

## **WSPSSA Girls Soccer Rules and Information**

Dear PSSA Coordinators and PSSA coaches,

1. There are 9 schools competing in all three competitions: Senior, Junior A and Junior B. This will mean that there is a Bye in each round. So that we are ensuring fairness to all schools, the final results will be determined based on a **points per game** basis, not total points at the end of the season.
2. Previous years have proven that wet weather results in games being cancelled. Amended draws and emails will be sent out as soon as possible to all schools to inform them of any changes. That way, schools can make any necessary changes to buses etc.
3. Additionally, in finals, corners are counted for both teams. In semi-finals, in the case of a score draw after extra time, a win will be awarded to the team that has won the most number of corners in the whole game (including extra time). Where they are equal, the team highest in the table will be awarded the match. For grand finals if at the end of extra time the score is still drawn, regardless of the number of corners both teams will be crowned as joint premiers.
4. For the two junior teams: The A's are the strongest available players for the age group and the B's are developing players for the specified age group.
5. Coaches/teachers make sure both yourself and your team understand the rules of soccer and any other rules that apply to our competition so as to eliminate confusion and have consistency between all games of the competition.
6. As I'm sure many of you already do this but still worth mentioning. Coach your teams the fundamentals of the game and all rules. This will make for a strong competition and will help to improve every one's ability.
7. Parents are not to referee and officiate any of the games.
8. Please ensure you have the correct goal posts for junior A and junior B games, i.e. see the final page of this document. These goal posts are far sturdier and safer. Otherwise, "agility" poles will suffice.
9. If you have a junior player of exceptional ability you may like to play them up in the seniors. They'll need to stay in the seniors all season and **can't play down in the juniors under any circumstances** as stated by a 2012 WSPSSA motion. Please notify to discuss with me as the final decision will be made by the convener.
10. 3 points for a win, 1 points for a draw, 0 point for a loss. 3 points and 3-0 score awarded for a forfeit.
11. Email through the three sets of game results by the end of the weekend in order to have the competition tables regularly up to date. Failure to have results sent in by the following Monday will result in points not being awarded.
12. If you're running late for your game, please contact the coach/teacher of the school you're versing to notify them.
13. When Junior As and Bs are taking goal kicks please ensure opposition players are at least 10 metres away from the player taking the goal kick. Referee needs to stand at the 10-metre mark from the goal kick to police this.
14. In the spirit of the game, coaches are not to coach their teams while they are refereeing.

### **AGES for JUNIORS AND SENIORS**

- Juniors are 8-10 years old.
- Seniors are 11-13 years.
- \*It is the age they have turned or are turning this year. For instance, if a girl is still 10 years old at the commencement of the soccer season but is turning 11 later on at some point in the year then she is a senior player.

### **JUNIOR and SENIOR TEAMS**

- All schools competing are required to have three teams: one senior, and a junior A and B.
- Junior A and B teams MUST be separate. Players within either team are NOT interchangeable and MUST not be used in either the rounds or finals. This is to ensure fairness and allow the squads to develop naturally.
- Juniors may be used in the senior team for a maximum of 3 games during the regular season where NO OTHER SENIORS ARE AVAILABLE.
- NO juniors to be played up in the senior team during preliminary, semi-finals and grand finals.
- In the spirit of the game and in accordance of the rules stipulated coaches are urged to only play juniors where numbers cannot be achieved during the season otherwise, and to rotate the juniors who are played every few weeks.
- Seniors may at NO time play in either of the junior teams.
- In the spirit of the game, coaches are to refrain from coaching whilst refereeing.

### **GAME DURATION**

- Juniors 12:30pm kick off. Finishing at approximately 1:05pm.
- Junior games: 2 x 15 minute halves. 5 minute break in between for half time.
  
- Senior games 1:15pm kick off. Finishing approximately at 2:00pm.
- Senior games: 2 x 20 minute halves. 5 minute break in between for half time.
  
- Coaches to referee a half of junior A and B games. Swapping over at half time.
- Coaches to referee a half each of senior games.
  
- \*Juniors and Senior game: semi and grand finals 5 minutes extra time each way. No break inbetween extra time halves. Golden goal rule applies.
  
- Unlimited interchange/substitutions in both senior and junior games. Substitutions need to be done at the halfway line and only at a stoppage of play.

- **Equipment:**

- Each school must provide portable goal posts. Failure to provide the goals will result in the A team's game being forfeited by the school that has failed to provide it. Where no goals are provided by either school, a draw will be called.
- Some schools already have the NYDA portable goal posts seen below. Those will continue to be used; otherwise schools can use the portable "agility" posts that act like long stake (javelin-like).
- Ball: Juniors and Seniors to play with a size 4 ball.
- Goalkeepers need to wear gloves and have a different jersey (or bib) to the rest of their team.
- All players from Junior A's and B's and seniors need to wear appropriate soccer gear, i.e. soccer boots (not metal), shin pads, soccer socks and the team/school jersey.  
Failure to do so will mean players won't be able to play.

### **FIRST AID**

- Soccer is a clean game, but its competitive nature does lead to possible injuries.
- All coaches must bring a stocked first aid kit that could be used in an emergency.
- A mobile phone is advised for emergency contact.

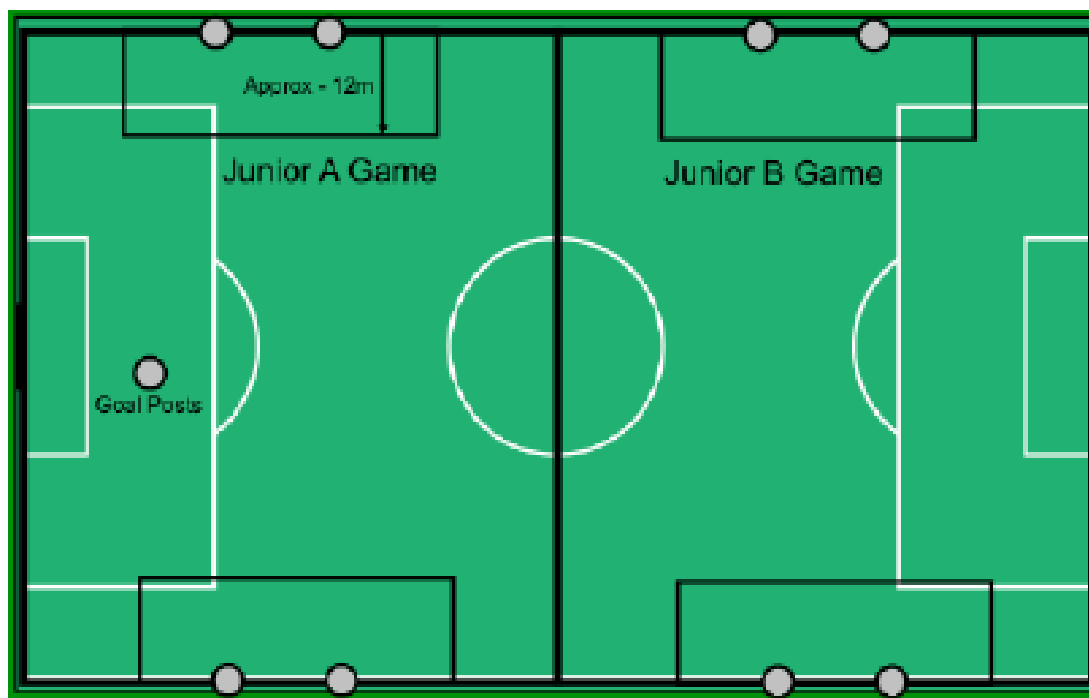
### **RULES: JUNIORS**

- The junior A team is the best available team and the junior B team are the beginning players.
- Junior A's and B's play a modified 7 a-side game across half pitches where there will be 1 goalkeeper and 6 field players on the pitch at any one time.
- Goalposts placed 3 metres apart with no crossbar.
- There will be no offside rulings made, although deliberate hogging of the opponent's goalmouth will be penalised if it is deemed by the referee to be against the fairness of the game.
- Also, players deliberately standing in front of their own goal and not moving from this area will also be penalised if it is deemed by the referee to be against the fairness of the game.
- As there are no official markings/lines other than boundary line and gal lines, referee discretion will be used for the goalkeeper's penalty area for handling the ball.
- The pass back rule will apply, but only from deliberate unpressured passes back to the goalkeeper to allow punt kicks and throw ins back to the keeper.
- Goal kicks will be taken approximately 6 metres from the goal line and no opposition player must be within 10 metres of that player.
- For the junior B's only, the goalkeeper may throw the ball or punt kick the ball instead of a standing goal kick. This must still be made no further from the 6-metre goal line.
- Junior A's have to take standard goal kicks, i.e. standing goal kicks from the ground as per the standard rules of soccer.
- Junior A's and B's corners taken 5 metres in from the corner.
- Referees to give players in the juniors some discretion and leeway with throw ins. A warning/reminder to the player or a chance to take the throw in again. However, repeated foul throws and throw ins that are considerably incorrect will be penalised and the throw in given to the other team.

- Where a player commits a professional foul more than once during a game, the referee may have the player swapped with another from that team, i.e. one of the reserve junior players in their team. If no other player is available, that team will continue with less than 11 players.
- Goalkeepers must wear a jersey different to the rest of the team and **MUST** wear gloves for safety.
- Deliberate handballs and fouls in the junior "goal box" area will result in a penalty. Penalty to be taken 6 metres, in the middle, from the GK by-line.

### **RULES: SENIOR**

- Seniors will be play normal 11 a-side FIFA rules on a full-size field.
- Exceptions with corners: taken 5 metres in from the corner "flag".
- Offside rule applies.
- Referees urged to be particularly stringent of applying the offside rule in the case of goal kicks where the opposing player steps into the penalty area before the ball leaves it, and from throw ins where both feet are not on the ground.
- Pass back rule applies.
- Penalties from fouls inside the goal box will be taken in the middle, 11 metres from GK by-line.
- Where a player commits a professional foul more than once during a game, the referee may have the player swapped with another from that team, i.e. one of the reserve senior players. If no other player is available, that team will continue with less than 11 players.
- Goalkeepers must wear a jersey different to the rest of the team and **MUST** wear gloves for safety.
- Players penalised for foul throws. See above in junior rules about throw ins.
- Goal kicks can be taken between the 6 and 18-yard boxes.



**Layout of pitch during the junior games.**

**Goalposts 3 metres apart.**

**Referees/teachers should synchronise their start and stop times and swap games at the half**

