



U12 Guidelines

Lakeside AYSO Region 234 – Spring 2018

The U12 practice consists of two 75-90 minute sessions per week.

The Field:

The recommended field size for U12 games is 70-80 x 45-55 yards wide.

The Markings:

Distinctive lines recommended.

- **Halfway line** the width of the field, marked equidistant between the goal lines.
- **Center circle** with an eight-yard radius in the center of the field.
- **Corner arcs** with a one-yard radius at each corner of the field.
- **Goal area** in front of each goal measuring 5 x 16 yards.
- **Penalty area** in front of each goal measuring 14 x 36 yards.
- **Penalty mark** ten yards from the goal line.
- **Penalty arc** extending in a eight-yard radius from the penalty mark.

The Goals:

Maximum 7 feet high and 21 feet wide.

The Ball:

A size 4 ball is used for U12 games.

The Players:

- **Numbers:** Nine per team on field; one of which is a goalkeeper. Twelve maximum on roster.
- **Substitutions:** Between quarters, at halftime and for injuries.
- **Playing Time:** Minimum of two periods per game and no player should play four periods until everyone has played three.
- **Teams:** Only players should be allowed on the field; with the exception of a referee to manage the game.

Player Equipment:

Shoes and shinguards, covered by the socks are mandatory at all practice and game activities. Soccer shoes, tennis shoes, or similar type athletic shoes are recommended. The type and condition of cleated shoes must be inspected for safety before use.

Duration of Game:

Four 15 minute periods. Half time break of 5 minutes and Quarter break of 1 minute.

Official:

AYSO certified Regional Referees or higher are required for U12 and older games. The referee should briefly explain any infringements to the player(s) and encourage proper play and sporting behavior. As with all games, every effort should be made to keep the game moving and free from stoppages for doubtful infractions. Let them play and enjoy.

Assistant Referees/Club Linesmen:

If available, qualified assistant referees who have completed Assistant Referee Certification may be used to assist the referee. This is an opportunity for new assistant referees to begin getting experience. If qualified assistant referees are not available, Club Linesmen (untrained volunteers who may be affiliated with one of the teams/clubs) may be recruited from the spectators to assist the referee with calling the ball in and out of play only. This is an opportunity for parents to get involved.

The Start of Play:

The game should be started with a kick-off in the middle of the field.

The Kick-off:

A coin toss is used to determine which team kicks off to start the game and the other team kicks off to start the second half. Opponents must be eight yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress. The winner of the coin toss chooses which goal to attack.

Ball In and Out of Play:

The ball is out of play in all age group games when it completely crosses the touch line (side line) or goal line (end line), either on the ground or in the air.

Method of Scoring:

A goal, in all age groups, is awarded when the ball completely crosses the goal line into the goal.

Fouls:

For U12 and older games, all fouls identified in Law 12 apply. Refer to the *Laws of the Game* for more information.

Misconduct:

Misconduct should still be relatively rare in U12 games. Coaches at all levels of play have the option of calling players to the touchline to receive words of 'positive instruction' concerning player's behavior.

Free Kicks:

Free kicks, in U12 and older games, may be either direct (may score directly), or indirect (must be touched or played by another player before a goal can be scored). Opponents must be at least eight yards from the ball or on the goal line between the goal posts during free kicks.

Penalty Kicks:

Penalty kicks may be awarded in U12 and older games. A penalty kick results from a player committing one of the eleven direct free kick fouls inside his/her own penalty area. The penalty kick is taken from the penalty mark with all other players outside the penalty area except the opposing teams goalkeeper.

Throw-In:

Second chances are not given for improper throw-ins for U12 and older players. An improper throw-in results in a throw-in for the opposing team.

Goal Kick:

A goal kick is awarded to the opposing team, in U12 and older, when the attacking team is last to touch the ball before it crosses the goal line but without scoring a goal. The goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area. The goal kick is retaken if the ball is touched or played by either team before leaving the penalty area.

**** Player Development Initiative will be enforced and all games and fields ****

Goalkeeper Punts:

For U12, the goalkeeper shall not punt the ball. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the offense if a goalkeeper deliberately punts the ball during a match. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area must be taken on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the goalkeeper punted the ball.

Corner Kick:

A corner kick is awarded to the opposing team when the defending team is last to touch the ball before it crosses the goal line but not scoring a goal. The opposing team must be at least eight yards from the ball when the corner kick is taken in U12 games.

Offside:

The offside law applies in U12 and older games.

Deliberately Handling Ball:

This infraction occurs when a player handles the ball deliberately. This includes the hand and entire arm up to the top of the shoulder. Accidental contact (ball striking hand or arm with no intent by the player) is not an offense and should not be penalized.

No Heading:

Consistent with the US Soccer mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for all division U11 (U12 and below for programs without single age divisions) and below in both practices and matches. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a match (taken where the player touched the ball with his/her head).

