

DLSO U8 Rules

1. Games will be played 5v5. There are no goalkeepers or goal guarding by a defender allowed.
2. Game ball is a size 4 and should be provided by the home team.
3. Games will consist of two 20-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time break.
4. Referees will call for substitutions approximately every 5 minutes unless there is an injury.
5. As shown on the game schedule, the “home” team will kick off at the start of the game. The “visitor” team will kick off to start the second half. Teams will change playing sides after half-time.
6. All players must wear shin guards and they must be covered completely by long soccer socks.
7. No jewelry is permitted – this includes watches, wristbands, necklaces, rings and earrings. Earrings may not be taped over or covered with a band-aid; they must be removed.
8. **Kick-offs:** The ball must be passed in any direction and opponents are not to encroach until the ball is played. The ball must be passed to another player before scoring. A goal may not be scored directly from the kick-off.
9. Goals can only be scored from within the opponent’s half of the field. A goal scored from beyond the center line will result in a goal kick for the defending team.
10. **General Play:** Players need to be in the general vicinity of the ball. When a team gains possession of the ball, all of that team’s players need to move to the opponent’s half of the field. “Goal guarding” or “cherry picking” are not allowed. Persistent infringement of this rule may result in a goal kick by the opposite team.
11. **Fouls:** Non-incident handballs and other fouls will only result in an indirect free kick.
12. **Throw-ins:** In the case of an improper throw-in, the referee will explain the proper method before allowing additional attempts until done correctly.
13. **Off-side** will not be enforced at this age level.
14. Slide-tackling is not allowed.
15. **Goal kicks** will be taken from edge of the goal box. All players from both teams must stand beyond the goal-kick line and may not touch the ball until it has cleared the goal-kick line.
16. **Corner kicks** should be taken as normal. Defenders must be at least 5 yards away.
17. **Headers** are not allowed at this age level.