

# Eastern Area Soccer League U8 Rules - 2009

## The game is the teacher

In order to enhance player development, EASL Soccer has adopted a modified version of the US Youth Soccer Association teaching philosophy with respect to small-sided soccer in U8. This modification is the addition of a goal keeper in our U8 games. This philosophy allows the game to be the teacher by maximizing each player's touches on the ball and encourages all the players to develop their skills in all positions. You role as a coach to help the players develop their skills, with particular emphasis on ball control, i.e. dribbling. All United States Soccer Federation rules are followed with the following modifications:

## Inclement Weather Policy

If it is not raining the games will be played. For "rain out" confirmation please visit the organization website at [www.easlsoccer.com](http://www.easlsoccer.com).

### Rules of Play (*Pre-game*)

- Coaches should check for shin guards (worn under the socks).
- Players will not wear anything that could be dangerous to them or other players (rings, bracelets, earrings, jewelry, large hair clips, etc). Shirts must be tucked in.
- No players with casts of any kind are allowed to play.

### Rules of Play (*In game*)

- The length of the game is four twelve minute quarters. There is a five minute halftime break with one minute breaks between quarters.
- The game is played 7 against 7 including the use of goal keepers.
- Each child must play half of the soccer game. If a player is late, he/she is only entitled to play one half of the time that he/she is present. If a player is absent from a game, he/she forfeits the right to make up those two quarters at any other game. Other exceptions to this rule include time lost for "refusing to play", injuries, and disciplinary issues.
- Substitutions are unlimited and allowed during any stoppage of play. Strategic substitutions are not encouraged.
- Throw-in rules will apply. Both feet must be on the ground, ball thrown in over the head facing the field using two hands. If done incorrectly, one retake will be allowed.
- Opposing players must move away from the goalie once he/she has taken possession of the ball. The ball may not be played by the opposing players until it has left the penalty area. The six-second rule still applies.
- Goal kicks are taken from anywhere in the penalty area, all players must be 10 yards from the ball.
- Corner kick rules apply.
- All free kicks are direct and must be taken at least 10 yards from the goal. The opposing team may be no closer than 10 yards from the ball on a free kick. There are no penalty shots.
- Offside will not be called prior to October 3<sup>rd</sup>; however **cherry picking** will not be allowed at any time. Starting after October 3<sup>rd</sup>. the officials will call offside.
- The officials will allow the players a second chance on throw-ins, corner kicks, goals kicks and free kicks until October 3<sup>rd</sup>. After that date the officials will not allow a player to re-do a throw-in, corner kick, goal kick or free kick if done improperly.
- **Slide tackling is not permitted.**

## Sportsmanship

All adults share in the responsibility for the success of our league and by exhibiting good sportsmanship. Please remember that this is a youth soccer game between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children, it is not the World Cup.

- NO PLAYER, COACH, PARENT, OR SPECTATOR MAY HARASS OR DISAGREE WITH A OFFICIAL.
- Any coaches or parents displaying unsportsmanlike conduct may be asked to leave the playing area for the duration of the game. Head Coaches will be responsible for all adults associated with their team. Please refer to the Parents Code of Conduct.

## Fouls and Misconduct

- If a player touches the ball with their arm/hand it is only an infraction if it is deliberate.
- All fouls/infractions will result in a direct free kick.

# Common Soccer Terms and Definitions

It is important that all coaches and players learn the rules of the game and associated tactics. We encourage you to do this outside of practice and games. Learning the rules will also help parents enjoy the games. Soccer, like all games, has a number of rules and buzzwords. Here are a few key terms to understand:

**Throw-in** – when the whole of the ball passes over a sideline, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it. The thrower at the moment of delivering the ball must be: Facing the field of play, touching the ground with both feet (neither of which are in the field of play), and delivering the ball from behind and over the head using both hands.

**Free Kicks** – Free kicks and penalties can be difficult to understand. It is essential that all players understand the referee's signal on free kicks. An indirect free kick is signaled by a raised hand, which remains raised until the kick is taken. Players can score directly from a corner, a penalty, a kick-off or a direct free kick.

**Handball** – deliberate handling of the ball; carrying, propelling, or striking the ball with the hands or arms.

**Ball In and Out of Play** - The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal-line or side-line, either on the ground or in the air, or when play has been stopped by the referee. The ball is in play at all times, except as listed above, and including: If it rebounds off of a goalpost, corner flag, referee, or coach, on all throw-ins, goal kicks, corner kicks, or free kicks when the action is taken.

**Goal Kick** – when the whole of the ball crosses over the goal-line (not in the goal), either in the air or on the ground, having last been touched by a member of the attacking team it shall be kicked into play by the defending team inside the goal area.

**Corner Kick** – when the entire ball crosses over the goal-line (not in the goal), either in the air or on the ground, having last been touched by a member of the defending team it shall be kicked into play by the attacking team in the corner nearest to where the ball left the field of play. All defending players must be at least 10 yards away from the ball. Corner Kicks will be taken from the 18 yard line and side line.

**Second Touch** – a player putting the ball into play cannot touch the ball again until it has been touched or played by another player; violation will result in a free kick for the opposing team.

### **EASL U8 OFFICIALS**

- U8 Games will be Officiated by "1" Official.
- If there is not an Official present then Coaches or Parents (Ok'd by both teams) can officiate the game.
- U8 Officials will be USSF Certified and will be Probationary. The U8 Officials have to be age 14 and up. **{And will be decided by the EASL Official Coordinator}**
- Officials will use Red and Yellow cards during the game for any misconduct by the Coaches, Players, and Fans. All Red & Yellow card offenses will be reported to the EASL U8 Coordinator Robert Purdie @ 410-299-7541. For Red & Yellow card offenses please follow the EASL League Rules, which can be found on the EASL website at [www.easlsoccer.com](http://www.easlsoccer.com) under Handouts.

If you want more information on the soccer laws go to [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com), where all 17 laws are described in easy to read detail.