

SCSA Referee Manual - 2017-18

ADDENDUM A – U7/8 divisions

Small sided games have modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game based on recommendations by US Youth Soccer. Small sided games are defined by FIFA and US Youth Soccer as soccer games with fewer players competing on a smaller sized field.

Except as otherwise provided herein, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply to any and all competition sponsored by this organization. Any deviation from FIFA Laws for the betterment of soccer in the League shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Specific changes will be shown for small-sided only if different from the current SCSA Operations Rules of Play.

Law 1 - The Field of Play: Dimensions: the field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 yards maximum 35 yards

Width: minimum 15 yards maximum 25 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of six (6) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area: none

Flag posts: none

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equal distance from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension. SAFETY: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 - The Ball: size three (3).

Law 3 - The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than four players. There are NO goalkeepers.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

Law 4 - The Players' Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

Law 5 - The Referee: SCSA provides an Official Referee for all U7 and U8 games. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 - The Assistant Referee: There is no Assistant Referee in small sided games.

Law 7 - The Duration of the Match: SCSA divides the match between two (2) 20-minute equal halves with a five (5) minute break for half-time.

Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 - The Ball In and out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 - The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 - Offside: There are no off sides in U5 through U8 matches.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick. The referee must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.

Law 13 - Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all kicks are indirect and all opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 14 - Penalty Kick: None

Law 15 - The Pass-In: A pass-in is considered as an indirect free kick with the opponents four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play. SCSA changes the Pass-in to a Throw-In for all indirect free kicks with the opponents four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 16 - The Goal Kick: The goal kick should be taken anywhere within the goal area. Opposing players must be outside the goal area AND at least four (4) yards away from the ball until it is in play. It is suggested that if necessary that opponents are in their own half of the field until the ball is in play.

Law 17 - The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.