YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE INFORMATION AND RULE BOOK

City of Platte City, Missouri
Parks and Recreation Department

Platte Ridge Park Soccer Complex
17130 MO-371
Platte City, MO 64079
816-858-3046

2026-2027 Season

Program Standards

Purpose

The Platte City Parks and Recreation youth soccer program gives children an opportunity to learn soccer fundamentals, improve their skills, stay active, build confidence, and develop positive relationships. The league is recreational. Safety, participation, learning, and enjoyment take priority over winning.

Governing Rules

These rules govern the Platte City recreational league. When a situation is not addressed here, generally accepted youth soccer rules will apply as interpreted by the game official and league supervisor. Platte City Parks and Recreation may modify league procedures when necessary for safety, scheduling, field conditions, or fair play. Department decisions concerning league administration are final.

Coach Responsibilities

Coaches must place each child's welfare first; teach age-appropriate rules and fundamentals; provide fair participation; model respectful conduct; help maintain a safe sideline; and cooperate with officials, supervisors, opposing coaches, players, and families.

Minimum Playing Time

Every player who is present, properly equipped, and able to participate must play at least 50% of the game. Equal playing time is encouraged whenever practical. Playing-time requirements may be limited by injury, illness, late arrival, discipline, or a player's request not to participate.

Team Composition

Teams and games may be coed. Team sizes and on-field player limits are listed under each grade division.

Conduct and Sportsmanship

Platte City Parks and Recreation has zero tolerance for aggressive, threatening, or abusive behavior by players, coaches, parents, guardians, or spectators. This standard applies during games and practices and anywhere at the facility before, during, or after league activity.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct

Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to: intentionally hitting, kicking, pushing, shoving, tripping, elbowing, charging, tackling, grabbing, or attempting to injure another person; fighting or attempting to start a fight; threatening, intimidating, taunting, bullying, or repeatedly insulting another person; spitting at or on someone; using discriminatory, profane, or abusive language; throwing equipment; entering the field or another team's sideline to confront someone; encouraging retaliation; retaliating after a foul or play; or continuing hostile behavior after being directed to stop.

Player Consequences

A player who engages in aggressive behavior may be removed from play immediately. The player and the player's parent or guardian will be directed to leave the facility. Depending on the nature and severity of the conduct, the player may be suspended from the following game or receive additional league discipline. Serious or repeated incidents may result in removal from the league. Safety concerns may be referred to law enforcement when appropriate.

Adult and Spectator Consequences

A coach, parent, guardian, or spectator who behaves aggressively or disruptively may be directed to leave the facility. Refusal to leave may cause the game to be suspended or forfeited and may result in additional league restrictions. Children must leave with their parent or guardian when the adult is removed, unless another authorized adult is present and accepts responsibility for the child.

Authority During Play

The referee controls the match and may stop play, remove a participant or spectator, or end the match when conduct or conditions are unsafe. The on-site supervisor and Platte City Parks and Recreation may apply additional consequences after reviewing an incident.

Officials and Concerns

Referee Provider

Game officials are provided through Metro Umpires USA, also known locally as Metro Umpires KC, an independent officiating company. Platte City Parks and Recreation pays the company for officiating services but does not recruit, train, supervise, or instruct individual referees in how to perform their officiating duties.

Questions or Complaints About Officials

Referee judgment calls are final and will not be argued during or after a game. Anyone with a concern about an official must speak respectfully with the Metro Umpires on-site supervisor or contact the company directly. Coaches, players, parents, guardians, and spectators must not confront, follow, threaten, or verbally abuse a referee. Platte City Parks and Recreation is not responsible for evaluating or resolving complaints about a referee's training, judgment, or job performance.

Metro Umpires USA - Primary Contact
Kristian Allen, Admin / Payroll
Phone: 816-674-2958
Email: kristianmukc@gmail.com
Website: metroumpireskc.refrsports.com

League Administration Concerns

Routine questions about registration, league information, equipment distribution, published schedules, and program communication may be directed to the recreation staff member coordinating the league. Questions about discipline, disputed decisions, formal complaints, or matters outside that employee's responsibilities must be directed to Camie Lutz or Bryan Richison at City Hall. Immediate safety concerns should also be reported to the on-site supervisor.

Recreation Staff Role and Communication

League Coordinator Responsibilities

The Recreation/Operations Support Specialist organizes and coordinates the recreational soccer league, prepares and communicates league schedules, shares program information, and orders and distributes team equipment, uniforms, and other league gear. The position provides administrative and organizational support for the program.

Responsibilities Outside This Role

The league coordinator does not coach teams, referee games, train officials, or make final decisions concerning disciplinary action involving players, parents, guardians, coaches, or spectators. Decisions about ejections, suspensions, league removal, and other disciplinary consequences belong to authorized supervisors and City leadership.

Scheduling and Decision Boundaries

Published schedules will not be changed in response to individual preferences, repeated requests, disagreements, pressure, or attempts to persuade staff. Changes are made only when authorized by City leadership or required because of weather, safety, facility availability, or other legitimate program needs. Staff will not engage in arguments about decisions outside their authority.

Respectful Communication

All communication with recreation staff must remain professional and respectful. Harassment, intimidation, insults, threats, condescending or dismissive behavior, repeated arguments, and attempts to pressure, undermine, belittle, or discredit staff are not acceptable. Staff may end any conversation that becomes disrespectful and refer the matter to a supervisor.

Supervisor Contacts - City Hall
Camie Lutz or Bryan Richison
Phone: 816-858-3046
Please direct disciplinary concerns, unresolved complaints, requests for exceptions, and issues outside the league coordinator's responsibilities to City Hall.

General Game Rules

Game Start

Games begin promptly at the scheduled time. A five-minute grace period is allowed. A team must have the division's minimum number of uniformed players to start or continue. The referee's time is official.

Kickoff

A coin toss determines which team chooses the goal to attack or takes the opening kickoff. The opposing team receives the second-half kickoff. Players must remain in their own half until the ball is put into play, and opponents must remain the required distance from the ball.

Substitutions

Substitutions are unlimited. Division-specific substitution procedures apply. The referee may require an injured player to leave the field when play is stopped and a coach enters the field to provide assistance. The player may return at a later legal substitution opportunity.

Fouls

The referee will apply age-appropriate rules, explain infractions when practical, and restart play as required for the division. Dangerous, reckless, aggressive, or repeated conduct may result in removal from the game and further discipline.

Slide Tackles and Slide Kicks

Slide tackles and slide kicks are prohibited in every division. A player may not slide feet-first or use a sliding motion to challenge an opponent for the ball. The referee will stop play and award the appropriate free kick. Dangerous or repeated violations may lead to the player's removal from the game.

Jewelry and Equipment

Shin guards are mandatory for all practices and games and must be worn under the socks. Players may wear tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes. Jewelry and any item that could endanger the player or another person are prohibited. Each player must wear the official team shirt issued for the season. Goalkeepers must wear a color that distinguishes them from both teams.

Ball In and Out of Play

The ball remains in play while it is fully inside the boundary lines, including when it rebounds from a goalpost, crossbar, or referee and stays on the field. The ball is out when the whole ball crosses a touchline or goal line, or when the referee stops play.

Scoring

A goal is scored when the whole ball legally crosses the goal line between the goalposts and under the crossbar. Scores are not recorded for Pre-K and Kindergarten games.

Weather and Field Safety

Game Suspension

The referee or league supervisor may delay, suspend, or postpone a game because of lightning, severe weather, unsafe field conditions, or another safety concern. Play must stop immediately when lightning is in the immediate area. Participants must follow all instructions concerning shelter and return to play.

Interrupted Games

A game is official when at least one complete half has been played. If less than one half has been played, Parks and Recreation will determine whether the game resumes from the point of interruption or is rescheduled and restarted. Rescheduling is subject to field availability and the league calendar.

Weather Hotline: 816-903-0254
When cancellations or delays are necessary, the hotline will be updated within two hours of the scheduled start time. If no update is posted, games are scheduled to proceed.

Heat

Coaches and families should use caution during unusual heat or humidity. Officials and supervisors may allow additional water breaks or short rest periods. Published game time limits remain in effect unless Parks and Recreation directs otherwise.

Pre-K and Kindergarten (U6)

Rule	Requirement
Ball	Size 3
Players	Maximum 6 per team on the field, including one goalkeeper
Roster	Recommended maximum of 10 players
Minimum to start	3 players
Substitutions	At the coach's discretion
Game length	Four 8-minute quarters; 5-minute halftime; 1 minute between quarters
Required distance	Opponents remain at least 5 yards from the ball on restarts
Headers	Not allowed in practices or games

Game Supervision

Coaches supervise the game with emphasis on fun, safety, fairness, learning, and participation. A referee is not required for this division.

Restarts

Play begins with a kick from the center mark. When the ball crosses a touchline, the opposing team uses a throw-in from the location where the ball left play. Coaches should allow players a reasonable opportunity to correct an improper throw-in.

Score

Goals may be celebrated, but no official score or standings will be kept.

1st and 2nd Grade (U8)

Rule	Requirement
Ball	Size 3
Players	Maximum 7 per team on the field, including one goalkeeper
Roster	Recommended maximum of 12 players
Minimum to start	4 players
Substitutions	When the ball is out of play, subject to the referee's permission
Game length	Four 10-minute quarters; 5-minute halftime; 1 minute between quarters
Required distance	Opponents remain at least 5 yards from the ball on restarts
Headers	Not allowed in practices or games

Officials

An official referee is assigned to the field to keep time, enforce rules, promote safety and fair play, and explain calls to players when practical.

Restarts

Play begins with a kick from the center mark. When the ball crosses a touchline, the opposing team uses a throw-in from the location where the ball left play.

3rd and 4th Grade (U10)

Rule	Requirement
Ball	Size 4
Players	Maximum 7 per team on the field, including one goalkeeper
Roster	Recommended maximum of 12 players
Minimum to start	4 players
Substitutions	When the ball is out of play, subject to the referee's permission
Game length	Two 20-minute halves; 5-minute halftime
Required distance	Opponents remain at least 5 yards from the ball on restarts
Headers	Not allowed in practices or games

Officials

An official referee is assigned to the field to keep time, enforce rules, promote safety and fair play, and explain calls to players when practical.

Throw-ins

When the ball crosses a touchline, the opposing team uses a throw-in from the location where the ball left play.

5th and 6th Grade (U12)

Rule	Requirement
Ball	Size 4
Players	Maximum 9 per team on the field, including one goalkeeper
Roster	Recommended maximum of 15 players
Minimum to start	5 players
Substitutions	At any stoppage, subject to the referee's permission; unlimited
Game length	Two 30-minute halves; 10-minute halftime
Required distance	Opponents remain at least 8 yards from the ball on kickoffs and free kicks
Headers	Allowed in practices and games
Offside	Offside will not be called

Headers

Players may intentionally head the ball. Coaches must teach proper technique and use sound judgment during practice. The referee may stop play if a player appears injured or disoriented after contact with the ball or another player.

Slide Tackles and Slide Kicks

Slide tackles and slide kicks are not allowed. A player may not slide into or toward an opponent to challenge for the ball. Dangerous or aggressive contact may result in immediate removal and league discipline.

Goalkeeper

The goalkeeper may punt the ball but must remain within the penalty area when releasing it. The goalkeeper may leave the penalty area during normal play, but may not handle the ball outside the penalty area.

Throw-ins

Both feet must remain on or behind the touchline and in contact with the ground. The ball must be delivered with both hands from behind and over the head in a forward motion. Kick-ins are not used.

Kickoff

All players must begin in their own half. Opponents must remain at least 8 yards from the ball. The ball must be stationary on the center mark and is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. The kicker may not touch it again until another player touches it.

Free Kicks

Free kicks may be direct or indirect as indicated by the referee. The ball must be stationary. Opponents must remain at least 8 yards away until the ball is in play. On an indirect free kick, a goal may be scored only after the ball touches another player.

These rules are intended to support safe, fair, and enjoyable recreational play. Situations not expressly covered will be resolved by the referee, on-site supervisor, and Platte City Parks and Recreation according to safety, fairness, and the spirit of youth recreation.