

## **Optimist Club of Naples - Soccer Program** **U12 Rule Modifications**

Modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game  
FIFA Laws of the Game can be found on our website – [www.optimistsoccer.org](http://www.optimistsoccer.org)

**Law 1** – The Field of Play

**Law 2** – The Ball: Size 4

**Law 3** – The Number of Players: Each team should consist of not more than 9 players, one of whom is a goalkeeper. All games must be played with the same number of players on each team, unless a player or players have been ejected by the referee. If numbers allow, a team with sufficient players should “loan” players to the team that is short then play.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

**Law 4** – The Players’ Equipment: Conform to FIFA. **Only sports safety glasses are permitted on the field of play.**

**Law 5** – The Referee: A registered referee.

**Law 6** – The Assistant Referees: Two.

**Law 7** – The Duration of the Match: The game will be divided into two 30 minute halves. There shall be a water break mid-way through the first half and another water break mid-way through the second half. **The referee will not stop the clock during the mandatory water breaks.** There shall be a half-time interval of 5 minutes.

**Law 8** – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 9** – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 11** – Offside: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

**A second yellow card during a game will result in the offending player missing the remainder of that game (they may not be replaced on the field). A straight red card will result in the offending player missing the remainder of that game (they may not be replaced on the field) and missing the entire next game.**

**No punting by goalkeeper is allowed.** When a goalkeeper punts the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt occurs inside the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

**No deliberate headers are allowed.** When a player deliberately heads the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs inside the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

**No slide tackles are allowed.**

**Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA, with the exception that the penalty mark is 10 yards from the goal.

**Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**No scores or standings will be kept.**