

# U-8 Rules

Revised 09/01/09



**Field Size:** 20/25 yards wide X 35/40 yards long, center circle of 6-yard dia (3 yd rad) and center line.

**Goal Area:** 2 yards out from each goal post, extending 2 yards into the field of play.

**Penalty Area:** 6 yards out from each goal post, extending 6 yards into the field of play.

**Goals:** (maximum) 12 ft. wide X 6 ft. high.

**Ball Size:** #3.

**Game Length:** Two 25-minute halves, plus a five-minute break between halves.

**Players on the roster:** The number of players shall not exceed 8.

**Players on the field:** The number of players on the field shall not exceed 4, including the goalie. The goalie may throw, punt or dropkick the ball and shall have six seconds to release the ball into play. The goalie position shall be rotated among all players on the team. All players present shall play a minimum of 50% of the game.

**Referees:** The home club is responsible for providing referees. If there is no referee present, the coaches will agree on one coach or a willing spectator (+12 yrs old). Otherwise, each coach will referee 1/2 of the game.

**Start of play:** The ball will be placed in the center of the field by the referee. After the referee signals, a player will kick the ball into the opponent's side of the field. The other team must stand behind the centerline and outside the center circle. To start the second half, there will be a kickoff by a player of the opposite team to that of the player that started the game.

**Scoring:** No scores or league standings are kept.

**Substitutions:** With the consent of the referee; an unlimited number of players may be substituted prior to a throw in, goal kick, after a goal, after an injury (after referee stops play,) and at half time. When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted for prior to the restart of the game.

**Offsides:** The offside rule shall not be enforced, however, the intent of the rule shall be encouraged (i.e., a team may not deliberately keep a player in an off-side position.)

**Fouls:** The following fouls against an opponent will result in an indirect kick: slide tackling, kicking, tripping, jumping at, charging in a violent manner, charging from behind, striking, holding, pushing, handling the ball, dangerous play (high kicking), charging shoulder to shoulder when the ball is not within playing distance, lying on the ball, and unsportsman-like behavior.

**Free kicks:** All free kicks will be indirect. All defenders must be at least 5 yards away.

**Penalty kicks:** Direct penalty kicks are not allowed.

**Throw-ins:** Throw-ins are taken from the point the ball crossed the line, by a player of the opposing team. Several re-throws will be allowed if an incorrect throw occurs and after instruction by the referee. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

**Goal kicks:** Any defending player can take the goal kick and it may be taken from any point inside the goal area. A goal cannot be scored directly from a goal kick.

**Corner kicks:** Any attacking player can take the corner kick and it shall be taken from within a 3-foot arc from the corner flag or cone. A goal may be scored from a corner kick.