

U8

Awards: Standings will not be maintained, and no trophies or awards will be given except for participation and / or sportsmanship.

Spectators: Coaches and parents are prohibited from the area behind the goal line. Parents are required to remain in the spectator area (the opposite side of the field from the players) during the game. Coaches should help enforce this and are responsible for the sportsmanship of the team's parents. No one should ever yell disparaging remarks at the opposing team or referees at anytime. Anyone in the team area must display a KidSafe Card.

Law 1 – The Field of Play: 25 yds by 35 yds □ Center Circle: 5 yd radius □ The Goal Area: 3 yds by 8 yds □ The Penalty Area: None □ Goals: 12' x 6' □ Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size three (3).

Law 3 – The Number of Players: 4 v 4. There are NO goalkeepers. Teams may be coed. □ Substitutions: A team may substitute players (if the referee approves) at the following times: 1) after any goal, 2) at halftime, 3) during any injury stoppage, 4) prior to any goal kick, 5) prior to your throw---in, or 6) prior to opponent throw---in if that team substitutes. Substitutes are not allowed on free kicks, corner kicks, or penalty kicks. (Remember: There is not a stoppage of play on free kicks and throw-ins; allowing substitution interrupts play). □ Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed. □ Forfeits for too few players: If playing 4v4, provided that at least two (2) players from each team are present at game time, there shall be no forfeit. Coaches shall accommodate the situation to insure that the game is played by sharing players.

Law 4 – Uniform: Jersey, shorts, long socks covering the shin guards, soccer cleats. (No toe cleats allowed on shoes.) Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but jerseys must be worn on the outside to distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee: An OFFICIAL (League Referee, League Official, or Grade 9 minimum referee) may be used. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending

player. If the OFFICIAL does not arrive within 5 minutes of the stated game time, an adult may be selected to fill in as referee.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees: Each team will supply an adult to act as linesperson to signal when the ball is wholly out of bounds. If needed by the referee, this linesperson may indicate which team should be in possession of the throwin. If assistant referee flags are not available, each team may provide their parent/linesperson a pinnie to wave.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: The match shall be divided into three 15-minute periods. There shall be a 5 minute break between each period.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: To begin the game or any quarter, the ball must be kick along the midfield line or forward of the line for the kick to be valid. Violation results in a re-kick. All opposing players must be in their half of the field and outside the center circle, until the ball is put into play. Violation results in an indirect free kick from the point of the infraction. In the case of a free kick, all opponents must be at least five (5) yards from the ball until it is put into play.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Ball is out of play when it wholly passes outside the line boundary of the field, after a goal is scored, after a foul has been committed, and at the end of a quarter. Ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. For throw-ins, the ball is in play when it breaks the plane rising vertically from the outside of the touchline (sideline).

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Ball must be wholly over the goal line, within the uprights of the goal, and under the crossbar.

Law 11 – Offside: None

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick. The referee must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct. There is no slide tackling allowed in this age group.

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that all kicks are indirect and all opponents are at least five (5) yards from the ball until it is in play. Indirect free kick (ball must touch another player before entering the goal): All other fouls will be penalized with an indirect free kick. The referee will signal an indirect free kick by raising one arm and holding it vertically. (Remember: A stoppage of play is not required on free kicks; the ball may be kicked as soon as it is placed on the spot).

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick: None

Law 15 – Throw-ins: If there is an infraction of the FIFA throw-in rules, the player throwing the ball in shall receive one additional throw-in after a correcting instruction from the Referee. If the player violates the FIFA throw-in rule on his / her second throw-in, then the opposing team shall be awarded a throw-in. Players on the opposing team need to be at least two (2) yards away from the thrower.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick: The goal kick should be taken anywhere within the goal area. Opposing players must be outside the goal area AND at least five (5) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick: The defending players must stand at least five (5) yards away from the ball until it is in play.