

U7-U8 MSA RECREATIONAL SOCCER LAWS MODIFICATIONS (updated 7/14/25)

Special note: Goalkeepers will not play more than a half. Referees have been instructed to protect the goalkeepers inside of the goal area. Coaches are requested to instruct their players not to charge the goalkeepers. Goalkeepers are allowed to come out to the top of the penalty area for their re-start when they pick-up the ball. Coaches are not permitted on the field unless signaled onto the field by the referee.

Heading is not allowed in ages U8, U9, U10, U11, and U12. If in the referees opinion a player intentionally heads the ball the result shall be an indirect free kick awarded to the opponent at the spot of the infraction. If the header is in the penalty area, it will result in an indirect free kick just outside of the penalty area.

- A. Except as listed below, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" published by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) shall govern the play within Medina Soccer Association.
- B. Exceptions
 - **Law 1 Field of Play** - The field of play will be assigned by the Association and will be played as marked. All field markings will be sized proportion to the field, including the goals.
 - **Law 2 Ball Size** - The ball size will be #4.
 - **Law 3 Number of Players and Substitutions**
 - 1. The starting number of players on the field will be six. (five field players and a goalie)
 - 2. **As a courtesy to the other players and coaches, a team should only field the number of players that its opponents are able to field.**
 - 3. A team down 4 goals or more may elect to add an additional player as long as the four-goal difference exists.
 - 4. It is suggested that substitution during: · Possession throw-ins · Goal kicks · After a goal has been scored · Halftime and after a yellow card
 - 5. Each player SHALL play minimum of 50% of total playing time.
 - **Law 4 Players Equipment**
 - 1. Shin guards and matching team shirts are required.
 - **Law 5 Referee**
 - 1. The referee will be assigned by MSA.
 - 2. If the assigned referee does not appear for the game and no substitute can be found, the two coaches will jointly referee the game.
 - 3. The referee will take into consideration the age group in his/her judgement calls. The spirit of the game should not be abridged by the excessive calling of penalties.
 - **Law 6 The Linesman** - Linesmen are not assigned by MSA.
 - **Law 7 Duration of the Game**
 - 1. Time of play shall be four 10 minute halves with a 5 minutes halftime. 2 minutes allowed between quarters
 - 2. The referee to keep games on schedule may shorten time of play.
 - **Law 8 Start of Play** - No exceptions.
 - **Law 9 Ball in/out of Play** - No exceptions.
 - **Law 10 Method of Scoring** - No exceptions.
 - **Law 11 Offside** - Offside does not apply. Players cannot be placed in front of goal permanently (indirect free kick from spot of foul).
 - **Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct**
 - 1. Coaches can be carded.
 - 2. On a yellow card, the coach may substitute for the player with a one for one exchange.
 - 3. On a red card the player is not permitted to play the rest of the game, nor can he/she be substituted for in that game. The player given the red card will not be permitted to play the next scheduled game. The referee must report each red card, to the Director of Referees. The Discipline committee will view each red card incident.
 - 4. Pass back rule is not in effect. The goalkeeper is allowed to pick up the ball when last played by a teammate.
 - **Law 13 Free Kicks** - ALL kicks will be indirect kicks taken from outside the goal area. The ball must touch at least two players prior to scoring.
 - **Law 14 Penalty Kicks** - Penalty kicks will be awarded.
 - **Law 15 Throw-Ins** - Players will be permitted two attempts at throw-ins.
 - **Law 16 Goal Kicks** - Goal kicks will be taken from within goal area. Ball is not in play until it leaves the penalty area.
 - **Law 17 Corner Kicks** - Corner kicks will be taken from the corner arc.

MSA does not permit slide tackling

