

U-8 Rules

4 v 4

Roster Maximum of 8

No Keeper

Throw-ins not kick-ins

goal kick from goal box

20 or 30 x 40 or 50 yds

goals = 4' x 8' or 4' x 6'

center radius = 5 yds

corner radius = 2ft.

goal area 3 yds

Duration & Substitution:

(2) 24 min Halves.

Unlimited Substitutions

2 minute water break or quarter break for each half

5 min halftime break

The Ball: #3

Substitutions: Anytime the ball is out of play with the permission of the Referee. There is unlimited substitution for **both** teams on team possession, goal kick, goal scored, or injury (not on corner kicks).

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Time is accounted for by Coaching Staff.

Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated **soccer shoes** may be worn.

B. Shinguards are mandatory.

C. Jewelry: Jewelry is **NOT** permitted to be worn. Please don't have the players put tape over earrings. General "Rule of Thumb" is; No Rings, No Watches, No Bracelets, No Necklaces, No Friendship Bracelets (string or rope type bracelets), No earrings, No earrings studs or posts, and No HARD hair holders.

The Referee: A Certified Referee will be used. Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child. Duties are the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of The Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. All rule infractions should be briefly explained to the offending player.

Duration of the Game:

A. The game shall be divided into two (2) twenty-four minute halves

B. There shall be a water or quarter break of (2) minutes for each half.

C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes

The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

A. Opponent must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

B. Starting Kicks are Indirect.

Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over touchline (sidelines), or end lines to be out of play.

Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line and between posts and beneath crossbar to count. A goal cannot be scored “directly” from a kickoff or off indirect free kicks.

Off-Side: There is **no** offside. Intentional offside play should be discouraged.

Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. Opponents MUST be five (5) yards away before the kick is allowed.

B. The referee/coach must explain ALL infractions to offending player.

Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. All free kicks will be **indirect**.

B. Opponents must be five (5) yards away

C. Free kicks awarded to an attacking team: If the foul occurs closer than 9 yds to the goal, the indirect kick shall be taken from 9 yards away from the goal with the ball placed on a line from the center of the goal through the spot of the foul.

Penalty Kicks: A PK will be awarded to the attacking team for any defensive foul in the goal box or penalty area. Penalty Kicks shall be placed nine (9) yards from the goal line and centered on the goal. The goal shall be open and no players may be forward of the ball during the kick. The ball will be considered “live” if it remains on the field after the kick. The kicker may not touch the ball again until contact has been made by another player.

Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Referee will allow up to one (1) illegal throw-in per restart.

Goal Kick: Indirect, May be taken from any point within the goal box area.

Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

B. Corner Kicks are Indirect Free Kicks.

Addendum - Goal Box: Players from either team may enter and touch the ball in the goal box without penalty. There is no “no entry” goal area, however, goal tending should be discouraged.

SLAUGHTER RULE (Recreational only): A seven goal differential at the end of the 1st half or secured during the second half shall terminate the game unless the losing coach wishes to continue. It is encouraged that the winning coach shows sportsmanship by modifying his team tactics to avoid this situation.