

**MARYVILLE-ALCOA-BLOUNT COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION**

SMALL-SIDED SOCCER RULES

The Recreation and Parks Commission is offering a small-sided soccer league for boys and girls ages 5-6. Leagues will be divided depending on the number of participants in each age group. Some leagues may need to be combined.

1. Field size is approximately 40 yards long and 30 yards wide. Goals are downsized to approximately 8 foot wide by 6 foot tall. **A #3 size ball is used.**
2. There are no goalkeepers, thus scoring is usually more frequent compared to full field soccer. A player may not "tend" or "camp out" in front of the goal. The defensive player may mark the offensive player or play a zone if at least 10 yards from the goal. Defensive players may retreat to defend the goal, but they must be attempting to play the ball or mark a player without the ball, and not simply obstruct the goal in order to block a shot. A shot stopped by an intentional hand ball in front of a goal will count as a goal if, in the opinion of the referee, the shot would have gone in the goal if it were not stopped.
3. Six (6) is the maximum number of players on the field for each team at a time. Substitutions should take place between quarters. Each player must play 2 quarters.
4. If either team cannot field at least 5 players, field team size may be reduced to 4 players. If a team cannot field 4 players, the game is considered a forfeit, and the coaches may elect to simply play a practice game by redistributing and using all players.
5. All balls leaving the field at the touch (side) lines will be thrown in by a member of the team who did not kick the ball out. Balls leaving the field at either end line will re-enter as a corner or goal kick depending on which team touched the ball last.
6. There is no off-side rule in the small-sided division.
7. Kick-offs at the beginning of the game and after each goal shall take place at the half line and the ball must go forward. All players must be on their side of the field on kick-offs. The kick-off is the only direct kick.
8. All kicks resulting from fouls or penalties shall be indirect (the ball must be touched by a second player of either team before a goal can count). Defensive players must be 5 yards from the ball on all kicks, and any fouls or penalties occurring within 5 yards of the goal shall be moved at least 5 yards from the goal.
9. Length of games shall be 40 minutes with four (4) 8-minute quarters. There will be a 5-minute intermission between halves, and referees may add time lost due to injury or official time-outs.
10. **For safety purposes, no participant may wear earrings of any kind! Male or female!**