

4-5s Guidelines

In the 4-5s age group, our priority is point the kids to Christ and teach them the game of soccer in a safe, fun, loving environment. The following guidelines will help us to achieve this goal.

Practice Time (first 15 minutes of game time slot):

- Coaches work on games/drills with the kids. Refs may assist as needed.
- Try to do games/drills that involve as many players as possible. Avoid drills with long lines with one player going at a time. To keep the kids' interest, turn the drills into fun games whenever possible.
- Coaches, please put all soccer balls in the bag when practice time ends.

Pre-Game Meeting:

- Ref blows the whistle to call kids in 15 minutes after time slot begins. Please start on time.
- Ref should pray with the kids, then briefly reviews basic rules (no pushing, no hands, defenders can't cross midfield, etc.) with kids.
- If one team doesn't have enough players, one team can share players with the other team to even things out. We can also play 4v4 or 3v3.

During the Game (two 16-minute halves):

- The ref is there to keep the game flowing. You don't need to call every handball, out of bounds, etc. Use lots of grace and stop the game only when necessary.
- However, refs should blow the whistle to stop the game if the ball goes way out of bounds (especially past the goal line), a player is in an unsafe position (e.g. on the ground near where players are kicking), someone is pushing, etc. We want the game to flow, but we don't want the game to be chaotic and unsafe.
- One coach from each team should be on the field to help guide the players. While the ref is the primary game administrator, coaches may step in to support the ref, and one another, when necessary. All other coaches, players, and parents should be off the field behind the dashed line on the side of the field opposite the fence.
- Players can sit with their team or parents, but one of the coaches (or a parent, if there is no assistant coach available) should be keeping track of the players who are not on the field. Sometimes players will run onto the field - it happens - so coaches should be helping to keep them where they should be. No one should be behind either goal line.
- The two designated "defenders" from each team should stay in their half and not cross midfield (see diagram on back). Players will forget this, so coaches should remind them repeatedly and encourage them to spread out. You do not need to stop the game every time this happens.

A Goal

A Defender

A Defender

A Forward

A Forward

A Forward

Defenders do not cross midfield

B Forward

B Forward

B Forward

B Defender

B Defender

B Goal