

U8 Game Play Format

Because of the successful player development witnessed in the U6 age group, Plum Area Youth Soccer has decided to carry the U6 format into the U8 level this year. The goal is for each player to have an opportunity for success and to make the games more balanced/competitive for all players.

What does this mean:

- Roster sizes will be bigger. This will allow us to have 2 concurrent games for each team (fields side by side) in which the players will be distributed based upon skill level. This will allow an opportunity for each player to have a chance to gain confidence and not allow for the more advanced players to dominate play against the less advanced players.
- Game play will have a head coach running one field/game and an assistant (or parent) helping on the other field/game. Substitution and game format will be the same as in prior years of U8.
- Each practice will have more players, but we will continue to provide guidance to each coach on ways to manage/build practices (Ryan Mathieu is the Plum Soccer player/coach development board member). A good rule for any coach is 1) never have kids standing in lines and 2) keep them all moving as the more “touches on the ball” the better.

Division Details

- Encompasses U7 and U8 eligible players
- Players will need Size 3 soccer ball, shin guards, uniforms, and water bottle
- Team size be around 15 players on a team
- Small sided games. 5 v 5. (4 field and 1 goalie); 2 fields to distribute players based upon skill level
- No referees used for games.
- Games are played on Saturdays for 1 Hour. (2), 20–25-minute halves
- Practices are held once per week with the day/time determined by the coach.
- All games will utilize the buildout line which is explained at [7v7 Build Out Line Rule](#) and [Buildout Line - Explained](#)

Recreational soccer is a soccer program primarily devoted to the enjoyment and development of soccer players without the emphasis on travel or high-level competition. The purpose of recreational soccer is to provide an opportunity for the participants to have fun, learn the sport and develop life skills, including a lifelong love of the game.