



S.P.O.R.T.S. Youth Soccer  
Laws of the Game: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Division  
*Revised 2/2017*

<b>LAW 1</b>	<b>THE FIELD (MAX SIZE)</b>
90'L x 60'W split field with goal size of 4' x 6'.	

<b>LAW 2</b>	<b>THE BALL</b>
Size 3 soccer ball	

<b>LAW 3</b>	<b>THE PLAYERS</b>
<p>Games will be played with 4 players per side in a split field arrangement.</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>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.</p>	

<b>LAW 4</b>	<b>PLAYERS EQUIPMENT</b>
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).	

<b>LAW 5</b>	<b>THE REFEREE</b>
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.	

<b>LAW 6</b>	<b>ASSISTANT REFEREE</b>
There are no assistant referees in these divisions.	



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<b>LAW 7</b>	<b>GAME DURATION</b>
<p>The game will be divided into 3 equal, 15 minute periods. There will be a 5-minute break between each completed period.</p> <p>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.</p>	

<b>LAW 8</b>	<b>BUILD-OUT LINE</b>
<p>The build-out line is not applicable for these divisions.</p>	

<b>LAW 9</b>	<b>THE START OF PLAY</b>
<p>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.</p>	

<b>LAW 10</b>	<b>BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY</b>
<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 coach. Any ball striking a coach, goal post, or corner flag, and remaining on the field is in play.</p>	

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

<b>LAW 12</b>	<b>OFFSIDE</b>
<p>Offside is not an infraction of the rules in these divisions.</p>	



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LAW 13	FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS
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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:

- 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

The coaches may choose not to call the infraction if the offending player gains no unfair advantage.

LAW 14	FREE KICKS
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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.

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

LAW 16	INBOUND THROWS
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After the ball has entirely crossed the sideline (touch line), the team not last touching the ball shall be awarded a throw-in.

**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.

A second attempt will be allowed on an incorrect throw-in per coach discretion. If a second attempt is allowed, the player attempting the first throw-in must attempt the second.



## S.P.O.R.T.S. Youth Soccer Laws of the Game: Pre-K/K Divisions

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<b>LAW 17</b>	<b>GOAL KICKS</b>
<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 makes the goal kick. The goal kick must be taken anywhere inside the goal arc. <b>Opposing players must remain behind the mid-field line until the ball is in play.</b> If the ball does not travel outside the goal arc prior to being touched, a re-kick is awarded.</p>	
<b>LAW 18</b>	<b>CORNER KICKS</b>
<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>	
<b>LAW 19</b>	<b>GOAL ARC</b>
<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. <b>PLACING A STATIONARY DEFENDER ON THE EDGE OF THE ARC IS DISCOURAGED.</b></p>	
<b>LAW 20</b>	<b>GOALIES</b>
<p>There are no goalies in these divisions.</p>	
<b>LAW 21</b>	<b>HEADERS</b>
<p>Heading the ball is not permitted. 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. No scores or standings are to be kept
  - 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
- 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