



Mineola Soccer Association Recreational Youth Soccer 9v9 U12 Program Official Rules and Policies (FIFA/USYS/NTSSA Laws and Policies as amended by MSA 06/2024)

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 eighty yards (80) yards nor less than seventy (70) yards and its width not more than fifty five (55) yards nor less than forty-five (45) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. MSA U12 fields are a maximum of 55×80.
- 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 seven (7) yard radius.
 - 4. Four corner arcs with a radius of one (1) yard.
 - 5. Goal area: four (4) yards from each goal post and four (4) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
 - 6. Penalty Area: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, eight (8) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of twelve (12) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of seven (7) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.
- C.** Goals: The size of goals to be a maximum of 18.5' x 6.5'.

Law II-Ball Size four (4)

Law III-Number of Players

- A.** Maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is nine (9), one of which is a goalkeeper. The minimum number of players to start or continue the match is six (6).
- B.** Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed sixteen (16)
- C.** Substitutions:
 - 1. Unlimited.
 - 2. Taken at the following times:
 - a. Prior to a throw-in by either team.
 - b. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 - c. Following a goal by either team.

- d. After an injury by either team, if the injured player is substituted.
 - e. After a caution is issued for the cautioned player only. (The opposing team may substitute an equal number of players)
 - f. At half time.
3. Players shall enter the field at the half way line with the permission of the Referee.
- 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. Registered USSF 09 Referee or higher (Grassroots)

Law VI - Assistant Referees

- A. Registered USSF Referee

Law VII - Duration of Game

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each.
- B There shall be a half time interval of ten (10) minutes.

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

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-offs are in progress (outside the center circle).

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 Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

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

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XIV - Penalty Kicks Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:

- A .The penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.
- B. Players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark outside the penalty box and arc.

Law XV - Throw In Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

Law XVI - Goal Kick Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

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

A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.

Additional MSA U12 Rules

Deliberate heading is **NOT** allowed in the 9v9 games. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick shall 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.

Roster Size:

Teams are to be formed with a maximum of 16 players; the recommended roster size is 12 players, the MSA maximum is 16.

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.

Player names on jerseys are allowed.

Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish them from the other field players.

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 must 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:

Three team activities per week including games, practices, scrimmages, classroom training, etc. No single activity shall exceed 90 minutes in duration with the exception for a fifteen (15) minute allowance for warm up prior to the start of physical activity. 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:

Teams shall be seated on the side of the field having technical area markings and player benches (where installed). Coaches are required to remain within their respective technical areas unless invited onto the field of play by the Referee. Only official team coaches/managers as listed on the game form may be in the technical areas and provide instruction to players. Providing coaching instructions from outside of the technical area is not permitted.

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

Spectators shall be seated on the opposite side of the field from the teams and must remain behind the painted standoff line.

There shall be NO ACTIVITY in the PENALTY AREA (large box in front of the goal) of the U10-UI9 fields pre-game, during halftime or post-game.

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 and two assistant referees.

Coaching:

All persons coaching MSA players must be registered with the club and have an approved background check and completed required SafeSport. 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 prior to the match for approval.

Slide Tackles:

Slide tackles are permitted within the Laws of the Game.

Mercy Rule:

There will be a 10 goal mercy rule if the losing coach requests it. The Mercy Rule cannot be applied until the first half has ended. The losing coach must notify the referee at half time if invoking mercy rule.

Post-Game Sportsmanship:

All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well played with handshakes/high fives along the halfway line.

Scores/Standings:

All scores are to be recorded on the game form by the referee and verified by each coach at the conclusion of the match (if a result or score is to be protested the coach should note such on the game forms and must file a protest in writing to MSA within 72 hours). The referee will give the completed forms to the winning team or home team, in case of a tie, at the conclusion of the match.

After each game, the coach in possession of the Game Forms is to phone in the score to MSA Board. Coaches must maintain the game forms, in their possession, until 30 days after the season is over. Coaches must provide, to MSA, any game form requested.

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.

Organized rotations are very important and coaches should maintain documentation of rotations for each game.

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.

Unlimited substitutions can be made with the referee's consent prior to a throw-in, on a goal kick, after a goal, and at half time.

Players shall enter the field at the halfway line as the exiting player steps off the field or as otherwise permitted by the referee.

Both teams may substitute prior to goal kicks, after a goal, and at half time.

As to throw-ins, however, only the team in possession has the initial option of substituting, but if it does, the other team may also substitute.

If the game is stopped to allow a substitution for an injured player, the other team may also substitute, on a one-for-one basis.

No substitution is allowed prior to a corner kick.

Note: no substitution can be made without the referee's consent.