

Summer Recreation League

Laws of the Game - Modified

9 and Under

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Development Field

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 50 yards maximum 60 yards

Width: minimum 35 yards maximum 48 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: 4 yards out from the goal line x 8 yards wide.

The Penalty Area: 11 yards out from the goal line x 24 yards wide.

Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flagposts: May use cones.

The Corner Arc: Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Build Out Line: Equidistant between the top of the penalty area and the halfway line.

The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line. At any time the goalkeeper may pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate, but the goalkeeper does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes. Punts or drop-kicks are not allowed as this would defeat the purpose of the build out line and reduces the opportunity to play out of the defending third in an unpressured setting. After the ball is put into play, the opposing team can then cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

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

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than seven (7) players, one of whom is the designated goalkeeper. A match may not start or continue if either team consists of fewer than 5 players.

Substitutions: At quarters or stoppage of play for injury.

N. B.: A player who is suspected to have a head injury leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment.

Playing time: Each player **SHALL** play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time, which is controlled by the coach. Teams and matches may be coed.

The maximum team roster size is sixteen (14).

Players must be registered with UCYSA and team to participate.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

Uniforms must distinguish teams (colored vests may be used when teams have similar uniform color). Uniform numbers are not required.

- Matching color socks are not required. Shinguard straps and other similar items are not required to match sock color.
- Captain bands may be worn on leg or outside of sock.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions.

Shinguards are MANDATORY for both practices and games, and must be covered entirely by socks.

Safety: A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player. Ear rings must be removed or taped.

Law 5 – The Referee

Registered referee; preferably with a minimum of a U.S. Soccer Grade 9 certification, or a parent/coach or assistant coach.

Law 6 – The Other Match Officials

None

Law 7– The Duration of the Match

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception of the match being divided into four (4) equal quarters of ten (10) minutes. There shall be a break of up to five (5) minutes between quarters. No added time at the end of either half. ii

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game, with the exceptions that the defending team is at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Goal Keepers are not allowed to punt or drop kick the ball.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Law 11 – Offside

Not enforced

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game. Slide tackling is prohibited.

Deliberate heading of the ball is not allowed in 9u games. 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.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game, with the exception that the penalty mark is ten (10) yards from the goal line.

Law 15 – The Throw-In

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Law 16 - The Goal Kick

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game, with the exception that the defending team must retreat beyond the Build Out Line.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

i Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play allow for treatment/evaluation as needed. If the player leaves field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment

ii During weather conditions of extreme heat and humidity, a water break halfway through each half is acceptable if both coaches agree or the break is prescribed by the local competition authority.