

**RIPON 7 v 7 SOCCER
AGES 4 THRU 9**

Introductory Information for Coaches and Parents

1. **Goal of the League** The primary goal of the Ripon 7 v 7 or 8 v 8 Soccer League is to provide an enjoyable soccer experience for our children. This can be accomplished only through creating the right environment for the children. This means FUN with no pressure. The following is a list of some things we would like the parents and players to remember:

This is a community recreation league. We want to make it fun and a great learning experience for all.
We will not be keeping score or standings. Hopefully, this will take the pressure off of winning at all cost.
Parents will not be allowed to yell at players or referees. Positive encouragement is great. Yelling “What are you doing Johnny” is not what we are looking for. Yelling instructions on every play does not help the player learn the game. Games are for the kids to have fun and learn creativity. Please do the majority of your instructing at practice.
We also want to provide quality training for the kids. At this age, we recommend coaches concentrate on individual fundamentals. Players who touch the ball the most will be the best. It is the coaches job to create a practice environment that accomplishes this. The best way is through fun soccer games (not drills). Everyone should have a ball to maximize touches.
2. **League Structure** Teams will consist of 14 - 17 players. Each team will play at a time and field designated by the league schedule. The games will consist of four 8 minute quarters with 1 minute breaks for the 4's, 5's co-ed and 6, 7 boys and girls leagues. The games will consist of four 10-minute quarters with 1 minute breaks for the 8, 9 boys and girls leagues. Only one coach is allowed on the field for each team in the 4, 5 and 6, 7 leagues. No coaches will be allowed on the field for the 8, 9 leagues. We are trying to create an environment where all kids play all the time. Each team will show up and play two small-sided games simultaneously. Coaches will need to assign assistant coaches to help. The simultaneous games will be played on fields right next to each other. The best scenario will be to play 7 v 7 or 8 v 8. However, it will be up to the coaches to decide the playing scenario for the day. Example: One team has 15 and one team has 14. We will play 7 v 7 on one side and 7 v 7 on the other (one player is rotated in). If one team has 12 and the other 14. We will play 6 v 6 on both fields and the team with 14 will rotate in the two substitute players. This structure is designed to maximize playing time for all players in the league, maximize touches on the ball and maximize goal scoring and player involvement. All players will play

regardless if they attend practice. Coaches should be aware of siblings that play on the same team and try and have them play on the same field for the parents sake.

3. **Referees** Referees will be assigned for the 8, 9 leagues. In the 4, 5 and 6, 7 leagues the coaches for each team will referee/coach the games together. That way you can offer some guidance during the game. The coaches are instructed to keep the flow of the game moving. However, we do want to keep the players safe and fouls should be called. Only the obvious and clear handballs should be called. There are no penalty kicks. All fouls will be restarted with indirect kicks. We will have throw-ins when the ball goes out of bounds for the 6, 7 and 8, 9 year olds. We want to keep the ball in play and help keep the game going for the 4 & 5 year olds. Balls going over the end line will result in a corner kick if last touched by the defending team or a goal kick if last touched by the attacking team. Remember: only balls where the whole of the ball is over the line are out of bounds. There will be no offsides called. Each team will be responsible for supplying a whistle for its designated coach/referee.
4. **Safety** Coaches/Referees need to check the field for safety. Coaches need to make sure that all players have shin guards. Players should not wear jewelry or have any metallic items (braces, splints, etc) that could cause injury. Any player who is cut should be immediately removed from the field. That player should not be allowed back on the field until the wound is properly dressed and there is no blood on the uniform. Injuries: Referees should immediately attend to an injured player. Do not move an injured player or allow a coach or parent to do so until it is absolutely certain that it is safe to do so. When in doubt, contact the league supervisor or director and/or call 911 immediately.
5. **Fouls / Indirect Kicks** will be awarded for the following infractions: (Please note: an indirect free kick means the ball must be played/ touched by another player before a goal may be scored.
 - Intentionally kicking, striking, or jumping at an opponent.
 - Intentionally tripping, pushing, or charging an opponent.
 - Intentionally using one's hands to play the ball. Did the hand play the ball or did the ball play the hand?
 - Intentionally striking, pushing, or tripping by the goalie.
 - Striking the goalie or trying to kick the ball once the goalie has the ball. Referee should error on the side of safety for the goalie.
 - Holding or grabbing an opponent's uniform.
6. **Keepers** There will only be keepers (goalies) allowed for the 8 & 9 year old division. We DO NOT want players standing in front of the small goals for the 4, 5 and 6, 7 year old leagues. Players should be encouraged to play.

7. **Drop Balls** When it is undetermined who last played the ball out of bounds or when the game has been temporarily suspended. Restart the play with a drop ball. The referee must drop the ball from the waist level and the ball must touch the ground before being played by either player. A violation will result in an indirect kick.
8. **Start of the Game** The visiting team will begin play with the ball at the center in the first and third quarters. The home team will have the ball at the start of the second and fourth quarters.
9. **End of the Game** The time keeper will blow the whistle at the end of the fourth quarter. Coaches are encouraged to quickly have their teams leave the area of play to allow for the next teams to get ready to play.
10. **HAVE FUN!!! Please do not solicit trophies, team parties, etc. from our sponsors!**

If you have any questions regarding the format for the 7v7 and/or 8v8 soccer season or would like to voice any comments or concerns, please contact Kye Stevens at 209-599-2108 (4–7 years old) or Rod Wright at 209-602-5494 (8 years and older).