



U-8
Official Rules
Revised Fall 2016

(This Instructional Program conforms to all FIFA Official Rules unless indicated below. This set of rules supersedes all other rules.)

I. The Field

- A The field size (in yards) shall be:
Minimum – 35L x 25W
Maximum – 45L x 35W
- B Distinctive lines not more than 5 inches wide shall mark the field.
- C A halfway line shall be marked out across the field and a center circle drawn with a minimum 3 yard/maximum 5 yard radius.
- D Four corner arcs shall be marked with a 2 foot radius.
- E The goals shall be no more than 12 feet wide by 6 feet tall.
- F The goal area shall be marked with a goal box measuring 4 yards from each goal post and 6 yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

II. The Ball

Size 4

III. Number of Players

- A The game shall be played 5v5 (4 field players and a goalkeeper).
- B The maximum number of players recommended on the team roster should not exceed 10.
- C The teams and games may be co-ed.

IV. Substitutions

Players may be substituted between each quarter or at injuries or illness or obvious player fatigue.

V. Playing Time

- A Each player shall play at least 50% of the total playing time during each game.
- B All children should spend an equal amount of time during the season playing offense, defense and goalie.

VI. Player's Equipment

- A Every player must wear athletic shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes. Baseball or other cleats are not allowed. No cleat may contain a front center spike.
- B Shin guards are mandatory. They must be covered by the sock.

VII. Referee

The referee shall be a registered or associate referee or someone as deemed appropriate by the *club*.
The referee may be a parent/coach or assistant.

VIII. Linesmen

It will not be required to have a linesman but any person may be one as requested by the referee.

IX. Duration of Game

- A The game shall be divided into four equal quarters with each quarter 10 minutes in duration.
- B There shall be a 2 minute break after the 1st and 3rd quarters and a 5 minute break at the half.

X. Start of Play

At the start of play (i.e. beginning of game, after a goal has been scored, and after every quarter) opponents must be outside the center circle on their half of the field. The ball is in play once it is touched.

XI. Ball In and Out of Play

- A If a ball exits the playing field, it must be thrown back into play.
- B If a player throws the ball into play incorrectly, he or she will be given another chance to throw the ball into play.
- C The referee or coach shall instruct the player on the correct technique.

XII. Off-Sides

There shall be no off-sides.

XIII. Method of Scoring

- A. A goal is scored when the ball enters the goal after completely crossing the goal line.
- B. No goal shall be scored directly from a kick-off. If a goal is scored in such a manner then the kick-off will be redone.

XIV. Fouls and Misconduct

All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents 6 yards away. The referee must explain all infractions to the offending player and both coaches.

XV. Free Kicks

- A All free kicks shall be indirect regardless of the circumstances in which they were awarded.
- B A goal may not be scored on a free kick until it is touched by a second player of either team.
- C No free kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal box.
- D Kick-offs shall be indirect and no goal scored directly from the kick.

XVI. Penalty Kicks

No penalty kicks shall be taken in this division.

XVII. Goal Kicks/Goalie Punting

Goal kicks should be taken from the side of the goal the ball exited the playing field. All opponents are to be behind the mid-field line on their side of the field.

XVIII. Corner Kicks

Opponents must be 6 yards away from the ball on a corner kick.

XIX. Age of Players

- A Players should be 6 or 7 years old on or before July 31 to play in this division.
- B The *club* reserves the right to make exceptions to this rule as necessary to secure the best interests of the players.

XX. Conclusion of Game

At the conclusion of the game, players and coaches should shake hands with the opposing team.

XXI. Miscellaneous

- A No records shall be kept as to winning or losing or league standings.
- B No final scores shall be kept.
- C All players should receive a participation award.
- D Coaches shall not smoke or consume alcoholic beverages in the park.
- E Spectators shall be at least one yard away from the side lines and markings should be placed indicating same.
- F Coaches, parents, and spectators shall conform to the code of conduct as indicated in the Club's By-laws.
- G Jewelry of any kind is not allowed at any practice or game. This includes but is not limited to **EARRINGS**, necklaces, rings, and bracelets.

XXII. Headers

Headers are not allowed. Any header will result in a turnover at the point of the header and an indirect kick for the opposing team.