



### **Youth Soccer Rules and Regulations**

The purpose of Youth Recreational Athletic Leagues is to provide an enjoyable organized experience under capable adult supervision for the youth in Botetourt County. The program is organized to promote sportsmanship, cooperation, and fair play at all times while developing knowledge and skills of the game.

The Botetourt County Youth Soccer Leagues are governed by "United States Soccer Federation" or "FIFA" and will apply except as modified herein.

Any team participating in leagues outside of Botetourt County will be required to adhere to that area's rules and regulations.

**Age Classification:** Playing age is that age attained by September 30

<b>League</b>	<b>Ages</b>	<b>Roster Size</b>	<b>Players during game</b>	<b>Length of quarters or halves</b>	<b>Goal Size</b>	<b>Playing Field (approx. yardage)</b>	<b>Ball Used</b>
U6 Co-Ed	4-5	Min- 6 Max- 10	4 v 4 No Keeper	4- 8 min quarters (no score kept)	4x 6	20 x 30	3
U8 Co-Ed	6-7	Min- 8 Max- 14	7 v 7 No Keeper	4- 10 min quarters (no score kept)	6 x 18	40 x 60	3
U10	8-9	Min- 8 Max- 14	7 v 7	2 - 25 min halves	6 x 18	40 x 60	4
U13	10-12	Min- 8 Max- 14	7 v 7	2 - 25 min halves	6 x 18	40 x 60	4
U17	13-16	Min- 13 Max- 22	11 v 11	2 – 25 halves	8 x 24	55 x 100	5
U19	17-18	Min- 11 Max- 22	9 v 9/ 11v11	2 – 25 halves	8 x 24	55 x 100	5

#### **I. Player Eligibility**

- A. The eligibility age for participation is minimum of four (4) and a maximum of eighteen (18) years of age. Eighteen year olds must be enrolled in school.
- B. Players must be a Botetourt County resident or attend a Botetourt County Public School to be eligible to participate in any Botetourt County Youth Athletic League. If a player moves out of the county, they may continue to participate in the program until they age out, as long as their participation is continuous in that specific sport with no breaks between the age classifications.
- C. All players must be registered with the recreation department and/or booster club before he or she is allowed to practice or play in a game.

## II. Team Rosters

- A. Roster size requirements are listed in the chart on page 1.
- B. Transfer of players during the season is prohibited, although teams may borrow players to field the minimum number to play, contingent to player borrowing rule listed under league rules.
- C. Coaches must consent to a background screening and be cleared to coach before he or she is allowed to coach a team during a practice or game.
- D. Any coach found to be using an ineligible player may be suspended from coaching for a period of one year. The suspension is applicable to any and all sports from the date formal action was taken.

## III. League Rules

- A. Before games begin, a maximum of two (2) practice sessions per week, at one and ½ hours per session.
- B. After games begin, a maximum of three (3) activities per week, at no more than one and ½ hours per session.
- C. Uniforms must consist of matching jerseys with a number on the back, matching shorts/sweat pants and socks.
- D. If two teams have the same color jersey, the home team will be responsible for wearing mesh pullovers.
- E. Shin guards must be worn for all practices and games and must be completely covered by socks.
- F. Rubber soled or rubber cleated shoes only. Cleats cannot contain any visible metal materials.
- G. Each coach must submit a line up card with players' names and numbers to the game official before game begins.
- H. U6 leagues must start with 3 players.
- I. U8 must start with 5 players.
- J. U10 must start with 5 players.
- K. U13 must start with 5 players.
- L. U17 and up leagues must start with at least eight (8). If additional players show up, they may be inserted in the game on a whistle and must wait for the officials signal to enter.
- M. Teams will be given ten (10) minutes after scheduled start time to produce minimum number of players to begin the game.
- N. **Teams may borrow players from other teams (if available) from the same age group/division. Teams may only borrow enough players to meet the minimum number player rule. The borrowed player(s) must wear their originals team's jersey, cannot play as goalie or on the front line and may not play more time than the original team players.**
- O. All jewelry is prohibited.
- P. Teams playing under other localities must follow the rules for that locality.
- Q. The Parks and Recreation Department will handle rescheduled games should teams fall under the number of 8 games. Teams losing games to weather or school conflicts have the option to contact the opposing coach and schedule a controlled scrimmage with one coach/person from each side to officiate if they so wish.
- R. Any game called early because of inclement weather will be considered a complete game when at least ½ of the game has been completed.

- S. Game cancellation information can be obtained by calling 540-992-0012 after 4:00pm on weekdays and 7:30am on Saturdays.
  - 1. If playing on a non-Botetourt field, please use the below number to check cancellations.
    - 1. Roanoke County: 540-387-6455
    - 2. Roanoke City: 540-853-1196
    - 3. Alleghany County: 540-863-6500

**IV. Game Play**

- A. Teams playing under other localities must follow the rules for that locality. Below is game play for Botetourt leagues.
- B. There will be a two (2) minute rest period between quarters and a five-minute rest period between halves.
- C. Score will not be kept in U6 and U8.
- D. No dedicated player should be specifically stationed as a goalie for U6 or U8 league.
- E. Since there is no penalty area in U6 & U8, there will be no penalty kicks, rather a free/direct kick from the spot of the foul.
- F. One (1) coach is allowed on the field during play in U6 and U8 games. Coaches should refrain from interfering with play.
- G. All players present must play a minimum of half the game.
- H. Unlimited substitutions at the discretion of the referee.
- I. Players that receive a yellow card must be immediately substituted for. Player can return to game when permitted to enter game by referee during substitution.
- J. Players or coaches ejected with two (2) yellow cards, or one red card are automatically disqualified from the team's next game.
- K. U10 and under players cannot engage in heading the ball. Violation of this rule will result in an indirect kick if intentional and a drop ball if unintentional.
- L. Games which are tied at the end of regulation will be considered final.

**V. Inclement Weather**

- A. Anytime Lightning is visible, then all players, coaches, fans and umpires should **Take Shelter Immediately!** Wait at least **20 minutes** after the last lightning flash before resuming activities.
- B. Games or practices will be cancelled is the heat index or actual temperature is 100\* or above.

**VI. Sportsmanship**

- A. The purpose of the Youth Recreation league is to provide an enjoyable experience for each youth participant, while developing character, skills, sportsmanship, and to promote good will among all players, coaches, parents, officials and recreational staff.
- B. Any person involved in or taking part in any event sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department that damages or destroys property while using the facilities will be suspended indefinitely and will be responsible for the cost of required repairs.
- C. Any coach found to be using illegal player, using an assumed name, falsifying a roster, or giving false information to an official or recreation department staff may result in the individual being suspended for up to one year. The suspension is applicable to all sports from the date of the suspension.
- D. Misconduct by players, coaches, spectators, officials, scorekeepers, or supervisory personnel will not be tolerated. Misconduct can be defined as improper gesturing, aggressive verbal or physical contact and the use of alcohol, smoke or smokeless tobacco and illegal substances. Consequences will follow code of conduct.
- E. All players and coaches must adhere to the Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct.