



# In-House Rules of Play

Adopted: 1 September 1994

Revised: 2 July 2019

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## In-House Rules of Play

In-house play in the Monroeville Soccer Club (MSC) will be governed by MSC modifications and clarifications to

- The *Laws of the Game* as published by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) (found on the FIFA web site, specifically at <http://www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/officialdocuments/> at the time of publication of these rules), as modified by
- The *Official Rules for Small Sided Games* as published by the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) (found on the USYSA web site, specifically at <http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/coaching-resources/> at the time of publication of these rules), as modified by
- The *Youth Division Playing Rules* and *Small Side Games Guidelines* as published by the PA West Soccer Association (PA West) (found on the PA West web site, specifically at <http://www.pawest-soccer.org/youth/youthrules/> at the time of publication of these rules).

Referees and coaches must be familiar with these rules of play; players and parents should be familiar with them. Coaches and parents may need to work with younger players to explain the playing rules to them. Because the FIFA, USYSA and PA West rules may change from time to time, all should re-read the rules before each season.

MSC offers in-house play in five (5) two-year age groups (U6, U8, U10, U12 and U14). There are normally separate boys' and girls' leagues in U8 and U10; U6, U12 and U14 leagues may be coed. The U10, U12 and U14 age groups may compete in leagues with and travel to surrounding clubs. This is commonly referred to as the Eagles Program. ("EAGLES").

For each season, the MSC Board of Directors shall appoint an In-house Coordinator and an Eagles Coordinator whose responsibilities are outlined in the MSC Key Functions Policy.

Following are MSC rules of play for each age group. These are not complete rules, but must be read in conjunction with the PA West, USYSA and FIFA rules. In the event of discrepancies, the MSC rules take precedence, followed by PA West, USYSA and FIFA.

Rules common to all age groups

- All MSC players present must play at least 50% of the game (with the exception of instances such as injury or ejection of a player that would not allow otherwise) .
- All players shall wear the uniform designated by MSC.
- All players shall wear shin guards; these shall be completely covered by socks.

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- No player shall wear jewelry, other than MedicAlert bracelets or necklaces, which must be taped down.
  - In case of inclement weather, players may wear sweat pants or sweatshirts or similar garments under the uniform. Hooded sweatshirts may be worn only if the hood is tucked into the shirt. Soft, knitted caps may be worn.
  - No dangerous attire may be worn; the referee's judgment on safety is final.

## Rules for U6

- Games shall be 3v3 without goalkeepers.
- No referees will be used. A coach or parent will officiate the game, explaining all calls to the players.
- All free kicks shall be direct. There shall be no penalty kicks.
- If the ball goes out of touch, the restart shall be a kick-in from the spot on the touchline at which the ball left the field of play. The kick-in will be treated as a direct free kick.
- Offside shall not be called, but obvious "cherry-picking" will be discouraged. The referee may advise the coach that cherry-picking is too egregious.
- Slide tackles shall not be permitted.

## Rules for U8

- Goalkeepers will be used for U8.
- A non-certified referee may be used. The referee may ask parents to serve as club linesmen, signaling the ball out of play. All calls shall be explained to the players.
- All free kicks shall be direct from the center circle on the attacking side. There shall be no penalty kicks.
- If the ball goes out of touch, the restart shall be a throw-in, per FIFA rules. If the player taking the throw-in commits a violation that would otherwise result in the throw-in being awarded to the other team, the referee shall explain the violation to the player, who will then have one more attempt to make a legal throw-in.
- Offside shall not be called, but obvious "cherry-picking" will be discouraged. The referee may advise the coach that cherry-picking is too egregious.
- Slide tackles shall not be permitted.
- Punting by the goalkeeper shall not be permitted.
- Once the goalkeeper has made a play on the ball with their hands, whether control of the ball was fully attained or not, all players from the opposite team must immediately move back behind the halfway line until the ball is returned to play by the goalkeeper. Goalkeeper safety is paramount.
- During all goal kicks, all players from the opposite team must stand behind the halfway line until the ball is kicked into play.

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### Rules for U10, U12 and U14

- In general, U10, U12 and U14 in-house shall play by the PA West U10 travel rules, except that no player passes or rosters shall be required.
- The offside rule shall apply.
- Optional rule, subject to approval each season by the clubs participating in the EAGLES program and for the fall session only (boys' and girls' leagues may differ): If the ball goes out of touch, the restart shall be a throw-in, per FIFA rules. If the player taking the throw-in commits a violation that would otherwise result in the throw-in being awarded to the other team, the referee shall explain the violation to the player, who will then have one more attempt to make a legal throw-in.
- Slide tackles shall not be permitted.
- Teams shall be formed in accordance with the MSC *U10 In-House Draft Policy*. (Should we eliminate this policy and remove this?)
- Additional EAGLES rules may be agreed upon by the clubs that participate in EAGLES. These EAGLES Coordinator will annually disseminate these rules to all coaches for review prior to the start of the season.

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