

MARKHAM SOCCER CLUB HOUSE LEAGUE PLAYOFF FORMAT – OUTDOOR 2008 SEASON

The following rules will apply to all U8 through U18 league playoff games.

1) Equal Play Rule & Goalkeeper Changes

Note that in all games, no player may sit out a second time until all players have sat out once, and no player may sit out a third time until all players have sat out twice. This includes and extends into any required overtime periods. The substitutions DO NOT start over at the end of regulation time. Keep in mind that equal play still applies in the U18 divisions, however the onus is on the coaches to monitor this, as the referee is not expected to record substitutions. The penalty for an equal play violation during a playoff game is reversal of the game result for the game in question (if the team in question was the winner).

The goalkeeper is subject to the same equal play requirement as all other players. The goalkeeper in U18 divisions may only be changed (except for cases of injury) at: 1) the half-time break in the game, 2) no more than once each half, and 3) at the start of each overtime period, if appropriate. In the U8 to U14 divisions only, the coach may change the keeper at every substitution. Any substitutions made during a half (i.e., while the clock is still running) are allowed at the referee's discretion, with the proviso that this is done quickly and does not extend the time needed to make substitutions.

2) Call-ups

Borrowed players ("call-ups") MAY NOT be recruited for ANY playoff games.

3) Playoff Quarter-Finals and First Round Games

All Quarter-Final and first round playoff games must have a winner. Due to scheduling constraints that require two games per field and the early arrival of darkness, there is not enough time for overtime play in the U8 to U12 divisions. To that end, if a game is tied at the end of regular playing time in these divisions, the game will be decided IMMEDIATELY by proceeding to penalty kicks. The games will also be shortened to allow enough time for potential penalty kick situations:

U8 to U10	2 halves of 21 minutes non-stop, each divided into 3 periods of 7 minutes
U12	2 halves of 22 minutes non-stop, each divided into 2 periods of 11 minutes

For the U14 and U18 divisions, Quarter-Final games will follow the same format as Semi-Final and Championship Final games, as described below.

4) Semi-Final and Championship Final Games

All Semi-Final and Championship Final playoff games must have a winner. In all Semi-Final and Championship Final games (plus Quarter-Final games in the U14 and U18 divisions), two overtime periods will be played if the score is tied at the end of regulation time. During overtime, the team that scores the first goal is declared the winner ("Golden Goal"). There will be normal player substitution prior to the start of both overtime periods. Equal play still applies as outlined above. If the game is still tied at the end of the second overtime period, then penalty kicks will be used to determine the winner.

Regulation time will be the same as the regular season:

U8 to U10	2 halves of 24 minutes non-stop, each divided into 3 periods of 8 minutes
U12 and U14	2 halves of 25 minutes non-stop, each divided into 2 periods of 12½ minutes
U18	2 halves of 45 minutes non-stop

The **overtime periods** will be of the following length:

U8 to U10	2 periods of 5 minutes each
U12 to U18	2 periods of 10 minutes each

Penalty kicks shall consist of 5 alternating kicks by each team that may be taken by any 5 players, whether they were on the field or not at the end of the game. The goalkeeper may also be one of the kickers. ANY player may be the goalkeeper, and the goalkeeper may be changed between penalty kicks. The full teams must sit in two groups near centre field while the penalty kicks are being taken. Before the penalty kicks begin, the referee records the shirt numbers in the order in which the kicks are to be taken. The referee tosses a coin and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick. The winner will be the team with the most goals after five penalty kicks, or the team that is so far ahead in the score that the other team cannot catch up with their remaining kicks.

If the score is still tied after five kicks by each team, then alternating kicks will be taken, one by one, by the remaining players. Alternating kicks, following the same sequence as in the first round, will continue to be taken until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.