

LF/SH Soccer 2016 General Info – Awards, Rules, Dates

Revised: 8/21/16

General

It is imperative that we stay on schedule with the game times. If teams are not ready to begin the game on schedule or late returning from breaks, the game may need to be ended early by league officials so that the next game can begin on time.

Have your players at the field no less than 30 minutes before game time.

Our games are played at the soccer complex on Mehrhof Road in Little Ferry. Directions to the field are posted on the website at www.lfshsoccer.com.

There may be changes in Game Times and/or Duration as well as Minimum/Maximum players for games and rules. These are marked with 2 Asterisks (**)

Important Dates – Subject to Change

September 11	Opening Day – <u>Ceremonies begin at 11:00am (ALL MUST BE PRESENT 11:00 AM SHARP)</u>
October 30	Last Weekend of Regular Season for ALL divisions
November 5	Mayor's Cup Playoffs for Div. 3-5 and 6-8 (First Round)
November 6	Mayor's Cup Playoffs for Div. 3-5 and 6-8 (Semi-Finals)
November 19	Mayor's Cup Final games for Div. 3-5 and 6-8 (If Needed)
November 20	Staff Soccer Game, Trophy Presentation for all players and end of season party

Field Rules

- ✓ USE IS BY PERMIT – **Our permit is for LFSH Soccer meaning the 28 teams associated with our program**
- ✓ NO SMOKING or CHEWING TOBACCO
- ✓ NO GUM, FOOD, SOFT DRINKS, FRUIT JUICE, OR SPORTS DRINKS - WATER IS THE ONLY DRINK PERMITTED
- ✓ NO SUNFLOWER OR PUMPKIN SEEDS
- ✓ NO PETS, BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, RAZOR SCOOTERS, OR MOTORIZED VEHICLES OF ANY KIND
- ✓ NO METAL TIPPED SOCCER OR BASEBALL CLEATS PERMITTED – RUBBER ONLY

Awards

- ✓ All age divisions will receive a Trophy type award
- ✓ 1st and 2nd place teams in Division 3-5 and 6-8 will receive trophies as winners of regular season
- ✓ Mayor's Cup Winners and Runners Up in each of the 3-5 and 6-8 Divisions will receive trophies

Scoring to determine Standings

- ✓ **3 points are awarded for a WIN or FORFEIT**
- ✓ **1 point is awarded for a TIE**
- ✓ **0 points are awarded when both teams are unable to field a team**
- ✓ **0 points are awarded for a loss**

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Personal Equipment – Please inform your players of the following:

- ✓ Shin guards are mandatory for all age divisions
- ✓ Rubber Soccer Cleats are strongly suggested for Kindergarten through 5th grade divisions, **MANDATORY for 6-8**
- ✓ Mouth guards for children with braces are strongly suggested at all age levels
- ✓ NJ state law requires participants in youth **sports** who wear **eyeglasses** to wear protective **sport** glasses for all age levels
- ✓ No jewelry will be allowed to be worn during games or practices
- ✓ Soccer Ball Sizes for those wishing to buy a soccer ball:
 - Division Pre-K, K and 1-2 Size 3
 - Division 3-5 Size 4
 - Division 6-8 Size 5

Game Durations

- ✓ Division Pre-K 30 Minute game with Two 15 minute halves (5 minute break)
- ✓ Division K 40 Minute game with Two 20 minute halves (5 minute break)
- ✓ Division 1-2 50 Minute game with Two 25 minute halves (5 minute break)
- ✓ Division 3-5 60 Minute game with Two 30 minute halves (5 minute break)
- ✓ Division 6-8 60 Minute game with Two 30 minute halves (5 minute break)

Game Days and Times (All games Mehrhof Road Field in Little Ferry)

- ✓ Division Pre-K Sundays Game 1 – 12:30pm
 Game 2 – 1:10pm
- ✓ Division KDG Sundays Game 1 – 1:50pm
 Game 2 – 2:40pm
- ✓ Division 1-2 Sundays Game 1 – 12:30pm
 Game 2 – 1:30pm
 Game 3 – 2:30pm
- ✓ Division 3-5 Sundays Game 1 – 12:30pm **
 Game 2 – 1:45pm **
 Game 3 – 3:00pm **
- ✓ Division 6-8 Sundays Game 1 – 12:30pm **
 Game 2 – 1:45pm **
 Game 3 – 3:00pm **

Rules

Normal FIFA soccer rules apply to all levels with the following exceptions:

Division Pre-K

- ✓ No offside rulings
- ✓ 1 warning for improper Throw-ins...Referee will instruct. 2nd improper throw-in requires new thrower FROM SAME TEAM
- ✓ No Penalty Area or Offside violations
- ✓ Handballs – Play is stopped; player is instructed about using hands; play is restarted with a drop ball
- ✓ All fouls result in INDIRECT free kick with opponents a minimum of 4 yards away **
- ✓ Maximum 6 players on field including Goalie **
- ✓ Minimum 4 players on field including Goalie to avoid Forfeit **
- ✓ **Maximum 2 coaches from each team on the field**

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Division K

- ✓ No offside rulings
- ✓ 1 warning for improper Throw-ins...Referee will instruct. 2nd improper throw-in requires new thrower FROM SAME TEAM
- ✓ No Penalty Area or Offside violations
- ✓ Handballs – Play is stopped; player is instructed about using hands; play is restarted with a drop ball
- ✓ All fouls result in INDIRECT free kick with opponents a minimum of 4 yards away **
- ✓ Maximum 6 players on field including Goalie
- ✓ Minimum 4 players on field including Goalie to avoid Forfeit
- ✓ **Maximum 2 coaches from each team on the field**

Division 1-2

- ✓ All opposing players must be a minimum of 8 yards from the ball on Free Kicks
- ✓ A second throw-in is allowed in the event of a foul on initial attempt. Referee and/or coaches should instruct proper method. Second foul throw results in loss of possession.
- ✓ NO Offside called
- ✓ NO Penalty kicks
- ✓ All fouls result in INDIRECT free kick with opponents a minimum of 8 yards away. **Free Kicks awarded for fouls inside of Penalty Area will be INDIRECT ONLY**
- ✓ Maximum 8 players on field including Goalie **
- ✓ Minimum 6 players on field including Goalie to avoid Forfeit **
- ✓ **Maximum 1 coach from each team on the field (COACHES ARE NOT PERMITTED INSIDE THE BOX)**

Division 3-5

- ✓ Offside rules are enforced
- ✓ Maximum 9 players on field including Goalie
- ✓ Minimum 7 players on field including Goalie to avoid Forfeit ** **(Min. / Max. Subject to Change)**
- ✓ **No coaches on the field**

Division 6-8

- ✓ Offside rules are enforced
- ✓ Maximum 7 players on field including Goalie **
- ✓ Minimum 5 players on field including Goalie to avoid Forfeit ** **(Min. / Max. Subject to Change)**
- ✓ **No coaches on the field**

All divisions – League Exceptions

- ✓ If a team is forced to forfeit the game, the teams should still play. Coaches can split the players up to enable 2 teams. If neither team can field the minimum number of players no points are awarded
- ✓ Clock stops for injuries at the referees discretion
- ✓ Referee will signal start of each period...if teams are not ready ½ minute after the signal, the period will be shortened.
- ✓ If a player who is lying on the ground kicks the ball it is considered dangerous play and is a foul. Opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick.
- ✓ Slide Tackles are legal... to avoid injuries, caution should be used and only experienced players should attempt.

Playing Time and Substitution

- You must get permission from the referee before subs can enter
- There are unlimited substitutions
- You may sub on your own throw-in and either team may sub at any stoppage in play (Goal, Corner, and Free Kicks, after a goal is scored, stoppage for injury, halftime)
- Subbing for Goalkeeper – While not prohibited, changing Goalkeepers during the game is not recommended. This can be seen as time wasting and the referee may add time at the end of the game.

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Each participant must play at least 1 half per game.

Rules Clarification and Suggestions – (Denotes a Rule or Procedure Change)**

1. **Respect the referees**...players disrespecting a referee may receive a Red Card and removal from the game. Coaches will be warned once by the referee and if the behavior continues, the game will be suspended. Spectators are subject to the same rules; those causing a problem will be "turned over" to the respective coach (or both coaches) to handle. If the spectator continues to disrupt the game the coaches will be asked to escort them out of the area and if necessary the Police will be called.
2. **Scoring**...Total Goals scored by a team are NOT used as a tie-breaker...This year's tie-breaker will be least goals allowed in the regular season. All scores posted will reflect no more than a 5 goal difference.
3. **Coin Toss**...
 - a. Home Team always calls the toss
 - b. Winner of toss always chooses goal to defend in first half
 - c. Loser of toss always gets to kick off
 - d. Winner of toss always gets kick off to start second half
 - e. Change goal ends only at halftime
4. **Kicks after Goalkeeper saves**...any ball kicked or dropkicked into the opponents Penalty Area on the fly will be penalized by an Indirect Free Kick for the opponents from the halfway line.
5. **Ball in and out of play**...The ball is considered IN PLAY until no part of it is touching a line. Likewise, the ball must be entirely over the goal line to be considered a goal.
6. **Goalkeepers Carrying Ball into Goal after a save**...
 - a. It is a goal if goalkeeper who after making a save, walks back across the goal line into the goal
 - b. It is a goal if the goalkeeper's backward momentum carries the ball back across the goal line into the goal.
 - c. Play is not dead after a save
7. **Offside Rules**...it is not a violation of the rule to be in an offside position. There are several factors that constitute offside. A player is not offside until, in the opinion of the referee, he becomes involved in play.
8. **Offside Trap**...If you play the offside trap be aware that with a single referee you may not always get this call due to referee's positioning or experience level
9. **Free Kicks in Penalty Area**...Direct and indirect kicks from within the defending teams Penalty Area are treated the same as a Goal Kick
 - a. All opponents must be out of the Penalty Area
 - b. No player can touch the ball until it has left the Penalty Area
10. **Goalkeeper Possession**...When the Goalkeeper has trapped the ball between his hand and a solid object such as the ground, goal post, etc. Having a "finger" on the ball is not possession.
11. **** Injuries** – When a player is injured and that injury results in a stoppage of play, the injured player MUST leave the game for a minimum of 2 minutes. He can reenter during normal substitution situations after the 2 minutes is up. Referees will do their best to stop play for injuries; however play will not be stopped automatically as soon as a player is on the ground if the opposing team has the ball. Referees will make a judgment call regarding the seriousness of the injury and may allow play to continue until the ball changes hands. Please explain this to your players, parents, and fans.

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Coaches Responsibilities

1. **Keep your players at least 2 yards back from the sideline**
2. **Keep all drink bottles, carry bags, shoes, etc. well away from the sideline**
3. **NO SPECTATORS on sideline with your team**
4. **Goal setup and movement – this includes sandbagging the back of the nets and making sure that the nets are on the goal properly**
5. **Trash – Clean up after your game regardless of whether it is the first or last game of the day**
6. **Enforce all Field Rules during practices AND games**
7. **Insure that the players uniform is worn properly; shin guards covered by socks and uniform shirt is the topmost layer of clothing**

**** Handball Clarification**

In order to clarify the rules and eliminate confusion for all concerned the referees will call handballs according to FIFA rules which make no mention or ruling regarding “handballs”. The direct rule as shown below in the third bullet refers to “handles the ball deliberately...”

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following three offences:

- ***Holds an opponent***
- ***Spits at an opponent***
- ***Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)***

There is no reference in any soccer rule to handballs and in fact, research indicates that most referees, coaches, players, and fans do not understand what constitutes a handball. This results in confusion and inconsistency. FIFA has made it easy; the ball must be handled **DELIBERATELY** by the player (***in the opinion of the referee***) to constitute a foul. This applies to the forearms, upper arms and shoulders as well unless those parts of the body are used purposefully to redirect the ball. In other words, the same rules that apply to the hands apply to the arms.

- Protecting ones face or body with arms or hands held close is not a handball
- Balls kicked directly at another players hands or arms is not a handball
- Touching the ball while running with arms or hands in a normal running position or even away from the body is not a handball unless it is touched **DELIBERATELY**
- A ball that bounces up and hits the arm or hand is not a handball

If in any of these cases or even situations not mentioned, the player attempts to use the hands or arms to consciously/deliberately redirect the ball then it would be called a handball.

If an accidental touch of the ball results in retaining possession of the ball or even scoring a goal it is **STILL NOT A HANDBALL**. Advantage only applies when referring to determining if a player is to be called for an offside infraction.

Remember – “The player plays the ball...the ball doesn’t play the player”.