

U8 GAME RULES: Scituate Soccer Club

These rules are based on a recommended program from the USYSA with additions by a SSC Committee. The purpose of the program is to provide an atmosphere where the players feel free to try a lot of different techniques without being concerned about winning or losing. Coaching emphasis should be skills and ball control by the individual player. Fewer players are being put on a small field to ensure that each player has a lot of touches of the ball.

All contests will conform to the most current version of FIFA's Laws of the Game, except as noted below.

LAW I: THE FIELD

A. DIMENSIONS:

The field of play shall be rectangular, with a suggested length of 30 to 40 yards and a width of 20-25 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. Fields will vary.

B. MARKINGS:

1. Distinctive lines not more than 5 inches wide.
2. A halfway line shall be marked across the field.
3. A center circle with a radius of 8 yards.
4. Four corner arcs with a 1 yard radius.
5. Goal area - 6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal-line.
6. Penalty area - 14 yards from each goal post and 14 yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal-line.
7. Build-out line: Build out lines should be equidistant between the penalty area line and halfway line.
8. Corner Flags are not compulsory, though strongly recommended.

C. GOALS

Maximum 6.5 feet high and 12 feet wide (recommended).

Minimum size of 4.5 feet high and 9 feet wide. Sizes will vary.

LAW II: The ball size three (3)

LAW III: NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A. Suggested maximum number of players on the field at any one time: five (5) one of whom must be designated as a keeper. If both coaches agree, and the Referee is notified, the maximum number of players on the field may be six (6), one of whom must be designated as a keeper.

B. Substitution: Unlimited (Allowed only after referee clearly indicates substitute may enter, and)

1. Prior to a throw-in by either team.
2. Prior to a goal-kick by either team.
3. After a goal by either team.
4. After an injury by either team, when the Referee stops the play.
5. At half time.

C. Playing time: EACH PLAYER SHALL PLAY A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE TOTAL

LAW IV: PLAYERS EQUIPMENT:

Underclothes need not be the same color as team shirt or shorts.

LAW V: REFEREE:

A. USSF Referee or trained grassroots referee. If unavailable, coaches will determine suitable person to act as a referee.

B. When appropriate, law/rule infractions shall be explained to the offending player if it doesn't interfere with the "flow" of the game.

LAW VI: ASSISTANT REFEREES: USSF referee, or trained grassroots referee. If unavailable, use club linesmen/women.

LAW VII: DURATION OF GAME:

A. The game shall be divided into 2 equal halves of 25 minutes each.

B. Half-time break shall be 5 minutes.

LAW VIII: THE START OF PLAY: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be 8 yards from the center mark while the kick-off is in progress.

LAW IX: BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY: Conform to FIFA.

LAW X: METHOD OF SCORING: Conform to FIFA.

LAW XI: OFF-SIDE: *No off-sides.*

LAW XII: FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:

If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.

If the punt or drop kick 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.

Deliberate heading is not allowed. If a player deliberately heads the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the location 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.

LAW XIII: FREE KICKS: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be 8 yards away before kick is allowed.

LAW XIV: PENALTY KICKS:

Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be 8 yards away before kick is allowed.

LAW XV: THROW IN: Conform to FIFA.

LAW XVI: GOAL KICK: Conform to FIFA. with the exception that the goal kick cannot go directly beyond the midfield line. The penalty for kicking the ball directly beyond the midfield line is an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team at the point of the midfield line where the ball crossed.

LAW XVII: CORNER KICK: Conform to FIFA, except: Opponents must be 8 yards away from the ball.

GENERAL RULES

Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game. Ties will stand.

Follow build-out line guidelines: The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.

When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.

Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed).

After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play.

Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line.

However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

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 may be made by either team.

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.