

# 9v9 Standards



# 9v9 Player Development Philosophy

Coaches should have the age appropriate license issued by U.S. Soccer

The training-to-game ratio should be 2-3 training sessions per game played

Rosters should include no more than 16 players

Players should participate in no more than 30 games per calendar year and in no more than one game per day

Every player should play a minimum of 50% of the time in each game



# 9v9 Player Development Philosophy

Results and standings should not be recorded

Players should have a minimum of 2 rest days per week during the season along with planned breaks from organized soccer during the calendar year

Any travel should be limited to day trips with limited allowances for overnight stays

Events (ex: tournaments, showcases, festivals, etc.) should provide a predetermined number of games with no advancement, placement games or champions



# 9v9

## Concussion Initiative

Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed

If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment

The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player

Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game



# 9v9

## Concussion Initiative

Deliberate heading is not allowed in U11 games. Heading is currently allowed in U12 games without limitations but membership is empowered to limit or ban heading at this level of play

If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense

If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

In a controlled and individual environment (where heading is an isolated skill being taught away from any form of opposition or other aspects of the game), the use of lightweight balls (foam, balloon, etc.) would be acceptable for teaching heading technique



# 9v9 Standards of Play

## Modified Laws of the Game

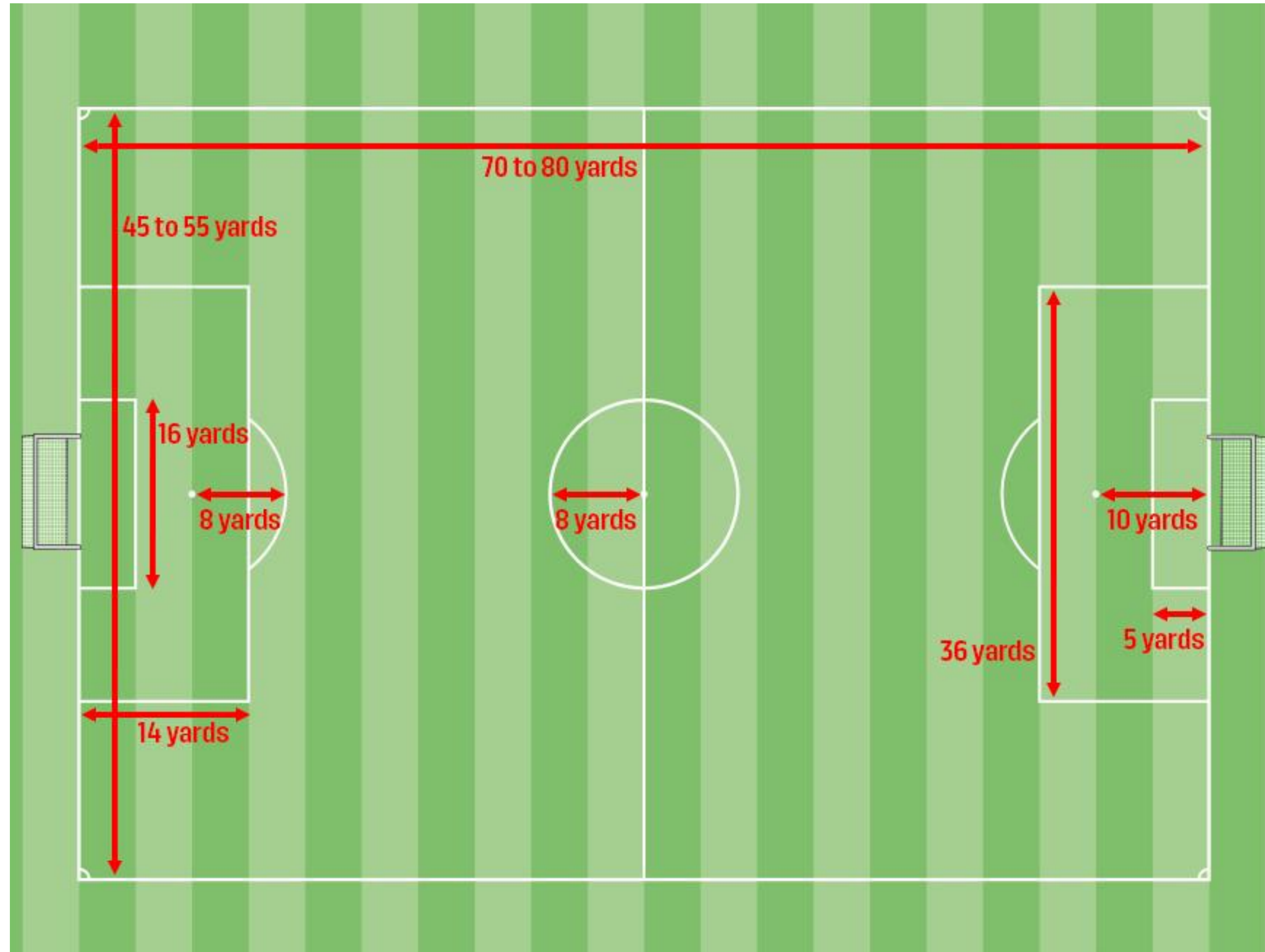
### Law 1 – Field of Play

- 70-80 yards (length)
- 45-55 yards (width)
- Goals should be no larger than 7 feet (height) x 21 feet (width)
- A 6.5 feet (height) x 18.5 feet (width) goal is recommended based on the age and ability of the players
- Diagram contains recommended field markings and dimensions





# 9v9 Standards of Play



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## Modified Laws of the Game

### Law 2 – Ball

- Size 4

### Law 3 – Number of Players

- 9v9 (8 field players and 1 goalkeeper)
- Game may not start or continue if there are less than 6 players on a team
- Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage





# 9v9 Standards of Play

## Modified Laws of the Game

### Law 5 – Referee

- Minimum certification as a U.S. Soccer Grade 9 Referee

### Law 6 – Other Match Officials

- Used at the discretion of the competition authority



# 9v9 Standards of Play

## Modified Laws of the Game

### Law 7 – Duration of the Match

- 2 halves
- 30 minutes halves
- 10 minute halftime
- No added time



# 9v9 Standards of Play

## Standard Laws of the Game

Law 4 – Players' Equipment

Law 5 – The Referee

Law 8 – Start and Restart of Play

Law 9 – Ball In and Out of Play

Law 10 – Method of Scoring

Law 11 – Offside

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct\*

Law 13 – Free kicks

Law 14 – Penalty Kick

Law 15 – Throw-in

Law 16 – Goal kick

Law 17 – Corner kick

\*With the exception of deliberate heading in U11 games



# Implementation

## Timeline

All information about the Concussion Initiative is implemented with immediate effect

Birth year registration and the small sided standards will be mandated in August 2017

- Some members have chosen to adopt earlier as a best practice and will begin implementing in August 2016
- Please contact your local member for more information on implementation

The Player Development Philosophy information is provided as best practice standards

- Although not currently mandated, U.S. Soccer believes members should adopt these principles to align with our values and objectives for player development



# What You Can Do

## How to Best Support the Changes

Have patience

Stick to the facts

Read the FAQ

Communicate with and get answers from your local member and leaders

