

## Summary: Rules of Play

### U5 and U6 - No Referees

- Size 3 ball
- 4 @ 10 minute periods
- 4 v 4 (4 minimum) - No goalkeepers
- Min roster size is 6 players
- Max roster size is 10 players
- No offside
- All fouls restart with indirect kick.
- Goals cannot be scored on a direct kick.
- No penalty kicks
- Free and unlimited substitutions allowed.
- Kick-ins or throw-ins are allowed for balls out-of-touch.
- One re-throw shall be allowed if a foul throw occurs.
- Opponents shall be 4 yards away on all free kicks.
- One coach from each team is allowed on the field.
- Defenders shall not "goal-tend" but are allowed in goal area.
- Goal kicks are taken 3 yards out from goal line.
- NO HEADING
- Goal Size - 4x6

### U7 and U8 – No Referees

- Size 3 ball
- 4 @ 10 minute periods
- 4 v 4 (4 minimum) - No goalkeepers
- Min roster size is 8 players
- Max roster size is 10 players
- No offside
- All fouls restart with indirect kick.
- Goals cannot be scored on a direct kick.
- No penalty kicks
- Free and unlimited substitutions allowed.
- Kick-ins are not allowed.
- Throw-ins are allowed for balls out-of-touch.
- One re-throw shall be allowed if a foul throw occurs.
- Opponents shall be 4 yards away on all free kicks.
- One coach from each team is allowed on the field.
- Defenders shall not "goal-tend" but are allowed in goal area.
- Goal kicks are taken 3 yards out from goal line
- NO HEADING
- Goal Size - 4x6

### U9 and U10 - Center Referee and two AR

- Size 4 ball
- 2 @ 25 minute periods
- 7 v 7 (5 minimum)
- Min roster size is 9 players
- Max roster size is 14 players
- Offside infractions penalized
- All fouls restart per "Laws of the Game"
- Penalty kicks are allowed for this age group
- Substitutions allowed at any dead ball with referee discretion.
- Throw-ins are allowed for balls outside of play.
- No re-throw shall be allowed if a foul throw occurs
- Opponents shall be 8 yards away on all free kicks and/or outside the "build out" line on goal kicks (**See Build Out Line Addendum**). Build out line is equidistant between the penalty area line and the halfway line.
- Coaches must remain within a designated "Technical Area" or within 4 yards of the team bench.

- Goal keepers allowed in this age group
- NO PUNTING or DROP KICKING
- NO HEADING or SLIDE TACKLING
- Penalty for punting, drop kicking, heading, or slide tackling will be an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the infraction.
- Goal Size – 6x18

### U11 and 12 - Center Referee and two AR

- Size 4 ball
- 2 @ 30 minute periods
- 9 v 9 (7 minimum)
- Min roster size is 11 players
- Max roster size is 18 players
- Offside infractions penalized
- All fouls restart per "Laws of the Game"
- Penalty kicks are allowed for this age group
- Substitutions allowed at any dead ball with referee discretion.
- Throw-ins are allowed for balls outside of play.
- No re-throw shall be allowed if a foul throw occurs
- Opponents shall be 8 yards away on all free kicks and/or outside the penalty area on goal kicks
- Coaches must remain with a designated "Technical Area" or within 4 yards of the team bench.
- Goal keepers allowed in this age group
- Corner kicks are played from the corner arc area
- NO HEADING or SLIDE TACKLING
- Penalty for heading or slide tackling will be an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the infraction.
- Goal Size – 6.5x18.5

### Middle School and High School Divisions - Center Referee and two AR

#### (same as U11 / U12 except)

- Size 5 ball
- 2 @ 25 minute periods
- 7 v 7 (7 minimum) on 9 v 9 size field
- Min roster size is 7 players
- Max roster size is 14
- Slide tackling is allowed.

**Punting is not allowed due to small field size**

## General Rules

- Shinguards are mandatory and must be completely covered by the socks.
- No jewelry of any kind is permitted.
- No tape or bandages shall be used to cover earrings.
- No hard casts or braces with exposed metal parts may be worn. Exception for U12 and older players participating in the WVSA Open Cup with a doctors release to play soccer.
- Baseball style cleats are not permitted

## Build Out Line Addendum and Clarification

- The build out line is space created to allow players and teams at younger ages, a chance to build the game out of the back instead of relying on punting and long ball to get behind opponent or solve the opponent pressure.
- When the goalkeeper has the ball from their hands or a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line.
- Punting/drop kicking the ball is not allowed as this would defeat the purpose of the build out line and reduces the opportunity to play out from the back in an un-pressured setting.
- After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper and touched by 1 other player (a free pass), the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal. Any initial pass played beyond the build out line will be played as normal.
- The goalkeeper may pass the ball before the opposing team has retreated behind the build out line but does so at his/her own peril.
- Entering the build out Line area early will result in a Goal Kick.