



Laws of the Game

For the 8 and Under Age Groups

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular.

Field Length Range: 25 – 35 yards

Field Width Range: 15 – 25 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line.

Optional: A circle with a radius of five (5) yards should be marked around the center mark.

The Goal Area: None.

The Penalty Area: None.

Flag Posts: Corner flags are optional.

The Corner Arc: None.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. The recommended goal size is six (6) feet wide by four (4) feet high.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball

The 8 and under age group uses a size three (3) ball. The ball needs to be FIFA quality.

Law 3 – The Number of Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than four (4) players on the field. There are NO goalkeepers. Teams and matches may be coed. Minimum number to start game is 3 players.

Substitutions: **Substitutions can only take place between quarters or if there is an injury during game play. Only the injured player may be subbed during the injury time.** If a player who is suspected to have a head injury leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. It is the coach's responsibility to enforce this rule.

Team Formation: Team roster must have no more than 8 players per team.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must distinguish teams. Shinguards are MANDATORY for both practices and games and must be covered entirely by socks.

Teams may have their own uniforms but **are required** to have pinnies available in the event of a color conflict with an opposing team. Safety: A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry, except for a medical alert bracelet/necklace). No player will be allowed to play with a cast (padded or otherwise).

Law 5 – The Referee

An official Referee will be provided by the NESL. All referee decisions are deemed final and may be explained in brief if referee determines it necessary. Basic fouls and boundaries should be respected. All infringements should be briefly explained to the players.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees

None.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

The match shall be divided into four (4) quarters of not more than ten (10) minutes in length. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters 1 and 2, and 3 and 4. There shall be a five (5) minute break between quarters 2 and 3.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game, with the exception that the defending team is at least five (5) yards from the ball until it is in play. Remember, let them play and do not interfere for technicalities.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

A goal may only be scored from a team's attacking half of the field. A ball kicked from within a team's defending half of the field and not touched by any other player before going in the goal does not count as a goal and play is restarted with a goal kick for the opposing team.

"Own goals" do not count as a goal and play is restarted with a corner kick by the opposing team.

Law 11 – Offside

None.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick.

There are no headers allowed in this age group. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction.

The game official should explain all infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.

A hand ball infraction occurs when a player handles the ball deliberately. The "hand" includes the entire arm up to the top of the shoulder. Instinctive, self-protective reactions are not penalized at this young age. Accidental contact (ball striking hand or arm) is not an offense and should not be penalized.

There is no slide tackling in this age group. If in the referee's opinion, a player intentionally slides into another player, it will be considered a foul and play will be restarted by the opposing team with an indirect free kick.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game except that all free kicks are indirect and all opponents are to be at least five (5) yards from the ball until it is kicked.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

None.

Law 15 – The Throw-In

The throw-in should be taken at the point where the ball crossed the line. Players will be able to re-throw and not be penalized for incorrectly throwing the ball in.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

The goal kick shall be taken anywhere along the goal line within five (5) yards of the goal. Opposing players must drop off behind the half line until the ball is kicked. The player taking the kick can pass it to a teammate or dribble it in to start the game. Once the ball is kicked, the game is live.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick

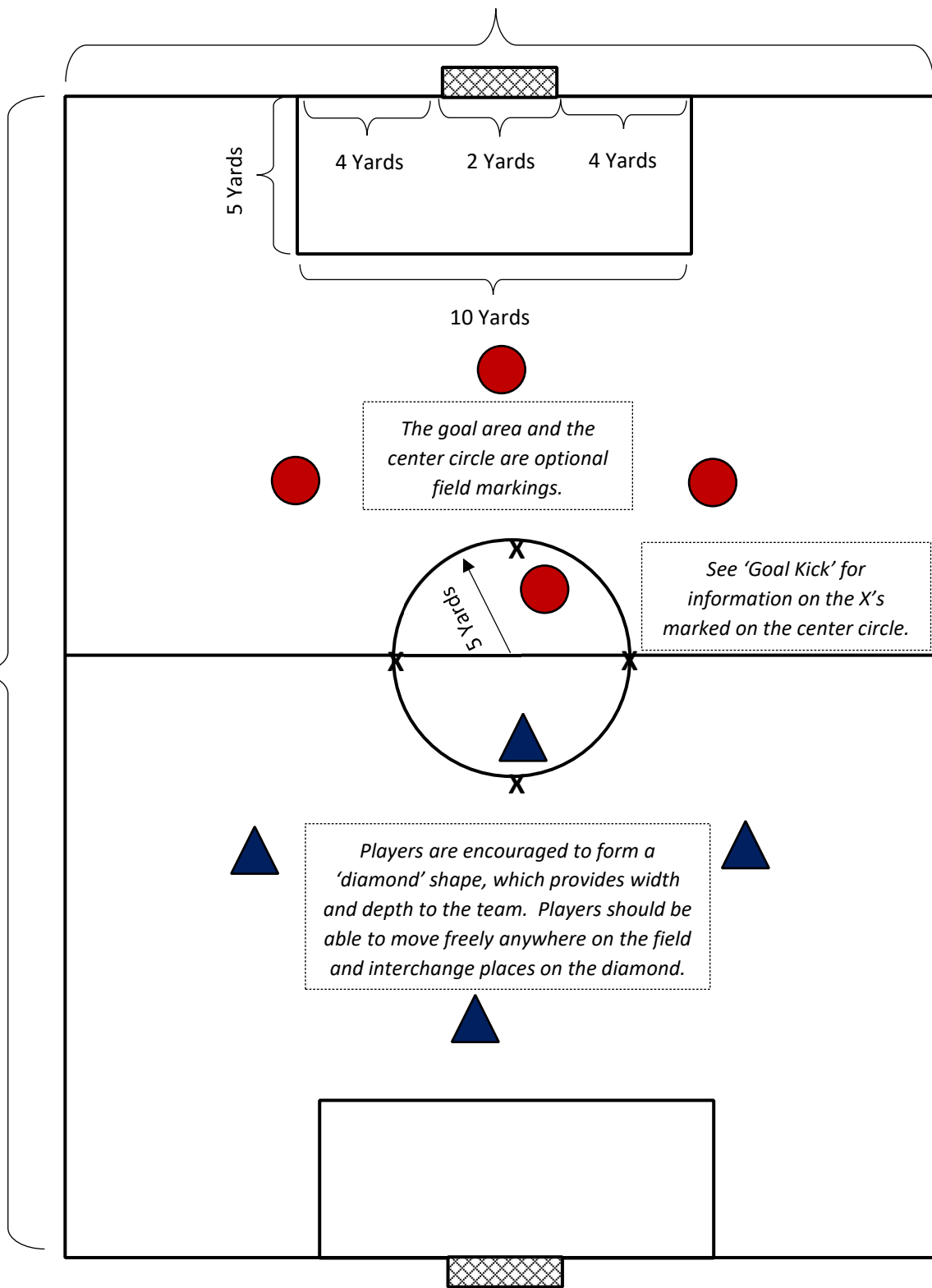
Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that opponents remain at least five (5) from the ball until it is kicked.

6 and Under Age Group

Field Dimensions, Interior Markings and Suggested Team Formations

15 – 25 yards

25 – 35 yards



Goals – 4 feet high x 6 feet wide