

Laws of the Game

For the 8 and Under Age Group



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.

Optional: A goal area that is 10 yards wide (4 yards from each goal post) and 5 yards out from the end line.

The Penalty Area: None.

Flag Posts: Corner flags.

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.

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.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

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.

The roster must have no more than 8 players per team.



Law 4 – The Players Equipment

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game. uniforms must distinguish teams. Shinguards are MANDATORY for both practices and games, and must be covered entirely by socks.

If needed, teams can be distinguished by scrimmage vests.

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).

Law 5 – The Referee

Use registered Referee, if available. If such personnel are unavailable, then use club Referee.

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 up to ten (10) minutes in length. There shall be up to a five (5) minute break between each quarter.

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.

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.

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.

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

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game

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 five (5) yards from the ball until the ball is kicked.

Option: If the goal area is marked on the field, then the goal kick shall be taken from anywhere inside the goal area. The ball must leave the goal area before it is in play and before being touched by another player.

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.

8 and Under Age Group
Field Dimensions, Interior Markings and Suggested Team Formations

