

CITY OF ESCALON
RECREATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

2025 SOCCER RULEBOOK

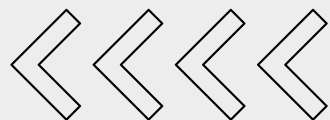


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Welcome to Escalon Youth Soccer!

Thank you for joining Escalon Youth Soccer for a fun and positive season.

This program is part of a long-standing Escalon tradition, operated by the City of Escalon Recreation Department with support from volunteer coaches and local families. Appreciation is extended to everyone who contributes to making the program successful each year.

The goal of the program is simple: help kids learn the game, try their best, and have fun. Coaches and parents are expected to encourage all players and demonstrate good sportsmanship.

Additional focus is placed on helping younger players and beginners feel welcome, included, and confident.


Thank you for being part of the Escalon soccer community. Wishing all teams a great season!

About the Rules

Beginning in the 2025 season, the Escalon league has joined the MLS GO program. While the MLS GO Rulebook serves as a foundation, certain rules have been modified to better fit the local fields, players, and overall structure of the program.

This rulebook serves as the official guide for league play.

- If a situation arises that is not addressed in this rulebook, league staff will review and make decisions based on safety, fairness, and what is appropriate for the program.
- The MLS GO rulebook should not be used to make in-game calls or decisions.
- Rule updates may occur as needed, and coaches will be informed accordingly.

 **Important Reminder:** In previous seasons, enforcement of league rules has not always been consistent. Beginning this year, all rules outlined in this rulebook must be followed by all participants and will be enforced by referees.

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2. Registration Information

Soccer registration typically opens around April 1 and closes by June 2.

Dates are tentative and may close early depending on registration numbers and coach availability.

2.1. Player Registration

- All players must be fully registered through the Recreation Department before participating in any practices or games. All Registration is done online through the TeamSideline website.
- Players will be placed in the division that matches their age eligibility (Age as of August 1 of the season year). The Recreation Department reserves the right to adjust player placement if needed for the benefit of the participant or the program.
- Siblings registered the same division will automatically be placed on the same team, unless a parent submits a written request asking for them to be separated.
- Parents are responsible for completing their child's registration accurately, including the player's full name, date of birth, contact information, and uniform size.
 - If a uniform size is entered incorrectly, the registrant will be responsible for the cost of any replacements or exchanges, including additional order and shipping fees.

2.2. Post-Deadline Registration & Waitlist


- Once the final registration period closes, no new players will be added to the program.
- Families may request to be placed on a waitlist.
- Players on the waitlist will be considered in the order the requests are received.
- A player will only be moved off the waitlist and placed on a team if:
 - A player in the same division withdraws, and
 - The dropped player's uniform size matches the waitlisted player's size, and
 - The change occurs before uniforms are distributed.
 - Used uniforms will not be passed on.
- Team requests are not accepted for players added from the waitlist. They will be placed only to fill the spot of the withdrawn player.
- A late fee of \$20 will be added to the full registration cost if the player is placed on a team.

2.3. Coaches & Sponsor Registration

- The deadline to register as a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Sponsor is the final day of player registration.

Late registrations will not be accepted.

- Sign-ups may open early to help begin forming teams. Head Coaches are always needed, and teams can be formed without an Assistant Coach.
- Assistant Coaches may register without a Head Coach, but placement is not guaranteed. If we are unable to pair you with a Head Coach, your registration will be canceled.
- All coaches must complete the required steps by the player registration deadline, including:
 - Fingerprinting/background check
 - All required trainings and certifications

 It is your responsibility to ensure these are completed on time.

- Please verify your contact information when registering. All communication is sent via email and occasional text alerts. Signing up for text alerts is strongly encouraged to avoid missing important updates.
- Head Coaches must submit sponsor information and frozen player requests before the registration deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2.4. Waitlist & Team Size Policy

- During registration, players may be automatically placed on a waitlist to help control team sizes.
- As coaches register, players will be moved from the waitlist into available team spots.

For example: With two coaches and a limit of 8 players per team, a maximum of 16 players can be placed. The 17th registrant will be placed on a waitlist until an additional coach is confirmed and a new team can be formed.

- Parents and guardians are encouraged to consider volunteering as coaches to help accommodate more participants.

2.5. Team Formation

- **Tiny Tots and U6:** Players are placed randomly by the Recreation Department.
- Buddy requests may be considered if all the following conditions are met:
 - Submitted in writing
 - Reciprocated by both parties
 - Received before registration closes
 - Space is available and team balance can be maintained
 - Only one request per player

Requests are reviewed in the order received and are not guaranteed. Unreciprocated requests are generally not honored but may be considered at the discretion of the Recreation Department if they do not affect team balance or fairness.

- **U8 and older divisions:** Teams are formed through a draft. See "Draft" section for details.


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3. Cancellation & Refund Policy

3.1. General Refunds

- Refunds are available until registration closes
- Refund = Registration fee minus \$20 admin fee and any processing fees
- TeamSideline payments: refunded to original card
- In-person payments: refunded by check (4–6 weeks by mail)

3.2. Medical Refunds

- Available after registration closes but before the season starts
- Requires a signed doctor's note
- Must be requested within 14 days of the note date
- Refund = 50% of registration fee, minus fees
-  No refunds once the season begins

3.3. Program or Division Cancellations

If a program or division is canceled due to low numbers, lack of coaches, or other issues:

- A **100% refund** will be issued, minus any credit card processing fees charged by the online registration platform for payments made by credit card.
- We'll notify families and offer alternatives when possible

3.4. How to Request a Refund

Email recreation@cityofescalon.org with:

- Player's name
- Division
- Reason for the request

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4. Team Organization

4.1.Coach & Assistant Coach Responsibilities

- Attend all scheduled coach meetings and pick up your team's equipment bag.
- Contact team families before the first practice to introduce yourself and share basic info.
- Be a role model. Promote teamwork, respect, and good sportsmanship.
- Know and follow all league rules and safety policies.

4.2.1st Player/Parent Meeting

- Hold a brief parent meeting at or before the first practice.
- Discuss player expectations, practice schedules, and game days.
- Explain how you'll communicate with families (TeamSideline, text, etc.).
- Review the Parent/Player Code of Conduct.
- Remind parents to support all players and be respectful on the sidelines.

4.3.End of Season

As the season comes to a close, we encourage all coaches to take a moment to celebrate their players' hard work, growth, and teamwork.

- Each player will receive a certificate of achievement.

Please make time during your last practice or game to hand these out and recognize each child. A few kind words can go a long way in making a player feel proud of their season.

- Some coaches like to wrap up the season with something special, such as a pizza party, popsicles, a water balloon fight, or team awards.

These small celebrations create lasting memories and reinforce the fun and community spirit of the game.

4.4.Practices

- **Tiny Tots:** Practices are optional and up to the coach.
- **U6 and up:** Must hold at least one practice per week.
 - Practices must:
 - Be held in Escalon
 - Be open to the full team (no private practices)
 - Coaches choose their own schedule.
 - Any city park may be used on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - *Tip: Hogan Park is the most popular location and tends to get crowded. Please consider using other parks to help reduce congestion.*
 - Recommend 1–2 practices per week depending on age group and coach availability.
- Coaches must notify families of weather cancellations or changes.

4.5.Uniforms & Equipment

- Players must wear league-issued jerseys/uniforms to all games.
- Shin guards and Cleats (no metal) are required for both practices and games.
- Players should bring their own soccer ball (labeled with their name) to practice.
- Coaches will receive a loaner equipment bag that they must check out at the beginning of the season. Coach equipment bags include:
 - 4 age-appropriate soccer balls
 - 8 cones
 - 1 goalie jersey + gloves (if division uses goalkeepers)
- Coach bags must be returned at season's end. Lost/unreturned bags may result in a replacement charge.
- The league does not provide additional equipment, but coaches may bring their own at their own expense if desired.

4.6.Team Communication

- Coaches should communicate with families regularly (e.g., practice updates, games, reminders).
- TeamSideline is preferred, but text, email, or other apps are allowed.
- If you cannot reach a family after reasonable attempts, contact the Recreation Department for help.

5. Code of Conduct & Expectations

Escalon Recreation prioritizes respect, sportsmanship, and a fun, safe environment for all players. Every coach, player, and parent/guardian is required to review and agree to the Code of Conduct as part of the registration process.

While these were once signed manually, they are now signed electronically during registration. Coaches must review these expectations with their team families at the start of the season.

5.1.Coach Expectations

Coaches must:

- Lead by example and promote good sportsmanship at all times.
- Encourage players positively - cheer for your team, not against others.
- Abide by all decisions made by officials.
- Never use foul language or heckle referees, players, or spectators.
- Alcohol, tobacco, and substance use is not allowed before or during games and practices.
- Remain calm and respectful, even in competitive situations.
- Ensure parents do not speak to referees before, during, or after games about game-related matters. Coaches are responsible for all referee communication and should remind families to follow this policy to maintain a respectful environment.

Consequences for Violations:

- If a coach is ejected by an official, they will be suspended from practices and games (duration set by the Recreation Department).
- A second suspension may result in permanent removal from coaching.
- Escalon Recreation reserves the right to remove any coach for repeated complaints or failure to uphold standards.

5.2.Player Expectations

Players must:

- Play for fun and always do their best.
- Show respect to teammates, coaches, referees, and opponents.
- Follow the rules of the game and practice good sportsmanship.
- Refrain from using foul language or disrespectful behavior.
- Take care of team uniforms, equipment, and city facilities.

Consequences for Violations:

- Ejection from a game may result in a suspension from future practices or games (duration set by Recreation Department).
- Repeated or serious violations may result in removal from the league.

5.3.Parent/Guardian Expectations

Parents must:

- Show positive support for all players, coaches, and officials.
- Respect referees' decisions - no heckling, arguing, or foul language.
- **Do not approach referees before, during, or after games to discuss calls, rules, or game-related concerns.** All communication with referees must go through the coach.
- Alcohol, tobacco, and substance use is not allowed before or during games and practices.
- Allow coaches to coach and officials to officiate.
- Help foster a positive and supportive sideline culture.

Consequences for Violations:

- If a parent is ejected by an official, they will be suspended from practices and games (duration determined by Recreation Department).
- Repeated violations or serious complaints may result in being barred from future attendance and/or having their child removed from the program.

Referee Interaction Policy

Referees will be instructed **not to engage in discussions with parents** regarding calls or game-related decisions before, during, or after games. All concerns must be directed through the coach or submitted to the Recreation Department.

Parents who **approach or confront referees after a game** may be **ejected from the field**, even if the game has concluded. This policy is in place to support referees and maintain a respectful, safe environment for all participants.

Final Note

Any coach, player, or parent who fails to follow the Escalon Recreation Code of Conduct may be expelled from games and/or the program. These policies are in place to support the development and well-being of all players, and to maintain a safe, welcoming recreational environment.

6. Player Draft

Tiny Tots and U6 divisions are not drafted.

Players in these divisions are placed randomly by the Recreation Department. Buddy requests are allowed but must be submitted before registration closes and are not guaranteed.

6.1.Draft Process (U8 and Up)

- The draft is used to form teams in U8 and older divisions
- Drafts are organized by the Recreation Department
- Head Coaches attend the draft and select players in a serpentine order (e.g., 1–8, then 8–1)
- Coaches draw numbers to determine their draft position
- All registered players are listed on a draft board/list by division

6.2.Siblings (Draft)

- Siblings in the same division will automatically be placed on the same team, unless a parent submits a written request asking for them to be separated.
- If a coach selects one sibling during the draft, they are automatically selecting the other sibling as well. Both will be assigned to the same team.

6.3. Coach Draft Eligibility

- Coaches and Assistants must complete all required trainings and pass a background check before the registration deadline in order to be eligible for a freeze spot at the draft.
- If a Coach or their Assistant are not fully cleared, they will be removed from the roster and any associated frozen player will be removed from the team and placed back into the draft

6.4.Frozen Players

A frozen player is a player who is pre-assigned to a team before the draft due to their connection to a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or a Team Sponsor.

Frozen players are not extra players as they take the place of a draft pick and count toward the team's roster and draft rounds.

Freeze Spot Guidelines

- Each team may have up to 3 freeze spots, one for each of the following:
 - Head Coach
 - Assistant Coach
 - Team Sponsor (Not one assigned by The Recreation Department)

- Each freeze allocation may include one set of siblings (maximum of 2 players), if the following conditions are met:
 - The siblings are in the same division
 - They are siblings by blood, marriage, or legal adoption
- If a Coach, Assistant Coach, or Sponsor has no child in the division, they may freeze one player with written parent/guardian permission.
- Permission must be emailed to the Recreation Department before registration closes.
- This is only allowed if they have no child participating in that division.
- No player will be frozen in the 5th or 7th round to a team who does not have a Coach/Assistant Coach or Sponsor.
- Special circumstances may be brought to the Recreation Commission for review

6.5. Sponsor Freeze Requirements

- To qualify for a sponsor freeze, the sponsor must be a private sponsor who is specifically sponsoring the coach, team, or player
- Sponsors assigned by the Recreation Department do not qualify for a freeze spot

Additional Notes

- Maximum of 6 frozen players per team (if all 3 freeze spots include a set of siblings)
- All frozen players must be submitted before player registration closes. Late freeze requests will not be accepted.
- Teams without a registered Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Sponsor may not have any frozen players
- The Recreation Department reserves the right to alter the draft process.

No Trades or Late Freezes

- No trades are allowed during or after the draft
- Late freeze requests (After Player registration Closes) will not be accepted
- Teams may not provide roster spots for unregistered or late-registered players without specific instructions from the Escalon Recreation Department.

7. Game Day Rules & Conduct

These rules apply to all divisions and are in place to ensure a safe, fair, and enjoyable experience for all players, coaches, and spectators.

7.1. Player Eligibility & Appearance

- No player may participate unless they are officially registered through the Recreation Department and placed on a team roster
- All participants must wear the official league-issued uniform
- Shin guards are mandatory for both practices and games and must be worn under socks
- Players not wearing shin guards will not be allowed to play
- No jewelry may be worn during games
- No steel or metal cleats allowed
- No dangerous equipment (as determined by the Referee) may be worn

7.2. Injuries & Substitutions

- If a player is injured, the Referee may stop the game at their discretion and allow for substitution

7.3. Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is expected from **everyone** involved in Escalon Youth Soccer—players, coaches, parents, and spectators.

- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, assistant coaches, and spectators on their sideline.
- Players should be encouraged to play hard, play fair, and show respect—win or lose.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior from anyone will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the field or future games.
- Let the kids play, the coaches coach, and the referees officiate.

7.4.Sideline Behavior

To keep the environment positive and safe for everyone:

1. Do not distract or yell at players or referees during the game.
2. Coaches must not make derogatory remarks or gestures toward referees, players, or spectators.
3. Spectators are not allowed to coach players during the game.
4. Anyone—coach, parent, or spectator—may be removed by Recreation staff for inappropriate behavior or violation of these rules.
5. No alcohol, tobacco, or vaping is allowed at the fields. No exceptions.

Infractions may lead to warnings, ejection, and further disciplinary action as determined by the Recreation Department.

8. Basic Game Rules

(Applies to all divisions unless otherwise specified in the Division Rules section)

8.1. Goalkeeper Equipment

- Goalkeepers must wear different colored jerseys.
- They may wear long pants for safety.

8.2. Scoring a Goal

- A goal is scored only when the entire ball crosses the entire goal line.
- If any part of the ball is on or touching the line, it is not a goal.

8.3. Out-of-Bounds

- The entire ball must completely cross the sideline or end line to be considered out.
- A player may be outside the field when playing a ball that is still in.

8.4. Corner Kicks & Goal Kicks

- If the offensive team kicks the ball out over the end line → Goal kick
- If the defensive team kicks it out → Corner kick
- Goal kicks are taken from inside the goal area and may be taken by any player.

8.5. Penalty Kicks

- Awarded when a defensive player fouls inside their own penalty box.
- All other players must stay outside the box until the kick is taken.
- The goalkeeper may move side-to-side but cannot step off the line early.

8.6. Free Kicks

- **Direct Kick:** Can be shot into the goal without touching another player.
- **Indirect Kick:** Must touch another player before a goal can be scored. Referee will raise a hand to indicate indirect.
- The ball must be stationary before the kick is taken.

8.7. Throw-Ins

- Both feet must remain on the ground.
- The ball must be thrown with both hands over the head.

8.8. No Hands

- Players (except the goalkeeper in their box) may not handle the ball with hands or arms.
- Accidental hand contact (e.g., ball kicked into a player's arm) is generally not penalized.

8.9. Offsides

A player is offside if:

- They are ahead of the ball and second-last defender at the moment the ball is passed,
- They are involved in the play (interfering or gaining advantage),
- This rule does not apply on goal kicks, corner kicks, or throw-ins.

8.10. Heading

- U12 & Under: No heading allowed. If a header occurs, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick.
- U14 & Up: Heading is allowed during games and practice.
 - Coaches must monitor heading drills and limit heading to no more than 25 times per week per player.

8.11. Slide Tackling

- Not allowed in any division for safety reasons.
- If it causes a stoppage, an indirect free kick is awarded.
- Yellow or red cards may be issued for reckless play.

8.12. Mercy Rule

- If a team leads by 7 goals, they must remove 1 player.
- For each goal beyond a 7-goal lead, remove an additional player.
- If the opposing team scores, one player may return per goal narrowed.
- Example: 10–3 = remove 1; 11–3 = remove 2; 11–4 = back to 1 removed.
- Rule remains in effect until the lead drops below 7.
- Coaches are encouraged to promote teamwork and rotate players to keep the game positive.

9. Division Specific Rules: Tiny Tots (Ages 3–4)

The Tiny Tots division is an introduction to soccer designed for our youngest players. The focus is on having fun, learning basic skills, and enjoying movement and teamwork in a safe and positive setting.

Age Group

- For players ages 3–4 as of August 1, 2025.
- 4-year-olds may choose to play in Tiny Tots or U6, depending on readiness

Teams & Format

- Co-ed teams with an effort to balance boys and girls when possible.
- Games are played as 5V5 with no goalkeepers.
- Smaller team sizes allow more touches and better engagement for each child.
- Games are held on small fields (75'x45') with portable goals.

Game Length

- This division does not play official games.
- Each session is 30 minutes long:
 - 15 minutes of practice.
 - 5 Minute water break
 - 10 minutes of coach-led “Game” (scrimmage play).
- No scores are kept.
- There are no playoffs or standings.

Ball In/Out of Play & Restarts

To maximize playing time and keep the session flowing:

- Traditional restarts (goal kicks, throw-ins, corner kicks, etc.) are **not used**.
- When the ball goes out of bounds:
 - Jr. referee or coach will quickly roll a new ball into open space to keep play moving.

Ball Size

- Size 3 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Volunteer coaches lead all practices and game day sessions.
- Coaches are allowed on the field to guide and assist players throughout the entire session.

Basic Rules for Tiny Tots

- A Jr. referee will serve as the timekeeper and field monitor.
- The Jr. referee is responsible for:
 - Keeping time
 - Retrieving out-of-bounds balls
 - Placing the ball back into play
 - Helping maintain a smooth flow of the session
 - Monitoring that there is no climbing on goals
- Players should not chase out-of-bounds balls as the referee will handle this.
- There are no official timeouts, but the referee or coach may stop play for brief water breaks as needed.
- No offside rule enforcement.
- Coaches are allowed on the field to guide players and help them stay engaged.
- Sessions are not competitive; the goal is to keep the game moving, safe, and fun for all players.

Prohibited Actions

No heading, slide tackling, goalkeepers, rough play, or climbing on goals.

Accidental contact is allowed, but unsafe behavior will stop play.

Equipment

- All players must wear shin guards.
- Soccer cleats (no metal cleats) are required.
- League-issued shirts must be worn for all sessions.

10. Division Specific Rules: U6 (Ages 4-5)

The U6 division introduces real gameplay in a fun, supportive setting. It gives players a feel for team structure while keeping things relaxed and age appropriate.

Age Group

- Open to players ages 4-5 as of August 1, 2025.
- 4-year-olds may choose Tiny Tots or U6, depending on readiness.

Teams & Format

- Co-ed teams, with an effort to balance boys and girls when possible.
- Games are played 5v5, with no goalkeepers.
- Field size: 75' x 45' (small-sided format for young players).

Game Length

- Games consist of four 7-minute quarters.
- There is a 1-minute break between quarters and a 5-minute halftime break.
- Teams switch sides at halftime and restart with a kickoff.
- The kickoff alternates each quarter.
- Total game time: approximately 35 minutes.

Ball Size

- Size 3 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Coaches are allowed on the field during games to guide players.
- They may move between areas as needed but should begin encouraging player independence.

Referee – U6 Division

- A Jr. referee will be assigned to each game.
- Responsible for keeping time, restarting play, and helping the game flow
- May pause play for water breaks
- Please treat all referees with respect. Their decisions are final.

Restarts – U6 Division

To maximize playing time and reduce confusion, traditional throw-ins and goal kicks are not used.

- When the ball goes out of bounds, the referee or coach rolls or places a new ball into play near the spot it exited
- Defensive players may be asked to give space near the goal
- This approach keeps the game flowing and players engaged

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed.
- Players may re-enter the game multiple times.
- Substitutions can happen at any stoppage but should be acknowledged by the referee.

Basic Rules – U6 Division

- All fouls result in indirect free kicks. The ball must touch another player before a goal can be scored.
- The opposing team must stand at least 3 yards away during any free kick.
- Kickoffs are indirect. If the ball goes straight into the goal without touching another player, it becomes a goal kick for the other team.
- No penalty kicks or corner kicks are used in this division.
- The offside rule is not enforced at this age.
- No standings or scorekeeping. The goal is fun and development.

Prohibited Actions – U6 Division

- No heading
- No slide tackling
- No rough play (pushing, bumping, etc.)
- No goalkeepers
- No climbing on goals

Unsafe play results in a whistle and quick reset—focus is on safety and development.

11. Division Specific Rules: U8 Division (Ages 6–7)

The U8 division builds on foundational skills and introduces more structured team play. Players continue to learn the rules of soccer in a fun and supportive environment with a focus on teamwork, effort, and sportsmanship.

Age Group

- Open to players ages 6–7 as of August 1, 2025.

Teams & Format

- Boys and girls play in separate divisions.
- Due to team sizes, the following format will be followed for the 2025 season:
 - Boys will play 6v6, with no goalkeepers.
 - Girls will play 7v7, with no goalkeepers.
- Field size: 165' x 105'
 - Build-out lines will be marked on each field to support structured restarts and development
- Format may vary slightly based on registration numbers.

Game Length

- Games consist of two 20-minute halves.
- There is a 5-minute halftime break.
- Teams switch sides at halftime and restart with a kickoff.
- The kickoff alternates each half
- Total game time: approximately 45 minutes.

Ball Size

- Size 3 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Coaches must remain on the sidelines during games.
- They may provide simple guidance but should allow players to make decisions on the field.
- Focus should be on encouragement, effort, and learning.

Referee – U8 Division

- A Jr. referee will be assigned to each game.
- Keeps time, restarts play, and helps the game flow
- May pause for water breaks as needed
- Referee decisions are final—please treat all officials with respect

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed.
- Players may re-enter the game multiple times.
- Substitutions may be made at any stoppage but must be acknowledged by the referee.

Basic Rules – U8 Division

- All fouls result in **indirect free kicks**
- Opponents must stand at least **5 yards** away from any free kick
- Kickoffs are **indirect** — if scored directly, it becomes a goal kick
- **Goal kicks:** taken from within the goal area; opposing team must stay **behind the build-out line** until the ball is in play
- **Corner kicks:** awarded when the defending team kicks the ball out over their own end line.
- **Penalty kicks** may be awarded when appropriate
- **Throw-ins:**
 - **Games 1–3:** Coaches may guide or assist players with proper technique
 - **Starting Game 4:** Players are allowed **one re-try** for incorrect form; on the second throw, play continues regardless of technique
- No offside rule enforcement
- No standings or scorekeeping — focus is on fun and skill development
- **Mercy Rule applies** — see Basic Game Rules section for details

Prohibited Actions – U8 Division

- No heading
- No slide tackling
- No aggressive or unsafe play (e.g., pushing, tripping, reckless contact)
- No climbing or hanging on goals

12. Division Specific Rules: U10 (Ages 8–9)

The U10 division builds on game awareness, teamwork, and tactical thinking. Players continue to learn and apply the rules of the game in a fun, structured, and supportive environment

Age Group

- Open to players ages 8–9 as of August 1, 2025.

Teams & Format

- Boys and girls play in separate divisions.
- Games are played 7v7, including a goalkeeper.
- Field size: 165' x 105'
 - **Build-out lines** will be marked on each field to support development during goal kicks and restarts
- Format may vary slightly based on registration numbers.

Game Length

- Games consist of two 25-minute halves.
- There is a 5-minute halftime break.
- Teams switch sides at halftime and restart with a kickoff.
- Kickoff alternates each half.
- Total game time: approximately 55 minutes.

Ball Size

- Size 4 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Coaches must remain on the sidelines during games.
- They may provide simple guidance but should allow players to make decisions on the field.
- Focus should be on encouragement, effort, and learning.

Referee – U10 Division

- A certified referee will be assigned to each game.
- Please treat all referees with respect. Their decisions are final.

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed.
- Players may re-enter the game multiple times.
- Substitutions may be made at any stoppage, but must be acknowledged by the referee.

Basic Rules – U10 Division

Kickoffs & Free Kicks

- Kickoffs are **indirect**
- All fouls result in **indirect free kicks**
- Opponents must stand **5 yards** away on free kicks

Goalkeeper Rules

- Games are played with goalkeepers
- **Punting and dropkicking are not allowed**
- Goalkeepers may **roll, throw, or place the ball at their feet and pass**
- If a punt occurs, referee will stop play, issue a warning, and allow a proper re-distribution
- Repeated violations may result in an **indirect free kick**

Restarts

- **Goal kicks:** taken from within the goal area; opposing team stays behind build-out line
- **Corner kicks:** awarded when the defending team kicks the ball over their own end line
- **Penalty kicks** may be awarded when appropriate

Throw-ins:

- One re-try allowed for incorrect form
- After the second attempt, play continues

Other Rules

- **Heading is not allowed-** if a player heads the ball, award an indirect free kick to the opposing team
- **Slide tackling is not allowed-** If it causes a stoppage, an indirect free kick is awarded.
 - Yellow or red cards may be issued for reckless play.
- **Offside is enforced** only in the attacking third, as marked by the build-out line.
- **Mercy Rule applies** — see Basic Game Rules section for details

13. Division Specific Rules: U12 (Ages 10–11)

The U12 division focuses on improving skills and introducing more advanced concepts such as positioning, teamwork, and rules of play. Games are played with structure but still emphasize development and enjoyment.

Age Group

- Open to players ages 10–11 as of August 1, 2025.

Teams & Format

- Boys and girls play in separate divisions.
- Game format may vary depending on team size:
 - **2025 season: Games will be played 10v10** (including a goalkeeper) due to larger team sizes
 - Standard: 9v9 (including a goalkeeper)
- Field size Range: 210' x 135' to 240' x 165'

Game Length

- Games consist of two 30-minute halves.
- 5-minute halftime break.
- Teams switch sides at halftime and restart with a kickoff.
- The kickoff alternates each half.
- Total game time: 65 minutes.

Ball Size

- Size 4 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Coaches must remain on the sidelines during games.
- Encourage positive behavior, sportsmanship, and effort.
- Players should be rotated and encouraged to try different positions.

Referee – U12 Division

- Assigned referees manage each game, including rules, subs, and safety.
- The referee's decisions are final. Please treat all referees with respect.

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions allowed.
- Players may re-enter multiple times.
- Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage with referee acknowledgment.

Basic Rules – U12 Division

Kickoffs & Free Kicks

- Kickoffs are indirect
- All fouls result in **indirect free kicks** (must touch another player to score)
- Opposing players must stand **8 yards** from the ball on all free kicks
- **Penalty kicks** may be awarded when appropriate

Goalkeeper Rules

- Games are played with goalkeepers
- **Punting and dropkicking are allowed**
- Goalkeepers may roll, throw, or place the ball at their feet and pass
- Build-out lines may be used to support structured distribution (if marked)

Restarts

- **Goal kicks:** awarded when the attacking team sends the ball over the end line
- **Corner kicks:** awarded when the defending team kicks the ball over their own end line
- **Throw-ins:**
 - Used when the ball crosses the sideline
 - Players must use proper form (both feet on the ground, two hands over the head)

Other Rules

- **Heading is not allowed** — intentional headers result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team
- **Slide tackling is not permitted** — any slide tackle that causes a stoppage results in an indirect free kick
 - Yellow or red cards may be issued for reckless play
- **Offside is enforced**
- **Mercy Rule applies** — see “Basic Game Rules” section for details

14. Division Specific Rules: U14 Boys (Ages 12–13)

Age Group

- Open to boys ages 12–13 as of August 1, 2025

Teams & Format

- Game format may vary depending on team size:
 - Standard: 11v11 (including a goalkeeper)
- Field size Range: 210' x 135' to 240' x 165'

Game Length

- Games consist of two 30-minute halves.
- 5-minute halftime break.
- Teams switch sides at halftime and restart with a kickoff.
- The kickoff alternates each half.
- Total game time: 65 minutes.

Ball Size

- Size 5 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Coaches must stay on the sidelines during the game.
- Positive encouragement and sportsmanship are required.
- Players should continue rotating through different positions.

Referee – U14 Division

- A certified referee will be assigned to each game.
- The referee's decisions are final and must be respected.
- Referees manage game flow, rules, substitutions, and safety.

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions allowed.
- Players may re-enter multiple times.
- Substitutions can be made at any stoppage and must be acknowledged by the referee.

Basic Rules – U14 Division

Kickoffs & Free Kicks

- Kickoffs are indirect
- All fouls result in **indirect free kicks** (ball must touch another player to score)
- Opponents must stand **8 yards** away during free kicks
- **Penalty kicks** may be awarded when appropriate

Goalkeeper Rules

- Games are played with goalkeepers
- **Punting and dropkicking are allowed**
- Goalkeepers may also roll, throw, or pass from their feet

Restarts

- **Goal kicks:** awarded when the attacking team sends the ball over the end line
- **Corner kicks:** awarded when the defending team sends the ball over their own end line.
- **Throw-ins:**
 - Must be taken with both feet on the ground and both hands over the head
 - Used when the ball crosses the sideline

Other Rules

- **Heading is allowed**
 - Coaches must teach proper technique
 - Limit heading to **25 headers per player per week** in practice
 - Players may not be forced to head the ball
 - Any player showing signs of head injury must be removed and evaluated
- **Slide tackling is not allowed**- any slide tackle that causes a stoppage results in an indirect free kick
 - Yellow or red cards may be issued for reckless play
- **Offside is enforced.** A player is offside if they are in the opponent's half, closer to the goal than the second-to-last defender when the ball is passed to them, and they are actively involved in the play.
- **Mercy Rule applies** — see Basic Game Rules section for details

15. Division Specific Rules: U15 Girls (Ages 12–14)

Age Group

- Open to girls ages 12–14 as of August 1, 2025

Teams & Format

- Game format may vary depending on team size:
 - Standard: 11v11 (including a goalkeeper)
- Field size Range: 210' x 135' to 240' x 165'

Game Length

- Games consist of two 30-minute halves.
- 5-minute halftime break.
- Teams switch sides at halftime and restart with a kickoff.
- The kickoff alternates each half.
- Total game time: 65 minutes.

Ball Size

- Size 5 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Coaches must stay on the sidelines during the game.
- Positive encouragement and sportsmanship are required.
- Players should continue rotating through different positions.

Referee – U14 Division

- A certified referee will be assigned to each game.
- The referee's decisions are final and must be respected.
- Referees manage game flow, rules, substitutions, and safety.

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions allowed.
- Players may re-enter multiple times.
- Substitutions can be made at any stoppage and must be acknowledged by the referee.

Basic Rules – U14 Division

Kickoffs & Free Kicks

- Kickoffs are indirect
- All fouls result in **indirect free kicks** (ball must touch another player to score)
- Opponents must stand **8 yards** away during free kicks
- **Penalty kicks** may be awarded when appropriate

Goalkeeper Rules

- Games are played with goalkeepers
- **Punting and dropkicking are allowed**
- Goalkeepers may also roll, throw, or pass from their feet

Restarts

- **Goal kicks:** awarded when the attacking team sends the ball over the end line
- **Corner kicks:** awarded when the defending team sends the ball over their own end line.
- **Throw-ins:**
 - Must be taken with both feet on the ground and both hands over the head
 - Used when the ball crosses the sideline

Other Rules

- **Heading is allowed**
 - Coaches must teach proper technique
 - Limit heading to **25 headers per player per week** in practice
 - Players may not be forced to head the ball
 - Any player showing signs of head injury must be removed and evaluated
- **Slide tackling is not allowed**- any slide tackle that causes a stoppage results in an indirect free kick
 - Yellow or red cards may be issued for reckless play
- **Offside is enforced.** A player is offside if they are in the opponent's half, closer to the goal than the second-to-last defender when the ball is passed to them, and they are actively involved in the play.
- **Mercy Rule applies** — see Basic Game Rules section for details

16. U17 Boys Division Rules (Ages 14–16)

The U17 division is a new division for the 2025 season that offers older players a chance to continue developing skills, conditioning, and game awareness in a fast-paced format. The focus is on sportsmanship, team play, and enjoyment while maintaining a competitive structure.

Age Group

- Open to boys ages 14–16

Teams & Format

- Game format may vary depending on team size:
 - Standard: 11v11 (including a goalkeeper)
 - **2025 Season:** Due to small team sizes, games will be played 7v7, including a goalkeeper.
- Field size Range: 210' x 135' to 240' x 165'
- Format may be adjusted slightly depending on registration numbers.

Game Length

- Games consist of two 30-minute halves.
- 5-minute halftime break.
- Teams switch sides at halftime and restart with a kickoff.
- The kickoff alternates each half.
- Total game time: 65 minutes.

Ball Size

- Size 5 soccer balls are used.

Coaches

- Coaches must stay on the sidelines during the game.
- Positive encouragement and sportsmanship are required.
- Players should continue rotating through different positions

Referee – U17 Division

- A certified referee will be assigned to each game.
- The referee's decisions are final and must be respected.
- Referees manage game flow, rules, substitutions, and safety.

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions allowed.
- Players may re-enter multiple times.
- Substitutions can be made at any stoppage and must be acknowledged by the referee.

Basic Rules – U17 Division

Kickoffs & Free Kicks

- Kickoffs are indirect
- All fouls result in **indirect free kicks** (ball must touch another player to score)
- Opponents must stand **8 yards** away during free kicks
- **Penalty kicks** may be awarded when appropriate

Goalkeeper Rules

- Games are played with goalkeepers
- **Punting and dropkicking are allowed**
- Goalkeepers may also roll, throw, or pass from their feet

Restarts

- **Goal kicks:** awarded when the attacking team sends the ball over the end line
- **Corner kicks:** awarded when the defending team sends the ball over their own end line.
- **Throw-ins:**
 - Must be taken with both feet on the ground and both hands over the head
 - Used when the ball crosses the sideline

Other Rules

- **Heading is allowed**
 - Coaches must teach proper technique
 - Limit heading to **25 headers per player per week** in practice
 - Players may not be forced to head the ball
 - Any player showing signs of head injury must be removed and evaluated
- **Slide tackling is not allowed**- any slide tackle that causes a stoppage results in an indirect free kick
 - Yellow or red cards may be issued for reckless play
- **Offside is enforced.** A player is offside if they are in the opponent's half, closer to the goal than the second-to-last defender when the ball is passed to them, and they are actively involved in the play.
- **Mercy Rule applies** — see Basic Game Rules section for details

17. Disciplinary Policy

To maintain a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all participants, Escalon Recreation has adopted the following disciplinary policy:

17.1. General Expectations

All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to:

- Follow the league's Code of Conduct
- Treat referees, staff, and others with respect
- Display good sportsmanship at all times
- Abide by league rules and safety guidelines

17.2. Violations & Consequences

17.2.1. 1st Offense (Minor/Nonviolent):

- Verbal warning from league staff or officials
- Coach or parent notified
- Documented by the Recreation Department

17.2.2. 2nd Offense or Serious Misconduct:

- Possible suspension from practices and/or games
- Length determined by the Recreation Department
- Written notice to the individual and team coach

17.3. Ejections:

- If a coach, parent, or player is ejected by a referee they will be suspended from practices and games (duration will be determined by the Recreation Department)

17.4. Repeat Offenses or Complaints:

- If the Recreation Department receives multiple complaints or incidents, the individual may be barred from coaching, attending, or participating in current or future programs

17.5. Severe Behavior:

- Any physical violence, threats, or harassment may result in immediate removal from the program without a refund. Law enforcement may be involved as needed

17.6. Oversight & Final Decisions

All disciplinary matters will be reviewed and decided by the Recreation Department, the Recreation Commission, the Police Chief, and/or the City Manager, as appropriate. Decisions are final.

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18. Complaint & Reporting Process

We are committed to providing a positive and safe environment for all players, coaches, and families. If you have a concern or need to file a complaint, please follow the steps below:

1. Step 1: Speak with the Coach (if applicable)

- Many issues can be resolved quickly through direct communication with the team coach.

2. Step 2: Contact the Recreation Department

- If the issue is not resolved or is more serious in nature, please contact the Recreation Office by phone, email, or in person.
- Provide a clear description of the concern, including any relevant dates, names, and details.

3. Step 3: Formal Review

- The Recreation Department will review the complaint, gather any necessary information, and follow up as needed.
- Depending on the nature of the issue, additional steps may include meetings, written statements, or other documentation.


4. Step 4: Resolution & Follow-Up


- We will make every effort to address the concern in a timely and fair manner.
- You will be notified of any outcomes or actions taken, as appropriate.


All complaints will be kept as confidential as possible. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a respectful and supportive environment for everyone involved.

Contact Information:

Escalon Recreation Department

 (209) 691-7372

 recreation@cityofescalon.org

 2060 McHenry Ave., Escalon, CA 95320

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19. Heat Guidelines for Practices & Games

Player safety is our top priority, especially during extreme heat. The following guidelines are in place to help prevent heat-related illnesses during practices and games:

General Guidelines

- Encourage all players to **bring plenty of water** and take frequent water breaks.
- Coaches are required to provide **extra breaks** during hot weather.
- Practices may be shortened or rescheduled on excessively hot days.

Heat Index Action Plan


Heat Index	Action
Under 90°F	Normal play; monitor players and encourage hydration
90–99°F	Increased water breaks; monitor all players for signs of heat stress
100–104°F	Mandatory water breaks every 15–20 minutes; reduce intensity and duration of activities
105°F+	All outdoor activities <i>may</i> be postponed or canceled


Tips for Staying Safe

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- Use cooling towels, shade, or misting fans if available
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke (dizziness, nausea, confusion, excessive sweating, etc.)
- Coaches and parents should speak up if any player appears unwell

We will monitor local weather conditions and communicate any changes or cancellations as early as possible.

Questions or concerns?

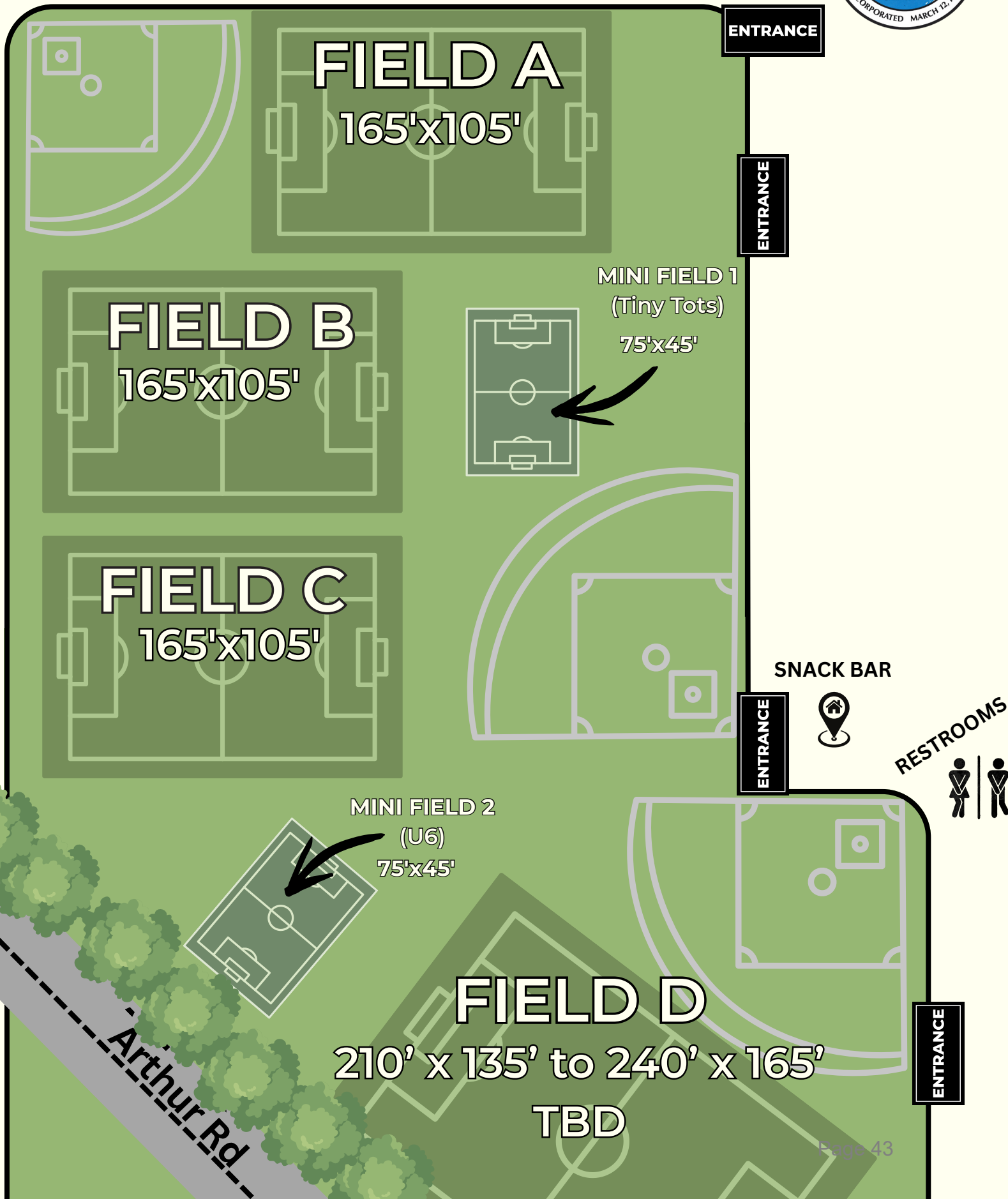
 (209) 691-7372

 recreation@cityofescalon.org

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HOGAN-ENNIS PARK

SOCCER FIELD MAP





2025 EDITION

CITY OF ESCALON

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2060 McHenry Ave
Escalon, CA 95320
(209) 691-7372

recreation@cityofescalon.org
www.cityofescalon.org/recreation

Last edited: 7/23/25