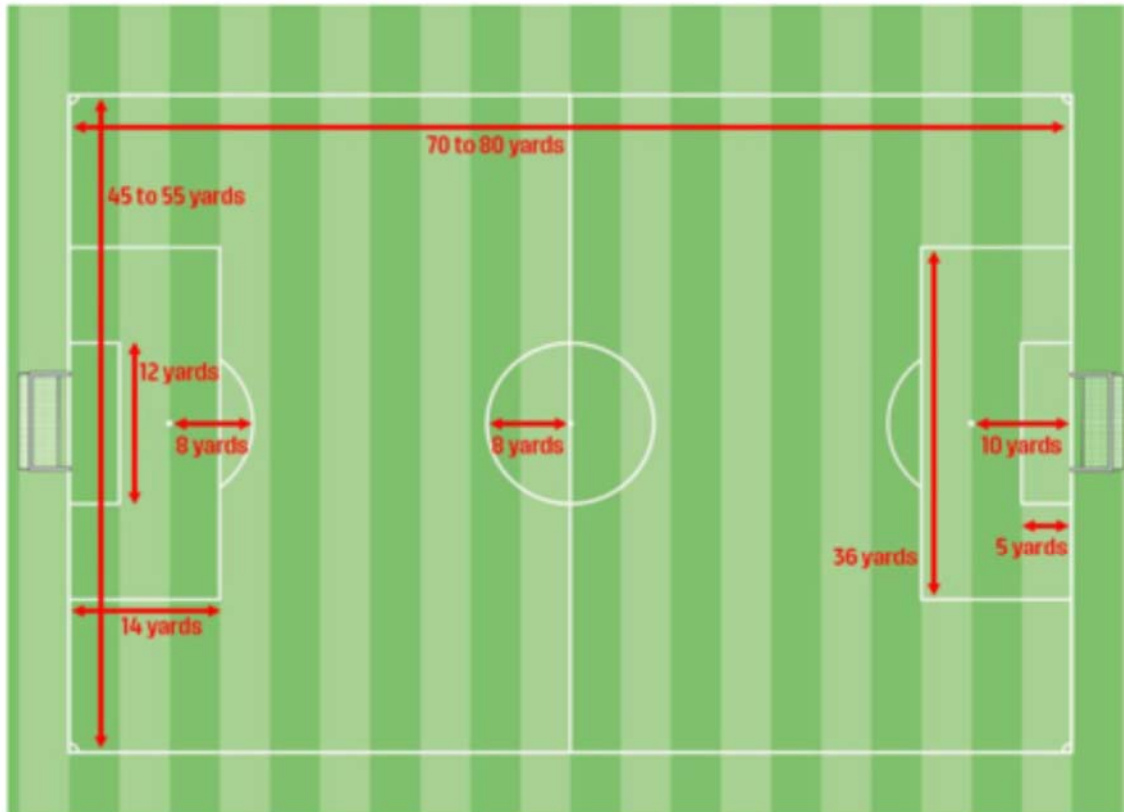


FIFA LAWS OF SOCCER MODIFIED FOR LYA U12 AGE GROUP 9 v 9

There are 17 FIFA laws that govern the play of soccer. This document summarizes the rules as modified for LYA Soccer U12 Age Group and the last part of this document outlines US Soccer Modified 9 v 9 Rules.

Law 1 – The Field of Play

The field of play is modified for LYA U12 Soccer as recommended by US Soccer



Law 2 – The Ball

Size 4 Soccer ball

Law 3 – Players

The game is played between two teams of 9 players including a goalkeeper. Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage at the discretion of the referee.

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

Five "S"s – shirt, shorts, shin guards, socks and shoes. Shin guards are required and must be covered by socks. Shoes may not contain metal spikes/cleats. Goalkeeper must wear a different color shirt than the two teams playing. No jewelry or hard hair clips of any sort can be worn. Referees will not allow players to participate if they are wearing jewelry of any sort. No hard casts may be worn unless wrapped in soft bubble wrap to be allowed at the discretion of the referee.

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Law 5 – The Referee

One referee per game who controls the game. All referee decisions are final.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees (Linesmen)

Assistant Referees are not used for LYA U12 Soccer

Law 7 – the Duration of the Match

The game consists of two halves 30 minutes each running clock with a 5 minute half-time

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

A flip of a coin decides which team will choose which goal to attack. The team that loses the coin-flip kicks off. Each team must be in its own half of the field during kick-off and defending players must be outside of center circle until the ball is kicked. After a goal, the team scored upon kicks off. After halftime, teams change ends and the kick-off is taken by the team that did not kick off at the start of the game. A goal can be scored directly from a kick-off, i.e., kick-offs are DIRECT kicks.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is only out of play when: a) it has wholly crossed the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air; b) when the game is stopped by the referee.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the whole ball has completely crossed the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar.

Law 11 – Offside

A player is in an offside position she or he is closer to the opponent's goal line than the ball unless: a) the player is behind the midfield line or b) there are at least two opponents (including the goalkeeper) between her or him and the opposing team's goal. If a player is in an offside position the moment a teammate plays the ball toward her or him or he or she makes a movement toward the ball in the opinion of the referee, then the referee will award an indirect free kick (see Law 13) to the opposing team at the point where the infraction occurred.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

A player who intentionally attempts to, or actually: a) kicks, b) trips, c) jumps at, d) charges violently, e) charges from behind, f) strikes, g) holds, h) pushes, or i) intentionally touches the ball with their hands or arms shall be penalized by the awarding of a direct free kick (see Law 13) to the opposing team. Any one of these nine offenses committed in the penalty area will result in a penalty kick (see Law 14) being awarded. Less flagrant offenses, such as offsides, dangerous play, obstruction, or unsportsmanlike conduct, will result in an indirect free kick. NO SLIDE TACKLING is allowed in LYA U12 Soccer. This will result in an indirect free kick.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Free kicks are awarded for violations cited in rule 12. They are classified in two categories: a) direct free kicks, from which a goal can be scored directly against the offending team, and b) indirect free kicks, from which the ball must touch another player other than the kicker before entering the goal. The offending team must be at least 10 yards from the ball on all free kicks.

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Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

A direct free kick is taken at the penalty mark in front of the goal. It is a one-on-one situation with the kick against the goalkeeper. Everyone else must stay outside the penalty area and at least 10 yards from the ball (the reason for the arc at the top of the penalty area) until it is kicked. The goalkeeper must remain on the goal line facing the kicker until the ball is touched, although the goalkeeper may move sideways along the goal line prior to the kick.

Law 15 – The Throw-In

When the ball has wholly crossed the touchline, it is put back into play at the spot it crossed by a player from the opposite team that last touched the ball. The player throws the ball over their head, with equal force from both hands. The player must have both feet touching the ground, and be on or behind the touchline. When throwing the ball in, the thrower must loft the ball in the air (not spike it). A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in. There is no offside on a throw-in.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

When the ball has wholly crossed the goal line after last being touched by a player from the attacking team, it is put back into play by a kick from the goal area of the defending team. The team taking the kick may be inside the box on a goal kick, the opponents must start outside the box. The ball may be touched by either team once the ball is kicked and does not need to leave the box to be touched by either team.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick

When the ball has wholly crossed the goal line after last being touched by a player from the defending team, it is put back into play by a kick by the attacking team from the corner on the side that the ball went out. The ball is placed on the ground anywhere over or within the corner-arc, and the kick is taken by a member of the attacking team. The defending team must be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked. There is no offside on a corner kick.

MODIFIED Rules from US Youth Soccer

Concussion Initiative

Deliberate heading is not allowed in LYA U12 soccer games. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

MERCY RULES

The ideal game is a 5-5 tie and the goal of both sets of coaches is to coach for competitive balance. If a team is ahead by 4 goals, that team must remove one player from the field and play 8 v 9 until the score is within 3 goals or less. Remove a player for every 2 goals beyond 4 goal differential and then add players back once the score is restored.

For teams playing 8 v 8, the team down by 4 goals may ADD a player instead of the winning team subtracting a player and *then* subtract players. At no time should a team have more than 9 players on the field including a keeper. If teams are clearly lopsided coaches work together to swap players at half-time to balance out the teams.