

1 Rules and Regulations – U8 Division

1.1 Intent of CFSC Soccer

1.1.1 Promote the Game and Respect the Game. Make the Game enjoyable for all participants. Have Fun!

1.2 Laws of Soccer

1.2.1 The U8 Division shall abide by the United States Soccer Federation “Laws of Soccer” that are current at the time. In addition, the following Cuyahoga Falls Soccer Club “Rules and Regulations” shall apply and take precedence over the USSF Laws.

1.3 Playing Field

1.3.1 The playing field should be 120-135 feet wide, 150-165 feet long, Penalty Box should be 78 feet wide x 50 feet deep, Goalie Box should be 54 feet wide x 16 feet deep, and center circle should be 24 foot radius. Goals should be eight feet wide and six feet high. There should be a two foot spectator line on each side of the field, parallel to the touchline.

1.3.2 No spectators shall be behind the goal during the game. Spectators shall stay behind the spectator line.

1.4 Equipment

1.4.1 Players shall wear club issued shirts. The goalkeeper shall wear a different color shirt, goalkeeper shirt, or practice jersey.

1.4.2 The U8 division uses a size four (4) ball.

1.4.3 Shin Guards shall be worn and covered for games and practices.

1.4.4 Soccer shoes are highly recommended, but not required. Athletic shoes are acceptable. Football and baseball shoes are not allowed.

1.4.5 Jewelry shall not be worn during games or practice.

1.5 Games

1.5.1 Inclement weather:

1.5.1.1 *Coaches shall report to the field at game time. The assigned referee will make the decision if the game will be played. If the game is postponed, the coaches should agree to a new game time and notify the U8 VP of the change.*

1.5.2 Players:

1.5.2.1 *There shall be a minimum of five (5) and/or a maximum of six (6) players per team, per field at the start of a game. One of the players shall be a goalkeeper.*

1.5.2.2 *All teams shall start play with equal numbers of players on the field at one time. (Example: 6V6, 5V5)*

- 1.5.2.3 *No players may be allowed to play in any game, except those listed on the "official team roster".*
- 1.5.2.4 *If either team cannot field at least five players, the game may be:*
 - 1.5.2.4.1 *Rescheduled (In which either coach MUST notify the VP of U8)*
 - 1.5.2.4.2 *Used as a practice/scrimmage game (using equal sides).*
 - 1.5.2.4.3 *Canceled (This is only if no make-up date can be agreed upon).*
- 1.5.2.5 *Each player is to have the opportunity to play at least two full quarters during each game they attend with the following exceptions:*
 - 1.5.2.5.1 *In the case of injury to the player.*
 - 1.5.2.5.2 *If the player arrives late to the game.*
- 1.5.2.6 *Players within a team shall be divided equally on each field according to ability (No stacking or one-sided advantage).*
- 1.5.2.7 *A goalkeeper may not take more than six seconds from the moment they have full control of the ball in their hands.*
- 1.5.2.8 *A player CANNOT kick the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands when the ball is touched by the Goalkeeper. Once the Goalkeeper has one hand on the ball, all players should back away out of the penalty area.*
- 1.5.2.9 *Any one player may not play the goalkeeper position more than two (2) quarters per game.*

1.5.3 Time Management:

- 1.5.3.1 *Duration of the game is four ten minute quarters with a five (5) minute halftime. Time shall be kept by the referee. The fields are reserved for one hour for each game.*
- 1.5.3.2 *Quarter breaks should be kept to a maximum of two (2) minutes.*
- 1.5.3.3 *Restart play at the centerline after each quarter break and every goal. One team shall kick off quarters 1 and 3; the other team shall kick off quarters 2 and 4.*
- 1.5.3.4 *With an injury, restart the ball with an indirect kick where the ball was when play was stopped. The team in possession of the ball at the time of the injury shall take the kick, unless ruled a penalty by the referee.*
- 1.5.3.5 *Additional time shall be added to the game if an injury occurs.*
- 1.5.3.6 *Only the referee can cancel a game due to weather or field conditions. Teams shall report to assigned fields at assigned times.*
- 1.5.3.7 *Teams shall switch ends at half.*

1.5.4 Substitutions:

- 1.5.4.1 *May be made at the ten (10) minute breaks and at halftime.*

- 1.5.4.2 *A player may be substituted for an injured player at any time.*
- 1.5.4.3 *Substitutions cannot take place on corner kicks.*
- 1.5.4.4 *Substitutions can take place at any dead ball (throw in, goal kick or goal). A popular sub pattern is at the five (5) minute mark of each quarter or at the end of the quarter.*
- 1.5.4.5 *Substitutions for goalkeepers may take place at a dead ball providing the substitute goalkeeper comes from the bench and is ready to play in a reasonable amount of time.*
- 1.5.5 After a three (3) goal lead, the opposing team may add another player until such a time that there is no longer a three (3) goal lead.
- 1.5.6 Three (3) goals is the maximum an individual may score in a game.
- 1.5.7 Kick-Offs and Throw-Ins:
 - 1.5.7.1 *On kick-offs, the ball shall not be touched twice in a row by the same player. If this happens, the team should do it again.*
 - 1.5.7.2 *A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick, goal kick, throw in or kick-off.*
 - 1.5.7.3 *The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed the touchline. The ball is still in play if it hits a coach or official or hits the goal post or corner flags.*
 - 1.5.7.4 *The ball must completely cross the goal line before it's a goal.*
 - 1.5.7.5 *For throw-ins, the ball must be thrown with both hands on the ball from behind the player's head with both feet flat on the ground. If done incorrectly, the player should re-do the throw-in. Opposing players shall be ten feet away.*
- 1.5.8 Goal Kicks and Corner Kicks:
 - 1.5.8.1 *Goal kicks are awarded when the attacking team kicks the ball over the goal line. The goal kick may be taken from anywhere in the penalty area. Opposing team must be behind the Centerline until the goal kick has been taken. Any position player or the goalkeeper may take the goal kick. "This rule is new and differs from normal soccer rules where goal kicks are taken from the goal area and the opposing team can be just outside the penalty area. The reason for the rule change is that many of the players can't clear the ball past the 18 line.*
 - 1.5.8.2 *Corner kicks are awarded when the defending team kicks the ball over the goal line. All corner kicks shall be taken from the corner flags. Opposing players shall be ten feet away.*
- 1.6 Offsides**
 - 1.6.1 The Offside Rule shall not apply in the U8 Division except as follows:
 - 1.6.1.1 *If, in the referee's opinion, the player is purposely trying to create an advantage by staying near the opponent's goal area or on the opponent's end of the field when the play has moved to their side of the field (cherry-picking).*

- 1.6.1.2 *A coach that is on the field for either team may bring an offside situation to the attention of the referee at the appropriate time.*
- 1.6.1.3 *If a player continues in an offside position and that player scores a goal from that position, the goal shall not count. The restart shall be from the center by the opposing team.*

1.7 Fouls and Misconduct/Free Kicks

1.7.1 All USSF Fouls and Misconduct rules shall apply with the following exceptions:

1.7.1.1 *The referee should use discretion in enforcing the rule that states that the goalkeeper may not gain control of the ball a second time unless the ball was touched or played by another player.*

1.7.1.2 *All USSF Free Kick rules shall apply with the following exceptions:*

1.7.1.2.1 *Due to space restrictions on the smaller fields, defenders should line up seven (7) yards from the ball.*

1.7.2 There are no penalty kicks, no slide tackling, and no heading of the ball in U8.

1.7.3 A player may not intentionally attack, kick, strike, hold, push, trip or jump at an opponent.

1.7.4 Handballs are not permitted. A handball is when someone hits the ball with their hand or arm. An indirect kick would be awarded to the opposing team at the referee's discretion.

1.7.5 As in USSF rules, only attackers must be out of the box on goal kicks, not defenders.

1.7.6 All kicks are indirect kicks. If a penalty occurs inside the penalty area (large box), an indirect kick shall be taken from outside the line.

1.7.6.1 *The referee should allow the coach a brief time to instruct his players on how to set up for indirect-free kicks.*

1.8 Referees

1.8.1 These items are in addition to the rules of the USSF:

1.8.1.1 *For the purpose of instructing the players, the referees should, as often as possible, verbally call throw-ins, free kicks, and other actions. The referee should also inform the offending player as to what infraction has been committed.*

1.8.1.2 *Referees may stop the play at any time to caution the coaches for verbally abusive behavior on their part or on the part of the spectators that is directed at the referee or players. If the abusive behavior does not cease, the referee has the authority to prematurely end the game. This action should be used in only the most extreme circumstances.*

1.8.2 It is the responsibility of the referee to check all players before the start of the game to see that they are wearing shin guards. The referee can prevent a player from participating until they are properly equipped.

1.9 Coaches

- 1.9.1 There shall be no more than two coaches per team. Only one coach shall be permitted on the field at any time. Coaches should try to stay out of the play. Assistant coaches may not stand next to or behind the goal to assist the goalkeeper.
- 1.9.2 Coaches shall remember that the referee is in charge of the game. If there is a question or issue, it should be calmly handled either at the half or at the end of the game. Unresolved questions or issues can be referred to the Vice-President of In-house Teams or the Referee Committee Chairperson for review.
- 1.9.3 It is the coach's responsibility to instruct the spectators as to the proper conduct. Spectators should be encouraged to cheer their team and players in a positive manner. Verbal abuse from the sidelines that is directed at referees or players shall not be tolerated.
- 1.9.4 It is the coach's responsibility to check the playing field and practice areas prior to games and practices. The coach needs to ensure the area is safe, free of debris, and goals are properly anchored. Players shall not climb or hang on goals.
- 1.9.5 Coaches shall respect other coaches, referees, and spectators. Coaches shall present themselves in a civil manner at all times.