

## **SECTION I: GENERAL LEAGUE INFORMATION**

### **A. Rulebook Overview**

The purpose of this document is to provide all participants in the City of Albertville youth soccer program with an overview of our rules and regulations. All matches are conducted in accordance with current FIFA Laws of the Game and decisions of the International Board as modified by the City of Albertville Parks and Recreation Department. The City of Albertville Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to modify, adjust or omit any rule in this document that is deemed to enhance the quality of the program.

### **B. Division Setup**

Each participant is assigned to a division based on their date of birth.

1. The aging date for the 2015 soccer season is the age your child is on or before Aug. 1, 2015.
2. No player may play in a division other than the one they are assigned to based on their date of birth unless approved by Albertville Parks and Recreation. A child is only allowed to play up one age group (see FAQ on our rec desk page)

<b>Division</b>	<b>Age</b>
U6	4-5
U8	6-7
U10	8-9
U12	10-11
U14	12-13

### **C. Non-Player Conduct**

#### **1. COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each team must have one coach designated as the head coach, and may have up to one assistant coach. In the event that the head coach is dismissed from the match, then the assistant coach will be designated as the head coach. Coaches must stay off the field of play and remain on their respective sideline in the area reserved for them (with the exception of U6 division & U8 when they are refereeing). Coaches must behave responsibly and may not shout at the referee or otherwise interfere with the match. No voice amplification devices will be allowed. Alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs are prohibited. Head coaches are responsible for their own conduct as well as the conduct of their assistant coaches, players and spectators affiliated with the team. Coaches along with referees should make every effort to ensure the matches are safe and fair. Coaches should do all they can to minimize the chances of highly uneven scores.

#### **2. REFEREES AUTHORITY**

Coaches, spectators, and players are reminded that the referee is the authority in control of the field. The referee is authorized to enforce all rules.

#### **3. SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT**

All individuals who are not coaches, players, referees, or City of Albertville employees are considered to be spectators from the time they enter the park until the time they leave. This league is designed to promote fun and fundamentals. Below are some simple rules to be observed by spectators:

- a. Shouting at players from the sideline is not permitted; it is the coach's responsibility to direct the players.
- b. Parents are encouraged to cheer for their child's team but should refrain from any disparaging or discouraging comments.

- c. Avoid obvious displays of anger.
- d. Do not run up and down the sidelines or behind the goals. Spectators should remain stationary on their respective sideline. **NO SPECTATORS ARE ALLOWED IN THE COACHES AREA OR BEHIND THE BENCH ON THE U12 FIELD IN THE PARKING LOT!**
- e. Display good sportsmanship.
- f. Do not shout insults at the referee. The referee has the authority to stop the match if the crowd becomes discourteous.
- g. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages, smoking and or tobacco is permitted at any match. All non-playing children must be supervised at all times.
- h. NO PETS are allowed on any playing field. Keep your pets at home.
- i. Keep off the goals and nets. Goals are NOT intended to be used as climbing apparatus for children.
- j. Pick up your garbage. Carry your garbage to the trash can.

#### **D. Disciplinary Procedures**

##### **1. PLAYERS DISMISSED BY THE REFEREE**

All players sent off the field for receiving a red card or two yellow cards by the referee cannot participate in the remainder of the match and cannot be replaced. Such players are allowed to remain on the sidelines, provided they do not, in the opinion of the referee, further disrupt the match. Any player dismissed from the field of play by the referee will be suspended for one or more subsequent matches, subject to review by Albertville Parks and Recreation. In all cases where a player is sent off the field of play, the referee must submit a written report to Albertville Parks and Recreation within 24 hours from the ejection in question.

##### **2. DISMISSAL OF COACHES**

The referee or City of Albertville Parks & Recreation staff may dismiss any coach from the vicinity of the field for the remainder of a match if they feel the coach's behavior is inappropriate. The match will not resume until the coach complies with the dismissal. If the referee or City of Albertville Parks & Recreation Staff decides to abandon or terminate the match because a coach fails to leave the vicinity after being dismissed, said team will automatically forfeit their game. Any coach dismissed by the referee or Albertville Parks & Recreation Staff will be suspended for one match. In severe cases of misconduct, a coach may be suspended indefinitely.

##### **3. DISMISSAL OF SPECTATORS**

The referee or City of Albertville Parks & Recreation Staff may dismiss any spectator from the vicinity of the field for the remainder of the match if they feel the spectator's behavior is inappropriate. The match will not resume until the spectator complies with the dismissal. If the spectator fails to leave the vicinity of the field after being dismissed, the match will be delayed until the arrival of the Albertville Police Department. Any spectator dismissed by the referee, Albertville Parks & Recreation Staff or Albertville Police Department will be suspended for one game. In severe cases of misconduct, a spectator may be suspended indefinitely.

#### **E. Suspended or Postponed Matches**

In the even a match is not completed in regulation time for any reason, including weather, insufficient players or abandonment or termination by the referee, Albertville Parks & Recreation Staff has the option to:

1. Schedule the match to be replayed, thus nullifying the original match.
2. Continue playing the match at a later date with the score and elapsed time starting as it was when the match was terminated or abandoned.
3. Accept the score of the match at the moment it ended as the final score.

4. Award both teams a tie.
5. Award one team a win and the other team a loss.

The decision of Albertville Parks & Recreation department is final and under no circumstance can a match be protested by a coach, spectator or player.

**F. Quality of Referees**

All referees have different styles of refereeing and different levels of experience. Coaches, spectators and players must make allowance for these differences and realize that referees are part of the match. The final outcome of a match is rarely determined by a referee’s actions or inactions. Please be courteous to all referees.

**G. Equipment**

**1. Coaches Equipment Responsibilities**

All head coaches will be provided a mesh bag, cones and practice balls for the duration of the season. Coaches borrowing equipment from the City of Albertville Parks & Recreation Department must return all equipment at Gore Concession immediately following completion of the last match. Coaches will be held financially responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen equipment.

**2. Players Equipment Responsibilities**

- a. Each player must wear the City issued jersey/shirt, shorts and socks. Shirts must be tucked in and shoelaces must be securely tied. NO TOE CLEATS, long cleats, sharp cleats, metal cleats, or hard-soled street shoes are allowed. Each goal keeper must wear colors that distinguish them from other players and referees.
- b. SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY and must be completely covered by socks and must be made of a suitable material that affords a reasonable degree of protection from physical injury if the player is kicked in the shin area.
- c. A player may not wear anything that could be dangerous to themselves or to another player, including orthopedic casts (even if cushioned), rings, watches, jewelry, hair clips, etc. (exception—prescription eyeglasses that appear to be reasonably safe).
- d. Uniforms MAY NOT be altered in any way. If a player is wearing an ineligible uniform, Albertville Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to allow that player to participate in the match as a legal player if they feel it is safe and fair to do so. Referees, coaches, and match monitors should be notified if a player is out of uniform before the player enters the match. A match cannot be protested due to a player being out of uniform. The referee and the Albertville Parks & Recreation Staff will determine whether a player is deemed eligible or ineligible.
- e. All or any member(s) of a team may wear extra protective clothing against the cold, including gloves, without dangerous or protruding hard objects, providing that the proper team jersey is worn outermost.

**3. Match goals and corner flags will be provided and set up by the Albertville Parks & Recreation Department on games days. The home team is responsible for providing a properly inflated game ball.**

DIVISION	BALL SIZE
U14	5
U10/U12	4
U6/U8	3

## SECTION II: MATCH PLAY INFORMATION

### A. Field of Play

DIVISION	PLAYERS ON FIELD
U14	11 v 11
U12	9 v 9
U10	7 v 7
U8	5 v 5 (Goal keeper may not use hands)
U6	3 v 3 (No goal keeper)

### B. Number of Players & Forfeits

Each player must be listed on the team's official roster to participate. A team that cannot supply the minimum number of qualified players within 5 minutes of the scheduled start time will forfeit the match. Minimum numbers are subject to change at the league's discretion.

DIVISION	MAX PLAYERS	MIN PLAYERS
U14	11	9
U12	9	7
U10	7	5
U8	5	NO FORFEITS
U6	3	NO FORFEITS

### C. Player Participation Requirements

#### 1. Minimum Playing Time

- U6 division: Minimum playing time is half of the game.
- U8-U19 divisions: Minimum playing time is two periods per match. (A period is defined as the midway point of each half; there are two periods for every half.)

#### 2. Player Substitution Guidelines

##### Standard Substitution Procedures:

- U6 division: Substitutions are allowed at the end of each period; however the coach must distribute playing time evenly among all players.
- U8, U10, U12 divisions: The referee will stop the match at the end of the first, second, and third period. This will allow for player substitutions.
- Coaches must mark their scorecards with player substitutions and/or those players who will be sitting out each period. The referee will allow for adjustments to said scorecards.

##### Substitution Procedure Modifications Due to Player Injury:

- If a player is injured and play has been stopped by the referee, the injured player may be substituted for another player. The injured player may not return to the match until the end of a period.
- In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the referee must recognize the player leaving the field. The player who played the majority of the minutes in the period is credited with playing the entire period regardless of who started the period. The referee is the sole authority in awarding the period to the appropriate player.

##### Substitution Procedure Modifications for Late-Arriving Players

- If the player arrives during the first period, the player must be substituted onto the field during the first substitution break or at halftime, and may be required to play the remainder of the match. They are subject to the conditions of player participation requirements.

b. If the player arrives during the second period, they may be substituted onto the field of play during the third period and are NOT subject to the conditions of the player participation requirements.

c. If the player arrives during the third period, at the discretion of the coach and referee, the player may be substituted onto the field of play for the final period but is not subject to the conditions of the player participation requirements.

### 3. Substitution Guideline Exceptions

Substitutions will be allowed if in the opinion of the coach, parent or referee, the player is injured, in jeopardy of injury or could further compound an existing injury if the player continues to play.

#### D. Duration of Matches

DIVISION	MATCH LENGTH
U14	Four 15 Minute Periods
U12	Four 15 Minute Periods
U10	Four 12 Minute Periods
U8	Four 10 Minute Periods
U6	Four 5 Minute Periods
HALFTIME	5 Minutes

#### E. Rules by Division

DIVISION	OFFSIDES	DROP BALLS, FREE KICKS, PENALTY KICKS, CORNER KICKS, AND GOAL KICKS	YELLOW AND RED CARDS
U14	YES	YES	YES
U12	YES	YES	YES
U10	YES	YES	YES
U8	NO	NO	NO`
U6	NO	NO	NO

#### Additional U6/U8 Guidelines

- One coach per team will be allowed on the field of play during U6 matches. No referees will be assigned to U6 matches. A coach, assistant coach, or volunteer will "referee" U8 matches.
- If the ball goes out of play over the goal line, regardless of who touched it last, the defending team puts the ball back in play with an indirect kick from the top of the goal box.
- An indirect kick could be awarded for an infraction.
- Offensive players may dribble into the opponent's goal area.
- Offensive and defensive players may enter the goal area in pursuit of a ball that entered the goal area though U6 and U8 may never use their hands even if they are defending the goal. If said infraction occurs, it will be called a hand ball. The opposing team will be awarded an indirect kick at the spot of the infraction.
- A second throw in will be allowed if an incorrect throw in occurs.
- Goal kicks are taken from the top of the goal box.

#### F. Standings & Recordings

DIVISION	WIN	LOSS	TIE
U10-U14	3 POINTS	0 POINTS	1 POINTS
U6-U8	NO SCORES OR		

	STANDINGS ARE RECORDED		
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Tie breakers are determined by head-to-head matches, followed by goal differential.

**G. Coaching Tactics**

The overall object is for players to enjoy the match and strive to do their best at every level. Coaches should recognize that the primary goals of the Albertville Parks & Recreation Department Youth Sports programs are to teach fundamentals and sportsmanship in a safe setting. Coaches should keep practices engaging and play each player at a variety of positions giving them the best chance to succeed. U6 and U8 practices should focus around fun activities and the basics of soccer. The key to being a successful coach is not determined by your record, but by creating an environment that allows players to learn and fall in love with the sport.

**H. Coach & Referee Post-Match Checklist**

Here is a checklist of things the coach should do after each match:

1. Form their players on the sideline for the purpose of shaking hands with players and coaches from the other team. Politeness, graciousness and sportsmanship are expected from all as they meet in the center, whether win, lose or draw.
2. Pick up equipment and/or trash that may have been left behind. Leave the field cleaner than when your team arrived.

**I. Alabama Code - Section 13A-11-144: HARASSMENT, ETC., OF SPORTS OFFICIAL**

(a) For purposes of this section, a **"sports official" is a person at a sports event who enforces the rules** of the event, such as an umpire or referee, or a person who supervises the participants, such as a coach. A "sports event" **includes any** interscholastic or intramural athletic activity in a primary, middle, junior high, or high school, college, or university, **any organized athletic activity sponsored by a community, business, or nonprofit organization, any athletic activity that is a professional or semiprofessional event, and any other organized athletic activity in the state.**

(b) A person commits the crime of harassment of a sports official if he or she commits the crime of harassment as provided for by Section 13A-11-8, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the harassment is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. **Harassment of a sports official is a Class B misdemeanor.**

(c) A person commits the crime of menacing a sports official if he or she commits the crime of menacing as provided for by Section 13A-6-23, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the menacing is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. **Menacing a sports official is a Class A misdemeanor.**

(d) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the third degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the third degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-22, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. **Assault of a sports official in the third degree is a Class C felony.**

(e) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the second degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the second degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-21, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. **Assault of a sports official in the second degree is a Class B felony.**

(f) A person commits the crime of assault of a sports official in the first degree if he or she commits the crime of assault in the first degree as provided for by Section 13A-6-20, and the victim is a sports official performing official duties and the assault is a result of the official performing his or her official duties. Assault of a sports official in the first degree is a Class A felony.

**J. Traveling**

Albertville Parks & Recreation teams that travel to opposing cities will agree to abide by or adapt to the opposing cities rules—example—if they play down number wise, you will play down number wise. If they free sub, you will free sub. If they play periods or halves instead of quarters, you will do the same. These cities will adapt to our rules when they play in Albertville.