

## Optimist Club of Naples - Soccer Program U7-U8 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 3

**Law 3** – The Number of Players: Each team should consist of not more than 7 players, one of whom is a goalkeeper. All games must be played with the same number of players on each team. 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 coach.

**Law 6** – The Assistant Referees: None.

**Law 7** – The Duration of the Match: The game will be divided into two 24 minute halves. There shall be a 2 minute water break mid-way through the first half and a 2 minute water break mid-way through the second half. **The clock does not stop during the mandatory water breaks.** There shall be a half-time interval of 10 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: None.

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

**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.

**Build Out Line.** When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting is not allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

**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, with the exception that all free kicks are indirect.

**Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: None.

**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.**