



S.P.O.R.T.S. Youth Soccer

Combined Laws of the Game: All Divisions

Revised 3/2018

	PRE-K / K	1 st / 2 nd Grade	3 rd / 4 th Grade	5 th / 6 th Grade	7 th / 8 th Co-Ed
LAW 1 THE FIELD (MAX SIZE)	90'L x 60'W split field with goal size of 4' x 6'	90'L x 60'W split field with goal size of 4' x 6'.	141'L x 90'W with goal size of 6.5' x 18.5'	225'L x 141'W with goal size of 6.5' x 18.5'	336'L X 225'W with goal size of 8' x 24'

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LAW 2 THE BALL	Size 3 soccer ball	Size 3 soccer ball	Size 4 soccer ball	Size 4 soccer ball	Size 5 soccer ball

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LAW 3 THE PLAYERS	Games will be played with 4 players per side in a split field arrangement. Games will be played using the "split field model" where teams play two games simultaneously. Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play. When possible, substitutions should be limited to quarter breaks. There are no goal keepers.		Games will be played with 7 players per side, 1 of whom is a goal keeper.	Games will be played with 9 players per side, 1 of whom is a goal keeper.	Games will be played with 11 players per side, 1 of whom is a goal keeper. Depending on player attendance, coaches may agree to play 10 (minimum) or 12 (maximum) on the field. Without agreement, the teams will play with 11 players.
			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 on goal kicks (either team), following a goal (either team), or on a throw-in (throwing team). Any player dismissed from the game (shown a red card) may be replaced.		
<u>All players will play a minimum of half of the game regardless of ability, score, or any other circumstance.</u>					

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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 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 pinnie) to distinguish them from the other players.		

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LAW 5 THE REFEREE	There are no referees in these divisions. The game will be managed by up to one coach from each team with an emphasis on the development of skills and an explanation of the rules when calls are made.		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.		

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LAW 6 ASSISTANT REFEREE	There are no assistant referees in these divisions.			There will be an assistant referee who assists in determining out of bounds, corner kicks and goal kicks. The assistant referee (also known as linesman) will also be responsible for flagging off-sides which the referee may elect to call. The referee may overrule the assistant referee.	

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LAW 7 GAME DURATION	The game will be divided into 4 equal, 8 minute quarters. There will be 2 minute breaks between quarters one and two and three and four. There will be a half-time interval of 5 minutes.	The game will be divided into 3 equal, 15 minute periods. There will be a 5-minute break between each completed period.	The game will be divided into 2 equal periods of 25 minutes with a 10-minute half-time break.	The game will be divided into 2 equal periods of 30 minutes with a 10-minute half-time break.	The game will be divided into 2 equal periods of 35 minutes with a 15-minute half-time break.

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LAW 7 (cont.) GAME DURATION	The coaches reserve 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.		The time will be continuous unless there is a stoppage for injury or extraordinary circumstances. 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.		

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LAW 8 BUILD-OUT LINE	The build-out line is not applicable for these divisions.		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 are supportive of the build-out line initiative.	The build-out line is not applicable for these divisions.	

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LAW 9 THE START OF PLAY	A kick off starts play to begin the game, after each quarter, and following a scored goal. The ball must move forward and may not be retouched by the kicker until any other player touches the ball. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick off.		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.		

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LAW 10 BALL IN & OUT OF PLAY	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 coach. Any ball striking a coach, goal post, or corner flag, and remaining on the field is in play.		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.		

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

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LAW 12 OFFSIDES	<p>Offside is not an infraction of the rules in these divisions.</p> <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. 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> <p>While moving toward an opponent's goal, the offensive team may not have a player ahead of the ball unless there are two defending players between the player and the goal. Exceptions include when the player is in his/her own half of the field, or when a defender last touched the ball. The referee has the right to call or to not call the infraction depending upon whether the player is actually engaged in the play.</p>				

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LAW 13 FOULS & MISCONDUCT		<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"> • Handling the ball • Tripping • Sliding at an opponent • Holding • Striking an opponent • Pushing • Violent charge • Kicking • Charging from behind • Dangerous play (high kick) • Opponent obstruction <p>The coaches may choose not to call the infraction if the offending player gains no unfair advantage.</p>	<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>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>		<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 	

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LAW 14 FREE KICKS		<p>All free kicks are Indirect and opponents are at least 5 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. If the free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded. If the free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team.</p>	<p>Free kicks are either direct or indirect. Opponents must be at least 10 yards from the ball until the ball 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 opponent's 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 team's 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.			Penalty kicks are awarded if a serious rule (12A) infraction takes place in the penalty area. All players except the goalie must stand out of the penalty box and behind the ball placement (12 yards) until the ball is kicked. The player taking the penalty kick cannot kick the ball again until any other player has touched the ball. The keeper must remain on the goal line until the ball is kicked.	

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LAW 16 INBOUND THROWS (or KICKS)	<p>After the ball has entirely crossed the sideline (touch line), the team not last touching the ball shall be awarded a kick-in.</p> <p><i>Kick-in regulations:</i> A kick-in is considered as an indirect free kick with opponents 5 yards from the ball until it is in play.</p>	<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><i>Throw-in regulations:</i> 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 will be allowed on an incorrect throw-in per coach/referee discretion. If a second attempt is allowed, the player attempting the first throw-in must attempt the second.</p>	<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><i>Throw-in regulations:</i> 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>* No second attempt will be allowed for an incorrect throw-ins. Improper throw-ins will result in a free throw for the other team.</p>		

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LAW 17 GOAL KICKS	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 makes the goal kick. The goal kick must be taken anywhere inside the goal arc. Opposing players must remain behind the mid-field line until the ball is in play. If the ball does not travel outside the goal arc prior to being touched, a re-kick is awarded.		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.		
			(3 rd /4 th continued) 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. 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.		

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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 5 yards away.</p>		<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>		

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LAW 19 GOAL ARC	<p>A player may not be within the arc that surrounds the front of the goal until the ball is also inside the arc. If a player is within the arc, they will have three seconds to leave the arc when told by either team's coach who is on the field. If they do not leave, the opposing team will be awarded the ball in either the form of a corner kick for the offense or a goal kick for the defense. Coaches are urged to remain in the "spirit" of "fair play" and not to try to use this rule to their advantage. The intent of this Law is to get the players into the game in the middle of the field and not "camping" in front of the goal. PLACING A STATIONARY DEFENDER ON THE EDGE OF THE ARC IS DISCOURAGED.</p>		<p>There are no goal arcs in these divisions.</p>		

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LAW 20 GOALIES	There are no goalies in these divisions.		<p>Teams must have a player designated as a goalie on the field at all times regardless of score or other circumstance.</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>No one player will play goal keeper for more than one-half of a single game.</p>		
	<p>3rd / 4th Grade</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>			<p>5th - 8th Grade</p> <p>Punting and/or drop kicks are allowed. However, the ball may not land past midfield without touching the ground or another player first. Throwing, rolling, and /or putting the ball down on the ground and kicking it beyond the midfield line (halfway line) in the air is allowed.</p>	

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LAW 21 HEADERS	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.				Heading the ball is permitted.

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S.Y.S. LOCAL LEAGUE RULES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 • Coaches must be registered with the league and allocated to a team in order to serve as a coach for practices and games. The standard is (2) coaches per team. Head and assistant coaches are required to complete a mandatory background check and online CDC 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <p>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.</p>				