

**TIPTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**YOUTH SOCCER RULES**  
**PRESCHOOL, K-1, 2-3, & 4-6 GRADE**

1. Preschool – This league consists of teams with no more than 8 players on each team. There will be 4 players on the field for each team. (4 on 4 without goalie)  
  
K-1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade – These leagues consist of teams ranging from 11-14 members per team. K-1 (8 v 8), 2-3 (9 v 9), and 4-6 (9 v 9).
2. Each player will play at least 1 full half. No player will play all of both halves unless lack of players. Substitutions will be made at any time when the ball is not in play. Coaches are required to allow all players the chance to experience every position throughout the season.
3. Games will consist of 2–20-minute halves. Length of each half is 20 minutes (running clock-exception: injury) with a 5-minute halftime. Preschool league will be 6-minute quarters while K-1 grade league will be 8-minute quarters (coaches will keep track).
4. At the beginning of the game, the kicking team will be determined by coin toss. The other team will choose the end of the field they wish to defend during the first half. No one can score off the kickoff. The ball must touch at least two offensive players prior to scoring a goal.
5. Throw-ins must be executed properly. If not, the referee will stop play and have the player do the throw-in over and explain the proper technique. In the 2-3 & 4-6 grade divisions there are NO offsides off a throw in. **Preschool division will have coaches or parents referee games as well as coaches will have extra ball in hands, so game is constant.**
6. Each team is allowed 1 - (1 minute) time out per half. There will be no tiebreakers, no overtime, no shoot-outs, etc. Each game ends at the end of regulation play.
7. Free kicks will be awarded for an infringement by the opposing side (such as handball, tripping, or kicking). There are two types of kicks: Indirect – free kicks, in which the team cannot score directly for the kick and Direct free kick, in which the team can score a goal directly from the kick. No penalty kicks will be awarded in the preschool or K-1 league.
8. There will be no unsportsman like conduct directed towards the referees by coaches, players, or parents. No foul language will be tolerated by players, parents, or coaches. No “trash talk” or boasting will be allowed.
9. There will be no team warmups on the field between games. When one game is over, the next game will begin immediately. All warm-ups should take place prior to the game and away from the playing field.
10. If a team does not have enough players present to play a game, both coaches will discuss the situation and split the teams fairly and play a game.
11. Coaches must keep players safe and under control during the games.
12. There will be no tournaments or all-star teams and no standings are kept. Coaches are encouraged to play down the competitive aspect and not emphasize the standings or winning in general. Each team will line up following their game and shake hands with the opposing team.
13. The rules of the Tipton Youth Soccer program are meant to make the game fun and instructional for everyone. The officials have full authority during the game. They may make exceptions and they are authorized to make decisions not covered in the rules. Their goal is to be as consistent as possible.
14. There will be NO COACHES, parents, etc. out on the field during play (exception: Preschool & K-1). Coaches will make instructions from the sidelines, time outs, and between quarters/halves. **No coaching from the end lines, sidelines ONLY.** Parents and other spectators can watch from the sidelines only.
15. Isolation of players is not fair. Every attempt should be made to include everyone in the game. Teamwork is an essential part of the Tipton Youth Soccer Program.
16. Players must wear team shirts to games. Each team has their own-colored shirt and must wear them to their designated game.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

1. It is highly recommended for all players to wear shinguards. Mouthguards are recommended but not required. Socks should be always worn over your shin guards.
2. The Tipton Recreation Department will provide goalie jerseys (Orange T-shirts). (2-3 & 4-6 ONLY)
3. All players must wear shoes. Any flat soled or completely molded cleat shoes are acceptable (**No front toe spike allowed**). Removable cleats, baseball, or track spikes, or any shoes that have steel or metal tips are prohibited.
4. Size 5 soccer balls will be used for the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade program. Size 4 balls will be used for the K-1<sup>st</sup> grade & 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade leagues. Soft or nerf soccer balls will be used for the preschool league.

### **SCORING:**

1. Goal and penalty goal= 1 point.
2. A goal is scored when the ball has been kicked so that it passes between the goal posts and under the crossbar from any spot within the field. Be aware that if your goalie is standing behind the line of the goal and catches or stops the ball it is still a goal for the other team. Your goalie must stay in front of the goal to prevent being scored on.

### **PLAYING REGULATIONS:**

- A. Player's privileges
  - a. Any player may...dribble, place-kick, advance the ball with the head, shoulder, chest, thigh, or foot.
  - b. A player in possession of the ball may place themselves between the opponent and the ball.
  - c. A player may kick the ball while it is trapped by an opponent provided a foul is not committed.
  - d. A player may play the ball without waiting for the referee's whistle except in the case of the kick-off and penalty kick.
  - e. A player shall be penalized if they charge the goalkeeper in the penalty area. The referee will remove without caution any player who intentionally charges the goalkeeper in a violent or dangerous manner. Possession of the ball or control of the ball includes when the goalkeeper has the ball trapped with one or two hands, bouncing the ball, and dropping the ball for the kick.
- B. Goalkeeper's Privileges
  - a. Only the goalkeeper may pick up the ball, throw the ball, drop kick the ball, or punt the ball all within the penalty area.
  - b. May combine bounces with a punt, a drop kick, or a throw.
  - c. The goalkeeper must get rid of the ball within 5 – 10 seconds.
  - d. Must not be interfered with or impeded in any manner when in possession of the ball.
  - e. If the goalie stops an attempt by the opposing team to score by catching the ball and then sets it down the ball. The ball is a live ball, and the opposing team can attempt to kick the ball in the goal again.

### **PENALTIES:**

- Intentional handling of the ball by a player or goalie outside of their area; goalie too much time to release the ball; Tripping, pushing, foul language, inappropriate actions, charging, slide tackling, or unnecessary roughness.
- A. Inside penalty area:
    - a. By the attacking team: the defending team receives a free kick at the spot where the violation occurred.
    - b. By the defending team: penalty kick at the goal for the attacking team from the penalty kick mark.
  - B. Outside penalty area:
    - o A violation by either team results in a free kick for the opposing team at the spot where the violation occurred.

**The Tipton Recreation Department's goal for all Youth Sports is to create an environment for learning, fun, & fair play. Youth Sports should include enthusiasm, hustle, and vigorous practice but not aggression, stress, and intimidation.**

**Praise, encouragement, and sportsmanship should be abundant while yelling, boasting, and putdowns have no place. Every young athlete should feel good about his/her experience. The program should nurture the athletes' self-esteem.**

**We like to think of our Youth Sports program as organized play rather than organized competition. Our constant goal in all programs for youth is to develop their sports and living skills in an environment of fun and fellowship through development of the total person.**