



U-8 Modified Playing Rules

Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 35 yards nor less than 25 yards and its width not more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle is provided with a three (3) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: Three (3) yards from each goal post and three (3) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Area: None

Goals: The maximum size of goals will be 6 x 12 feet. Goals may be smaller.

Law II-The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III-Number of Players:

Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4). There are NO goalkeepers.

Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is three (3).

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed ten (10) players.

Substitutions: Anytime ball is out of play with the permission of the Referee.

Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time

Law IV-Players Equipment: Players may not wear any item of equipment that may be dangerous to themselves or others. Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shin guards are mandatory.

Law V-The Referee: There will be an assigned official licensed referee for this age group. Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child. Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players WHY! This is their first experience with soccer and the best time to educate.

Law VI- Assistant Referee: Not used.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, ten (10) minute quarters with a two (2) minute break between quarters 1 and 2 & 3 and 4. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

In hot weather, team water breaks are permitted with agreement from both coaches and referee prior to kick-off. The clock continues to run and the players must remain on the field during the break.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line to be out of play.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line and between posts and beneath crossbar to be a goal.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside rule at this age.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: All fouls shall result in a direct free kick with opponent four (4) yards away. There are no slide tackles permitted. The referee must explain ALL infractions to offending player.

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: All free kicks will be **INDIRECT**. Opponents must be four (4) yards away

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: There are no Penalty Kicks.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an improperly performed throw-in can be retaken once.

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Goal kick may be taken any where within the goal area. Opponents must be four (4) yards away from the ball.

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be four (4) yards away from the ball. Corner Kicks are Indirect Free Kicks.