

- Registration information may be found at www.harrisonburgva.gov/soccer.
- Posted via Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation social media outlets.
- Please make sure all requested information has been completed.

Article 7: Practices

- Teams will have scheduled practices prior to the season starting.
- Practices will last no more than 45 minutes.
- Practices will be held at the Smithland Athletic Complex.

Article 8: Game Day

- Please arrive no more than 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- Uniforms will be provided for each team at the start of the season. Parents/Players will be responsible for keeping up with their uniforms throughout the season.
- It will be the responsibility of each participant or parent to have their uniform washed following each day's activity.
- Games will be scheduled for Saturdays. A game schedule will be distributed prior to the season and can also be found at www.harrisonburgva.gov/soccer.
- All activity will take place at the Smithland Athletic Complex.
- No shared food or beverages will be permitted during activity. All players must supply their own. Parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision of their children that accompany them to the games.

Article 9: Game Cancellations or Postponements

- For inclement weather notifications, please use the following resources:
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/hprathletics
 - Twitter: www.twitter.com/HburgParks
 - Email Notification: Courtney.Carawan@harrisonburgva.gov
 - If you are unsure of cancellations or postponements, contact coaches & check social media.

Article 10: Team Selection

- Teams will be organized and divided by league administrator.
- Volunteer coaches, who have children in the program, will be automatically assigned their own children.
- Siblings will be placed together on the same team.
- Participants and parents may not request to be placed on a specific team.
 - This is to help prevent an imbalance of talent.

Article 11: Resources

- Most questions concerning registration, schedules, ages divisions, etc. can be found at www.harrisonburgva.gov/soccer. For additional questions, contact league administrator.
- Team specific information can be directed toward each team's volunteer coach.