



# **LIL' KICKERS SOCCER RULES**

## **SPRING 2026**

OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## GOVERNING BODY

The Oconee County Parks and Recreation Department will be the governing body of all Spring 2026 athletic programs and will have final authority concerning all rules and decisions. All rules and guidelines for each league are subject to change by OCPRD during regular and post season.

## CONTACT INFO

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## CODE OF CONDUCT

- All participants are governed by the Oconee County Parks and Recreation Department Code of Conduct.
- Players, spectators, and coaches should display a good sporting attitude. Spectators, parents, coaches, or participants who display unsportsmanlike behavior will be asked to leave the premises. If such behavior continues, the parent, participant or both may be removed from the program.
- Any coach, assistant coach, or player ejected from a contest must leave the vicinity immediately (out of sight and sound). Anyone ejected is prohibited from any further contact with the team (direct or indirect) for the remainder of the game and will not be permitted on the premises for the team's next scheduled game and potentially the team's remaining games.

## LOCAL RULES

All games will be played under National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules except where local rules supersede:

- Coaches serve as the referees.
- Coaches or a volunteer parent must keep time for each quarter and notify everyone when time runs out.
- Age – 4 years old
- **Age control date** – September 1, 2025. **Must be 4 years old on or before age control date.**
- Ball size: 3
- Games are played in 6-minute quarters.
- 2-minute breaks in between each quarter and halftime.
- Playing sides: 3 v 3 – no goalkeeper.
- Coaches/parents/spectators are **not** allowed behind the goal lines.
- **Score is not kept.**
- Players must play a minimum of half the game. No player is allowed to play the entire game unless no substitutions are available.
- Games are played with the New Ball method.
  - Whenever a ball goes out of play, (throw-ins, goal kicks, or goals), a coach rolls a different ball to empty space near the disadvantaged team to keep the game going.
- If a foul is committed, the coach should explain the rule and correct the player. Fouls include pushes, trips, holds, handballs, high kicks, etc. All violations will result in a coach rolling the ball towards the fouled team.
- Coaches should constantly remind players to refrain from using their hands to push or grab opponents in an attempt to gain possession of the ball as this is considered a foul.
- Slide tackling is **not** allowed.
- Heading the ball is **not** allowed.

- The offsides rule will not be enforced. However, coaches should not encourage “cherry picking”.
- **No goal tending** – Players cannot guard or block the goal box/front of the goal for extended periods of time. If play moves to different areas of the field “defenders,” if used, should also move with the ball.
  - The goal of Little Kickers is for the players to get more touches on the ball and stay active in the game as much as possible. Players that stand in front of the goal are not getting the benefits of being involved in play.
- Opposing players and coaches should line up on opposite sides of the center line at the end of the game to shake hands.
- No overtime. No post-season play.

## NEW BALL METHOD

### No kick offs, no goal kicks, no corner kicks, no throw-ins.

- To start the game, a coach will roll a ball to the home team. Then rotate which team gets the ball from quarter to quarter.
- Whenever a ball goes out of play, the coaches will announce “NEW BALL” and roll a new ball into play. Coaches will role the ball to the team that should have the ball on a goal kick, throw-in, corner, or after a goal is scored.
- Use this opportunity to roll the ball to players that are not touching the ball often in the match. Giving them more chances to touch the ball and have fun during the game.
- If the ball goes slightly out of play, and a player brings it back into play, let them play on. Only roll a new ball when the ball goes well out of bounds or behind the goal.
- You may have to pause before you roll a new ball into play to let the teams set back up. Especially after a goal is scored, let each team get back on their sides before you roll the ball back into play after goals.
- If players are too condensed to roll the ball to the team who should receive the ball, roll it towards the goal they are trying to score on. Rolling the ball into neutral space is encouraged to keep the players constantly moving.
- Substitutions are administered when needed regardless of which team is in possession. Teams may substitute players before the “new ball” has been rolled into play.
  - We encourage coaches to sub players in every 3 minutes to keep players entertained in the game.
- The coach of the home team will be in charge of rolling the new ball into play during the first half of the game; the coach of the away team will be in charge of rolling the new ball into play during the second half of the game.
- **Do not** bounce the ball when returning it into play, it is tough at this age for players to judge a bouncing ball.