

# US Youth Soccer

## Official Under 8 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 25 yards maximum 35 yards

Width: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (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: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) 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 goal area.

The Penalty Area: **none.**

Flag posts: **none.**

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

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. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

### 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 four players. There should not be a minimum number of players for U8 and U6 and clubs, administrators, coaches and referees should be encouraged to allow players from the team with sufficient numbers to ‘loan’ a player or two to the team that is short players and then PLAY. **There are NO goalkeepers. Additionally, no player may be permitted to guard the goal during the game, nor stand in front of the goal area – please see diagram below. Referee shall stop the game, verbally warn the coach and restart with an indirect kick for the opposing team at the halfway line**

**Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.**

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

**Law 4 – Players’ Equipment:**

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

**Law 5 – The Referee:**

An OFFICIAL (Game Manager or Coordinator or Parent or Coach or Grade 9 referee) may be used. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**Law 6 – The Assistant Referees:**

None.

**Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: (4 x 12)**

The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, twelve (12) minute quarters. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. 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 of the opponents of the **team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) 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:**

None.

**Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct:**

Conform to FIFA with the exception that **all fouls shall result in a direct free kick**. The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.

**Law 13 – Free Kicks:**

Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that all kicks are direct and **all opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.**

**Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:**

None.

**Law 15 – The Throw-In:**

Conform to FIFA with the exception that **an improperly performed throw-in can be retaken once.**

**Law 16 – The Goal Kick:**

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 17 – The Corner Kick:**

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents **remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.**