



United Valley Soccer Association

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Laws of the Game - U8

The following Laws have been modified by Soccer Association for Youth (SAY) and UVSA with the goal of inducing more touches, while being developmentally appropriate for 6 and 7 year old players. These modifications are intended to be guidelines for players, parents and coaches and are not intended to be the letter of the law as enforced by the referees on the field.

Law I – Field of Play

The U8 field is 30 yd. wide by 50 yd. long.

Law II – The Ball

A size #3 ball is used.

Law III – Players & Substitutions

Games will be played 5v5 (or 4v4). There are no goaltenders. Unlimited substitutions may occur anytime the ball goes out of play, there is an injury or a goal is scored.

Law IV – Player's Equipment

Jerseys, socks and shinguards are required to be worn at all games. Black shorts or pants should be worn depending on the weather. Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts may be worn under a player's jersey. Cleats may be worn but cannot have metal spikes or sharp edges. Shinguards are also required at all practices.

Law V – Referees

One official referee will be provided by UVSA at all U8 games. Referees are responsible for keeping time, enforcing the Laws, calling infractions and handing out appropriate penalties.

Law VI – Assistant Referees

There may be Assistant Referees in the U8 age group.

Law VII – Duration of Game

All U8 games consist of two 15-minute halves. There is a 5-minute break for halftime. The clock is continuous.

Law VIII – Start & Restart of Play

All starts and restarts of play occur at the beginning of a quarter and/or after a goal has been scored and will take place at the center mark.

Law IX – Ball In & Out of Play	The ball is considered out of play when it completely crosses a goal line or touch line regardless of whether the ball is on the ground or in the air.
Law X – Method of Scoring	A goal is awarded when the ball completely crosses the portion of the goal line enclosed by the uprights of the soccer goal. Score is not kept in the U8 age group.
Law XI – Offside	The offside law is not enforced in the U8 age group.
Law XII – Fouls & Misconduct	The most common fouls for U8 players are due to pushing, holding, tripping, charging and handballs. These should be called and explained to all players, not just the offending player.
Law XIII – Free Kick	There are two types of free kicks – direct and indirect. All free kicks in U8 are indirect, meaning a goal cannot be scored until the ball is played by another player on either team. The ball may be kicked in any direction and must be touched by another player. Defenders must be at least 6-yards from the player kicking.
Law XIV – Penalty Kick	Since there are no goaltenders at U8, no penalty kicks will be awarded.
Law XV – Throw-In	A throw-in is awarded when the ball goes out of play along one of the two touch lines. All throw-ins will be awarded at the place the ball last crossed the touch line. Illegal throw-ins should be explained and will result in a re-throw.
Law XVI – Goal Kick	A goal kick is awarded to the defense when the ball is last played by the offense before going out of play along the defensive goal line. Goal kicks may take place anywhere within the goal box. The entire ball must leave the goal box before being touched by any other player. The opposing team must remain outside the goal area until the entire ball has left the box.
Law XVII – Corner Kick	A corner kick is awarded to the offense when the ball is last played by the defense before going out of play along the defensive goal line. Corner kicks will be taken from the corner closest to the place where the ball went out of play.