

9 v 9 Rules - Division 4

1. Division 4 plays with **9 players from each team** competing on a small field (8 field players and a goalkeeper). This division uses size 4 soccer balls. All players must wear shin guards.
2. Field size for this division is approximately **90L x 60W. Goals will be 7 x 21 feet.**
3. Other than as modified by these rules, FIFA Standard Laws of the Game apply.
4. Games are played with **two 30 minute halves**. There is a five-minute break at half-time. Games should conclude no later than five minutes before the start of the next game even if your game started late. Coaches must ensure their players are ready to step on the field and play at the designated start time.
5. There should be one central referee and two sideline referees at this age division. Coaches and/or assistant coaches from each team are responsible to control their sidelines to ensure that parents and spectators are not arguing with, abusing, harassing or in any way negatively interacting with the referees. Coaches are expected to fairly manage the game environment and should allow the referees to call the game as he/she deems appropriate. Note: There will no doubt be missed calls and/or incorrect calls during the game. It is an inevitable part of the game. **Coaches shall not argue with the referees at any time.** Coaches can contact the Director of Referees after the game to discuss any issues that may have occurred during the game. Coaches who are abusive to referees will be removed as coaches from this league.
6. As soon as a game concludes, players and coaches should meet at the halfway line and shake hands. Shaking hands with the referees is also encouraged. Players, coaches and spectators should clear the sidelines as quickly as possible to allow the spectators and players for the following game to take the field. Coaches should designate an area away from the pitch to have a short team meeting and pass out snacks rather than doing that on the sidelines. Please pick up all trash and empty water bottles before exiting the sidelines.
7. **Each player must play 75% of the time** (except in instances of injury or disciplinary action). Coaches should not leave their best players in the game the entire time and every player should come out of the game at some point during the game unless there are no subs. Indeed, when players are sitting on the bench, the coach can provide the most instruction to them (as opposed to yelling instructions to them while they are on the field in the midst of the game). Let the players learn to make the decisions on the field instead of “joystick” coaching them from the sidelines and telling them when to pass, shoot, or press. Players will learn better with less “coaching” during the games!
8. Unlimited substitutions can be made at any stoppage of game with permission from the referee.
9. No standings or results are recorded or published for this division. Coaches are expected to not run up the score on the opposing team. The general rule is that when a team is up by four goals, the coach should start implementing restrictions to challenge their team. For example, a

coach can require a certain number of passes before the team tries to score again, or require every player to have a touch on the ball before the team can shoot on goal or a dominant player may be restricted from scoring again until one of his/her teammates has scored. This again fosters better development of all the players, not just those who are early blossoming athletes.

10. **There is no heading in this division.** Any intentional heading results in the opposing team getting an indirect free kick from the spot where the intentional heading occurred (indirect kicks mean that another player must touch the ball before a goal can be scored).

11. Coaches are expected to follow strict concussion protocols in the event of any head injury. Always err on the side of caution and remove any player suspected of having sustained any head injury.

12. Off-side is enforced in this division.

13. Coaches are expected to make safety and fun the top priorities. Any issues that arise during the game should not be resolved through an argument on the field but should be brought to the attention of the Director of Coaching and/or the league as soon as practical. Remember--the outcome of these games will not impact any player's ability to obtain a college scholarship!