

**WISCASSET PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**2018 Youth Soccer Program**  
General Rules

- :
- I. Game Structure:**  
Mites/ Minors: 6V6 with 5 in the field and 1 goalie  
Juniors: 8V8 7 in the field and 1 goalie
- II. Game Duration:**
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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ 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. |
- All games are running time. Matches which have a tie score at the end of regulation time shall remain as such. Overtime periods will not be played.
- III. 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 except during direct & indirect free kicks.
- C. 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.
- D. Any player with an open or bleeding wound shall be removed from play immediately and can return when the bleeding has stopped or is under control with a bandage. Players cannot play or practice with any blood soiled clothing.**
- V. The Ball:**  
The Wiscasset Parks & Recreation Dept. will furnish soccer balls for each team. (At the coach's discretion, players may bring soccer balls from home for use during practices.)
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| <u>Ball Size</u> | Mite Division (Gr. 1,2) - size 3 foam ball           |
|                  | Minor & Junior Division (Gr. 3,4, 5,6) – size 4 ball |
- VI. Modifications for each age group:**
- A. **Coaches on the field**
- 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)
  - 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 encouraged to stay on the sidelines when possible.
  - Junior Division-** coaches must remain on the sidelines.
- C. **Hand Balls**
- Mite Division-** Deliberate handballs will be called by refs, coaches and refs remind/instruct players on the rule. If contact is incidental, play on.
  - Minor & Junior Divisions-** All handballs will be called and enforced.
- D. **Throw-Ins**
- Mite Division-** coaches and refs will instruct players how to make legal Throw-Ins at appropriate times.
  - 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.
  - Junior Division-** All Illegal Throw-Ins will be called and enforced.

E. **Off-Sides**

1. **Mite Division**- No Off-Sides will be called.
2. **Minor Division**- Blatant Off-Sides (GOAL HANGING) will be called by refs, coaches and refs should instruct players about the rule, 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 & Junior Division**- Larger goals will be used and play will take place on a shortened cross field.

G. **Goal Kicks**

1. **Mite & Minor Division** – Opponents must retreat to mid-field when the kick is taken. Opponents may attack once the ball has been struck.
2. **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 which must be worn at all games.
- B. Players need to furnish their own shin guards and they must be worn at all 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. Mouth guards are recommended but not required.