

CHERRY HILL FC

U-7/8 Boys & Girls Division Rules

In the U-7/8 Division, teams play weekly 6 v 6 games. Games are technically played on half-sized fields, but these are not small-sided games like the ones the U-5 and U-6 Divisions play. In the U-7/8 Division, we have referees officiating at the games. Thus, although we still encourage informality at this level and discourage coaches, parents and players from “keeping score”, at this level the games start having a very “real” look and feel to them.

1) Weekly Games and Practices

- Each team plays one game per week. All participants should arrive 15 minutes before game time in order to be ready. For coaches this is absolutely necessary, as you may need to help set up the field so that the session can begin on time.
- Coaches in the U-7/8 Division are encouraged to schedule at least one practice session each week.
- Snacks should be provided at halftime of each session. Coaches will establish a rotating schedule of who will be responsible for the snack.
- Every child should bring his/her own drink to every practice and game. This is critical.

2) Game Rules and Behavior

- Games are 6 v 6, including the goalkeeper. Goalkeepers should wear pinneys so that they stand out. Games will consist of ten-minute quarters. Coaches may mutually agree to shorten the quarters if that is necessary because of harsh weather conditions, low player turnout or the like.
- A size 4 ball should be used in this Division.
- Coaches must remain on the sidelines. Coaches are allowed to instruct the players verbally from the sideline, but they cannot be on the field during the game.
- Coaches and parents are not allowed to stand or be positioned anywhere on or behind either goal line. Many parents or coaches want to stand next to their goalie and instruct them during the game. They are allowed to provide instruction, but they must do it from the sideline.

- Substitutions can be made on the fly, meaning at any time and without requiring stoppage of play. The game clock cannot be stopped to accommodate substitutions. Also, substitutions must be made fairly to ensure that each player is on the field a roughly equal amount of time. We understand that it is impossible to ensure truly “equal playing time” but we urge that the coaches should make every effort possible toward this end.
- There are no direct kicks or penalty kicks in our league. An indirect kick will be awarded at the referees’ discretion.
- Offsides is not called in the U-7/8 Division.
- While we try to encourage the players at this level to throw the ball in properly, the referees will allow re-throws when the ball is thrown improperly, rather than awarding the throw to the other team.
- We play with goal kicks and corner kicks in the U-7/8 Division.
- Coaches are expected to keep the games close. If one team is winning by more than three goals, the coaches of the two teams should confer and adjust the play (by removing a player from the leading side, by adding a player on the other side, etc.) in order to keep the game from getting out of control.
- Dangerous play will not be tolerated. This includes slide tackles, charging violently or from behind, high kicks, tripping, pushing, hitting and kicking of players. Coaches are responsible for making sure that the players understand and abide by this rule (and all others).
- If there is an injury on the field and play is stopped, all players should kneel or sit until the injured player leaves the field of play. The injured player should be replaced with another player before play resumes.
- The opposing teams and their coaches must shake hands after the game is concluded.
- All coaches are required to read and abide by CHFC’s Zero-Tolerance Policy. This will be strictly enforced. We encourage and expect the enthusiastic support of all parents for all players.

3) Parents

- All parents are required to read and abide by CHFC’s Zero-Tolerance Policy. This will be strictly enforced. We encourage and expect the enthusiastic support of all parents for all players.

- Parents should always sit on the sides of the playing fields and never on the ends (behind the goals or end-lines) of the fields.

4) Inclement Weather/Cancellations

- CHFC maintains a website. We make every effort to update as soon as we decide to cancel a session. Thus, we encourage everyone to check the website when you are in doubt.
- Web Site: www.cherryhillfcsoccer.com