

Laws of the Game – Modified 12 and Under

Law 1 – The Field of Play

SMALL-SIDED 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 70 yards maximum 80 yards

Width: minimum 45 yards maximum 55 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: 5 yards out from the goal line x 16 yards wide.

The Penalty Area: 14 yards out from the goal line x 36 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: Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

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

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.

Optional: A 7' x 21' goal is allowed.

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 four (4) ball.

Law 3 – The Number of Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than nine (9) players, one of whom is the designated goalkeeper. A match may not start or continue if either team consists of fewer than six players.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

Playing time: To develop players need to play, so it is recommended that each player plays 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 recommended at sixteen (16).

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game. Non-uniform clothing, matching the uniform color, is allowed based on weather conditions. Uniforms must distinguish teams. Shin Guards 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 (including any kind of jewelry; with the exception of a medical alert bracelet).

Law 5 – The Referee

Registered referee with a minimum of a U. S. Soccer Grade 9 certification.

Law 6 – The Other Match Officials

Use registered assistant referees at the discretion of the competition authority. If such personnel are unavailable then use club linesmen/women, who are only to determine when the ball goes in and out of play.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes. There shall be a half-time interval of ten (10) minutes. 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 exception that the defending team is at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

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

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that heading is not allowed.

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.

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.

ⁱPer U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed. If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made at that moment. The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Healthcare Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player. Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game.

ⁱⁱDuring 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.