

# **Georgia Soccer Youth Rules and Regulations**

## RULES OF US YOUTH SOCCER AFFECTING GAME PLAY AND GEORGIA YOUTH MODIFICATIONS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

The Rules of Play used will be the "FIFA Laws of the Game", as modified by the BCDLS.

### 1. LAW #1: THE FIELD

- a. No one (spectators or participants) shall be allowed behind the end lines during the course of a game.
  - i. The referee shall halt the game, if necessary, to enforce this rule.
- b. Field size will not be a matter for protest.
- c. The build-out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting. Buildout lines should be equidistant from the penalty area lines and halfway line OR Build-out lines should be 8 yards from halfway line.
  - i. When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hand hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build-out line until the ball is put into play.
  - ii. Once the opposing team is behind the build-out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate. Punts and drop kicks are allowed.
  - iii. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build-out line and play resumes as normal.
  - iv. The opposing team must also move behind the build-out line prior to a goal kick and may only cross the build-out line once the ball has left the penalty area.
  - v. Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6-second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build-out line.
- d. Goalkeepers ARE allowed to punt or dropkick the ball.

### 2. LAW #2: THE BALL

- a. 6U shall use a #3 ball.
- b. 8U through 10U shall use a #4 ball.

### 3. LAW #3: THE PLAYERS

- a. 6U: 5v5 with no goalie
- b. 8U: 6v6 with goalie
- c. 10U: 7v7 with goalie
- d. Recreation: Each player must play a minimum of 50%, if he/she meets practice participation requirements set by their club/association.
- e. Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at the following times:
  - i. End of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
  - ii. Half Time
  - iii. End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

### 4. LAW #4: THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- a. Uniforms will be individually numbered and legible.
- b. The goalkeeper shall wear a shirt of a different color from his teammates, the referee, and his opponents, and does not require a number.
- c. Players may wear a cast on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, upper arm or shoulder if it is covered and padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than ½-inch thick.

### 5. LAW #5: THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

- a. 10U Two 20-min. halves
  - b. 08U Four 8 min. quarters
  - c. 06U Four 6 min. quarters
6. LAW #6: THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY
- a. In 6U, there will be no referees. Coaches will start the game clock when both teams are ready.
  - b. If a team cannot field the required minimum number of players within 10 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, that team will forfeit the game. In the event that neither team is able to field the required minimum number of players, then both teams will forfeit the game.
  - c. For extenuating circumstances, the Program Manager shall have the right to waive this rule.
7. LAW #7: DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH
- a. In 6U, score will not be kept.
  - b. Ties are allowed
8. LAW #8: OFFSIDE
- a. 08U and below: There is no offside.
  - b. 10U: Offsides will be played.
    - i. Offsides starts at the build out line.
9. LAW #9: FREE KICKS
- a. In 6U, no free kicks
  - b. 08U: All free kicks will be indirect.
10. LAW #10: THE PENALTY KICK
- a. 06U through 10U: No penalty kicks are to be taken during games.
11. LAW #11: THE THROW-IN
- a. 06U to 08U: A second throw-in must be allowed if the player makes an improper throw-in on the initial attempt. The second throw-in takes place after the game official explains the proper method.
  - b. 10U: For the first half of the season, a second throw-in attempt will be allowed if the player makes an improper throw-in on the initial attempt. The second throw-in takes place after the game official explains the proper method.
  - c. 10U: For the second half of the season, no additional attempt will be granted.
12. LAW #12: THE CORNER KICK
- a. 04U to 06U: Throw-ins may be taken in place of corner kicks. If corner kicks are used, the opponents must be three (3) yards away from the ball.
  - b. 08U and older: Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

An acknowledgment of the authority and overriding governance of Georgia Soccer, US Youth Soccer, US Adult Soccer, and USSF.

Example: "This organization shall be governed by its bylaws, rules, procedures, and policies, except where superseded by the authority of GSSA, US Youth Soccer, US Adult Soccer, and USSF."

An appropriate adjudication process (please reference USSF Bylaw 701, Hearing Procedures), including an appeals process.