



B O T E T O U R T

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Youth Soccer Rules and Regulations

The purpose of Youth Recreational Athletic Leagues is to provide an enjoyable organized experience under capable adult supervision for the youth in Botetourt County. The program is organized to promote sportsmanship, cooperation, and fair play at all times while developing knowledge and skills of the game.

The Botetourt County Youth Soccer Leagues are governed by "United States Soccer Federation" or "**FIFA**" and will apply except as modified herein.

Any team participating in leagues outside of Botetourt County will be required to adhere to that area's rules and regulations.

Age Classification: Playing age is that age attained by a player prior to September 30th of the current soccer season.

League	Ages	Roster Size	Players during game	Length of quarters or halves	Goal Size	Playing Field (approx. yardage)	Ball Used
Biddy Co-Ed	5	Min- 6 Max- 8	4 v 4 No Keeper	4- 6 min quarters (no score kept)	3' H x 4' W	25 x 35 (½ of U8 field)	3
U8 Co-Ed	6-7	Min- 9 Max- 14	7 v 7	4- 6 min quarters (no score kept)	6' H x 12' W	35 x 50	3
U10	8-9	Min- 10 Max- 16	8 v 8	4- 8 min quarters	6' H x 18' W	40 x 60	4
U12	10-11	Min- 13 Max- 22	11 v 11	4- 10 min quarters	8' H x 24' W	55 x 100	4
U14	12-13	Min- 13 Max- 22	11 v 11	4- 12 min quarters	8' H x 24' W	55 x 100	5
U17	14-16	Min- 13 Max- 22	11 v 11	2- 20 min halves	8' H x 24' W	55 x 100	5
U19	17-18	Min- 10 Max- 20	8 v 8	2- 20 min halves	8' H x 24' W	55 x 100	5

I. Player Eligibility

- A. The eligibility age for participation is minimum of five (5) and a maximum of eighteen (18) years of age. Eighteen year olds must be enrolled in school.
- B. Players must be a Botetourt County resident or attend a Botetourt County Public School to be eligible to participate in any Botetourt County Youth Athletic League. If a players moves out of the county, they may continue to participate in the program until they age out, as long as their participation is continuous in that specific sport with no breaks between the age classifications.
- C. A child must play for the booster club that represents the elementary school district in which they live or school they attend.
- D. All players must be registered with the recreation department and/or booster club before he or she is allowed to practice or play in a game.

II. Team Rosters

- A. Roster size requirements are listed in the chart on page 1.
- B. Any booster club fielding more than one team per age group must place players on teams by using the County drafting procedures.
- C. Rosters will be due to the Recreation Department no later than the first Friday of August. No additions will be accepted after rosters have been submitted to the Recreation Department. Exception: the player moves into the county after the roster deadline or team needs players to fill roster.
- D. Transfer of players during the season is prohibited, although teams may borrow players to field the minimum number to play, contingent to borrow player rule listed under league rules below.
- E. All teams must be sponsored by an existing recreation club. Each club will be responsible for providing sign-up information, safe playing equipment, and securing coaches.
- F. A parent or guardian of each participant must sign a Parents Code of Ethics before he or she is eligible to participate in games. Codes of Ethics are only good for current playing season.
- G. Coaches must be certified through NYSCA (National Youth Sport Coaches Association) before he or she is allowed to coach a team during a practice or game. Certifications are current for one year from date the certification was received.
- H. Coaches must consent to a background screening and be cleared to coach before he or she is allowed to coach a team during a practice or game.
- I. Any coach found to be using an ineligible player may be suspended from coaching for a period of one year. The suspension is applicable to any and all sports from the date formal action was taken.

III. Children Playing Up

- A. At the Booster Clubs discretion, children are allowed to be moved up in order to field a team in a given age group.
- B. The parent or guardian of a child who is in the upper age of an age group may also request to play up to the next age level by requesting such permission through the Booster Club. The Club will then make their recommendation to the Recreation Department, who will make the final determination. Once a player is moved up they may not move back down for the duration of the playing season.

IV. League Rules

- A. Practice will begin on August 1st each season. Games will begin on Saturday after the start of school.
- B. Before games begin, a maximum of two (2) practice sessions per week, at one and ½ hours per session.
- C. After games begin, a maximum of three (3) sessions per week, at no more than one and ½ hours per session.
- D. Uniforms must consist of matching jerseys with a number on the back, matching shorts and matching socks. Sweat pants may be worn if the shorts are worn over the sweats.
- E. If two teams have the same color jersey, the home team will be responsible for wearing mesh pullovers.
- F. Shin guards must be worn for all practices and games and must be completely covered by socks.
- G. Rubber soled or rubber cleated shoes only. Cleats cannot contain any visible metal materials.
- H. Each coach must submit a line up card with players' names and numbers to the game official before game begins.

- I. Bidy (U6) leagues must start with four (4) players.
- J. Instructional (U8), U10 and U19 leagues must start game with seven (7) players.
- K. U12, U14 and U16 leagues must start with at least nine (9). If additional players show up, they may be inserted in the game on a whistle and must wait for the officials signal to enter.
- L. Teams will be given ten (10) minutes after schedules start time to produce minimum number of players to begin the game.
- M. **Teams may borrow players from other teams (if available) from the same age group/division. Teams may only borrow enough players to meet the minimum number player rule. The borrowed player(s) must wear their originals team's jersey, cannot play as goalie or on the front line and may not play more time than the original team players.**
- N. **Heading Rule for U12 and under (to deter heading at a young age): Anytime a ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. Restarts for 8 and under will be a dropped ball. Restarts for U10 and U12 will be determined by official.**
- O. All jewelry is prohibited.
- P. The Recreation Department will handle rescheduled games should teams fall under the number of 10 games (ages U10 and up). Teams losing games to weather or school conflicts have the option to contact the opposing coach and schedule a controlled scrimmage with one coach/person from each side to officiate, and the score will stand as a played game. The right to protest the controlled scrimmage will be waived.
- Q. Any game called early because of inclement weather will be considered a complete game when at least ½ of the game has been completed.
- R. Game cancellation information can be obtained by calling 540-992-0012 after 4:00pm on weekdays and 7:30am on Saturdays.
- S. Game schedules and league standings can be obtained at www.botetourt.org/recreation.

V. Game Play

- A. There will be a two (2) minute rest period between quarters and a five-minute rest period between halves.
- B. Score will not be kept in Bidy and Instructional Leagues.
- C. No dedicated player should be specifically stationed as a goalie for biddy league.
- D. Since there is no penalty area in U8, there will be no penalty kicks, rather a free/direct kick from the spot of the foul.
- E. One (1) coach is allowed on the field during play in Bidy and Instructional Leagues games. Coaches should refrain from entering into penalty box and interfering with play.
- F. All players present must play a minimum of one quarter in each half in U14 leagues and below. In U17 and U19 leagues, all players must play approximately ten (10) minutes in each half.
- G. Substitutions for U14 leagues and below must be made between quarters. U17 and U19 will sub according to High School League Rules.
- H. Players or coaches ejected with two (2) yellow cards or one red card are automatically disqualified from the team's next game.
- I. Injured players may be removed from game at any time. If coach makes a substitution for the injured player, that sub must play the remainder of the quarter or half. If the coach does not substitute for the injured player, they may be re-inserted in the game on a whistle and must wait for the officials signal to enter.

VI. Standings

- A. Standings will be based upon a point system.
 - 1. Two (2) points for a win.

2. One (1) point for a tie.
 3. Zero (0) points for a loss.
- B. Medallions will be awarded to the team in first place in each division at the end of the regular season. In the event of a tie for first place, co-champion medallions will be awarded to each team that is tied.

VII. Lightning Policy

- A. Anytime Lightning is visible, then all players, coaches, fans and umpires should **Take Shelter Immediately!**
- B. Flash (Bang) Method – Count seconds between lightning flash and thunder and divide by 5 – this gives the distance of lightning in miles. If count is 30 seconds or less **Take Shelter Immediately!**
- C. The Officials and Coaches should instruct all players and fans that danger is present and they should seek shelter immediately. **Safe** places for shelter would be fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up, enclosed buildings or the low ground. Seek cover in clumps of bushes. **Unsafe** shelter areas include all nearby outdoor metallic objects like flag poles, fences, high mast light poles, metal bleachers, etc. **AVOID** water, **AVOID** open fields, **AVOID** using the telephone.
- D. If you feel your hair standing on end or hear “crackling noises” you are in lightning’s electric field. Immediately remove metal objects (including baseball cap), place your feet together, duck your head and crouch down with hands on knees.
- E. If anyone is struck by lightning **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY**. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle. Apply CPR immediately if you are qualified to do so. Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AED’s) are located at the main restroom facilities at each location in the event one is needed.
- F. Wait at least **30 minutes** after the last lightning flash before resuming activities.

VIII. Protest

- A. Protests on a rule interpretation, not a judgment call must be filed with your athletic director who will then submit the protest in writing (within 48hrs of the game) to the Parks and Recreation office.
- B. A \$15.00 protest fee, which will be refunded if the protest committee upholds the protest, should accompany the following information: Date, time and location of game. Names of officials, scorers, teams, coaches and others involved and the rule interpretation being protested, along with a detailed explanation of the circumstances.

IX. Sportsmanship

- A. The purpose of the Youth Recreation league is to provide an enjoyable experience for each youth participant, while developing character, skills, sportsmanship, and to promote good will among all players, coaches, parents, officials and recreational staff.
- B. Any person involved in or taking part in any event sponsored by the Recreation Department that damages or destroys property while using the facilities will be suspended indefinitely, and will be responsible for the cost of required repairs.
- C. Any coach found to be using illegal player, using an assumed name, falsifying a roster, or giving false information to an official or recreation department staff may result in the individual being suspended for up to one year. The suspension is applicable to all sports from the date of the suspension.
- D. Misconduct by players, coaches, spectators, officials, scorekeepers or supervisory personnel will not be tolerated. Misconduct can be defined as improper gesturing,

aggressive verbal or physical contact and the use of alcohol, smoke or smokeless tobacco and illegal substances.

E. Founded misconduct will result in the following actions and/or penalties:

NON-PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

Any player, coach or spectator who gestures or verbally abuses an official, coach, player, spectator or supervisory personnel will be removed from the game and is subject, upon the written report, to suspension. If the official recommends suspension, Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Department will suspend the player, coach or spectator from one (1) to three (3) games or in severe cases, a ban from the league. A suspended player, coach or spectator is on probation for the period of one (1) year after the violation. Any further abuse will result in being banned from the league.

PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

Any player, coach or spectator using aggressive or improper misconduct such as striking or pushing a player, spectator, official or supervisory personnel will be subject to being banned from the league. Any player, coach or spectator fighting among each other before, during or after a game or anytime on Botetourt County property will be banned from the league. The officials or recreation club's report will determine the length and severity of the penalty.

PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Any personnel such as officials, scorekeepers or supervisory personnel under the direction of the Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Department or a specific recreation club acting in an official capacity, must act in a professional, ethical or unbiased manner. They are also prohibited from misconduct of improper gestures, verbal or physical abuse. The penalty is automatic suspension or dismissal for as long as the Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Department deems necessary.

USE OF ALCOHOL, SMOKE OR SMOKELESS TOBACCO AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

It is misconduct for coaches, players, officials, recreation volunteers or Botetourt County employees to use any of the substances listed above in the presence of children. Penalty for using substances may result in suspension or being banned from the program.