

US Youth Soccer

Official Under 12 Playing Recommendations

Law 1 – The Field of Play

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: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. **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 FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum 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. If a goal is not properly anchored, you must not referee the game until it is corrected and verified by a league official.**

Law 2 – The Ball: Size four (4).

Law 3 – The Number of Players:

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eight players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven players.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment:

Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

Law 5 – The Referee:

Registered referee.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referee:

Use U.S.S.F. registered referees or club linesmen/women.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:

Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play:

Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring:

Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside:

Conform to FIFA.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct:

Conform to FIFA with the exception that **an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponents penalty area.** The rule on the goalkeeper's distribution still allows for the ball to be punted the entire length of the field, it just can not go directly into the opponents' penalty area

Law 13 – Free Kicks:

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:

Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark.

Law 15 – The Throw-In:

Conform to FIFA.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick:

Conform to FIFA.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick:

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