



## Mineola Soccer Association Recreational Youth Soccer 4v4 U6/U8 Program Official Rules and Policies

*All rules herein are for MSA Closed League matches and supersede FIFA, USYS and NTSSA rules for recreational soccer. Items not specifically addressed herein shall conform first to NTSSA rules then USYS and then FIFA. For play outside of MSA Closed League NTSSA rules shall apply.*

### **Law I - Field of Play**

- A. Field dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular. Its length being no more than thirty (35) yards or less than twenty (25) yards and its width not more than twenty (25) yards nor less than fifteen (15) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. MSA U6/U8 fields are 25x15.
- B. Field Markings
  - 1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
  - 2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  - 3. A center circle with a three (3) yard radius.
  - 4. Four corner arcs with a radius of one (1) yard.
  - 5. Goal area: One and one half (1-1/2) yard from each goal post and three (3) yards into the field of play joined by a box line beginning and ending with the goal line.
  - 6. Penalty area: none
- C. Goals: The size of hockey goals or approximately 4'x 6'.

### **Law II – Ball** : Size three (3)

### **Law III – Number of Players**

- A. Maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is four (4). There are no goalkeepers. The minimum number of players to start the match is two (2).
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8).
- C. Substitutions: Substitutions shall be unlimited and at the referee's discretion will be permitted at any stoppage of play.
- D. Playing time: Each Player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- E. Teams and games may be coed.

### **Law IV – Player's Equipment**

- A. Footwear: Soft-cleated soccer shoes. **NO METAL SPIKES.** Soccer cleats are defined by having no spike on the leading toe edge. No football or baseball cleats are to be used.
- B. Shin guards: **MANDATORY**
- C. No jewelry or any metal on/in player's body/hair

### **Law V – Referees**

- A. Coach or Recreational Referee or higher (Registered 09 recommended)

B. All law infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending players.

**Law VI – Assistant Referees** : Not required

**Law VII – Duration of Game**

A. The game shall be divided into four (4) periods of ten (10) minutes each with a three (3) minute break between each period.

B. Clock runs during the game, stopping only for the end of each 10 minute period.

**Law VIII – Start of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions:**

A. Opponents must be three (3) yards from the center mark while kick-offs are in progress (outside the center circle).

B. A goal may not be scored directly from the kick-off.

**Law IX –Ball In and Out of Play Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law X – Method of Scoring Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game**

**Law XI – Offside** : There shall be no offside.

**Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. All fouls and misconduct will result in an indirect kick with the opponent five (5) yards away

B. All infractions must be explained to the offending player.

**Law XIII – Free Kicks Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. All free kicks shall be indirect.

B. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.

C. No kicks are to be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal area.

D. Opponents must be five (5) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XIV – Penalty Kicks** :

A. No penalty kicks shall be taken during these games.

**Law XV – Throw In**

A. The player selected to throw must keep both feet on the ground while the ball is being thrown. Further, a portion of both feet must be on or behind the line as the ball is being thrown.

B. If there is a foul throw-in, the referee must explain the proper method to the player and all a re-throw. If the second attempt also results in an infraction, the opposing team shall be awarded the throw-in at the same spot on the field.

**Law XVI – Goal Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. Goal kick is taken anywhere within the goal area.

B. Opponents must be on their goal side of half line away from the ball.

C. A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

**Law XVII – Corner Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:**

A. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

## Additional MSA U6/U8 Rules

### Roster Size:

Teams are to be formed with a maximum of 8 players; the recommended roster size is 6 players. MSA maximum number is 8.

### Uniforms:

Team uniforms shall consist of like colored jerseys, shorts and socks. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on their team.

The official team roster shall include the number of each player's jersey. No player names on jerseys.

Pennies or targets may be worn over jerseys in the event of a color conflict; subject to the approval of the Referee.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Undershirts exposed from beneath jerseys should be the same or similar color of the jersey.

Any sponsor's names, logos or other wording/graphics must be approved in advance by the MSA Board.

Socks must cover shin guards and color must be consistent for the team.

Any tape applied must be consistent with the sock color.

Practices: One practice per week for up to 60 minutes is recommended. No more than two (2) practices per week totaling ninety (90) minutes total for the week.

Weeks are considered Saturday through the following Friday. Non-soccer related activities such as team parties, team fundraisers, volunteering, etc. are not considered team activities/practices in respect to this rule.

### Team/Spectator Seating:

Players of both teams are to be designated to one sideline and spectators are to be designated to the opposite sideline. **ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

Each team and their respective spectators shall remain on their designated side of the field throughout the match. There shall be no climbing of trees, fences, goals, nets or other structures not specifically designed for such by any person. There shall be no coaches or spectators behind the goal lines.

### Sideline Behavior:

Coaches and spectators should keep all comments positive and supportive of the players. Spectators should refrain from providing playing instructions to the players which should only be done by the coaching staff. No referee abuse will be tolerated. Coaches may be cautioned or sent off by the referee for behavior in violation of the MSA Code of Conduct by the team's staff, players or their respective spectator sidelines.

**Grounds Clean-Up:**

Each team shall clean up their respective areas before leaving.

**Match Officials:**

All matches are to be officiated by a center referee or agreed upon coach.

**Coaching:**

All persons coaching MSA players must be registered with the club and have an approved background check. Only registered/approved coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers may coach games or participate with players during team activities practice. Coaches are only permitted on the field with the referee's permission at a stoppage of play.

**ONLY persons that have been Risk Managed (RM) with North Texas State Soccer Association (NTSSA) may be permitted on the player's sideline.**

**Medical Devices:**

All medical devices (casts, supports, braces, etc) are subject to the approval of the referee with respect to player safety. Players with medical devices should have them padded in advance of the game and check in with the referee.

**No Sweeper-Keepers:**

Coaches are strongly encouraged to not allow a player to "camp out" in front of the goal to prevent scoring as all players need to be encouraged to be involved in active play. Referees may remind coaches of this policy but no penalty or sanction shall be enforced by the referee. Coaches who willfully do not follow the policy will be subject to disciplinary review.

Players are not to be in the "Goal Area" (designated by the half circle marking in front of the goal) unless they are following the ball in during play. No campers.

**Slide Tackles:**

Slide tackles **shall not be permitted**. Any player engaging in slide tackles should be counseled to not repeat. Repeated infractions may result in the player be cautioned and/or red carded.

**Post-Game Sportsmanship:**

All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well played with handshakes/high fives along the halfway line. Parents are encouraged to form tunnels and cheer for players as they return to the side lines.

**Scores/Standings:**

U6/U8 games shall not have recorded scores while in Closed League play. U6/U8 division is interpreted to be used as a learning experience and to grow the sport through pure enjoyment with a stress free environment.

**Playing Time/Substitutions/Rotations:**

All recreational players are required to play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and physically able to play. Games/coaches will be periodically reviewed for compliance by the club. Coaches found to not be in compliance with this rule are subject to disciplinary review.

