

RULES FOR U8 RECREATION LEAGUE GAMES

Law 1 – The Field of Play:

- A. Dimensions: 25 yards x 35 yards (15 x 25 minimum)
- B. Markings:
 - a. Goal Area only (no penalty area), measuring 3 yards x 8 yards
 - b. Three (3) yard radius center circle.
- C. Corner Arc: A quarter circle with a radius of one (1) yard from the flag post.
- D. Goal: PVC goal (6 feet x 4 feet)

Law 2 – The Ball:

Size three (3) ball

Law 3 – Players and Substitutions:

- A. Maximum number of players is four (4) per team on the field at any one time. No goalkeepers. Minimum number of players is two (2) per field.
- B. Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play (at the referee's discretion). Substitutions must enter and exit the field only with the permission of the referee and must enter only at midfield.
- C. Each player must play minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Law 4 – Player's Equipment:

- A. Player's equipment should conform to FIFA rules. This includes:
 - a. Shin guards fully covered by socks.
 - b. No earrings, necklaces or bracelets of any kind
 - c. No hard items in hair (including hairclips and hair bands)
- B. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms still must distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee:

A certified referee will officiate. *All infractions should be explained.* Referees will verbally reinforce all hand signals, in the interest of learning.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees:

Not used.

Law 7 – Duration of the Game:

- A. The match shall be divided into four (4) twelve (12) minute quarters
- B. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters 1 and 2 and between quarters 3 and 4.
- C. Half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 - Start of Play:

- A. Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play. Opponents must be outside of the center circle when kick-off is in progress.
- B. Teams will alternate kick-off after each quarter.
- C. Teams will switch ends at half.

Law 9 - Ball in and out of Play:

Conform to FIFA

Law 10 – Method of Scoring:

Conform to FIFA except:

All players on a team must be in the opponent's half of the field to score.

Law 11 – Off-Side:

A. There will be no off-side enforced.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA except:

A. No cautions or send-offs shall be issued to players but referees may ask coaches to remove players, if necessary.

B. Slide Tackling is not allowed. Slide Tackling includes any intentional slide by a player, with or without the ball, with an opponent or a teammate in the vicinity from any direction.

C. Players may not tackle to gain possession of the ball from the rear of the player (outside peripheral vision) in possession of the ball, even if first contact is with the ball.

D. Intentional heading of the ball is not allowed.

E. *All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick.*

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA except:

A. All free kicks are indirect.

B. Opponents must be four (4) yards from the ball.

C. Any free kick awarded to the attacking team within the opponent's goal area will be taken from the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line nearest to where the offense took place.

Law 14 – Penalty Kicks:

Conform to FIFA.

Law 15 – Throw in:

Conform to FIFA except, players making an incorrect throw-in will be allowed a second throw-in after the referee explains the error in the first attempt.

Law 16 – Goal Kick:

A. Opponents must be ***at or behind the midfield line.***

Law 17 – Corner Kick:

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Coaching

A. Coaches may NOT be on the field of play during the game.

B. U8 Coaches must remain on the sideline in the designated team area.

D. Coaches should only use POSITIVE reinforcement to encourage kids.

E. Prior to the game, opposing coaches should meet to discuss matching skill levels on the two fields of play.

F. Coaches will coach both fields of play simultaneously.