

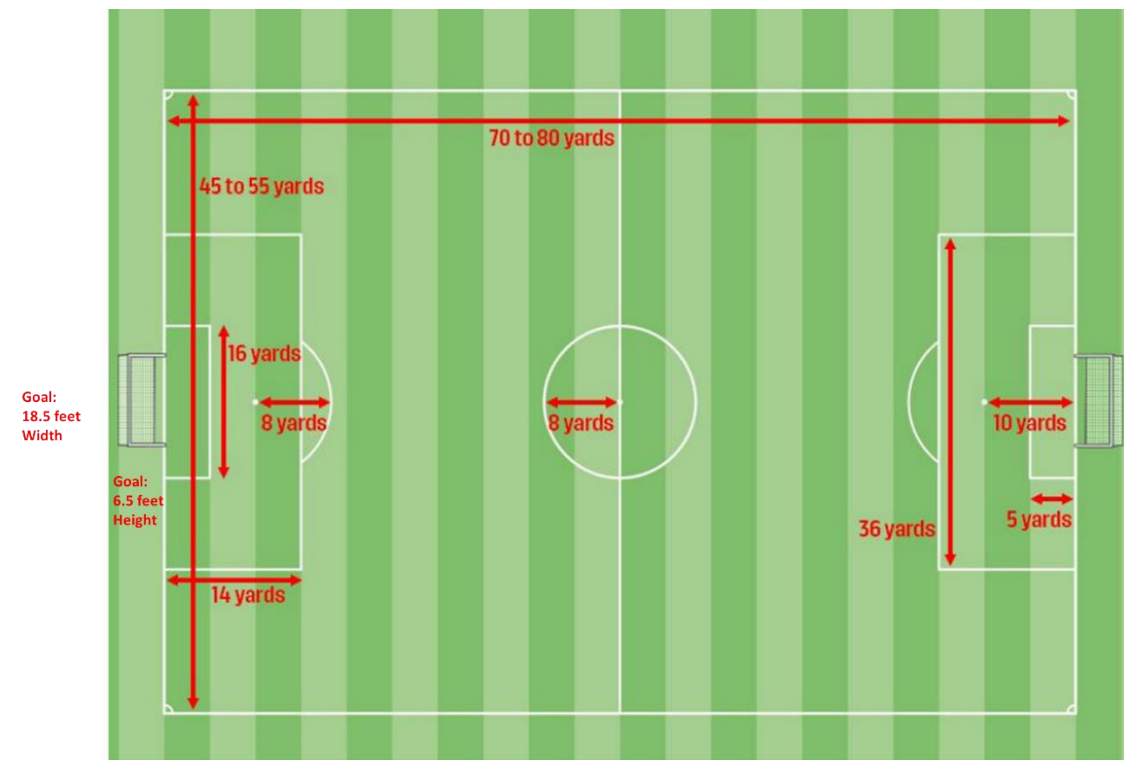


## U.S. Soccer Development Academy U-12 Standards

Through established standards for coaches, players, referees, and a professional game environment, the Development Academy U-12 standards ensured players are best positioned to develop in age-appropriate stages as they progress to the next level. The standards are based on best practices for the sport of soccer that are utilized around the world and through continued observations and analysis of our landscape to develop the next generation of players.

In addition to following all [U-12 Player Development Initiatives \(found here\)](#); the following additional standards are recommended for U-12 programming and were developed for the U.S. Soccer Development Academy by U.S. Soccer Coaching Education, Talent Identification and Academy Technical Staff.

**Field / Goal Dimensions / Equipment:** Recommended field dimensions listed below, as well as maximum goal size below. Size 4 ball should be used.



**Half length:** 30 minutes (10 min halftime); no added time.

**Roster size:** recommend a player pool of 22-26 players; split into two separate groups in separate games on game day. If not enough for a player pool, roster size recommended 11-13 players.

**Referee:** One referee recommended (no Assistant Referees). Allows for de-emphasis of the referee's calls, and allows for development of the referee (managing more aspects of the game).

**Training-to-game ratio:** Recommended 3 times training per week. No more than 1 game per day; no more than 2 consecutive game play dates. (Exceptions can be made if 'mini-games' are played).