



# US Soccer Player Development Initiatives (PDI): Small-Sided Games

A resource for all youth association Referees participating in Small-Sided Games (4v4, 7v7 and 9v9).

These initiatives are in full effect in all competitions beginning August 1, 2017

# Small-Sided Games Chart

	U08 (4v4)	U07 (4v4)	U06 (4v4)	U09 (7v7)	U10 (7v7)	U11 (9v9)	U12 (9v9)
Field Size (yards)	Length 25-35 Width 15-25	Length 25-35 Width 15-25	Length 25-35 Width 15-25	Length 55-65 Width 35-45	Length 55-65 Width 35-45	Length 70-80 Width 45-55	Length 70-80 Width 45-55
Goal Size	Height 4 ft. Width 6 ft.	Height 4 ft. Width 6 ft.	Height 4 ft. Width 6 ft.	Height 6.5 ft. Width 18.5 ft.	Height 6.5 ft. Width 18.5 ft.	Height 7 ft. Width 21 ft.	Height 7 ft. Width 21 ft.
Ball Size	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
Players	4v4	4v4	4v4	7v7	7v7	9v9	9v9
Game Time	4x10min.	4x10min.	4x10min.	2x25min.	2x25min.	2x30min.	2x30min.
Offside	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GK Punt	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Dist. Free Kicks	10 feet	10 feet	10 feet	8 yards	8 yards	8 yards	8 yards
Penalty Kicks	No (IFK)	No (IFK)	No (IFK)	Yes(10 yards)	Yes(10 yards)	Yes(10 yards)	Yes(10 yards)
FreeKicks	IFK ONLY	IFK ONLY	IFK ONLY	IFK/DFK	IFK/DFK	IFK/DFK	IFK/DFK



# US Soccer Player Development Initiatives (PDI):

## 9v9 Small-Sided Games



**9v9**

## **Concussion Initiative**

- Deliberate heading is not allowed in U11 games. Heading is currently allowed in U12 games without limitations but League Associations are empowered to limit or ban heading at this level of play. Referees are to be aware of League Rules of Competition HEADING IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE U12 AGE GROUP IN ROHNERT PARK.
- If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense
- If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred



## **9v9 Standards of Play**

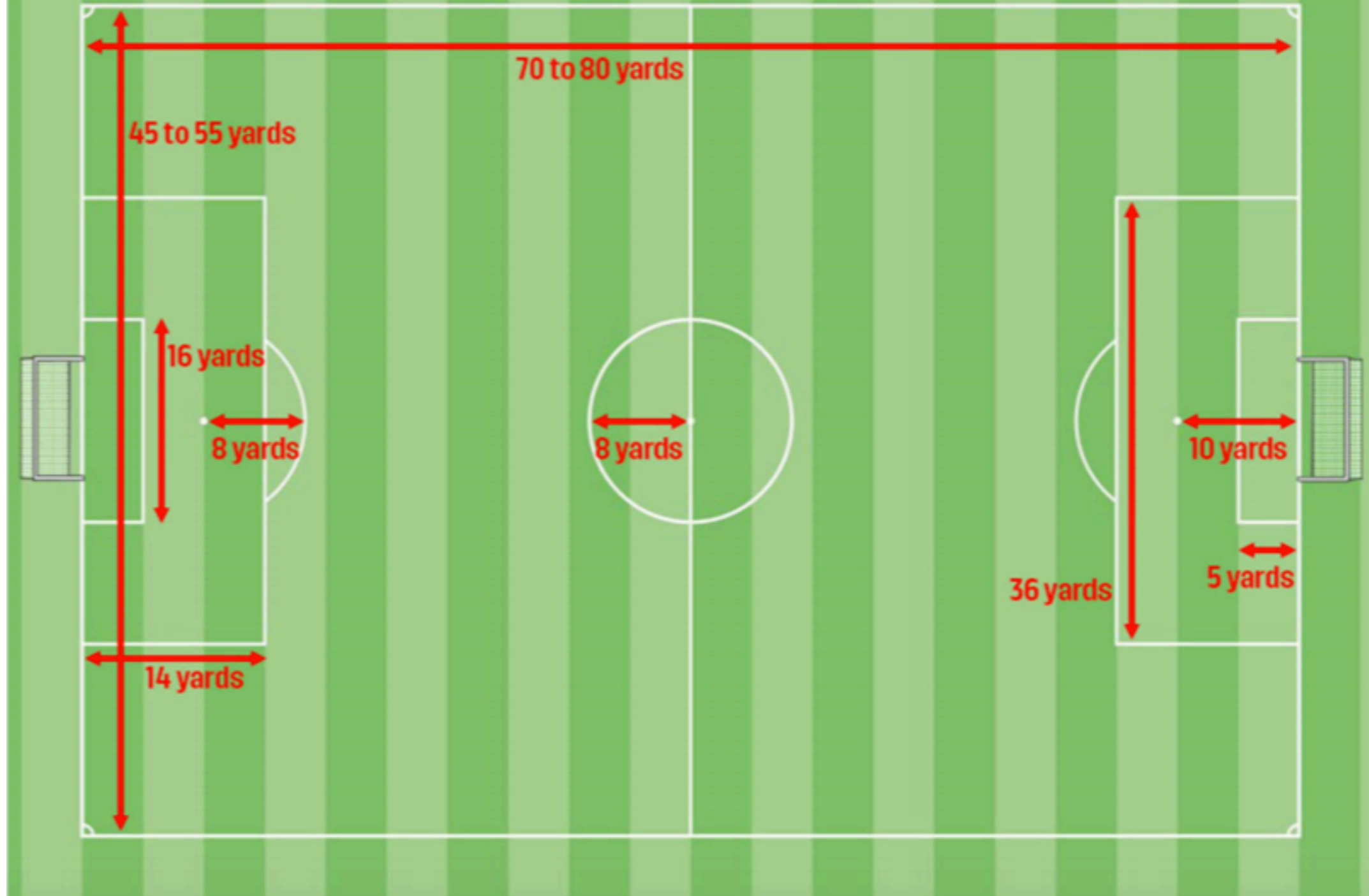
### **Modified Laws of the Game**

#### **Law 1 – Field of Play**

- 70-80 yards (length)
- 45-55 yards (width)
- Goals should be no larger than 7 feet (height) x 21 feet (width)
- A 6.5 feet (height) x 18.5 feet (width) goal is recommended based on the age and ability of the players
- Diagram contains recommended field markings and dimensions



# 9v9 Field of Play





## **9v9 Standards of Play**

### **Modified Laws of the Game**

#### **Law 2 – Ball**

- Size 4

#### **Law 3 – Number of Players**

- 9v9 (8 field players and 1 goalkeeper)

- Game may not start or continue if there are less than 6 players on a team
- Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage

#### **Law 5 – Referee**

- Minimum certification as a U.S. Soccer Grade 9 Referee

#### **Law 6 – Other Match Officials**

- Used at the discretion of the competition authority

#### **Law 7 – Duration of the Match**

- 2 halves
- 30 minutes halves
- 10 minute halftime
- No added time



## 9v9 Standards of Play Standard Laws of the Game

Law 4 – Players' Equipment

Law 5 – The Referee

Law 8 – Start and Restart of Play

Law 9 – Ball In and Out of Play

Law 10 – Method of Scoring

Law 11 – Offside

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct\* \*\*

Law 13 – Free kicks (opponents are required to be minimum of 8-yards from all free-kicks)

Law 14 – Penalty Kick

Law 15 – Throw-in

Law 16 – Goal kick

Law 17– Corner kick

\*With the exception of deliberate heading in U11 games

\*\*Associations may enforce no deliberate heading with U12 or older (Check your League Rules of Competition)





**9v9**

## **Concussion Initiative**

- Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed
- If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment
- The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player
- Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game