

**WISCASSET PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
RULES & GENERAL INFORMATION**

I. GAME MANAGEMENT:

Conducted in accordance with the National Federation Laws of the Game, with certain exceptions as noted:

II. COMPETITION:

Games at the Minor and Mite divisions will all be played with SIX players per side, FIVE in the field and ONE as the goalie. Games at the Junior division will be played with Eight players per side, Seven in the field and One as the goalie. In the case of player shortages, teams should be kept equal in numbers. (Volunteer adults, high school or middle school players will referee games)

III. DURATION OF MATCHES:

▪ Mite Division (Gr. 1,2)	-two, 20 minute halves
▪ Minor Division (Gr. 3,4)	-two, 25 minute halves
▪ Junior Division (Gr. 5,6)	-two, 25 minute halves

- The interval between the first and second half should be limited to five minutes.
- NOTE: Matches, which have a tie score at the end of regulation time, shall remain as such. Overtime periods will not be played.

IV. SUBSTITUTIONS:

- A. **All players shall play a minimum of one half (1/2) of each game's time period**, unless there are special circumstances that make it necessary for coaches to make adjustments. (I.e., injuries, unsportsman like behavior, tardiness, etc.)
- B. Substitutions may be made during any normal stoppage of play, with the exception of direct & indirect free kicks. Coaches may substitute players when the ball is out of play, such as during a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, after a goal has been scored, between periods and for injuries. Substitutions should be at mid-field before a stoppage of play. Coaches should alert the nearest referee when they desire to make substitutions and players should wait until the referee indicates they may make the substitution.
- C. **A PLAYER WHO IS BLEEDING, HAS AN OPEN WOUND OR BLOOD ON HIS/HER BODY OR CLOTHING SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME OR PRACTICE UNTIL THE BLEEDING HAS BEEN STOPPED AND THE AREA BANDAGED PROPERLY. BLOOD SOILED CLOTHING (T-SHIRT, SHORTS, SOCKS, ETC.) MAY NOT BE WORN DURING A GAME OR PRACTICE**

V. THE BALL

The Wiscasset Recreation Dept will furnish five soccer balls per team. (At the coach's discretion, players may bring soccer balls from home for use during practices.)

<u>Ball Size</u>	Mite Division (Gr. 1,2) - size 3 foam ball
	Minor Division (Gr. 3,4) – size 4 ball
	Junior Division (Gr. 5,6) – size 4 ball

VI. AGE ADJUSTMENTS

- A. There will be no slide tackling allowed at any level.
- B. **Coaches on the field**
 1. **Mite Division-** coaches are allowed to be on the field at all times to assist players in their proper positioning only. (Try not to be in a space that will interrupt the flow of the game)
 2. **Minor Division-** coaches may enter onto the field to assist in teach certain aspects of the game during stoppage of play, such as off-sides or throw-ins when needed, but are encourages to stay on the sidelines when possible.
 3. **Junior Division-** coaches must remain on the sidelines.
- C. **Hand Balls**
 1. **Mite Division-** Deliberate handballs will be called by refs, coaches and refs remind/instruct players on the rule. If contact is incidental, play on.
 2. **Minor & Junior Divisions-** All handballs will be called and enforced.

D. **Throw-Ins**

1. **Mite Division-** coaches and refs will instruct players how to make legal Throw-Ins at appropriate times.
2. **Minor Division-** Illegal Throw-Ins will be called by refs, coaches and refs instruct how to make legal throw-ins, but no infraction will be enforced on the first attempt, infractions on a player's second consecutive attempt will be enforced.
3. **Junior Division-** All Illegal Throw-Ins will be called and enforced.

E. **Off-Sides**

1. **Mite Division-** No Off-Sides will be called, but coaches and refs should remind/instruct players of the rule.
2. **Minor Division-** Blatant Off-Sides (GOAL HANGING) will be called by refs, coaches and refs should remind/instruct players what they did wrong, and no infraction will be enforced.
3. **Junior Division-** Off-Sides will be called and enforced.

F. **Field and Goal Sizes**

1. **Mite Division-** Smaller goals will be used and play will take place on a shortened cross field.
2. **Minor Division-** Larger goals will be used and play will take place on a shortened cross field.
3. **Junior Division-** Larger goals will be used and play will take place on a size appropriate field.

G. **Goal Kicks**

1. **Mite Division** – Opponents must retreat to mid-field when the kick is taken. Opponents may attack once the ball has been struck. If there isn't a mid-line painted on the field, please place cones on the side lines of the field prior to the start of the match.
2. **Minor Division** - Opponents must retreat to mid-field when the kick is taken. Opponents may attack once the ball has been struck. If there isn't a mid-line painted on the field, please place cones on the side lines of the field prior to the start of the match.
3. **Junior Division** – Opponents must be outside the "18 yard line", if there isn't a line painted on the field, please place cones on the side lines at both ends of the field prior to the start of the match.

VII. PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- A. All players will receive a team jersey, to be worn at games.
- B. ***Players need to furnish their own shin pads. Shin pads must be worn during practices and games.***
- C. Regulation soccer shoes, multi-purpose athletic shoe with rubber molded cleats or sneakers are the recommended footwear. Leather street shoes, boots, baseball style cleats or shoes with metal cleats are not allowed.
- D. Protective mouth guards are recommended, as well as athletic supporters and protective cups for boys.
- E. Goalkeepers shall wear a colored scrimmage vest/keepers jersey. (Supplied by the Wiscasset Recreation Dept.)
- F. **** Illegal equipment** – (cast, barrettes, hats, jewelry, earrings and other such things which could be dangerous to oneself or other.) **COACHES ARE ASKED TO PLEASE CHECK FOR ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT BEFORE PRACTICE AND GAMES.**

VIII. PARENTAL ASSISTANCE WELCOMED!

Parents may help out by assisting coaches with such things as team organization, telephoning, supplying drinks and snacks, collecting soccer balls, etc.

PARENTS: please be prompt in picking your child up following clinics, practices and games.

Please do not drop your child off at the field for the entire morning or evening

IX. POSTPONEMENTS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER PORCEDURE:

- A. The Recreation Department will make decisions to cancel games due to weather or poor field conditions. The Recreation Department will only cancel practices if a field is unplayable, in all other situations it is the coaches decision as to weather or not to continue with a practice if there is inclement weather.
- B. The following procedure will be used for notification:
 1. One coach from each team will be contacted by telephone.
 2. Coaches shall notify their players.
 3. Recreation Website: **www.wiscassetrec.com**
 4. If in doubt, coaches and players are asked to contact the Wiscasset Community Center at 882-8230.
 5. Check the Wiscasset Parks and Recreation Facebook page on Facebook
- C. The Recreation Department may not reschedule practices and matches canceled due to foul weather, or unplayable field conditions. Coaches may reschedule games/practices on their own as long as both coaches agree to a time, and field use is approved through WPRD staff.

X. YOUTH SPORTS PHILOSOPHY

- A. The Wiscasset Recreation Department is dedicated to teaching children in our community the fundamentals of sports in a safe, positive and age appropriate manner. We strive to promote good sportsmanship, healthy competition and the true spirit of working and playing together. In order to encourage physical and social growth as well as build life-long athletes and fitness enthusiasts among our youth, our Department emphasizes placing the emotional and physical well being of any youth athlete ahead of any personal desire to win.

XI. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. PLAYERS

1. Players will show and treat fellow players, coaches and game officials with respect while involved any and all Wiscasset Recreation Department's youth sports programs.
2. Players will use appropriate behavior at all times. Vulgarities, physical violence and throwing equipment will not be tolerated. Players engaging in such disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the game or practice.
3. Players are responsible for attending all scheduled games and practices. If a player is unable to attend, they should inform their coach of their anticipated absence in advance.

B. PARENTS

1. By treating all coaches and officials with respect at all time, parents should set an example for their child(ren) to follow.
2. Parents are encouraged to attend games and practices to be available to assist coaches, if such assistance is requested of them.
3. Parents should remember that the coaches are there to teach players the skills, strategies and sportsmanship associated with the game, they are not their to baby-sit your child(ren). If a coach is required to spend their time focused on dealing with the behavioral issues of one player, it takes away from the overall quality of the program for the other players. Parents should be receptive to behavioral issues that may arise with their child(ren) and should assist the coach as necessary.

C. COACHES

1. Coaches will show and treat players, fellow coaches, parents and officials with respect at all times while involved with any and all Wiscasset Recreation Department Youth Sports Program.
2. Coaches will set examples of good sportsmanship, fair play and keep the player in mind as the most important aspect of the game and never at any point put winning above the well being of his or her players.
3. Coaches should address any concerns regarding officiating of a game with the official(s) in a polite, appropriate manner either prior to the start of the game or during a stoppage of play (between innings, periods, during a time out, etc.).
4. Coaches should leave facilities in the same shape of better than they found them. Any damage or vandalism seen at facilities should be reported to the Recreation Department ASAP.
5. Coaches are responsible for contacting the Recreation Department as well as their players if they are canceling a practice. If informed by the Recreation Department that a game is being cancelled, it is the coaches' responsibility to inform his or her players.
6. Coaches are responsible for the proper uses and maintenance of all equipment issued to them by the Recreation Department and are expected to return the equipment in a timely fashion following the completion of the season.

**** WE ASK THAT SPECTATORS AND COACHES REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS AT ALL PRACTICES AND GAMES.**

** We wish to start on time. Please be prompt! Players and coaches should arrive at least 15 minutes in advance to allow for warm-up time and team organization.