

Welcome to GCYS! Our U6 program (3, 4 and 5-year-old players) is the building foundation of our soccer program. With this age group, most players are coming to play a sport for their first time and are learning to play and work together as a team. 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 one to 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.

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.

# U5/U6 General Rules of Play

## 3v3 Small-sided game

### General Philosophy

- To learn basic soccer skills while having FUN. Players, Coaches, Spectators ... we should all have fun and cheer for the kids. This is a community activity that we should all enjoy.

### 3v3 Game Set-up and Game Length

- Home team wears black jersey and away team wears white.
- Coaches stand on one side of the field with any available substitute players. Each team may have a coach on the field to help instruct new players and to keep time/encourage fair play.
- Four quarters: Each quarter a maximum of 8 minutes in length.
  - Quarters can be shortened prior to the start of the game with agreement from both coaches for reasons such as heat (especially in September and May) or lack of substitutes.
- Have one timekeeper who will start and end the quarters/halves at the same time on each field.
- 2-minute breaks between quarters 1/2, 3/4
- 5-minute half time break.
- After half time, the teams should switch sides of the field so that they are attacking the opposite goal.
- No Scores Kept
- No throw-ins for balls going out of bounds. Players will kick the ball in below the knee of the players on the field.
- Only restart will be following the scoring of a goal and a kickoff will be allowed.

### Players

- Roster size: Maximum of 10 players on a team.
- Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- Best effort should be made to equalize playing time.
- 3 players on the field at a time per team. If a team has only 2 players present, the opposing team must play with only 2 on the field, no 3v2.
  - ♦ Exception ... if one team is dominating another, then coaches should try to even play out by adding an extra player to the weaker team (4v3) or have the dominating player play for the weaker team.
- If one team has extra players and one team is short players, coaches are encouraged to make arrangements to maximize playing time for all players. Share players if needed.
- **NO GOALIES.**
- Coaches should not play a stationary defender (positioning a player) in or very near the goal area.

- ◆ Some kids will naturally gravitate to the goal box on defense to protect the goal. However, encourage the kids to stay out of the goal as much as possible and play the ball.
- Playing positions is not a priority for these ages. Encourage all players to defend and all players to attack for U6 age groups.

### **Players' Equipment**

- Size 3 ball for every player—have them bring to practice and games.
- Soft-cleated or soft-soled athletic shoes.
- **SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY.**
- NO JEWELRY ... this includes hard hair clips, earrings, necklaces, rings, bracelets, etc.

### **Coaches**

- Each team is limited to a maximum of two adults on the coaching sideline, unless one of the coaches is also on the field. Any adult working with the kids must pass a background check.
- Coaches are limited to their half of the sideline, from the centerline to the top of the goal box, unless arrangements have been made with the opposing coaches to enter the opposing sideline area.
- Coaches are encouraged to discuss the games during breaks and half-time. They should try to even out the playing fields and identify if any super-strong players should be “reigned-in.”
- There are NO refs at this age, so coaches are encouraged to control the game of play on their half of the field. Coaches can split “referee” duties if they wish to have an adult in control of the game on the field.

### **Spectators**

- Spectators are limited to the side of the field opposite the coaches. If possible, they should remain at least 3 yards from the end line.
- Coaches should report spectator problems to the President of the club (presidentgscys@gmail.com)
- PLEASE do not allow parents to stand/sit between the fields where players sit.

### **Kick-off**

- A goal CANNOT be scored directly from a kickoff.
- Kickoff may go forward or backward.
- Teams must remain on their half of the field.
- To decide who kicks off first, use Rock/Paper/Scissors, or a guessing game. Keep it quick and fun.

### **Substitutions**

- Allowed at any time.
- Suggest 3-4 minute rotation.

### **Penalties for fouls**

- Fouls include things like excessive pushing, pulling, tripping, hand balls, slide tackles. Kids at this age are not intentionally malicious. Make sure to explain what the player is doing wrong.
- Allow players to play on if you are able and do not discourage aggressive play.
- Give warnings, not free kicks.
- However, if a player continues to play too aggressively you may award a free kick to the opposing team. Use your discretion on this one.
- **ALL FREE KICKS WILL BE INDIRECT.** All fouls shall be penalized with indirect kicks. From the point of an indirect kick, opponents shall be no closer than 5 yards.
- **THERE ARE NO PENALTY KICKS IN SMALL-SIDED GAMES.**
- **NO OFFSIDE IN SMALL-SIDED GAMES.**

### **Slide-tackling**

- Is not allowed. It is NOT safe for 3, 4 and 5-year old players to attempt a slide-tackle. It is dangerous to both parties; the tackler and the person being tackled. It also isn't consistent with the spirit of recreational play.
- Kids will fall and trip around each other ... that is OK. Let's encourage the kids to stay on their feet and play safe.
- If a child falls down, encourage him/her to get back up and encourage others around them to stop kicking while they are on the ground.

### **Make-up Games Due to Weather**

- If we have a field closure due to weather, make-up games will be attempted to be scheduled. This could mean a Sunday game will be played or additional weekends added on at the end of the season.

## 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 while displaying symptoms 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 Set Up Instructions*

*State: Texas, Group: is BAYSA, Club: Galveston County Youth Soccer:  
Fields: Galveston and Texas City*

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: GV  
& TC click done