



S.P.O.R.T.S. Youth Soccer
Laws of the Game: 3rd/4th Grade Division
Revised 2/2017

LAW 1	THE FIELD (MAX SIZE)
141'L x 90'W with goal size of 6.5' x 18.5'	

LAW 2	THE BALL
Size 4 Ball	

LAW 3	THE PLAYERS
<p>Games will be played with 7 players per side, 1 of whom is a goal keeper. Any player dismissed from the game (shown a red card) may be replaced.</p> <p><u>All players will play a minimum of half of the game regardless of ability, score or any other circumstance.</u></p> <p>No one player will play goal keeper for more than one-half of a single game. Substitutions will be made at the discretion of the referee during ANY STOPPAGE OF PLAY. Substitutions MUST report to mid field, prior to stoppage, unless for an injury.</p>	

LAW 4	PLAYERS EQUIPMENT
The uniform shall be a jersey, shorts, calf socks, shin guards, and cleats. Nothing injurious to the player or another player may be worn (including jewelry, pierced earrings, and metal hair clips). The goal keeper must wear a different color jersey (or penny) to distinguish them from the other players.	

LAW 5	THE REFEREE
The referee is in charge of the conduct of the game and is responsible for enforcing the Laws of the Game. The referee's decision is final. The referee makes all calls on the field. It is the referee's responsibility to keep the game clock, stop the game for injuries, and remind players and coaches of proper game conduct. The referee may briefly explain infringements to the offending team or player.	

LAW 6	ASSISTANT REFEREE
There are no assistant referees in these divisions.	



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LAW 7	GAME DURATION
<p>The game will be divided into 2 equal periods of 25 minutes with a 10-minute half-time break. The time will be continuous unless there is a stoppage for injury or extraordinary circumstances.</p> <p>The referee reserves the right to reduce the length of periods to accommodate the time schedule or if weather conditions could pose a safety problem for players or fans.</p>	

LAW 8	BUILD-OUT LINE
<p>The build out line (synonymous to the mid-field line on the field) promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting. All references to mid-field line in rules are supportive of the build-out line initiative.</p>	

LAW 9	THE START OF PLAY
<p>A kick off starts play to begin the game, after halftime, and following a scored goal. The ball can move in any direction, but may not be retouched by the kicker until any other player touches the ball. For the second period, teams exchange ends and defend the opposite goals. A goal may be scored directly from the kickoff.</p>	

LAW 10	BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY
<p>The ball is out of play when it has entirely crossed the side line or goal line (the goal line and the side line are within the field of play) or when the play has been stopped by the referee. Any ball striking a referee, goal post, or corner flag, and remaining on the field is in play.</p>	

LAW 11	GOAL SCORING
<p>A goal is scored when the ball entirely crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar.</p>	

LAW 12	OFFSIDE
<p>Offside will not be enforced unless the referee determines the offside position is directed, intentional, and/or persistent in an effort to gain an unfair advantage (Cherry-Picking). Defending teams will be awarded an indirect free kick from the offside players' position.</p> <p>The mid-field line will be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the mid-field line and goal line.</p>	



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LAW 13	FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS
<p>A direct free kick shall be awarded for the following infractions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handling the ball• Tripping• Jumping or sliding at an opponent• Holding• Striking an opponent• Pushing• Violent charge• Kicking• Charging from behind <p>An indirect free kick (that is a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has touched a player other than the kicker prior to entering the goal) shall be awarded for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dangerous play (high kick)• Charging away from the ball• Opponent obstruction• Goalkeeper holding the ball for more than 6 seconds• Goalkeeper handles the ball played purposely from a teammate• Offside <p>Heading is no longer allowed for this division. An indirect free kick will be taken at spot of the infraction</p> <p>The referee may choose not to call the infraction if the offending player gains no unfair advantage.</p>	

LAW 14	FREE KICKS
<p>Free kicks are either direct or indirect. Opponents are at least 8 yards from the ball until it is in play. The ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker does not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.</p> <p>Direct Kick: If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded. If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team.</p> <p>Indirect Kick: If the indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal a goal kick is awarded. If the indirect free kick is kicked directly into the teams own goal a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team.</p>	



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LAW 15	PENALTY KICKS
Penalty kicks are not awarded in these divisions.	

LAW 16	INBOUND THROWS
<p>After the ball has entirely crossed the sideline (touch line), the team not last touching the ball shall be awarded a throw-in.</p> <p>Throw-in regulations: Both feet must be on the ground (on or behind the sideline) when the throw is made. Both hands must throw the ball, directly over the head.</p> <p>A second attempt may be allowed on an incorrect throw-in per referee discretion. If a second attempt is allowed, the player attempting the first throw-in must attempt the second.</p>	

LAW 17	GOAL KICKS
<p>A Goal Kick is awarded when the ball passes entirely over the goal line but not within the goal scoring area and is last touched by an offensive player. The defending team (now making the Goal Kick) may place the ball anywhere within the goal area. The ball must leave the penalty area before it is again in play and may be touched by another player of either team. If the ball does not travel outside the penalty area prior to being touched, a re-kick is awarded.</p> <p>For Goal Kicks and when the goalie has the ball in their hands; DEFENSIVE TEAM MUST RETREAT TO MID-FIELD LINE, UNTIL THE BALL LEAVES THE PENALTY AREA.</p> <p>To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play.</p>	

LAW 18	CORNER KICKS
<p>A Corner Kick is awarded when the ball entirely crosses the goal line and is last touched by a defensive player and is not a goal. The ball is placed inside the quarter circle nearest the corner flag post indicated by the referee. An offensive player may then kick the ball. The kicker may not touch the ball a second time until after it is touched by another player. A goal may be scored directly from a Corner Kick. The opposing team must be at least 10 yards away. A goal may be scored without another player touching the ball.</p>	

LAW 19	GOAL ARC
There are no goal arcs in these divisions.	



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LAW 20	GOALIES
<p>Teams must have a player designated as a goalie on the field at all times regardless of score or other circumstance. No one player will play goal keeper for more than one-half of a single game.</p> <p>Goalies must be distinguished by wearing a different color jersey. Goalies are only allowed to use their hands within the designated goalie box. Goalies may leave the goalie box to kick the ball, but may not dribble the ball back into the goalie box to pick up. Likewise teammates may not pass back to the goalie <u>unless</u> the goalie intends to kick the ball. In the event of an infraction, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.</p> <p>Once the goalie has secured both hands on the ball, opposing players must back away and retreat past the mid-field line. Kicking the ball out of the hands of the goalie is not permitted and should never be encouraged.</p> <p>Goalies who have secured the ball can throw, roll, or put the ball down on the ground and kick it, <u>but no punts are allowed (nor drop kicks)</u>. In the event of an infraction, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.</p> <p>Goalies will have 6 seconds to put the ball in play once all opposing players have retreated behind the mid-field line. However, the goalie can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.</p> <p>To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play.</p>	

LAW 21	HEADERS
<p>Heading the ball is not permitted and should not be practiced. In the event of an intentional header, play will be stopped and the opposing team will be awarded an indirect kick from the spot of the infraction.</p>	



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S.Y.S. LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

- The league emphasis is placed on the children having fun and developing their individual skills. Coaches and parents set the example for each child on the team.
 - Do not publicly criticize an official, parent, player or coach for your or the opposing team
 - Avoid getting wrapped up in the competition.
 - Applaud good plays by not only your team, but the opposing as well. Be sure to be complimentary to the opposing team during and after games
- There should only be two (2) coaches per team for practices and games. Head and assistant coaches are required to complete a mandatory background check and concussion training
- Be sure to take time to implement the life skills training into your practices and games. These are important traits for positive character growth
- Communication is a key ingredient to a successful season. Expectations for coach communicating with the team include...
 - Initial contact with the parent(s) of every single player on the team at least one (1) week prior to the first practice
 - Field closures or game/practice cancellations due to inclement weather as mandated by the league
 - Any personal planned absences (be sure to secure a replacement)
 - Timely responses to messages sent by parents, S.Y.S. board members and/or league commissioners.
 - Concerns and/or questions to the league commissioner regarding player injuries or conduct detrimental to the league
 - Constructive and positive feedback to parents and players as needed
- Coaches should remain on their side of the field with the players and opposite of the spectators. Coaches must not leave the coaching area during games unless called onto the field by the referee
- Any question or comment during the game regarding parent, player or coach behavior should be handled discretely by the opposing coaches. Parents should not be permitted on the field during practices or games unless called upon. Coaches should be engaged with the players on the field and not with the spectators
- All players, coaches and spectators are part of the S.Y.S. community and are accountable for their actions. Verbal abuse toward officials, players and coaches will not be tolerated. Anyone in violation of this policy is subject to discipline by the S.Y.S. Executive Board