



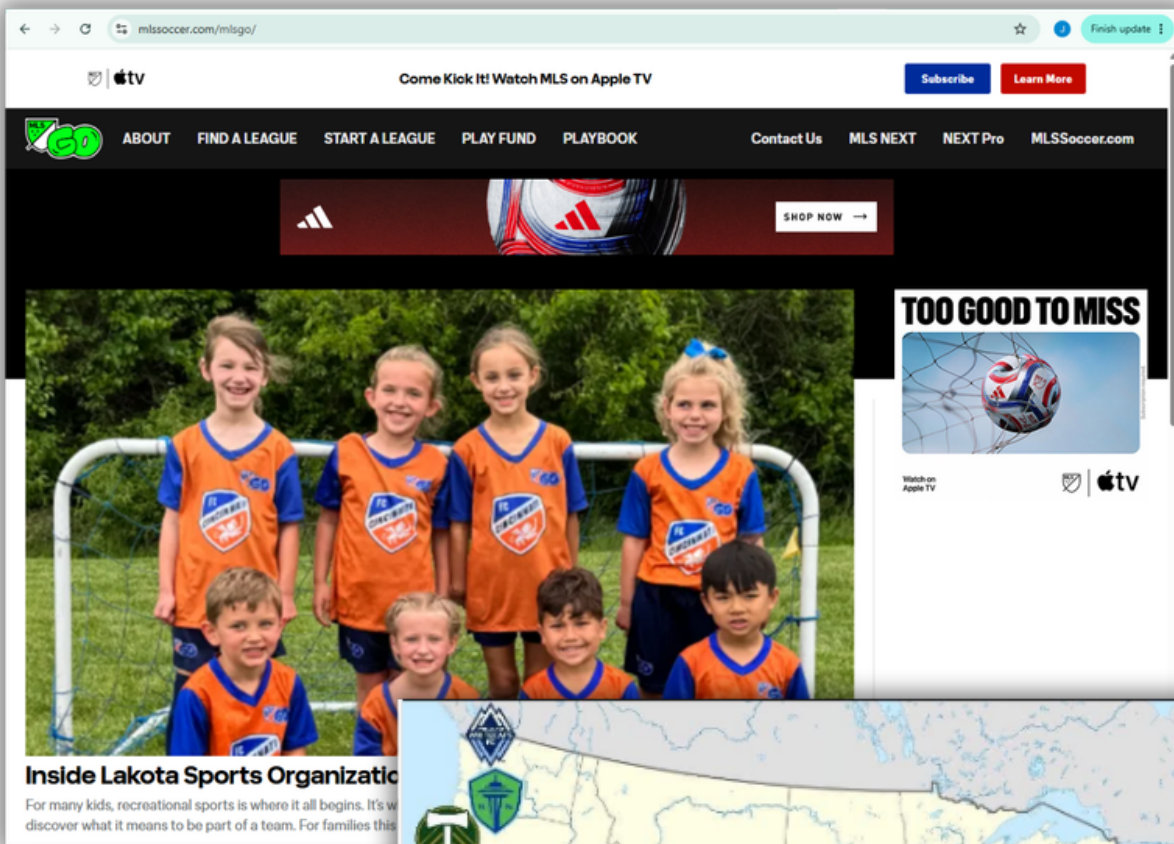
YOUTH SOCCER

REFEREE HANDBOOK

2026 SEASON INTRO

Welcome to the Woodlake Parks & Recreation Youth Soccer league! We offer this program for kids TK to 8th Grade, and we continue to have HUGE increases in registrations each year. We are now offering affordable play to **over 700 kids!** Thank you for your patience as our league continues to go through (good) growing pains from adding more teams, and trying to identify more coaches to help in each Division! We appreciate all of the volunteer support we have received from parents, high school students, and other community volunteers who have stepped up to coach teams this season!

Three seasons ago, we incorporated an affiliation with the MLS Go program. What this means for participants is that you all have access to resources that the MLS Go program compiles for parents and coaches - including drills, team gear, and more! Make sure you check out www.mlssoccer.com/mlsgo !
(please keep in mind, our league rules may be a little different than the template rules MLS Go puts out)



IN-SEASON SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
20	21 10U BOYS GAMES	22 10U GIRLS GAMES	23 14U GAMES	24	25	26  OPENING SATURDAY!

OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27-Sep	28-Sep 10U BOYS GAMES	29-Sep 10U GIRLS GAMES	30-Sep 14U GAMES	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct  EVERYONE PLAYS + TEAM PICTURES
4	5 10U BOYS GAMES	6 10U GIRLS GAMES	7 14U GAMES	8	9	10 4U, 6U & 8U GAMES
11	12 10U BOYS GAMES	13 10U GIRLS GAMES	14 14U GAMES	15	16	17 4U, 6U & 8U GAMES
18	19 10U BOYS GAMES	20 10U GIRLS GAMES	21 14U GAMES	22	23	24  4U, 6U & 8U BOO FEST GAMES @ 1852 VISALIA
25  HALLOWEEN TRUCK-OR-TREAT 3-6PM @ CITY PARK	26 10U BOYS GAMES	27 10U GIRLS GAMES	28 14U GAMES	29	30	31 4U, 6U & 8U GAMES

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1  FALL-BACK TIME CHANGE	2 FINAL 10U BOYS GAMES	3 FINAL 10U GIRLS GAMES	4 FINAL 14U GAMES	5	6	7 4U, 6U & 8U GAMES
8	9	10 8U GIRLS GAMES	11 8U BOYS GAMES	12	13	14 4U, 6U & 8U FINAL GAMES

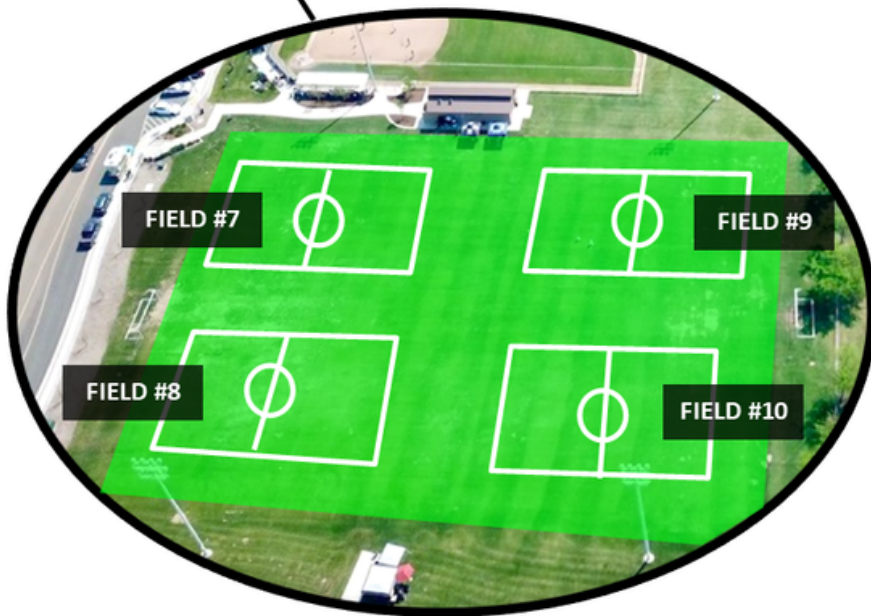
SEPT 26 & OCT 3: Opening Saturday games! All teams will play. Oct 3rd will also have team pictures.

OCT 24: 4U, 6U & 8U Games will be played at 1852 Soccer City Visalia as part of their 'Boo Fest' event

OCT 25: Woodlake will host their 4th annual Trunk-or-Treat Halloweenfest Event at City Park from 3-6pm. This is a free, family-friendly event!

FIELD LAYOUT MAP

Our games are all played at Castle Rock Fields which are located to the North side of Castle Rock Elementary School (360 N. Castle Rock St.). Fields do not have bleacher seating, so please bring chairs, blankets, and canopies/umbrellas.



**UPPER FIELD SET-UP FOR
4U & 6U DIVISIONS**

CASTLE ROCK FIELDS SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10U Boys Games @ 6pm & 7pm	10U Girls Games @ 6pm & 7pm	14U Games @ 6pm, 7pm & 8pm	(top fields open for practices)	(top fields open for practices)	4U, 6U & 8U Games Morning & Afternoon
<i>Upper Fields Only</i>	<i>Upper Fields Only</i>	<i>Upper Fields Only</i>			<i>Upper & Lower Fields</i>

GENERAL SEASON CONDUCT:

- Our vision is to create a 'farm system' for our Woodlake Middle & High Schools.
- We expect friendly competition among players now, so they will be great teammates in the future.
- We ask teams to try and sit on separate sides of the field.
- The coaches are all volunteers; please be patient with them.
- We ask Coaches who have a player with developmental disabilities on their team to let the other Coach and Referee(s) know as a courtesy before the game starts.
- Players are expected to be respectful to their coach and teammates. Any reported incidents will be addressed immediately, and the player/parent will be given one warning. If there is another incident, that player will not be able to finish the season and has the chance of being banned from the League indefinitely. Poor behavior will not be tolerated from anyone. This is a Rec League, intended to be fun and non-competitive.
- Only the coach can address the referee directly. (not parents)
- During the mid-game break, both coaches will meet with the referee to address any items needed to be dealt with.
- If a parent continues to be disrespectful, their child will sit out the rest of the game.
- There is a zero-tolerance policy regarding rowdy parents and coaches. If a game is stopped by the referee due to parents not being respectful, or a coach arguing constantly, the game will be ended immediately.
- If a parent or Coach is ejected from a game, that person will receive a one-game suspension. If there is another incident later in the season involving the same parent or Coache, that individual will be banned for the season.

MLS GO UNIFORMS



UNIFORM GAME PREP:

When you arrive for the game, please make sure all jerseys of a single team are turned to the same color (the exception can be the Goalie). Please also make sure that both teams playing against each other are not wearing the same color jersey (ie: both teams wearing black) - in this case, one team needs to turn their uniform to the other color to make it easier for Refs during the game.

If a player needs to wear different shorts or socks, this is acceptable.

If a team is short players and would like to recruit a player from another team to help fill in the gap, this is acceptable as long as that player is from the same division or a lower division. For example, a 10U team can recruit another 10U player who is not playing at that time, or an 8U player, but they cannot recruit a 14U player.

A team cannot recruit a person who is not registered in our league to play for their team - this is a huge liability that we cannot risk.

BASIC DIVISION & RULE INFORMATION

	4U Girls	4U Boys	6U Girls	6U Boys	8U Girls	8U Boys	10U Girls	10U Boys	14U Girls	14U Boys
Number of Teams:	4	4	6	8	6	8	6	8	4	8
# of Players in Div.:	29	37	60	98	73	96	77	96	49	96
Roster Size:	8	9	10	12	12	12	13	12	12	12
# of Players On-Field:	6 v 6	6 v 6	9 v 9	9 v 9	9 v 9	9 v 9	9 v 9	9 v 9	9 v 9	9 v 9
Game Day:	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Sat Morning	Tue Night	Mon Night	Wed Night	Wed Night
Fields Used:	Fields 7-10	Fields 7-10	Fields 7-10	Fields 7-10	Fields 3-6	Fields 3-6	Fields 1 & 2	Fields 1 & 2	Fields 1 & 2	Fields 1 & 2
Length of Game	45 mins two 20 min halves mid-game break	45 mins two 20 min halves mid-game break	45 mins two 20 min halves mid-game break	45 mins two 20 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 25 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 30 min halves mid-game break	1 hour two 30 min halves mid-game break
Ball Size:	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5
Goal Keeper:	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (Goal Kick)	Yes (Goal Kick)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corner Kicks:	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offside:	No	No	No	No	Unfair Adv.	Unfair Adv.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Start of Game:	One Kick	One Kick	One Kick	One Kick	2-Touch (kick side or back)	2-Touch (kick side or back)	2-Touch (kick side or back)	2-Touch (kick side or back)	2-Touch (kick side or back)	2-Touch (kick side or back)
Out of Bounds:	Ball Drop	Ball Drop	Ball Drop	Ball Drop	Throw Ins	Throw Ins	Throw Ins	Throw Ins	Throw Ins	Throw Ins
Substitutions:	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Minimum Play:	20 mins	20 mins	20 mins	20 mins	25 mins	25 mins	25 mins	25 mins	30 mins	30 mins
Expected Practice Time:	1HR a Week	1HR a Week	1HR a Week	1HR a Week	1.5 HR a Week	1.5 HR a Week	2 HR a Week	2 HR a Week	2 HR a Week	2 HR a Week
Skills to Develop:	using inside of foot, head-up dribbling	using inside of foot, head-up dribbling	stay in positions, passing, add throw-ins & goalies	stay in positions, passing, add throw-ins & goalies	rules/positions, passing to team mates	rules/positions, passing to team mates	ball control, defense techniques	ball control, defense techniques	ball control, defense techniques	ball control, defense techniques
Approx. Field Size:	30x35 yards	30x35 yards	30x35 yards	30x35 yards	35x60 yards	35x60 yards	35x80 yards	35x80 yards	35x80 yards	35x80 yards
Goal Size:	4x6 feet	4x6 feet	4x6 feet	4x6 feet	6.5x12 feet	6.5x12 feet	6.5x18.5 feet	6.5x18.5 feet	6.5x18.5 feet	6.5x18.5 feet

**if not all players show up, play the total # of players on the smallest team*

4U & 6U DIVISIONS

- These Divisions simply emphasize fun for the kids to keep them engaged.
- Most of your time will be spent assisting iwth balls that go out of bounds - there are no throw ins (unless a 6U team wants to try doing these) - you simply place the ball on the ground in-play for the team who did not kick it out of bounds.
- Hands is called, but with instruction. No penalty kicks.
- Coaches are allowed on the field in these divisions to help give instruction and spread the kids out, or put them into position.
- Feel free to interact with the kids and give them tips and instruction.

8U, 10U & 14U DIVISIONS

- Each of these divisions get more and more technical as the kids abilities grow.
- Referee the games based on the ability of the players you are watching.
- Blow your whistle loudly, and provide loud clear instruction on your calls.
- Be strict with the technical form of ball throw-ins; give them one re-do and show them how to do it correctly.
- Don't let players get too physical, particularly at the 8U level - call penalties early to draw the line right away.
- At the beginning of each play set, the offensive team must pass the ball back, or to the side first, before moving the ball forward.
- Corner Kicks and Goal Kicks are implemented at the 8U level and above.
- Substitutions can be made at breaks in the game; you do not need to track substitutions. When possible, the Coach should call for a substitution, or notify you of the change to give time for the new player to get into position.

WHAT TO EXPECT

CITY OF WOODLAKE PARKS & REC

- Your point person will be Horacio Pena (559-802-6862)
- Please communicate any days you are NOT able to referee as much in advance as possible
- Each week, Horacio will communicate the schedule for games that week
- You will be provided with a referee shirt, score keeper/card holder book, and a whistle
- Please wear black shorts or pants and good running shoes
- If you ever have questions or clarifications on rules, ask Horacio
- Don't be shy! We appreciate feedback on how to improve our system / League!

ARRIVAL & PRE-GAME

- Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes before your game time - parking might be challenging
- Bring a water bottle and snacks if-needed
- Games are a bit crunched - please stick to the time schedule (even if you need to cut a game a bit short)
- Teams will have approximately 5 minutes to warm up, IF games are on track
- After / during warmups, check in with both coaches. Introduce yourself, and answer any questions they might have. Home team can be determined based on the schedule notation (team listed 2nd).

UNIFORMS

- Each player has been provided with a jersey, shorts & socks.
- If a uniform does not match the others, ask the coach why (sometimes this is innocent, and sometimes sneaky)
- For the older teams, you should ask for the players name, and reference the provided roster to make sure this player is registered. If the player is not on the roster, they are not registered & cannot play. The Coach can reach out to Jennifer (also with the City of Woodlake) to discuss options - all Coaches have Jennifer's #.
- Make sure all players on the same team are wearing the same color side of the jersey.
- Make sure both teams are not wearing the same color (ie: black vs. black); have one team switch sides.

IN-GAME

- The game ball can be one from the equipment room, or borrowed from one of the coaches.
- Blow your whistle hard & loud.
- We encourage you to help coach players when appropriate so they have a better understanding of the game.
- We consider our Parks & Rec League as a non-competitive league meant for player development & teaching fundamentals.
- Make sure your game wraps up 5 mins before the next scheduled game to keep games on-time.
- We have a zero-tolerance policy for rough/disrespectful players.
- We have a zero-tolerance policy for disrespectful Coaches/Parents.
- After a warning is given, if a game is stopped a second time by the referee due to parents not being respectful, or a coach that won't stop arguing calls, the game will be ended immediately.

GOALS & SPORTSMANSHIP

- Our League is inclusive and non-competitive.
- The Goal of a Parks & Recreation League is to teach basic fundamentals of the game and encourage fun, while building good character and sportsmanship on and off the field.
- It is the Coach's responsibility to control the actions and comments of their players and parents, as well as their own actions and comments. Coaches are there to be a good role model for their players.
- If you are having issues with parents, Coaches, or players, please contact City Staff immediately so the issue may be addressed.