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## Rule Highlights - 8U

The following Laws have been modified by Soccer Association for Youth (SAY) and UVSA with the goal of introducing more touches, while being developmentally appropriate for 7 \& 8 year old players. These modifications are intended to be guidelines for players, parents and coaches and are not intended to be the letter of the law as enforced by the referees on the field.

| Field of Play | - $\sim 20$ yd. wide by $\sim 35$ yd. (may be adjusted as needed by UVSA) |
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| The Ball | - Size \#3 ball is used |
| Players \& Substitutions | - 5-on-5 (or 6-on-6) and there are NO goaltenders <br> - Unlimited substitutions may occur anytime the ball goes out of play, there is an injury, or a goal is scored |
| Player's <br> Equipment | - Shin guards are required to be worn at ALL 8U activities <br> - Additional game day required attire includes league provided jerseys \& socks, as well black shorts (long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts, as well as pants may be worn under the uniform, weather dependent) <br> - Cleats SHOULD be worn but cannot have metal spikes or sharp edges |
| Referees | - One referee will be provided by UVSA at all games <br> - Referees are responsible for keeping time, enforcing the Laws, calling infractions and handing out appropriate penalties |
| Assistant <br> Referees | - There MAY be an Assistant Referee provided for games |
| Duration of Game | - Practice Day sessions \& frequency are determined by the coach, but are typically 60-90 minutes in duration, 1-2 times per week <br> - Game Day sessions typically consist of two 15-20 minute halves w/ a continuous clock <br> - There is a 5-minute break for halftime |
|  <br> Restart of Play | - All starts and restarts of play occur at the beginning of a half and after a goal is scored <br> - They will take place at the center mark |
| Ball In \& Out of Play | - The ball is considered out of play when it COMPLETELY crosses a goal line or touch line regardless of whether the ball is on the ground or in the air |


| Method of Scoring | - A goal is awarded when the ball completely crosses the portion of the goal line enclosed by the uprights of the soccer goal <br> - Score is often kept informally by coaches for the 8U age group, and standings are occasionally recorded for use in tournament seeding |
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| Offside | - Offside rule does NOT apply |
| Fouls \& Misconduct | - The most common fouls for 8 U players are due to pushing, holding, tripping, charging and handballs <br> - These should be called and explained to all players, not just the offending player |
| Free Kick | - ALL free kicks are INDIRECT, meaning a goal cannot be scored until the ball is played by another player on either team <br> - The ball may be kicked in any direction and must be touched by another player. <br> - Defenders must be at least 6-yards from the player kicking |
| Penalty Kick | - Since there are no penalty areas on the $8 U$ field, no penalty kicks will be awarded, ALL infractions will follow the Free Kick rule |
| Throw-In | - A throw-in is awarded when the ball goes out of play along one of the two touch lines <br> - All throw-ins will be awarded at the place the ball last crossed the touch line <br> - Illegal throw-ins should be explained and will result in a re-throw |
| Goal Kick | - Awarded to the defense when the ball is last played by the offense before going out of play along the defensive goal line <br> - Can be taken anywhere within the goal box <br> - The ball is considered in play, and may be touched by any other player as soon as it is in motion <br> - The opposing team must line up beyond the Build Out Line until the ball is in play |
| Corner Kick | - Awarded to the offense when the ball is last played by the defense before going out of play along the defensive goal line All kicks to be taken from the corner closest to the place where the ball went out of play |

