



U4/U5 LAWS OF THE GAME - MODIFIED

Meridian PAL Soccer

Law 1 - The Field of Play

Field Size	Goal Size	Penalty Box Size	Goal Box Size
10 yds X 15 yds	2 ft by 3 ft	none	none

Law 2 - The Ball

Size three (3).

Law 3 - The Number of Players

A game is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 3 players. There are no goalkeepers.

Law 4 - The Player's Equipment

Meridian PAL provides a shirt for each player. In addition, the player is to provide shin guards and appropriate shoes (tennis shoes or soccer cleats). If the team is playing a team wearing the same color, pinnies will be provided to differentiate teams. Look for these hanging on nearby stands.

Shin guards are mandatory and must be completely covered by socks. Cleat may not be made of metal and cannot have a toe cleat. No jewelry may be worn; No earrings may be worn, even if they are taped.

Law 5 - The Referee

There is no need for a referee to manage U4 and U5 games. Both head coaches, if desired, can be on the field during games to act as co-referees and to provide guidance on the field.

Law 6 - The other Match Officials

None

Law 7 - The Duration of the Match

The first 30 minutes of the scheduled game time will be a practice. Coaches can use this time to play games and get touches on the ball.

A game will follow the practice time. The game should be divided into four (4) periods of not more than five (5) minutes, based on the energy and motivation of the players. The length of the match should be determined by both coaches. There shall be a maximum of a three (3) minute break between each period.

Law 8 - The Start of Play

The halves will start with a kick-off at the center of the field. The game will be re-started from the center after every score. The ball does NOT have to move forward at kick-off to start the ball in play. Each player must be on his or her half of the field. Kickoffs are indirect kicks (you cannot score from a kick-off without someone else touching the ball first).

Law 9 - The Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when it COMPLETELY goes over the goal line or touch-line regardless if it is in the air or on the ground.

Law 10 - The Method of Scoring

The ball must COMPLETELY cross the line into the goal.

Law 11 - Offside

Offside will not be called.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

At the youth level, most fouls are due to pushing, holding or tripping, and result in a free kick. Other ones to watch for are handballs. A handball infraction occurs when a player handles the ball deliberately. 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

There are two types of free kicks, direct and indirect. At this level, all free kicks are classified as indirect. This means a goal may not be scored until the ball has been touched by a second player on either team. Players should be 4 yards away from the kicker.

Law 14 - The Penalty Kick

None

Law 15 - The Throw - In/New Ball

New Ball. When the ball goes out of bounds, the coach will put a new ball into play. The coaches may both carry around a ball during the game. When the ball goes out of play, the nearest coach puts a ball down and calls, "new ball!" Coaches should work together to give opportunities of appropriate success and challenge to players on both teams.

Law 16 - The Goal Kick

U4 and U5 will NOT use a goal kick. New Ball will be used instead.

New Ball: When the ball goes out of bounds, the coach will put a new ball into play. The coaches may both carry around a ball during the game. When the ball goes out of play, the nearest coach puts a ball down and calls, "new ball!" Coaches should work together to give opportunities of appropriate success and challenge to players on both teams.

Law 17 - The Corner kick

U4 and U5 will NOT use a corner kick. New Ball will be used instead.

New Ball: When the ball goes out of bounds, the coach will put a new ball into play. The coaches may both carry around a ball during the game. When the ball goes out of play, the nearest coach puts a ball down and calls, "new ball!" Coaches should work together to give opportunities of appropriate success and challenge to players on both teams.

Substitutions

Substitutions may occur at any time (on the fly).

Best Practices

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

Have fun and cheer for both teams.