

The City Of St. James Youth Soccer Program is intended for kids to have fun, learn basic aspects of the game, and learn good sportsmanship in a **NON-COMPETITIVE and SAFE** atmosphere. Listed below are some simple rules in which to follow during games.

- The referee's main concern is the safety of the players. The ref enforces all the rules of the game.
- Duration of the game. Two 25 minute halves for 5th/6th Grade, 3rd/4th Grade. Two 20 minute halves for 1st/2nd Grade and Pre-K.
- Start of play. The kick off is taken at the center spot and is determined by a coin toss. The ball has to move forward to start the half. Each player must be in his or her half of the field. If a referee has to do a drop ball, the play resumes when the ball hits the ground.
- Ball in and out of play. The ball is out of play when it COMPLETELY goes over the goal line or touch-line. It doesn't matter whether it's in the air or on the ground.
- Method of scoring. The ball must COMPLETELY go across the line into the goal. No official score will be kept.
- Fouls and misconduct. Most fouls are due to pushing, holding or tripping and result in a free kick. Other ones to watch out for are handballs and charging. Please remind all players to try to keep their hands and bodies to themselves and to not intentionally trip or injure an opposing player. This conduct will not be tolerated.
- Indirect free kicks. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
- Throw in. The player must have both feet on the ground, must have two hands on the ball, and the throw must come from behind the players head. The penalty for a bad throw in is that the opposing team automatically gets the ball.
- Goal Kick. A goal kick is granted when the attacking team kicks the ball over the goal line. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has left the penalty area and has been touched by another player on either team.
- Corner Kick. A corner kick is awarded when the defending team kicks the ball over their own goal line. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
- Both teams must have the same amount of players on the field at all times. Any extra players must sit out and be substituted in when the coach deems necessary.