



In-House U8 Mixed League

LAWS OF THE GAME - FIFA/USSF laws of the game apply except where modified below.

1. Field of Play U8 Division

Field Size: 40 yards X 24 yards

Goal Size: 6' high X 12' wide

Goal Area: 4 yards from goal line and 6 yards wide

Penalty Area: 8 yards out from goal line and 16 yards wide

Penalty Spot: 7 yards out from center of goal

Penalty Arc: Radius of 2 yards from top of penalty area

Center Circle: Radius of 4 yards

Build Out Line: 10 yards from each goal line

Note: 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. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate.

Punting or drop-kicking the ball by the goalkeeper is not allowed at the U8 as this would defeat the purpose of the build out line and reduces the opportunity to play out of the back in an unpressured setting. After the ball is put into play, the opposing team can then cross the build out line and play can resume as normal. **PENALTY:** If a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball the referee shall stop play immediately and return the ball back to the goalkeeper for proper distribution. Repeated violations by the same team may be considered persistent infringement and result in a caution being issued to the offending goalkeeper.

2. The Ball

The ball should be spherical and made of leather or other suitable material.

Under 8 Divisions – Size 3 Ball

Replacement of a Defective Ball If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of a match:

- the match is stopped;
- the match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the first ball became defective.

If the ball bursts or becomes defective whilst not in play at a kick-off, goal kick, corner kick, free kick, penalty kick or throw-in, the match is restarted accordingly.

3. The Number of Players

	# of Players on the Field (Including GK)*	Minimum # of Players Required to Play	Maximum Roster Size
U8 Mixed	6 v. 6	5	11

***If a team has less than the regular number of players both teams will play with the same number of players on the field. (Ex: In an Under 10 game, one team has only 5 players available to play, then the other team will play with 5 players as well.)**

U-8 Level only – When the opposing team is up by 4 or more goals the team that is trailing can add an additional player to the field. It will then become a 7 v 6 situation. As soon as the trailing team gets back to trailing by 3 or less goals it goes back to a 6 v 6 match.

There must always be a player on the field who is designated as the goalkeeper and wearing colors which distinguish that player from the players of both teams. However, that player may position themselves in any area of the field.

Any number of players may be substituted at any single substitution opportunity, after being summoned onto the field by the referee. Coaches should not indiscriminately send players onto the field without alerting an official. Substitutes should report to the midfield area to be considered as a substitute and any waiting player should be summoned by an official at the appropriate substitution time listed below. An official may choose not to allow a substitution in certain circumstances.

Either team may substitute:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Between halves | c) Any goal kick |
| b) After a goal has been scored
(substitutes do not need to be waiting at midfield) | d) Because of a Player Injury
(substitutes do not need to be waiting at midfield) |

The team with possession may substitute:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| a) On throw-ins | b) On corner kicks |
|-----------------|--------------------|

Note: If the team in possession is substituting on their own throw-in or corner kick, any player waiting to substitute from the opposing team may also be allowed in at that time.

The goalkeeper may be substituted for after officials have been notified. No player may be substituted during a penalty kick except in case of injury, but the substitute may not take the penalty kick. No substitutions are allowed for a player committing a red card violation (ejection).

4. The Players' Equipment

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player. No necklaces, watches, bracelets (**including the rubber "livestrong" style bracelets**), earrings, etc. shall be worn. **Exception:** Medical bracelets and pendants are allowed but must be taped to the body in such a manner that the medical information is still readable. All hair control devices must be soft to the touch. No knotted devices will be allowed. All casts, splints, and braces shall be covered by some kind of soft material and must be approved by referee prior to the start of the game. **Safety or sport goggles must be worn in place of regular eyeglasses.** For the purposes of this rule, safety lenses in a regular eyeglass frame are not legal for play.

The basic compulsory equipment of a player is:

- Jersey or shirt - All jerseys shall be worn on the outside of all other clothing and shall be tucked inside the shorts. All hoods should be tucked inside the shirt. Goalkeeper jerseys should be a different color from all other jerseys on the field.
- Shorts – In cold weather it is permissible for sweatpants to be worn over the shorts.
- Stockings
- Shin guards – are covered completely by the stockings, are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, or similar substances), and provide a reasonable degree of protection. Any player found to not be wearing shin guards, will not be allowed to play.
- Footwear - Shoes shall not have square or baseball type cleats. Shoes may not have a toe cleat. Removable cleats are allowed as long as they are free of burrs and sharp edges.

For any infringement of this Law:

- play need not be stopped;
- the player at fault is instructed by the Referee to leave the field of play to correct his equipment;
- the player leaves the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play, unless he has already corrected his equipment;
- any player required to leave the field of play to correct his equipment does not re-enter without The Referee's permission;
- The Referee checks that the player's equipment is correct before allowing him to re-enter the field of play;
- the player is only allowed to re-enter the field of play when the ball is out of play.

A player who has been required to leave the field of play because of an infringement of this Law and who enters (or re-enters) the field of play without The Referee's permission is cautioned and shown the yellow card.

5. The Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed. Games in the U8 Division shall be officiated by one referee.

The Referee:

- enforces the Laws of the Game;
- controls the match in co-operation with the Assistant Referees, where applicable;
- ensures that any ball used meets the requirements of Law 2;
- ensures that The Players' Equipment meets the requirements of Law 4;
- acts as timekeeper and keeps a record of the match;
- stops, suspends or terminates the match, at his discretion, for any infringements of the Laws;
- stops, suspends or terminates the match because of outside interference of any kind;
- stops the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that he is removed from the field of play. An injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has restarted;
- allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in his opinion, only slightly injured;
- ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return on receiving a signal from The Referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped;
- allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalizes the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time;
- punishes the more serious offence when a player commits more than one offence at the same time;
- takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences. He is not obliged to take this action immediately but must do so when the ball next goes out of play;
- takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at his discretion, expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds;
- acts on the advice of assistant referees regarding incidents that he has not seen;
- ensures that no unauthorized persons enter the field of play;
- restarts the match after it has been stopped;
- provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, which includes information on any disciplinary action taken against players, and/or team officials and any other incidents that occurred before, during or after the match.

The decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play are final. The Referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or, at his discretion, on the advice of an assistant referee, provided that he has not restarted play.

6. Duration of the Match

	# of Periods	Length of Each Period	Interval Time
Under 8	4	10 Minutes	2 minutes between quarters 5 minute halftime

Allowance is made in any period for all time lost through:

- Substitution(s);
- Assessment of injury to players;
- Removal of injured players from the field of play for treatment;
- Wasting time;
- Any other cause.

The allowance for time lost is at the discretion of the referee.

If time expires before an awarded penalty kick has to be taken or retaken, the duration of any period is extended until the penalty kick is completed.

There is no overtime play. Games that are tied at the end of regulation play will be recorded as such.

7. The Start and Restart of Play

BEFORE THE GAME: Both teams line up at the midfield for the official(s) and are inspected for proper uniform and equipment (shin guards and legal shoes). Any questions players or coaches may have should be directed to the officials(s) at this time. Any questions during the game should be directed to the referee by the captain(s) only. Introduction of captains is followed by a coin toss. The visiting captain calls the coin toss and the winner of the toss shall choose which goal to attack. The losing team will receive the initial kick-off. Teams will switch ends and alternate kick-off at the start of each period.

KICK-OFF: All players must start in their own half of the field. The defending team must remain outside the center circle until the kick has been properly taken. The ball must move in a forward direction. The initial kicker may not touch the ball until it has been touched by another player (Penalty: Indirect free kick by opposing team). All other infractions shall result in a re-kick. A goal can be scored directly from a kick-off. Kick-offs occur after a goal has been scored and at the beginning of each period.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PLAY: In case of temporary suspension of play due to injury or an unusual situation, if one team is clearly in possession of the ball, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession of the ball at the point where play was suspended. Should it not be clear possession at the time play was stopped, the game shall be restarted by a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead, provided it is not in the penalty area.

DROP BALL: A drop ball occurs when the referee cannot determine which team kicked the ball out, when the ball becomes deflated, or following a temporary suspension of play (see above). The ball is dropped by the referee from waist level to the ground between two opposing players. The ball must touch the ground before it can be played. The spot of the drop ball is where the ball became dead unless it is in the goal area or it went out of bounds. If it went out of bounds with no clear possession the ball is dropped 5 yards from the boundary line where the ball went out of play. If the ball was inside the goal area the ball is dropped at the nearest point outside the goal area.

8. The Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed a goal line or a touch line, whether on the ground or in the air.

The ball is still in play:

- If it rebounds from a goal post, crossbar, or corner flag post
- When it touches an official or linesman in the field of play

9. The Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the entire ball crosses the goal line between the goal post and under the crossbar. A ball touching the goal line is not considered to have crossed the goal line.

A goal may be scored directly from:

- Direct free kick
- Penalty kick
- Corner kick
- Drop ball
- Goalkeepers punt, drop kick or throw
- Kick-off
- Goal kick

A goal cannot be scored directly from:

- Indirect free kick (restart = goal kick)
- Throw-in (restart = goal kick)
- A free kick into a team's own goal (restart = corner kick)

10. Fouls and Misconduct

DIRECT FREE KICKS: Direct free kicks are awarded to the opposing team if any player:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent;
- jumps at an opponent;
- charges an opponent;
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent;
- pushes an opponent.
- tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball;
- holds an opponent;
- spits at an opponent;
- handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area).

A direct free kick is taken from where the offence occurred.

PENALTY KICKS:

At the U-8 Level there are no penalty kicks. Any foul or call which in the past would have resulted in a penalty kick, will now be a direct kick. The ball will be placed at a point outside the goal area (large box) nearest the point where the foul/call occurred. The defending team shall defend the kick at a minimum five yards away from where the direct kick is placed.

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offences is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

INDIRECT FREE KICKS:

Indirect free kicks are awarded to an opponent if a goalkeeper, while within his/her own penalty area:

- takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession;
- touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player;
- touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate;
- touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate.
- heads the ball deliberately (U10 and younger only).
- Indirect free kicks are also awarded to the opposing team if any player:
 - plays in a dangerous manner;
 - is guilty of an offside violation;
 - impedes the progress of an opponent;
 - prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;
 - commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARD OFFENSES):

A player or coach will be cautioned and shown the yellow card, if in the opinion of the referee, s/he;

1. is guilty of unsporting behavior
2. shows dissent by word or action
3. persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
4. delays the restart of play
5. fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
6. enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
7. deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

Any player receiving a yellow card MUST be substituted until available substitution. If a team does not have a substitute, that player must still leave the field until the next available substitution. The opposing team will not have to remove any players.

SEND OFFS (RED CARD OFFENSES):

A player or coach will be sent off and shown the red card if, in the opinion of the referee, s/he;

1. is guilty of serious foul play
2. is guilty of violent conduct
3. spits at an opponent or any other person
4. denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)
5. denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6. uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures
7. receives a second caution in the same match

A player who is sent off cannot be replaced. A player or coach who is sent off must leave the vicinity of the game and is prohibited from any further contact (direct or indirect) with their team during the remainder of the game. They will also serve a minimum one game suspension, and possibly more based on a league review of the incident. Suspensions, which can not be completed during the current league season, will carry over into the next league season that individual is a registered participant in.

11. Free Kicks

Free kicks are either direct or indirect. Free kicks are taken at the spot the infringement occurred, unless otherwise noted. For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary and the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until the ball has been touched by another player.

If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal is awarded. If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded. If any free kick is kicked directly into a team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded.

The Referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising his arm above his head. He maintains his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

Positioning for free kicks taken by a team from within their own defensive penalty area:

- All opponents are at least 10 yards from the ball. (PENALTY: Retake the kick, possible caution to the offending player.)
- All opponents remain outside that penalty area until the ball is in play. (PENALTY: Retake the kick.)
- The ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area.
- A free kick awarded in the goal area is taken from any point inside that area.

Positioning for an indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team:

- All opponents are at least 10 yards from the ball until it is in play, unless they are on their own goal line between the goalposts. (PENALTY: Retake the kick, possible caution to the offending player.)
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- An indirect free kick awarded inside the goal area is taken from that part of the goal area line that runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Positioning for any other free kick outside of either penalty area:

- All opponents are at least 10 yards from the ball until it is in play. (PENALTY: Retake the kick, possible caution to the offending player.)
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

12. The Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is a direct free kick which is awarded against a team that commits one of the ten direct free kick offenses, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play. For a penalty kick the ball is placed on the penalty mark.

All players except the kicker and the opposing goalkeeper must be on the field of play but outside the penalty area and the penalty arc, and behind the penalty spot. The opposing goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, between the goal posts until the ball is kicked (lateral movement is allowed). The ball cannot be kicked until the referee blows the whistle. The kicker cannot touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player. No other player may enter penalty area or penalty arc until the ball has been kicked.

If a violation occurs while the kick is being taken, the kick should be allowed to be completed and the following chart should be used in determining the course of action:

	Ball Goes Directly Into the Goal	Ball Goes Directly Out of Play	Ball Rebounds from Goalkeeper or Goal Post
Infraction by the Kicking Team	Kick is retaken	Goal kick	Infraction by both teams
Indirect Free Kick for Defending Team	Goal is awarded	Kick is retaken	Kick is retaken
Infraction by the Defending Team	Kick is retaken	Kick is retaken	Kick is retaken

13. The Throw In

When the ball goes over a touch line (side line) a throw in is awarded to the opposing team of the player who last touched the ball. The thrower must face the field of play. The ball must be thrown in directly over the head from behind the head and part of each foot shall remain in contact with the ground and be either on the touch line or behind the touch line outside the field of play (Penalty: Throw in awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the foul). The ball is in play when any part of it breaks the plane of the touch line. If the ball fails to enter the field of play it should be re-thrown by the same team. After the throw in, the ball may be played by either team. The thrower may not play the ball until it has been touched by another player (Penalty: Indirect free kick from the spot of the foul). A goal cannot be scored on a throw in. A player cannot be called for offside on a throw in. All opponents must stand no less than 2 yards away from the point of the throw in (New FIFA Law – 7/1/05).

14. The Goal Kick

A goal kick awarded to the defending team when the ball crosses the end line after last being touched by the attacking team. The ball is put in play by kicking it from the ground anywhere in the goal area. All opposing players must be outside the penalty area. The ball must be kicked from a stationary position. No player may play the ball until it leaves the penalty area (Penalty: redo goal kick). The goalkeeper cannot pick up the ball and play it. The kicker cannot play the ball until it has been touched by another player (Penalty: Indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the foul). A goal can be scored from a goal kick. A player shall not be called for offside upon receiving a ball directly from a goal kick.

17. The Corner Kick

A corner kick is awarded to the attacking team after the ball has crossed the goal line having last been touched by the defending team. The ball is kicked from the ground while within the quarter circle nearest where the ball left the field of play. All players of the defending team must at least 10 yards away until the ball has been kicked (Penalty: redo corner kick). The kicker cannot play the ball until it has been touched by another player (Penalty: Indirect free kick awarded to the defending team from the spot of the foul). A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.