

Welcome to GCYS! Our U8 program (6 and 7-year-old players) is the stepping stone to larger field game play of our soccer program. There are a few goals that we would like to see all players in this age group accomplish:

1. Always have FUN and love the game of soccer!
2. Get in some exercise to help improve their overall stamina.
3. Always try to be the best player they can be!
4. Make new friends!
5. Learn the basics of soccer (ball control, dribbling, shooting) to help them as they grow in their soccer journey.

To accomplish the goals, we have set forth the following guidelines to utilize:

1. Have a practice two days a week with a volunteer coach for 1 hour.
2. Have 1 game each Saturday to play with the other teams in GCYS.
3. Purchase your player their own size 3 ball, shin guards, cleats, water bottle, black socks, and black shorts (to be used on game days)
4. The club will provide 2 game day jerseys that players will need to bring with them to all games.
5. Always maintain a positive atmosphere at both practices and games.
6. Introduction of a game referee instead of the coaches having the responsibility of coaching and trying to ref.

As all our coaches are volunteers for GCYS, we ask that all spectators of the game keep that in mind. They are volunteering their times and talents to help the youth. If spectators are not remaining polite and courteous with the volunteers, they will be asked to leave and not return. The atmosphere always needs to remain positive as this is about the kids playing a game they are just now being introduced to.

We look forward to a fun and exciting season of Soccer. To stay with up-to-date information about the club, please like our facebook page (@gcysoccer) and our Instagram page (@galvestoncountyyouthsoccer). We will also utilize our website (gcysoccer.org) to update information. All parents need to visit the STATUSME.com website and sign up. This is the communication system the club uses regarding field closures.

# 5v5 Rules

**GCYS uses the official FIFA rules with the following exceptions:**

Field size: about 95ft x 82ft

4 field players and 1 goalie.

Game Length: 58 Minute games (Split with 2-24 minutes halves with a 10-minute halftime) Time exceptions can be made with a 2-minute hydration break with running clock during games when temperature is deemed necessary at the time(s) of kick off of either half.

All players must wear **shin guards covered by socks**, or will not be allowed to play.

All players must wear **jerseys/shirts** during play. If both teams are wearing the same color, the team in the incorrect color must change or wear pinnies over their uniform.

Players wearing **protective casts** must receive approval by a GCYS Executive Board Member to participate. Referee ultimately will have final say, so if the referee on the field of play deems a player's protective cast is unsafe in any way, the player will not be allowed to play until a board member allows the player to play.

No **jewelry** will be allowed, including earrings of any type, rope necklaces and bracelets. The only exception will be players wearing medical bracelets. Earrings can be covered with tape if they can't be removed.

## **KIDSAFE APPROVED ADULTS**

All coaches/ team parents must have their **KIDSAFE/COACHES CARD** clearly displayed and visible on their person at all games in order to be present on the player's sideline. Anyone not wearing a kidsafe card will not be allowed to occupy the player's sideline and will be asked to sit on the parent's sideline.

**Substitution:** Substitutions can be made at any of the following situations: throw in, kick off, goal kick **with the approval of the referee**. Substitution is not allowed on corners or free kicks.

## **Referees / Timing:**

There will be no abuse of the referees tolerated, verbal or otherwise. Any indication of such behavior by a coach or parent will result in immediate removal from the game site. No abuse of any player, coach or referee will be tolerated. Please keep all comments (cheering) positive.

The first whistle starts the clock on all fields & game ending whistle ends games on all fields.

Teams must be ready to enter the field at least 5 minutes prior to scheduled game time.

## **Kick Offs / Throw Ins / Direct and Indirect Kicks / Goal Kicks / Penalty Kicks:**

### **Kick Offs**

May be kicked in any direction. You cannot score directly from a kick off (ball must be 100% over the mid-line to be considered on the offensive half of the field). The kickoff is an indirect kick.

### **Throw Ins**

The ball shall be thrown into play from the sideline. The ball is considered in play when the ball is touched and changes position, and a goal cannot be scored from a Throw-in.

### **Direct and in-direct kicks**

All dead-ball kicks (kick-ins, kick-offs, free kicks) are indirect with the exception of corner kicks, hand balls, and penalty kicks. Indirect kicks must only change position before the ball will be considered in play. If a free kick is awarded within five yards of the opposing goal line, the ball will be moved back to five yards from the line. It is the referee's discretion where the ball will be placed.

### **Goal kicks**

May be taken from any point of the goal box. All Goal Kicks are indirect kicks.

### **Penalty kicks**

There will be no penalties kicks. If a foul is committed inside the box, the result will be a direct kick awarded and placed at the top of the ARC of the Penalty Box.

### **Five-Yard Rule**

In all dead-ball situations, defending players must stand at least five yards away from the ball. If the defensive player's goal is closer than five yards, the ball shall be played five yards from the goal line in line with the direction of play prior to the penalty.

### **Goal Scoring**

A goal may only be scored from a touch (offensive or defensive) within the team's offensive half on the field. The ball must be completely on the offensive half of the field, and cannot be touching the mid-line (Example: kick-off). If a player in their defensive half kicks the ball across the midline and the ball hits another player (offensive or defensive) in their offensive half, and the ball goes in the goal, a goal will be awarded. If a ball is kicked from the defensive half and is not touched before the ball rests in the goal, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team. A goal cannot be scored from an indirect kick. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in, meaning it must make contact with a player prior to going into the goal for the goal to be awarded.

### **Goal Keepers / Off-sides / Slide Tackling / Hand Ball Clarification:**

Goal keepers are restricted to using their hands only inside the penalty box and no slide tackling is allowed. If a player is sliding for the ball, contact with any player(s) from the other team is NOT ALLOWED. If a player slides and contact is initiated, a free kick shall be awarded. This does not prevent players from sliding to stop/intercept a ball where contact is not initiated during the slide. Example: a player may slide to save a ball from going out-of-bounds.

**Offsides**

There will be no offsides.

**Hand Ball Clarification**

Deliberate handling of the ball will result in the following: A Direct Free kick. Referees will decide if a player deliberately committed a hand ball foul. Coaches and parents have to remember these are 6 and 7 year old players still very new to the rules of soccer.

**Game Balls / Sizes:**

Teams are responsible for providing game balls. The ball size for each group is as following:

7u-8u Size 3 Ball

### **COVID Protocols for the Fall 2021 Season**

1. If any of your players feel ill or have a fever, please do not allow them to come to practices or to the game and play.
2. No team benches allowed at this time. Players need to bring their own chair to sit in during games.
3. No sharing water between players. Players each need to have their own water bottle.
4. As players come off the field during the game, they should utilize hand sanitizer that they have brought with them.
5. There will be no high fives, hugs, rally tunnels, etc at the end of practices or games. All teams need to know that no one is showing bad sportsmanship by not completing these. When completing a game, verbal “good game” to the player near them when the game is called is encouraged or all players can give a clapping of hands to represent a good game.
6. We can NOT have a lot of spectators. We are encouraging each player to 2 adults and siblings of the player playing.
7. Please make sure your spectators sit across from your team and are spaced out from goal side to midfield. Families can sit closer to one another but need to be spaced in between the next set of families.
8. If a player has covid-like symptoms, please have the player remain home from practices and games to avoid exposure to others. We also ask that you please reach out to our Safety Officer, Dr. Carlos Clark, at [safetyofficer@gcysoccer.org](mailto:safetyofficer@gcysoccer.org) if your player or yourself tests positive for COVID. Dr. Clark will determine if the rest of the team or other teams will need to be monitored or quarantined while respecting your privacy. You do not need to copy additional board members in the email.

*Statusme.com*

*State: Texas, Group: is BAYSA, Club: Galveston County Youth Soccer:  
Fields: Galveston, Texas City & Santa Fe*

*1: click on status me*

*2: enter all the info click next*

*3: enter email & cell number to be used click next*

*4: select state: TEXAS, group: BAYSA, club: Galveston County, fields: SF,  
GV & TC click done*