



# Flags and Whistles

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VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

## The Newsletter for Katy Youth Soccer Referee's

Welcome to Volume Four Issue number two of Flags and Whistles, the official referee newsletter of Katy Youth Soccer. Summer is coming to an end and the new school term is looming. With the return to school comes a long awaited return to the soccer fields and the start of a new Fall Soccer season as Katy Park.

When you start the season on **SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>** you will find many changes have occurred over the summer. The fields have been tended to, goalmouths seeded and even an entire field raised and relayed ready for the new season.

There are new roads and new junctions to navigate in the approach to the Park and I hope we will find that these will ease the congestion for those busy Saturdays where we have both soccer and baseball sharing playing times.

On a separate note I am sure many of you if not all of you were wrapped up in the frenzy that is the FIFA World Cup! What a festival this four yearly event has become and aside from watching the games on TV I hope that you were watching the officiating? Some good decisions and some contentious ones as always!! Rest assured that the fall-out from this World Cup will speed the introduction of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Officials to the top level games although I can assure you that goal line technology has not been implemented at KYSC yet!!!!

This season we will continue with Referee Assessments, referee appearance and of course coach/player/parent respect of the Referees. Please be sure to let Linda, myself or any member of the KYSC Board of any problems you experience before during or after your games. We are here to help you have a good experience and one that will help you grow in confidence and ability to become a better Referee.

Take a moment to reacquaint yourself to the rules of the game for each age group and make sure you apply them as appropriate. Don't be timid about blowing your whistle or raising your flag, be assertive and most important of all have fun and enjoy a great season!!!

## **How the KYSC Referee process works**

### **Tell us you are available**

Every Monday throughout the season an email will be sent out to the entire KYSC Referee group asking your availability to officiate the following weekend's games. If you wish to Referee on that weekend you must respond by email to this request stating that you are available in the morning (8-12) or afternoon (12-5) or the entire day. If you wish only to officiate small sided games or act as an Assistant Referee only please include this information in your response also.

### **Your game assignments**

This information sent in by each Referee is used by the Assignor to allocate crews to each and every game. The details of the weekend assignments are sent out by email on Thursday of each week to all assigned Referees.

### **Got a problem?**

If there is a problem with the games you have been assigned or something unexpected prevents you fulfilling your commitment it is important that you contact the Assignor or myself as detailed on the contacts page of this newsletter. If you fail to turn up for your assignments without prior notification on two occasions in a season you will not be assigned any further games.

### **No games assigned?**

It may be possible that on some weekends the number of volunteering Referees exceeds the number of game assignments. In this event the Assignor will give priority to those that have not been assigned for the following weekend to ensure a fair and reasonable game allocation throughout the season.

### **Why Standby Referee?**

Each weekend we will be assigning a Referee as the official paid Stand-by Referee to cater for any unexpected problem. A Stand-By Referee should be prepared to officiate any age group game as either a Center or Assistant Referee. If the Stand-by officiates games they are paid the Standby pay plus the game pay.

### **Game Day procedure**

It is important that each assigned Referee arrives at Katy Park at least 15 minutes before kick-off time. There needs to be sufficient time to check-in the teams and meet your other officials. Before proceeding to the first game every Referee MUST sign in at the Referee Scheduler's table located alongside the Katy Park concession stand. Signing in informs the Field Co-Coordinator that you are present at the park and working your assignments. It is important that you sign for every game you are assigned to officiate at because this is the only proof the Assignor has that you worked these games. If you fail to sign for your game you may not get paid!

## **Making a Good First Impression**

### **Know the Laws: Success begins by being prepared.**

Read and know the Laws of the Game. Keep up to date on the correct interpretation.

Know the accepted mechanics approved by the USSF and found in the Guide to Procedures for Referees, Assistant Referees and 4th Officials. You should have received this booklet in your entry level course.

Know the local Rules of Competition. In particular, make sure you know:

- Length of the half
- Size of ball
- Number of players
- Substitutions
- Penalty kicks or no penalty kicks
- Direct free kicks allowed or only indirect free kicks
- Offside, no offside
- Uniform requirements

As a new referee, you will not make all the right decisions. Don't get upset if you make a mistake. Just learn from it. And learn from working with and watching more experienced referees.

### **Dress and Act Professional:**

If you expect to command respect (one element of game control) on the field, then you must look and act like a professional.

Approach the game in a way that shows you are looking forward to being there and being a part of the game.

Dress for success - wear the proper USSF uniform with your referee jersey tucked in and your socks pulled up. Wear the uniform properly any time you can still be seen by the players, coaches, and spectators.

### **Take Charge:**

Taking charge does not mean yelling and acting like a dictator. This only encourages people to yell back at you.

Greet each coach with a firm handshake, a smile and look in the eyes.

Use common courtesy- "Thank you", "Please", "Sir", "Ma'am" will do wonders to get respect.

Issue firm, simple instructions to the players so they know you are capable of managing the game.

Start the game on time.

**What You Need to Have:**

An approved USSF referee uniform. The gold shirt is the most often used referee shirt jersey color for referees so it should be the one jersey you purchase right away. If you are only getting one jersey you should probably buy the short sleeved one. Once you have more game experience, you should add one of the alternate color jerseys. You do not need to buy all the different colored jerseys right away.

Solid black referee shorts or black shorts with the USSF Referee logo on the leg.

Black socks with either three white stripes at the top or the USSF logo at the top. Socks should always be pulled up to your knees.

Solid black shoes – a brand logo is OK, preferably only white, but no other colors or decorations – you will be spending a lot of time in your referee shoes so make sure they are very comfortable (and keep them cleaned as much as possible).

Your current year USSF badge on the left shirt pocket of your jersey.

Your 16 digit USSF identification number for tournaments. You will find this number on the ID card you receive in the mail after you have taken the course and registered.

A referee bag that should contain the following:

- A watch with stopwatch functions
- Pens/pencils
- Notebook
- Red and yellow cards
- Tossing coins
- Whistles – always have an extra in your bag
- Flags for the Assistant Referees
- Cold weather gear when the time of year makes it necessary
- Street shoes and dry socks
- A large plastic trash bag (to put your ref bag inside in case of rain)
- Sunscreen
- Snacks (energy bars) if you are going to be doing more than one game
- Water – don't forget to bring water

**What You Need to Do:**

You should arrive at the field at least 30 minutes prior to the game.

If you don't drive make sure that someone knows you need a ride to your field and, make sure you have someone to pick you up to take you home.

Bring change for emergency telephone calls or a cell phone, and have the telephone number of your assignor and club contact.

## Referee Assessments

This season KYSC will continue using its cadre of senior referees to assess the performance of all referees and assistant referees. These assessments are completely informal yet will provide valuable and impartial feedback from a qualified and experienced referee. The number of Referees greatly outnumbers the number of available assessors that I have available so please bear with us as we work through you all. If you feel you have adequate experience to help us with the Assessment process please contact me.

The assessment provides me, as VP KYSC Referees, feedback on how well each official is performing and if they are ready to be offered a chance to move up to an older age level game and ultimately on to more competitive games. This approach gives referees and assignors a clearer understanding as to which level of competition each assessed referee is ready to officiate at and avoids situations where inexperienced officials are tasked with officiating games they are not yet equipped to handle.

## Referee Pay Rates

Listed below are the new referee pay rates for the Fall 2010 season

Age Group	CR	AR
U7	\$20	
U8	\$20	
U9	\$22	
U10	\$24	
U11	\$26	\$13
U12	\$28	\$14
U12 – U13	\$32	\$16
U14 – U16	\$36	\$18
U17 – U19	\$40	\$20

Referees are paid by check every other soccer week and checks are mailed to the address we have on record for you. If you have moved house or had mailing issues last season that you think could be related to an incorrect or incorrectly spelt address please send any corrected or current details to me at the email address shown at the end of this newsletter.

## Referee Criticism

(taken from an excellent BLOG - <http://law5tales.blogspot.com/>)

I came across [a video of Alexi Lalas](#) discussing the quality of referees, specifically MLS referees compared to other leagues. It got me thinking about the position of a referee and how we are completely open to criticism by observers that, for the most part, are completely biased and are generally lacking in any understanding of the LOTG.

Most of my readers referee youth soccer matches. I'll guess the average reader of this blog has been a referee for a fairly short amount of time (less than 2 years) and works mostly U-16 and below games. I know there are a few of you that work much harder games as some of you have contacted me with advice as well as constructive criticism (thanks, by the way).

Undoubtedly, we've all experienced criticism from fans, coaches and players. I think this criticism can result from three major categories:

1. A mistake in application of the LOTG or Rules of the Competition
2. A disagreement with a judgment call or decision
3. Ignorance of the LOTG

The first one is easy to fix. Know the LOTG inside, outside, backward and forward. Regardless of what games you are doing, you have to know the Laws. **There is no excuse for not knowing.** Know your competition rules. Don't do a game in a particular league or tournament if you are not willing to review their rules before the game. It's easy and prevents all issues related to this problem. If you want to be particularly knowledgeable, go to the [US Soccer store](#) and get a copy of "Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game."

The second item is interesting. Realize early in your career that very few participants in a soccer match are unbiased. I'd venture to say the number is usually 3. Coaches, players, parents and other observers always have an opinion about every call you make. When you make a call, you will usually upset about 50% of the people observing the game. That's just the way it is. Since that is immutable, make sure you are making the best calls you can by knowing the LOTG (see above), being fit enough to be in a good position to make the call, and by doing the best you can with foul recognition and the like.

Also related to number 2 is the idea of view point. You are the only one on the field with your view. That goes for your assistants as well. Realistically, in a perfect situation, you are only going to have 3 legitimate views on a given play. Most of the time, you'll have 1 or 2. You have to make the call on those views since the others (coaches, parents, players) don't count. Keep in mind, that doesn't mean they didn't see something you didn't. That different view on a play is the basis for a lot of referee criticism. Do the best you can with what you see and don't worry about the rest. You can only call what you see.

From personal experience I can tell you that most coaches and nearly all parents and players have never read the Laws of the Game. Even if they have, they certainly haven't read any of the documents available to

interpret the laws. Many coaches and almost everyone else at a game rely on their understanding of the laws, developed over years of being around the game. This understanding includes the many myths of the game (no spin on the ball during a throw in, no foul if players get the ball first, etc.). I've never understood why coaches don't read the laws. I just don't get that. Did you know there is a watered down version of the laws available? It's called "[Laws of the Game Made Easy](#)" and is sold by the US Soccer Federation. Would things be a little different if all parents and players had to read this book? It's hard to guess.

So, the next time you are working a game, remember the only thing that is important is you do the best job you can. You are not there to please the spectators and coaches. You are there to provide a safe, fair game for the players. That is your only role. The other stuff is not important.

## **2010 certified?**

For those of you just starting out as a Referee I hope that you will enjoy your first season with us and look forward to seeing you for many more seasons in the future. For those of you returning for another season, Welcome back! Please make sure that you display your new 2010 Certification badge on your Referee shirt for every game. **If you do not display a current 2010 badge you will not be permitted to officiate.**

Last season we had several occurrences where Referees turned up to officiate in non-standard uniforms, incorrect shorts, incorrect socks etc. KYSC pays each of you an allowance towards your equipment and as a result expects you to dress only in official referee attire. Please do not turn up in non-standard uniform. In addition please make sure you bring Flags, Whistle, Cards, Notebook and pencils as a minimum to every game as part of your standard equipment.

## **KYSC Age related rule changes**

The last pages of this newsletter contain the KYSC Rule changes implemented for the small sided games for the younger age groups. Please take a moment to review the changes as there are rules here that are different to the standard FIFA rules that are applied on the full sized fields. The separate pages, when printed, can be folded three times to make a handy reference guide prior to each game. Getting the rules out mid-game will not instill sideline confidence in your understanding of the rules!!

## Referee Officials contact information

Referee Assignor - Linda Oram  
E-mail: - [KYSCassignor@gmail.com](mailto:KYSCassignor@gmail.com)

VP Referee KYSC – Dave Oram  
Email: - [vp.kysec.refs@gmail.com](mailto:vp.kysec.refs@gmail.com)



## U-7 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 four (4) 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. Preferred size is 4ft x 6ft.

### 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 3.

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8) 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 one and two and quarters three and four. 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.

**Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions: All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick with opponent five (5) yards away. No slide tackles are 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 five (5) 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.



## 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 an indirect free kick with opponent four (5) 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.



## Under 9 Playing Rules

### **Law I-The Field:**

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 60 yards nor less than 45 yards and its width not more than 45 yards or less than 35 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 with an eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a

line drawn parallel with the goal line.  
Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.  
Goals: 6 x 18 feet maximum. Goals may be smaller.

### **Law II-The Ball:** Size four (4)

### **Law III-Number of Players:**

Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is six (6) including the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is 5. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed 10.  
Substitutions: At any stoppage 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:** An official licensed referee will be assigned to each game.

### **Law VI-Assistant Referee:**

Two (2) official licensed assistant referees will be assigned to each game when available.

### **Law VII-Duration of the Game:**

The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty five (25) minutes each, 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 eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

### **Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play:**

Ball must completely cross line to be "out of play". Ball is "in play" if any part of the ball is on or above the line.

### **Law X-Method of Scoring:**

Conform to FIFA- ball must completely cross goal line, between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

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

**Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA

### **Law XIII-Free Kicks:**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:  
Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

### **Law XIV-Penalty Kicks:**

Conform to FIFA.

**Law XV-Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA

**Law XVI-Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA

### **Law XVII-Corner Kick:**

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:  
Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.



## Under 10 Playing Rules

### **Law I-The Field:**

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 70 yards nor less than 60 yards and its width not more than 50 yards nor less than 40 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 with an eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.

Goals: 6 x 18 feet maximum. Goals may be smaller.

**Law II-The Ball:** Size four (4)

**Law III-Number of Players:** Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight (8) including the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is 6.

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed 12.

Substitutions: At any stoppage 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:** An official licensed referee will be assigned to each game.

**Law VI-Assistant Referee:** Two (2) official licensed assistant referees will be assigned to each game when available.

**Law VII-Duration of the Game:** The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each, There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

**Law VIII-The Start of Play:** Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

**Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play:** Ball must completely cross line to be "out of play". Ball is "in play" if any part of the ball is on or above the line.

**Law X-Method of Scoring:** Conform to FIFA- ball must completely cross goal line, between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

**Law XI-Off-Side:** Conform to FIFA

**Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA

**Law XIII-Free Kicks:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XIV-Penalty Kicks:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XV-Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA

**Law XVI-Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA

**Law XVII-Corner Kick:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.



## U11 & U12 Playing Rules

### Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 70 yards nor less than 60 yards and its width not more than 50 yards nor less than 40 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 with an eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.

Goals: 6 x 18 feet maximum. Goals may be smaller.

### Law II-The Ball: Size four (4)

**Law III-Number of Players:** Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight (8) including the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is 6.

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed 12.

Substitutions: At any stoppage 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:** An official licensed referee will be assigned to each game.

**Law VI-Assistant Referee:** 2 official licensed Assistant Referees will be assigned.

**Law VII-Duration of the Game:** The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each, There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

**Law VIII-The Start of Play:** Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

**Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play:** Ball must completely cross line to be "out of play". Ball is "in play" if any part of the ball is on or above the line.

**Law X-Method of Scoring:** Conform to FIFA- ball must completely cross goal line, between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

**Law XI-Off-Side:**  
Conform to FIFA.

**Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:**  
Conform to FIFA

**Law XIII-Free Kicks:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XIV-Penalty Kicks:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XV-Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA

**Law XVI-Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA

**Law XVII-Corner Kick:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.