

CHERRY HILL UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Guidelines for Small-Sided Games

These Guidelines are intended to describe some basic elements and expectations of our small-sided games. We do not specify how many players should be involved in a small-sided game. But the core concept of small-sided games is to have only a few players involved, playing in a relatively small area, so that each player has frequent direct contact with the soccer ball (“touches”). Thus, coaches should not be concerned when attendance is light and the small sided games are as small as 3 v 3. By adjusting the field size, we can adapt easily to such situations and the children will benefit immensely.

1. Coaches will be on the field to control play.

- Let the players play; give positive feedback but refrain from “play by play” instruction.
- Players should play all positions (areas). Coaches should teach attacking, defending, supporting.
- All players should get equal playing time.

2. Emphasize Safe Play.

- Do not permit tripping, pushing, grabbing. Tell the players to keep their arms down.
- Do not permit slide tackles. Tell the players to stay on their feet. Discourage players from kicking the ball when they are down.
- Play should be stopped when an unsafe play is committed or when there is an advertent hand ball.
- Explain why play has been stopped and then restart play from the position on the field
- Where the foul occurred. Restart should be with an indirect kick (the ball must be touched by someone else before it may go into the net in order to count as a goal).

3. Keep the Rules to a Minimum.

- No throw-ins or corner kicks; just play the ball in.
- Emphasize defense and explain that cherry-picking is improper, but do not call offsides.
- After scores, let the team that did not score start with the ball. At the beginning of the game, either just toss the ball in or simply tell one team to start with it.
- No penalty kicks.
- DO NOT KEEP SCORE.

4. Emphasize Sportsmanship.

- Make sure that all players, parents and coaches know about and are familiar with CHUSA's Zero Tolerance Policy. Players, parents, coaches and anyone else involved with this program shall be expected to show respect for one another at all times.
- Players and coaches should shake hands after each game.