

# SSA In-House Division 1 Program

## Simplified Soccer Laws

*Revised 9.12.12 (U5/U6)*

### **Law 1 -- The Ball**

A size 3 ball will be used.

### **Law 2 -- The Players**

Each team shall field 6 players at one time -- 3 offensive players, 2 defensive players, and 1 goalkeeper. Each half will be 20 minutes with a 5 to 10 minute half time break. Each player must play at least 20 minutes. Each player should play a different position at least once during a game, rotating as often as possible through the positions (except goalie). Goalkeepers should stay within the penalty area and can only use their hands inside the penalty area. Please teach all goalkeepers these basic rules.

### **Law 3 -- Players Equipment**

The uniform is a team tee shirt, black shorts, up-to-the calf socks, shin guards, and soccer cleats. Nothing potentially injurious to the player or another player may be worn (e.g., jewelry). The goalkeeper must wear a different color jersey or a “pinnie.” Socks *must* go over and cover the shin guards; this is a safety issue and must be enforced. Please educate families. Players may wear sweatshirts or sweat pants if the weather is cold/damp.

### **Law 4 -- The Referee**

Game referees will be provided by SSA whenever possible. If no referees are available at the time of the game, the referee shall be one coach from each team as decided by coaches in attendance. The referees are in charge of all game activities and are to insure each team abides by the rules. **A referee's decision is final.** It is the referee's responsibility to keep the game clock, stop the game for injuries, and remind players of proper game conduct. The game must end 10 minutes before the hour (e.g., game starting at 12:00 must end no later than 12:50). The referees are mostly young kids and are learning to be referees. Yelling or Screaming at them *will not be tolerated* and may result in removal of coaching privileges.

### **Law 5 -- Game Duration**

There will be two 20 minute halves with a 5 to 10 minute break at half. Games will be on “running time” (no time stoppages). Game time slots are scheduled for no more than one hour. If necessary, coaches must reduce the length of the halves to accommodate the time schedule.

### **Law 6 -- Start of Play**

A “kick off” at the midfield starts the game, after halftime, and following a scored goal. The ball is placed in the center of the field for kick off (i.e. inside the circle at midfield). The ball must move forward and may not be retouched by the kicking player until another player touches the ball. The defensive team must not be positioned inside the center circle until after the ball is kicked by the offensive team. Re kicks are encouraged for illegal kick offs. It is not necessary for teams to switch ends of fields at halftime.

### **Law 7 -- Ball In and Out of Play**

A ball is out of play only after it has entirely crossed the plane of the sideline or goal line. Any ball striking a referee, coach, or goal post - and remaining on the field - is in play.

### **Law 8 -- Goal Scoring**

No score shall be kept in Division 1. A goal is scored when the ball crosses the goal line entirely between the goal posts and under the cross bar. A player is limited to no more than 3 goals in a single half and a maximum of 6 goals in a game. After 3 goals in a half, the player must be moved to defense or goalkeeper.

It is SSA policy to NOT run up scores, but instead to work on skills. For example, coaches will switch players around; put in a new goalie; get players to make 5 passes before taking a shot on goal or only have players shoot from outside the penalty area. Get creative in a lopsided game situation!

### **Law 9 -- Offside**

Offside is not applicable in this division, however, “**goal hanging**” or “**cherry picking**” is not allowed.

### **Law 10 -- Fouls and Misconduct**

Play stoppages should be kept to a minimum. However, if a player intentionally grabs the ball with his/her hands, or a player is continually or flagrantly playing dangerously or violently (i.e. high kicks, pushing with arms extended, elbowing, charging), coaches must stop the game, step in, and teach. The misconduct should be briefly explained to the offending player. An indirect or free kick can be awarded to the other team and must touch another player before entering the goal. No penalty kicks will be awarded. If the player in violation cannot stay under control, the coach can remove the player from the game until the player can return to play in a safe manner.

### **Law 11 -- Free Kicks**

Opposing players must be at least 15 feet away as the kick is taken. The ball must be stationary when kicked.

### **Law 12 -- Penalty Kicks**

No penalty kicks in Division 1.

### **Law 13 -- Inbound Throw-Ins**

After the ball has entirely crossed the sideline, the team not last touching the ball shall be awarded a throw-in. Both feet must be on the ground (on or behind the sideline) when the throw-in is made. Both hands must throw the ball, directly over the head. A second attempt will be allowed on an incorrect throw-in. *Children need to learn how to do this properly.* A throw-in is awarded to the opposing team for an incorrect throw-in after a second failed attempt.

### **Law 14 -- Goal Kicks**

A goal kick is awarded when the ball passes entirely over the goal line (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. **A player other than your goalie should perform the goal kick.**

### **Law 15 -- Corner Kick**

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 at the corner between the touch line and the goal line indicated by the referee. An offensive player may then kick the ball. The player who initially kicks the ball cannot touch the ball a second time until after it is touched by another player. The opposing team must be at least 15 feet away from where the corner kick is taken. A goal may be scored without another offensive player touching the ball.

### **Additional SSA Board Policies and Rules:**

- The league distributes balls to every team to be used for games and practices; however each child should

bring his or her own ball to practices.

- All players and coaches will be on a side of the field opposite the parents and spectators. Coaches are responsible for informing the parents of the appropriate area where they should sit – opposite sideline of where the teams will be.
- Players and coaches shall remain on their own half of the sideline. Each team is limited to 3 total registered SSA Coaches and 1 Team Manager on the team sideline.
- No coaches, parents, or spectators will be permitted behind or near either end (goal) of the playing field. Coaches are to enforce this rule and will do so consistently with the assistance of the Division Director if necessary.
- 1 coach per team is allowed to go on the opposing team's half of the sideline to assist the players on the field.
- No coaches or parents on the field unless an injury has occurred. Coaches must assist the referees before the start of play to assure parents and other spectators are at least 3 feet from the sideline to allow throw-ins, etc.
- Neither scoring nor standings will be kept. There will be no overtime or penalty kicks to determine a winner -- games can end in a draw.
- SSA Inclement Weather Policy (Games) -- The Division Director will be responsible for cancelling games due to inclement weather in conjunction with the President and AFC representative. All head coaches will be notified of cancellations a minimum of 1 hour before game time. If you do not hear from the Division Director and/or do not see a cancellation posted on the SSA website, the game is still on! At this time, all games that are rained out may or may not be made up – it depends on field availability and is the decision of SSA. This policy is available on the SSA website.  
Note: Cancellation of weeknight practices due to inclement weather is the decision of the President, the AFC representative, and the Division Director. All cancellations will be made by approximately 3:30 p.m. and notice will be provided by the Division Director to coaches, on the SSA website, and via email blast from the SSA website.
- Coaches should carry accident reports to all games and practices, and reports should be completed and provided to the Division Director within 48 hours.
- Coaches should always carry a copy of the “Division 1 Simplified Soccer Laws” at all games and practices for easy reference.
- Coaches are encouraged to involve the Division Director as quickly as possible if a coach cannot first resolve a parent issue.
- Parents should be encouraged to discuss any concerns about their child with the coaches. SSA has a “24 Hour Rule” for all games, however, and parents cannot approach coaches until 24 hours after the completion of a game.
- Parents should be encouraged to participate in practices, especially if the player is shy and needs support.