



# NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS RULES SOCCER: 4 & 5-YEAR-OLDS

*Applies to both practices and games.*

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## **ATTIRE**

1. Shin guards are mandatory and must be worn under socks.
2. The provided NYS jersey must be worn in order to participate in games.
3. Jerseys must be tucked into shorts.
4. No hats, jewelry, or metal spiked cleats allowed.

## **FIELD**

5. The field size shall be approximately 30 yards wide and 60 yards long.
6. All players not playing in the game must be 5 yards behind the sidelines.
7. Players should remain in one area designated by the coach so they can be seen and be given equal playing time.
8. Spectators must be a minimum of 10 yards behind the side lines, and at least 10 yards away from goal lines.
9. One coach from each team will be allowed on the playing field to instruct players.

## **TEAM**

10. Players must be listed on the official season roster to be eligible to play.
11. The game will be played 8-on-8, including the goalkeeper. Meaning 8 players on the field at the same time from each team.
12. Each team will therefore have a maximum of 16 players allowed on their roster.
13. If the game cannot be played 7-on-7, then it will be played 6-on-6 or 5-on-5, depending on smallest team size.
14. Teams may share players to keep the original format, if necessary.

## **GAMEPLAY**

15. Soccer ball size is size 3.
16. Goal size is approximately 8'X5'.
17. Absolutely no slide tackling.
18. No offside violations will be called.
19. The game will consist of four 8-minute quarters with a 3-minute halftime and 2-minutes between quarters.
20. Each player must play at least half of every game and play in both halves.
21. Players must throw-in the ball after any out-of-bounds play.
22. Substitutions may only be made with the referee's acknowledgement.
23. Substitutions will be allowed during the following breaks in play for either team:
  - Kickoffs, including after a goal has been scored.
  - Throw-ins
  - Goal kicks,
  - Corner kicks
  - Injury
24. The referee, according to the infraction, will award direct and indirect free kicks.
25. No forfeits!