



# Jr. Bronco Soccer Rules

## YMCA GOAL

- The YMCA goal is to give every child a chance to play soccer. To teach soccer, sportsmanship, working together as a team, promote new friendships, positive family interactions, and have FUN.

## YMCA FACILITY POLICIES

- All YMCA facilities and game and practice locations are smoke, tobacco, and alcohol-free zones. Pets are allowed but must be kept on a leash at all times, kept close to the owner, and away from kids.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

- Coaches are directly responsible for team members and fans before, during, & after games and practices.
- Coaches are expected to adhere to YMCA philosophies, coaching guidelines, codes of conduct, and hold themselves with the utmost integrity. Coaches are not allowed to complain or be disrespectful toward the officials or the opposing teams.
- If the referee or supervisor witnesses any acts of unsportsmanlike conduct, the game will be stopped and the player/fan/coach will be ejected from the game. Poor sportsmanship in YMCA programs will not be tolerated.
- Any trash talking or taunting intended to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstance will not be tolerated. The first offense is a warning; the second offense is ejection from the game and/or in addition to suspension from the league.

## PRACTICES

- Practice will be scheduled by the coach in conjunction with team members. Teams practice once a week for approx. 1 hour. During the first week, teams are allowed to practice 2 times before their first game. Coaches must make every effort to hold practices as they are critical for the development of the players. \*Note\* 3-4 years old division will not practice throughout the week but will practice and play a game in the scheduled hour on Saturdays. See more under the "Time" section below.
- Coaches are expected to schedule and execute practices every week. If a coach is unable to attend a practice or game, it is expected the coach informs the team and asks a team parent to fill in.

## EQUIPMENT

- YMCA reversible jerseys are available for purchase at both YMCA facilities but are NOT required. If the YMCA jersey is not purchased, the corresponding jersey color in a t-shirt is required (blue or red). **Home team wears blue** and **away team wears red**.
- Coaches will be given an equipment bag that contains 2 soccer balls and 5 cones for team use. Coaches are responsible for the equipment bags and ensuring everything in the bag is returned back to the YMCA.
- Athletic shoes or rubber cleats are required and shin guards are recommended.
- No jewelry, watches, earrings, etc. are allowed.

## PLAYERS ON THE FIELD (includes goalie)

- 3-4 years: 3v3 (Goalies are not allowed). For this age group, number of players may be adjusted as necessary.
- 5 years: 3v3 (Goalies are not allowed)
- 6-7 years: 3v3 (Goalies are not allowed)
- 8-9 years: 4v4 (includes goalie)
- 10-12 years: 4v4 (includes goalie)
- The YMCA emphasizes equal participation. Players are required to try different positions and play at least half of each game.

## START OF GAME

- Before beginning the game, coaches are to review the topic of the week from the character development worksheet. The YMCA is just as much about developing character as they are about fun and skill development.
- The game is started with the players/coaches meeting with the referee at midfield, going over the sports pledge.
- All possessions will start with a kickoff at midfield and passed to a teammate. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.
- Coaches and officials may improvise rules under any circumstance, including number of players on the field to maximize the potential for fun and participation. Coaches and referees must discuss BEFORE the game begins.

## GOALIE BOXES

- There will be one goal box for all divisions. Goalies may use their hands in the box. For goal kicks, the kick must be placed on the outer/long line to be passed to a teammate. Punting or throwing is allowed if the goalie fields the ball in play in the box.
- A goal may be scored in the box.

### **KICKOFFS**

- Any time a goal is scored, the possession will start with an indirect **kickoff** at midfield (must be passed to a teammate). For 3-4 years, 5 years, and 6-7 years divisions, opposing players must give offense room to kick the ball to a teammate. For 8-9, and 10-12 years divisions, opposing players must be OUTSIDE the center circle to allow the possession to begin.

### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

- All substitutions will be made on dead balls. Officials will call out for subs. See times below.
- Any substitute that needs a replacement mid-rotation, the coach must signal to the official.
- 3-4 years: Subs every 4 minutes (coaches and referees may adjust as necessary)
- 5 years: Subs every 3 minutes
- 6-7 years: Subs every 3 minutes
- 8-9 years: Subs every 4 minutes
- 10-12 years: Subs every 4 minutes

### **BALL SIZE**

- 3-4 years: Ball size #3
- 5 years: Ball size #3
- 6-7 years: Ball size #3
- 8-9 years: Ball size #4
- 10-12 years: Ball size #4

### **TIME**

- 3-4 years: Season will consist of NO practices throughout the week. On Saturdays and at the scheduled game time, teams will practice for 15 minutes, take a 5 minute break, and play against opposing team for 24 minutes.
- 5 years: 45 minutes
- 6-7 years: 45 minutes
- 8-9 years: Two, 20 minute halves. 5 minute halftime.
- 10-12 years: Two, 20 minute halves. 5 minute halftime.

### **OUT OF BOUNDS**

- The ball is out of bounds when the entire ball completely crosses the line. The ball is to be thrown in overhead on the sidelines, corner kick if the ball is last touched by the defense through the end lines, or goal kick if the ball is last touched by the offense (attempting to score and missing in most cases) through the end lines. Goal kicks must be from the outer goalie box line. A goal cannot be scored on a throw in, goal kick, or corner kick. For 3-4 years, 5 years, 6-7 years, and 8-9 years, opposing teams must return to the midfield line before kicking the ball on a goal kick.

### **PENALTY KICKS**

- For 3-4 years, 5 years, 6-7 years, and 8-9 years, an indirect kick will be given to the offended team (player must pass the ball to a teammate) at the spot of foul/violation.
- 10-12 years will have penalty kicks on fouls. A direct kick will be awarded (anywhere outside the goalie box) to the offended player and a goal may directly be scored. An indirect kick (player must pass the ball to a teammate) will be awarded for violations.

### **OFFSIDES**

- No age or division will have offsides penalties.

### **FOULS**

- Kicking or tripping or slide tackling
- Charges an opponent vigorously with intent to hurt
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushing (excessive)
- Officials should stop the game in case of injury

### **VIOLATIONS**

- Using hands (excluding goalie for 8-9 and 10-12 years divisions) \*Rule will be relaxed for the younger divisions\*

### **WARNINGS**

- Players or coaches who constantly infringe upon the rules of the game, make disrespectful remarks or gestures toward the official(s) or otherwise conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner may be warned by the official. If a second warning is necessary, violent conduct or serious foul play continues, or foul or abusive language occurs; the player or coach is suspended from the next game. The Sports Director shall review the severity of the act and determine further action.