



*East Shelby Church
Recreation Association*

2017-18 Membership Agreement

This is a formal agreement for membership into the East Shelby Church Recreation Association (**ESCRA Sports**). This document contains association processes and league rules for participation. Membership approval is dependent upon agreeing TO, and abiding by the following policies and procedures listed in this document, and a signed submittal of the **Letter of Authority** (page 15).

MISSION STATEMENT

ESCRA Sports is a non-profit organization designed to provide and promote recreational sports between churches, schools, and other organizations in a Christ-honoring environment. ESCRA has dedicated its mission to serving the Shelby County area since 1997, and looks forward to building community by “Playing with a Purpose”.

PURPOSE

- Provide youth athletic competition for players ages 4-17 (divisions are based on a player’s **EXACT** age on June 1, 2017)
- To promote a wholesome environment that will assure a spirit of fair play and Christian sportsmanship
- To promote participation in team sports
- Most importantly, to encourage sports fellowship that honors Jesus Christ

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

1. To become an Association Member, a signed **Letter of Authority** is required, signed by the Senior Pastor, Principal, or President stating that one-individual is identified as their (Church/School/Organization) **CSO Representative**, and has the authority and capacity as administrator to enter and pay for teams participating in ESCRA Sports.
2. ESCRA Sports is a recreational sports league and promotes instruction, learning, teamwork and performance over winning. **NO-TRYOUT** or **COMPETITIVE** teams are allowed to participate.
3. **FACILITY USE** – association members participating with GYMS and FIELDS should provide a minimum of four hours of consecutive time. For organizations with four+ teams = one hour of facility time for Saturday games.
4. **Site Review and Inspection**- All ESCRA facilities receive in Board Approval, with new facilities receiving an inspection to ensure size, playability and player safety.
5. **Liability Insurance** –CSO’s must submit a copy of their facility coverage annually.



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ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The **Letter of Authority** (page 15) must be submitted prior to registering teams, and signed by your organization's Senior Pastor/Principal/President. This letter provides the CSO Representative with authority to enter and pay for team registrations. This letter and Association Membership renewal is annual.
2. **CSO Representatives** are Recreation/Athletic Directors and Coordinators, who are identified and responsible for sports administration at their facilities including the actions of their respective coaches, players and spectators and possible disciplinary actions if needed.
3. **CSO representatives MUST ATTEND each Pre-Season Meeting for which teams are registered.**
4. If the CSO representative is unable to attend, **ANOTHER** representative appointed by the CSO **MUST** attend in their place.
5. CSO representatives are responsible for completing and submitting the following paperwork prior to the published deadlines:
 - **Field Scheduling Request Form**
 - **Online Exemption Requests – PRIOR TO Team Roster deadlines**
 - **Team Registration Form**
 - **Team Rosters - including coach and player information**
 - Roster Additions –updates/changes **MUST** be sent to Roster Coordinator
 - Payment for Team Registration Fees
6. CSO representatives are responsible for communicating **League Schedules** from the ESCRA website to their coaches and families: **<http://www.EscraSportsTech.net>**.
7. CSO representatives **MUST** communicate to their respective parents/players they cannot be registered with any other leagues or associations, competitive or recreational in the current sport during the current season.
8. CSO representatives are responsible for holding a coaches meeting each season for their coaches to advise them of “Do’s & Don’ts”, division rules, ESCRA philosophy, league dates, schedules, and etc.
9. CSO representatives **MUST** report any unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior by players, coaches, spectators or referees to the ESCRA President on Game-Day by phone OR text, and within **24-hours with a follow-up email**.



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SITE MANAGERS – Host Facilities

- ESCRA Members are encouraged to donate their facilities and host ESCRA games: If games are scheduled at your facility, it is **MANDATORY** attendance for Site Managers to be present on campus during all ESCRA basketball, flag football, soccer and kickball games.
- If the **SITE MANAGER is different from the CSO**, they **MUST** also attend the pre-season meeting.
- Site Managers **MUST** be available to discuss any emergency, incident or accident at their facility.
- **SITE MANAGERS** - should report field/gym conditions by text to (901-921-8430) before 7:30 a.m. for Saturday games and before 2:30 p.m. for weeknight games. Updates will be made to the
- **ESCRA Weather Hotline (901-336-7246)** – service for Head Coaches to check on the field playability after 8:00 am on Saturdays and 3:00 pm weekdays.
- **After 8:00 am and 3:00 pm**, any field closures will be determined by Site Managers.

Site Managers responsibilities:

- Development and field prep which meets the minimum playing requirements for age divisions (pages 13 & 14)
- Send a weekly **Welcome Email** to all Head Coaches playing at your facility including instructions, directions and providing Site Manager contact info
- Contact all coaches/other CSO's with any **schedule changes or cancellations**
- Making sure the field is ready (cut and painted) for Friday/Saturday games
- Making sure the field is open, clean and set-up for play 30-minutes before the first game each day
- Assure the **PRE-GAME PRAYER** is given before each game
- Ensure that all games **START ON TIME**
- **GameDay Update** – text Officials report regarding their facility to **901-921-8430**

Basketball Site Managers – additional responsibilities:

- Making sure the gym is open, clean and ready for play 30-minutes before the first game each day
- **Hiring and paying for scorekeepers provided by funds from the League**



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CHAIN OF COMMAND

ESCRA operates as a middleman. Our Board of Directors will not tell you how to run your program, team or ministry. **We want to help YOU run YOUR program.**

If you have any (problems/incidents/accidents), please follow the **Chain of Command** outlined below:

1. Head Coaches **NEED** to notify their CSO Representative in the event of an emergency/accident/incident
2. Incidents/issues **SHOULD BE** resolved between the two member organizations involved followed by email notifications to all parties involved – Site Managers, CSO's and Coaches.
3. Site Manager/CSO'S **MUST** notify the ESCRA President (or a member on the ESCRA Board of Directors) immediately by phone and within 24-hours with a follow-up email.
4. **If needed**, the ESCRA President will discuss the incident/issue with all parties involved to provide a resolution.
5. **If needed**, the ESCRA Board will discuss and provide possible disciplinary actions.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS FLOW CHART**

HEAD COACH #1	–	SITE MANAGER
HEAD CAOCH #1	–	CSO #1
CSO #1	–	CSO #2
CSO #1	–	LEAGUE PRESIDENT
CSO #2	–	LEAGUE PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT	–	ALL PARTIES INVOLVED

HEAD COACH TRAINING

1. ESCRA provides online training for **(1) Head Coach** through the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS).
2. **ALL HEAD COACHES**, registered with ESCRA Sports, will receive website address necessary to complete their pre-paid and **MANDATORY** training.
3. Coaches who **DO NOT** complete this training, prior to the season, will be subject to having their **GAME SCHEDULE SUSPENDED** until the course is completed.
4. CSO Representatives **ARE** responsible for distribution of the website information and completion of course for their coaches.



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AGE DIVISIONS

1. For all sports, a player's **EXACT** age on June 1, 2017 is used to determine division of participation.
2. **Age Divisions of Play** include: Under 5, Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, and Under 18.
3. **Please Note Exceptions: Under 13 Soccer and Under 13 Flag Football**
4. Team Rosters **MUST** include: Coaches Full Name, phone, and email. Player's names with Date of Birth are required for each team and **WILL** be evaluated.
5. Late Adds to Team Rosters **MUST** be confirmed by email to the Roster Coordinator.
6. Girls may play on Boys teams, but Boys are **NEVER** permitted to play on teams in the Girl's divisions.
7. **TWO ABILITY LEVES** in ESCRA Sports:
 - a. **Division-1** (majority of players in the upper age of that division)
 - b. **Division-3** (younger players in their 1st season of that division).
8. Exemptions Requests will **ONLY** be accepted when submitted through the **ONLINE SYSTEM**.
9. **ALL REQUESTS** must be submitted prior the Team Registration Deadlines.
10. A reply email will be sent upon review including a response of: **Approved, or Denied**.
11. Please keep the copy of each reply for your records, as Age Exemptions are good for **ALL SPORTS** during the entire 2017-18 Calendar School Year.
12. Teams having **TWO OR MORE** Age Exemptions **MUST play in Division 1** of that particular age division as Division 3 is reserved for younger and less experience teams.
13. **ESCRA WILL REVIEW** Team Rosters and place **ANY** team(s) in the appropriate level based on submitted player DOB's.

ONE Team – ONE League Restriction

1. A player can only play on **ONE (1)** ESCRA team, and cannot play on any school or other recreation or competitive league/association(s) within the same season
2. A Registered Team participating in the ESCRA sports **CANNOT** play in an additional leagues during the ESCRA season
3. Participation in pre-season, Holiday, or post-season tournament **IS ALLOWED**. Due to liability, teams participation should be approved by the Organization's CSO.



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JERSEYS

For all sports, all jerseys **MUST** have the church/school/organization's name visible. **For basketball and flag football, jerseys should have numbers on both front and back.** To have legal numbers for basketball, the jersey numbers **SHOULD NOT** include the following numbers: 6,7,8 or 9. For soccer, numbers should be on the back of jersey. **NO** jersey numbers are required for kickball.

RULES

All games in ESCRA Sports will be played under the following rules, except for modifications as set out in ESCRA Rules of Play for each sport.

Basketball: National Federation of High School Rules (NFHS)

Soccer: National Federation of High School Rules (NFHS)

Flag Football: NFL Youth Flag Football (2016)

CLOCK OPERATOR/SCOREKEEPER FOR BASKETBALL

ESCRA pays for **one (1) clock operator** and **one (1) scorekeeper** for ESCRA basketball games.

- **Scorekeepers** should collect pre-completed ESCRA Score Sheets, and ensure that both the first and last names of each player are listed.
- **Clock Operators** are responsible for accurate score reflection, time-out and Regulation Time situations.

NOTE: In the event one experienced person is mature and seasoned, they are permitted to perform both activities.

FORFEIT GUIDELINES

At the published Game-Time, the clock will start. The game will be suspended for five-minutes to allow tardy players to arrive. After this **“5-minute Grace Period”** period, failure to have the minimum number of players will result in a forfeit. The referee will determine all forfeitures.

NOTE: The remaining players should be divided up and to play a scrimmage game with the official(s) present.

PRE-GAME PRAYER

The official(s) will gather both teams and coaches at the center of the field or court for a pre-game prayer to bless the game and may include a **brief Scripture reading or devotional from the Bible.** A coach, a player, the Site Manager, a recreation/athletic director, or an official may lead the pre-game **Prayer.**



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50% PLAY RULE

Sportsmanship and Spirit of the Rule

1. Each player present at the game and in uniform must play at least 50% of the game, unless he/she becomes sick, injured, fouls out, or is being disciplined.
2. The **Head Coach** is responsible for reporting to the referee(s), the other Head Coach, and scorekeeper of **ANY** player(s) who becomes sick or injured and can no longer participate.
3. If a player arrives late to a game, he or she must play 50% of the time that they are present.
4. The Head Coach **MUST** make a good faith effort to keep up with his players' playing time to ensure compliance with this rule.
5. Failure to comply with this rule and designated playing time will result in Coach Discipline.
6. **The following penalties will apply:**
 - 1st violation of the 50% rule is a Documented Warning
 - 2nd violation results in the Head Coach being suspended for (1) game
 - 3rd violation is a (7) game suspension, can be carried into a future season

CANCELING A GAME

The league is **NOT** responsible for rescheduling a **CANCELED** game. But, if a team must cancel a game, the Head Coach should contact their CSO, and the game's Site Manager to notify all parties involved (Coaches, Parents, and Officials) with a minimum of 48-hours notice.

An attempt by the CSO's involved should be made to reschedule this game during a **Regular Weeknight Practices**. When a date/time/location for the make up game is confirmed with a Site Manager, an official(s) will be assigned.

When the coaches and CSO's agree to play, the **Game Number, New date/time/location MUST be communicated to ESCRA** and the change will be made online to the SportsPilot schedule prior to an official(s) being scheduled.

This process also applies to all League wide **INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS**.



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ESCRA WEATHER HOTLINE (901-336-7246)

Site Managers **MUST** text (901-921-8430) with field conditions before 7:30 a.m. for Saturday games and before 2:30 p.m. for weeknight games.

CSO's, Coaches and Officials may call **after 8:00 a.m.** and **3:00 p.m.** to confirm playability or field closures. If the line is NOT updated, games will be played as scheduled.

COACH/PLAYER/SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Players, coaches and spectators should display good sportsmanship that honors themselves, their church/school/organization, and Jesus Christ. Instruction and cheering should be encouraging and positive. The league will not tolerate foul language, unsportsmanlike behavior or yelling at the referees by coaches, players or spectators.

The league will also not tolerate yelling at the opposing coaches, players or fans. These situations **MUST** be reported immediately to Site Managers or Officials.

SUSPENSIONS

The league may suspend players, coaches, spectators or teams from the league for foul language or unsportsmanlike/inappropriate behavior. Suspensions or ejections from the league will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

COACHES

Coaches and Team Personnel are in a leadership position and expected to display good sportsmanship at all times. The Head Coach **IS** responsible for all behavior issues related to players and fans. **NOTE: The 1st violation for Coach Discipline is a 1-game Suspension. The 2nd violation by a coach will result in the coach EXPULSION from the league. No coach, player or spectator should confront a referee after a game. No Exceptions!**

COACH EJECTION

If a coach is ejected by Officials/Site Managers:

1. Coach **MUST** leave Church premises, and will serve an automatic 1-game suspension.
2. Coaches **NOT** immediately leaving the premises - **GAME IS SUSPENDED.**
3. The responsible CSO Representative will be notified by phone and email.
4. The facility where the team will be playing the following week will also be notified.
5. The penalty for a coach who either coaches during his suspension or knowingly plays a player who is on suspension from the league will be **EXPELLED** from the League.
6. In the event of a 2nd Ejection, the coach will be **removed** from the League.



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PLAYER EJECTION

If a player is ejected from a game:

1. Players are to **remain on the sideline** as bench personnel following an ejection
2. The responsible CSO Representative will be notified by phone and email.
3. The Head Coach for the team will be notified of the player's (1) game suspension
4. The facility where that team is playing the following week will also be notified.
5. The penalty for a player who plays during his/her suspension will result in the player being **EXPELLED** for the rest of the season.
6. The penalty for a coach playing a player that has been suspended by the league will result in suspension of the coach for the rest of the season.
7. In the event of a 2nd Ejection, the player will be **removed** from the League.

SPECTATOR EJECTION

Officials and Site Managers are empowered to remove spectators from the gym or playing field if they believe it is warranted.

1. When a spectator is displaying inappropriate or unsportsmanlike behavior, the official will warn the team's coach on the first offense.
2. For basketball, if inappropriate behavior continues, the referee will give a direct technical foul to the coach. The opposing team will receive three free throws and possession of the ball at mid-court.
3. If the spectator is asked to leave and does not, the game will be **SUSPENDED**.
4. No coach, player, or fan should confront an official after a game. Violation of this rule and probable disciplinary action will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

OFFICIALS

ESCRA holds Officials Clinics prior to each season. All interested individuals must be at least 15 years old to be a referee, complete the online application, and pass the background check. Referees are to enforce the rules of the game with instruction, fun, fairness and safety in mind.



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PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS

GameDay Updates Should Include:

1. Official's Weekly Assignments are online at – <http://www.EscraSportsTech.net>
2. Site Managers confirm by text to 901-921-8430 Assignment Report
3. ALL Confirmed Officials worked games at (Insert Name) Field
4. Also, Official (insert name) **DID NOT** make scheduled assignments.

Payment stipulations:

- If an official(s) who shows up for his/her game and is not notified that it was canceled, **WILL** be paid.
- If a game is a forfeit but there are enough players between both teams, they should scrimmage, the official(s) **WILL** call the game in order to be paid.
- If the game is a forfeit, there are enough players to have a scrimmage and the official(s) chooses not to officiate the game, they **WILL NOT** be paid for the game.

AGE DIVISIONS FOR 2017-18 (Youth Sports: soccer, flag and basketball)

Under 5	4 year olds, as of June 1, 2017
Under 6	5 year olds, as of June 1, 2017
Under 8	6 & 7 year olds, as of June 1, 2017
Under 10	8 & 9 year olds, as of June 1, 2017
Under 12	10 & 11 year olds, as of June 1, 2017
Under 13	10, 11, & 12 years olds, as of June 1, 2017

Basketball Divisions ONLY

Under 14	12 & 13 year olds, as of June 1, 2017
Under 16	14 & 15 year olds, as of June 1, 2017
Under 18	16 & 17 year olds, as of June 1, 2017

INDIVIDUAL Exemptions Requests - **MUST** be submitted online and prior to the Registration Deadline at: <http://escrasports.org/sports/exemption-request-form/>.



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2017 Fall Sports (Flag Football, Soccer & Kickball)

Preseason Meeting (CSO & Site Managers)	Wednesday	August 2
Flag & Soccer Officials Meeting	Saturday	August 5
Registration Deadline –Fall Sports	Friday	August 11
Payment & Team Roster Deadline	Friday	August 25
Opening Weekend - First Games	Fri/Sat	September 8-9
FALL Break (No Games)	Fri/Sat	October 13-14
Last Regular Season Games	Saturday	October 28

2017-18 Winter Basketball

Officials Meeting	Saturday	October 21
Preseason Meeting (CSO & Site Managers)	Wednesday	August 1
Registration Deadline –Basketball	Friday	November 3
Payment & Team Roster Deadline	Friday	November 17
Opening Weekend - First Games	Saturday	December 9
Christmas Break (No Games)	Saturdays	December 23-30
Season Resumes	Saturday	January 6
Last Regular Season Games	Saturday	February 10
Flex Day for Make-up Games	Saturday	February 17

2018 Spring Soccer

Preseason Meeting (CSO & Site Managers)	Wednesday	August 1
Registration Deadline –Soccer	Friday	March 2
Payment & Team Roster Deadline	Friday	March 16
Opening Weekend - First Games	Fri/Sat	April 6-7
Last Regular Season Games	Fri/Sat	May 11-12
Flex Day for Make-up Games	Saturday	May 19



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2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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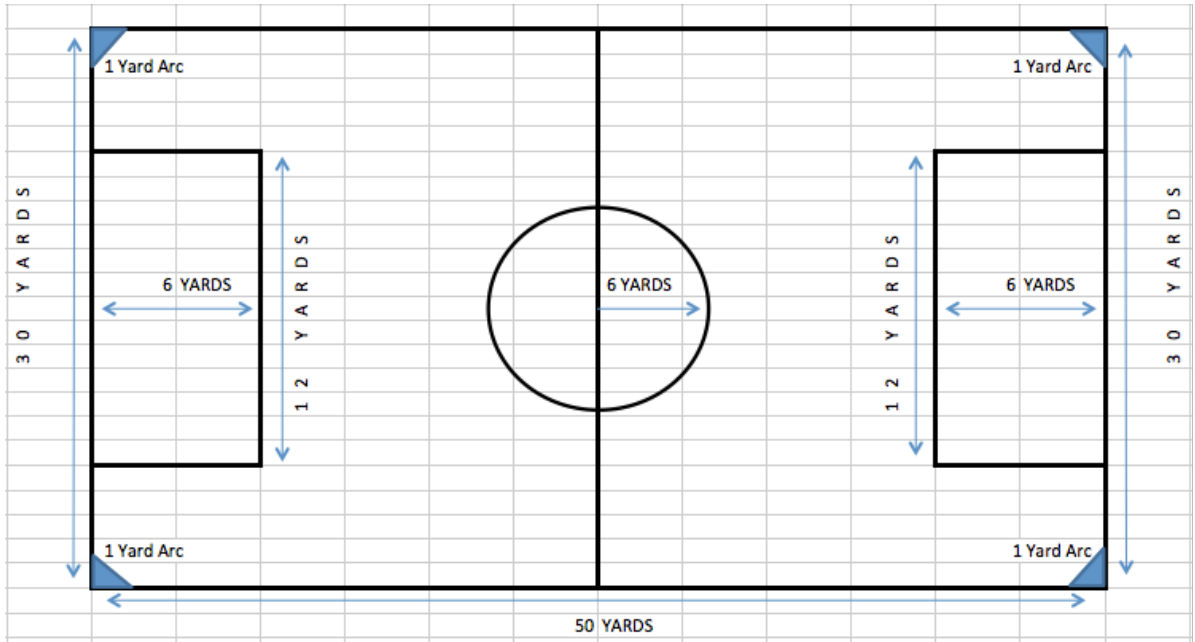
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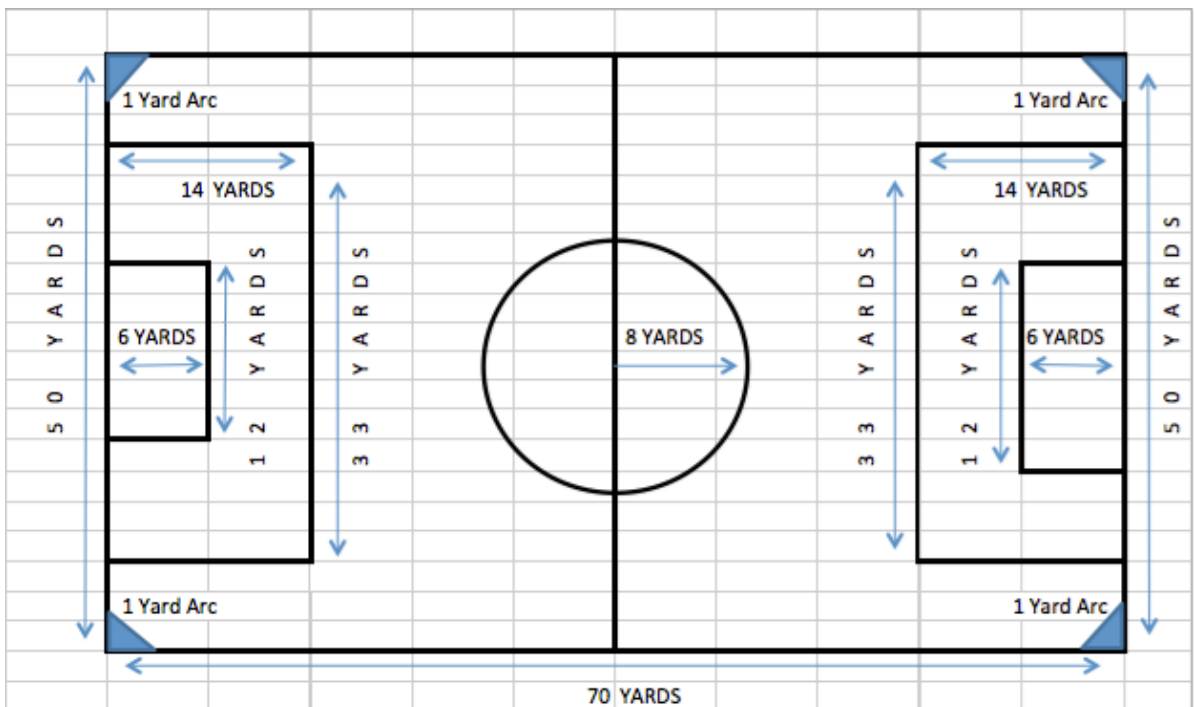


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U5/U6/U8 SOCCER FIELD DIMENSIONS



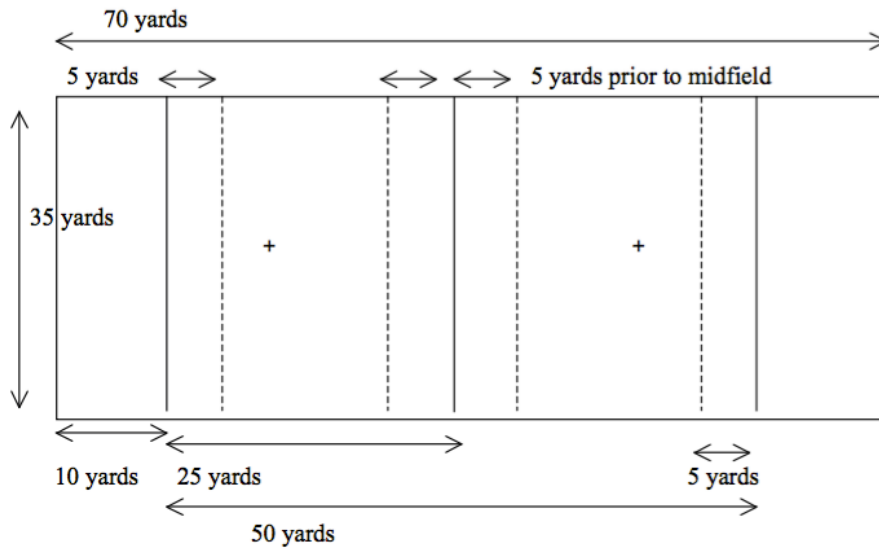
U10/U13 SOCCER FIELD DIMENSIONS





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FLAG FOOTBALL DIMENSIONS – ALL DIVISIONS



KICKBALL DIMENSIONS – ALL DIVISIONS

