

Smithville Parks and Recreation

Smithville Kickers



YOUTH SOCCER

Revised: 7/1/2021

Purpose

The purpose of the league is to create a healthy and safe environment that supports life lessons such as good sportsmanship, develop athletics, teach the fundamentals of soccer, and to intertwine competition and cooperation. We want everyone to remember the children are learning soccer and we want to help enrich their skills to the best of our ability.

Consent and Registration

In order to participate in the league, each player must have a complete registration profile and the appropriate fee paid. By registering in and paying for the Smithville Kickers League, parents/guardians are giving consent for their child(ren) to participate in said program. Parents/guardians are responsible for their own primary insurance; Smithville PARD will NOT be responsible for any accidents that happen during the league.

Rules

The United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) which follows FIFA rules shall apply except where such laws conflict with the modifications made by the City of Smithville Parks and Recreation Department. Further league rules and additional division rules are specified further in this packet.

Age Divisions

The league will be divided by age. The player's age is determined by the age of the child at the start of practices. Players are NOT guaranteed to be placed in the division of your choice. **Divisions are likely to change based on the number of registrations the City of Smithville PARD receives this season and, in the future. Below you will see the preferred divisions.** All divisions shall be co-ed, with both boys and girls on the same team, unless Smithville PARD determines that divisions can be broken down separately into boys and girls teams due to abundant participation.

PREFERRED DIVISIONS

Pee Wee:	Ages 4-5
Junior:	Ages 6-8
Intermediate:	Ages 9-11
Senior:	Ages 12-14

Coaches, Parents, and Volunteers

We will NOT be able to start the season until we have enough volunteer coaches. If interested in volunteering other than coaching (ex. Officiating) please contact the Smithville Recreation Center.

- Head coaches must be at least sixteen (16) years old or older.
- All other volunteers such as assistant coaches or officials must be at least twelve (12) years old or older.
- If the PARD chooses to pay officials they must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- A coach at least sixteen (16) or older must be with the team at all times. Coaches will be chosen by Rec. Center staff on a first come basis and consideration of past volunteer experiences with the department.
- Teams will only be allowed to have one (1) head coach and one (1) assistant coach. Head coaches shall submit their volunteer form to Smithville PARD forty-eight (48) hours before the registration deadline. Assistant coaches must also complete a volunteer form and be approved by Smithville PARD once chosen by a head coach following draft. Only head coaches will be guaranteed a team shirt.
- No one may oversee and be responsible for participants without a current volunteer form on file.
- All volunteers must pass a background check. (Please see our Volunteer Packet for more information)

Player Assignments

A protected player is a player assigned to a team because his/her parent is a Head Coach. The registered child(ren) of a Head Coach will be placed on the designated team when the appropriate age level is being drafted. Registration forms have an area for each player to make specific scheduling requests, be it a sibling in the same division. **We will do our best to honor such requests but are unable to guarantee each request. Names of the siblings requesting to be paired together for transportation purposes must have each other's names on their registration form** (Example: Billy's name is on Joe's form, and Joe's form has Billy's name on it as well). **Again, ONLY siblings in the same division will be allowed transportation requests, NO others will be granted. Once the form has been turned in there will be NO further requests allowed.**

Draft Procedures

The City of Smithville PARD has the right to determine to hold a draft or randomly generate team rosters based on the player's date of birth and gender. The Smithville PARD will ONLY use information that is on the registration form, so it is extremely important that forms are filled out correctly.

The coaches meeting will be held soon after the league registration closes. Coaches will receive a team folder that will include a team roster, contact information, program information etc. and be responsible for calling each parent to inform them of their practice day and times. *Please Note:* There shall be NO changes made to team rosters after draft night.

Parents will be ultimately responsible to get program information. The Recreation Center will use email addresses to contact parents while coaches are suggested to call. Please make sure all contact information on your profile is correct. If you do not receive any contact from the Rec. Center staff OR program coach, please contact the Rec. Center for program information.

Players on Field and Team Limit

A game is played between two (2) teams consisting of the number of players required below. The minimum number of legal uniformed players is required to start and continue a game. If a team does NOT meet the minimum number of players, that team will forfeit the game. Only players on the official team roster are eligible to play. **Below are the fielding requirements that will be used for the program; however, they are likely to change based on the number of soccer registrations the City of Smithville PARD receives this season and in the future.**

Pee Wee:	3 players (NO goalie); Must have 2 to start; Roster maximum of 8.
Junior:	3 players (NO goalie); Must have 2 to start; Roster maximum of 8.
Intermediate:	5 players (Including a goalie); Must have 4 to start; Roster maximum of 9.
Senior:	5 players (Including a goalie); Must have 4 to start; Roster maximum of 9.

Note: All players should have near 50% play time. Coaches are responsible for substituting and allowing an equal amount of playing time (Smithville PARD recommends Pee Wee coaches to switch players out at half time or at each water break). Coaches also have control of determining whether or not to play with the maximum or minimum number of players on the field when playing a team that only has the minimum number of players. However, we **highly encourage** coaches to consider fairness and safety when making this decision. Also, players who arrive to both practices and games regularly should earn their playing time; coaches should take into consideration player's dedication to the team. If a child misses' two (2) consecutive practices (back to back) it will be up to the coach whether they play the child on game day. However, if the child is NOT played the coach must notify the parent and Smithville PARD before game day regarding the situation and that their child will NOT be playing.

Length of Matches

All games are complete upon expiration of regulation time. NO overtime allowed during league play. Quarters will be played due to the summer heat to allow more water breaks. Teams will switch goals at half time.

Pee Wee:	6 min. quarters; 1-2min. breaks; 3-5 min. halftime.
Junior:	8 min. quarters; 1-2 min breaks; 3-5 min. halftime.
Intermediate:	12 min. quarters; 1-2min. breaks; 3-5 min. halftime.
Senior:	12 min. quarters; 1-2 min. breaks; 3-5 min. halftime.

Ball Sizes

We highly recommend all players to get their own ball of the appropriate size for practices; Smithville PARD will have a limited number of practice balls and ONLY provide game balls on game days.

Pee Wee:	#3 (Circumference 23-24in. /Weight 11-12ozs.).
Junior:	#3 (Circumference 23-24in. /Weight 11-12ozs.).
Intermediate:	#4 (Circumference 25-26in. /Weight 11-13ozs.).
Senior :	#5 (Circumference 27-28in. /Weight 14-16ozs.).

Equipment

GAME DAYS: Game Day equipment will be provided by Smithville PARD. Smithville PARD will also supply materials for keeping any game day records. There may be water provided but we highly encourage players to bring their own Gatorade and water. Smithville PARD also recommends parents and spectators to bring their own tents and/or umbrellas and lawn chairs to be comfortable.

PRACTICES: Again, players are highly recommended to get their own ball of the appropriate size for practices and bring their own water. The Smithville PARD will NOT provide water at practices and soccer balls will be limited.

Practices and Games

Season play will begin following the close of registration and after the official coaches meeting. Smithville PARD may leave some time for practices before starting the league games. Once season play had begun, **teams are limited to one (1) team event (excluding scheduled games) per week, NOT to exceed 60 minutes (1hr) per event session.** An event session is any assembly of players where team performance, game preparation, practice, tactics, etc. are discussed or performed. A team photo gathering is NOT considered an event session. Any deviation from this guidance is considered an ethical violation by the head coach and may result in a 1-week suspension from the league as determined by the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department Staff. **Coaches will be responsible for notifying players of the dates, time, and location for practices, games, and all other team activities.**

The City of Smithville will have field space maintained for games and practices. In order to avoid time conflicts during practices, coaches which choose to use the Smithville PARD soccer area must schedule a season practice time for the entire season. If you need to make changes to your practice time, please contact the Smithville PARD in advance. **All practices MUST be held at a City of Smithville Park/facility.**

Games are set to be held on **TUESDAY** evenings at RIVERBEND PARK. Coaches should distribute game schedules once they are received; however, they can also be picked up at the Rec. Center or found on the City of Smithville website.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, Smithville Parks and Recreation will make every attempt to make up all scheduled games. In the event of multiple cancellations, the Smithville PARD will have the opinion of shortening the regular season if weather dictates such action. Neither refunds nor pro-rated refunds will be given if the season is shortened due to inclement weather or actions taken by the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department. **All practices/games shall be called immediately in the case of nearby thunder and/or lightning.**

Coaches should call for information regarding inclement weather. It is the coach's responsibility to notify parents/players on their team regarding playability:

Smithville Rec. Center at **237-3282 Ext.7**

PARD will consider a game official if it is called any time after the third quarter has started.

Covid-19

The novel coronavirus, commonly referred to as “COVID-19,” has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. The City of Smithville, Texas (the “City”) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the City cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19 while participating in programming and events offered by the City’s parks and recreation department (“PARD”). COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. Local, state and Federal governments and health agencies recommend social distancing as well as limiting the number of people allowed to congregate. Further, attending PARD programs could increase your risk and your child(ren)’s risk of contracting COVID-19.

Standings, Overtime, and Tournament Play

Scores may only be kept for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions. Smithville PARD league standings will be established using a ranking system (Example: Win 5, Tie 2, Loss 1, Forfeit 0). The order of determining the ranking will be by total points; in the case of ties then the following order of measures listed in order will serve as a deciding factor on determining final rankings – head-to-head, total wins, then by finding the winning average (total games / total wins – often used when one team had more games than another), then playoff game added to end of the league schedule. **There is no advancement following season, so teams may end in a tie with no playoff game.**

Sportsmanship, Conduct, and Discipline

A goal of Smithville Parks and Recreation Department sports is to develop good sportsmanship within the program. **Coaches must display the highest level of sportsmanship at all times.** Players and parents tend to emulate the example set by the coaching staff. Coaches should address the team’s sportsmanship standards at the first player/parent meeting and/or practice.

All games are in the hands of the referees and/or Recreation Supervisor. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including but NOT limited to profanity, threatening language, gestures, apparent indulgence in alcoholic beverages before or during the game, verbally abusing, roughing up, or fighting with anyone will NOT be tolerated.

If a referee and/or the program supervisor witnesses any acts of elbowing or unsportsmanlike acts, the game may be stopped and the offending player may be ejected from the game. Any unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, parents or spectators will result in automatic removal from the park and may be subject to additional sanctions for any conduct detrimental to the recreation program, which will be appropriately imposed by the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department. Sanctions range from oral abomination to termination from league participation.

Uniforms and Appropriate Attire

Only Smithville Parks and Recreation Department provided team shirts may be worn during matches. Teams with paid sponsorship, may request to add the sponsors’ name to the shirt but must check with the Recreation Supervisor to make the request and submit a sponsorship form prior to the shirts being ordered. Shirts will become property of the athletes at the end of the season. **Parents & coaches PLEASE help ensure your team is dressed appropriately prior to game time!**

- Shirts **MUST** remain tucked in during play.
- Appropriate size shin guards are mandatory for all players during practices and games. Shin guards **MUST** be covered by socks of the appropriate color.

- Plastic or rubber molded cleats are allowed. However, “toe cleats” must be removed and the toe cleat area smoothed to reduce the chance of kicking injuries. Absolutely, NO metal cleats will be permitted during practices or games. Players are allowed to wear plain tennis shoes if they do not have cleats.
- Jewelry may NOT be worn by any uniformed players.
- Eye wear must be attached to the wearer by means of non-dangling elastic/rubber eye ware strap.
- Medical alert devices are an exception but MUST be taped down with NO metal showing.
- NO hard casts are allowed.
- Hard plastic or metal containing devices such as pins, berets, clips, etc. will NOT be permitted. ONLY soft, non-abrasive, elastic, cloth or rubber hair restraining devices, sweat, and head bands are permitted.
- **ONLY goalie gloves will be provided.** NO other protective equipment is provided. Teams may choose to play without a goalie even if a goalie is recommended for the age division. Anyone uncomfortable at playing goalie may choose not to play goalie.

Video Photography, Picture Taking, and Closing Ceremonies

The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department, parent and coach concerns for participant privacy dictate the following: Video photography may only be taken by those directly associated (parent, guardian, relative, etc.) with the team(s) participating in the practice or match at hand. Video recording participant activities for use by distant relatives or as a parent keepsake is encouraged. Coaches, being most familiar with persons having valid reasons for recording their team’s soccer events, should address anyone unfamiliar to them and if appropriate, request that person to stop recording. As with any incident, please notify Smithville Parks and Recreation Department as soon as possible (512) 237-3282 Ext.7 and/or contact the local police department.

Team photos may be scheduled during the league. Coaches will provide further information and details once the date is set. Participants will be responsible for their own photo purchases.

Smithville Kickers is a recreational league, every child is a winner and will receive an award at the end of season. An informal award ceremony will be held at the end of the season following each team’s last game. Be sure to bring your camera to get pictures of your Kicker(s)!!!

Petitions

Petitions must be submitted by a coach or team manager. Any contested rulings or incidents that are NOT handled by the referee(s) or Parks and Recreation staff immediately or correctly can be communicated to the Parks and Recreation Director and Recreation Supervisor by filling out a petition form. In order to submit a petition, the form must be turned in with a \$10.00 petition deposit which will be forfeited if the petition is NOT approved. A petition form can be picked up at the Smithville Recreation Center. The petition fee along with a completed form must be turned into the Smithville Rec. Center within 24 hours, or the next business day (Monday-Friday/8AM-5PM) from when the contested issue occurred.

The Smithville Parks and Recreation Department staff has the final say over any appeal of the rules and has the ability to make decisions on any rules that are NOT covered.

General League Rules (Additional division rules apply for each age division)

- 1) Scheduled game start time is forfeit time; NO grace period.
- 2) Please show up 10-15 minutes prior to your scheduled game starting time.
- 3) Scorecards including the team's name, color, division, etc. shall be filled out and given to the referee (or the coach of the home team which is listed first on schedule) at least ten (10) minutes prior to the game starting time; for all divisions except Pee Wee.
- 4) ONLY coaches and players listed on the team's roster are allowed on the bench side of the field; everyone else including parents, siblings, etc. should sit on the other side.
- 5) Coaches, referees, and team captains should meet briefly prior to the start of each game for any instructions, questions, or ground rules.
- 6) Prior to the game, coaches and referees are responsible to make sure each player is wearing the appropriate attire.
- 7) The minimum number of legal uniformed players must be met for each team to start and continue a game. If a team scheduled to play CANNOT field the divisions minimum number of players throughout the game that team will have to forfeit.
- 8) Late players can still play after the game has started; however, the referee should be notified that a player is arriving late (late players do NOT account as a player for minimum requirements at game starting time).
- 9) Games will start by a coin toss, usually with the visiting team captain calling the toss. The winner of the toss must determine which end to attack and the other team kicks off (The home team is listed first on the game schedule).
- 10) Kickoffs will alternate at halves.
- 11) Teams will switch ends of the field at half time.
- 12) There will be NO overtime allowed.
- 13) When a goal is scored the ball must be taken back to the center circle and the team that did not score will kick-off.
- 14) NO slide tackling allowed in any league division.
- 15) Unlimited substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee when the play is stopped. Substitution time must be limited to less than one (1) minute. Since quarters are played, we recommend you may your substitutions during the breaks.
- 16) Substitutions must be ready to enter the field at the halfway line when the game is stopped.
- 17) On-coming player(s) must wait off the field until the off-going player(s) have completely exited the field.
- 18) Double touch rule applies for all age divisions. (Example: During throw-ins another player must touch the ball before the player who did the throw-in can touch the ball again).
- 19) All free kicks are indirect (you may NOT score directly from the kick) with the exception of the corner and penalty kicks. Scoring on kick-offs will NOT be allow in this league.
- 20) During halves, if play is stopped (ex. quarter break), the referee will restart the game at the location the ball was when the game was stopped; or a drop ball may be used to restart play.

Pee Wee Division Specific Rules

- Officials are NOT required. If an official is NOT assigned to the game, one coach from each team shall act as the referee and supervise the game for safety sake. If an official is assigned, only one (1) is necessary for this division.
- **Each Pee Wee team is allowed one (1) coach on the field but the coach is required to stay out of the way of play unless refereeing.**
- NO Goalie
- There shall be NO offside called during these games.

- NO caution or send off shall be issued to players for fouls or misconduct. If a child is too rambunctious then the coach should make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play.
- During corner kicks the ball must be placed inside corner arc or corner of the field. The defending players must stand at least five (5) yards away from the ball until it is in play.
- Goal kicks should be allowed to be taken from any point inside the goal area. The defending players must stand at least five (5) yards away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play once it has left the goal area.
- **This age group will use kick-ins ONLY, NO throw-ins; meaning the ball is on the ground and stationary so the player has a better chance of striking it correctly.**

Junior Division Specific Rules

- Officials are NOT required. If an official is NOT assigned to the game, one coach from each team shall act as the referee and supervise the game for safety's sake. If an official is assigned, only one (1) is necessary for this division.
- **Each Junior team is allowed one (1) coach on the field but the coach is required to stay out of the way of play unless refereeing.**
- NO Goalie
- There shall be NO offside called during these games.
- NO caution or send off shall be issued to players for fouls or misconduct. If a child is too rambunctious then the coach should make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play.
- During corner kicks the ball must be placed inside corner arc or corner of the field. The defending players must stand at least five (5) yards away from the ball until it is in play.
- Goal kicks should be allowed to be taken from any point inside the goal area. The defending players must stand at least five (5) yards away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play once it has left the goal area.
- **This age group will use throw-ins ONLY, NO kick-ins. If a throw is incorrect then referee must make the decision to allow one 'do-over' per thrower ('do-over's' should be limited as the season progresses). Coaches and referees should explain to the child how to execute the throw-in correctly.**

Intermediate & Senior Division Specific Rules

- At least one (1) designated official should be used for this division. If an official is NOT assigned to the game, one coach from each team shall act as the referee and supervise the game for safety's sake (Smithville PARD uses volunteer/paid officials that may NOT be certified).
- Offside rules may abide by USYSA; ONLY if a goalie is being used.
- Cautions or ejections shall only be issued to the players by the official (Cards will NOT be used; however, if a child is being disrespectful and/or dangerous the official may ask for the coach to substitute the player).
- Defending players must be the same distance as the radius of the center circle (8 yards) away from the ball until it is kicked for all indirect free kicks.
- During corner kicks the ball must be placed inside corner arc or corner of the field. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle (8 yards) until the ball is in play.

- Goal kicks may be taken from any point inside the goal area. The defending players must stand at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play once it has left the goal area.
- **Both age groups will use throw-ins ONLY, NO kick-ins, and NO ‘do-over’s’ accepted.**
- **Any player may substitute for the goalie to kick and then return to position.**
- **No charging will be allowed on goal kicks. Goalie may be allowed only one (1) redo to kick the ball.**
- **The goalie may not pick up a pass from team mate. If so, it must be an indirect kick from where it was touched. If the offensive team kicks it out crossing the goal line, play is restarted with a goal kick. All else is corner kicks.**

Smithville Kickers

Additional Coach’s Information

PRACTICES: Can begin the week of **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

GAMES: Tentatively set to be held at RIVERBEND Park on **TUESDAY** from 10/5-11/9

Please note, coaches will also act as game day referees. Referees are responsible for calling the games fairly by the appropriate league rules and keeping up with game time and records. Only one coach from each team will need to be on the field, the other may want to assist with keeping time, score, and monitoring players on the sidelines.

1. The intent of this Youth Sports Program is for players to have fun and learn the fundamentals of the sport. The goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide quality recreational activities for all of our youth. Remember that these are young children and they will have huge demands placed on them later in life to succeed. Our Youth Sports Programs will assist in the development of social skills within our kids!!!
2. Volunteers and coaches must read the general rules and specific rules for each age division they will be involved with. Rules and guidelines may be discussed at the coaches meeting, but we ask for everyone to be familiar with the rules prior to game days, so everyone has an opportunity to clear up any questions beforehand.
3. We require playing time to be equal or close to equal for all age divisions. If a player repeatedly fails to show up to practice at least two (2) consecutive times, you may choose to limit their playing time but must let the parents know prior to the game day. We suggest you keep an attendance record for practices so you have accurate records should a player’s time come into dispute.
4. Games are set to be held on Tuesdays. You are responsible for letting your team know of when practices and games will be held, where, and what time.
5. Game day equipment will be provided and limited practice equipment will be available.

6. Coaches should meet briefly, prior to the start of each game for any instructions, questions or ground rules to be discussed.
7. Coaches must advise all parents and players of the conduct and discipline rules. All coaches, parents, players, and spectators must obey by the rules.
8. Coaches, referees, and parents should all work together to achieve the positive experience we desire for our children. Arguing in front of the players sends the wrong message and will NOT be tolerated in our programs.
9. Running the players, when used as a disciplinary measure, is prohibited. Sarcastic or demeaning comments are NOT consistent with a fun and productive program and are NOT allowed.
10. In an instance where a problem arises with a player, parent or official, the Smithville Parks and Recreation Department should be notified as soon as possible, so the problem may be resolved efficiently and effectively.
11. Parents are part of the team and are great assets in helping with the team. You should stay in good standings; keep them informed, involved, and up to date.
12. Team awards will be handed out following each team's last game.
13. Team pictures shall be scheduled and coaches will be notified of the date/time/location. This information will need to be passed along to all players parents.
14. A successful season is NOT determined by score records or team standings. Success should be measured with three simple questions. 1) Did the players have fun? 2) Did the players learn? 3) Do the players want to continue playing?
15. Volunteers planning to officiate or coach for Smithville Kickers are encouraged to participate in any additional events or clinics we host in order to better our programs.

These guidelines are provided as an addition to help you succeed at your endeavors in coaching, if you have any questions, please contact Smithville Parks and Recreation Department at 512-237-3282 Ext. 7