

U8 Official LCSL Guidelines

I. Roster size

A. Min 6 – Max 10 players

II. The Field of Play

A. Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

- 1.) Length: minimum 35 yards maximum 50 yards
- 2.) Width: minimum 30 yards maximum 45 yards
- 3.) Recommendation: Length 50 yards x Width 40 yards

B. Markings shall be:

- 1.) Distinctive lines not more than 5 inches wide.
- 2.) A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
- 3.) A center circle with a 6 yard radius.
- 4.) Four corner arcs with a 3 ft (1 yard) radius.
- 5.) There is no penalty kick.
- 6.) Goal area: 3 yards from each goal post and 3 yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- 7.) Penalty area: 6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards parallel with the goal line.
- 8.) Goals shall be 6 feet high and 12 feet wide. Must have nets.
- 9.) A "Build out line" halfway between the halfway line and penalty area.

A. The Build out line must be a different color than the field lines.

III. The Ball:

A. Size 3 or Size 4 (Home team decides)

IV. Number of Players:

A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is 6, one of whom must be a goalkeeper. There may be up to an additional 2 players if there is a lead of 5 or 7 points. See section XXI: Scoring Rule below.

B.) Maximum number of players on the roster cannot exceed 10 unless approved of by the league.

C. Substitutions:

- 1.) **Unlimited Substitutions** on any throw in, corner kick, goal kick, but referee must allow them to enter first.

V. Player Equipment:

A. A player may not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or others including any kind of jewelry.

B. Basic equipment includes a uniform, shin guards, and tennis shoes or cleated soccer shoes.

VI. Referee:

A. One Registered Referee. If no referee shows up find someone to referee the game. Both coaches should agree. If the coaches can't agree, use one volunteer for the 1st half and a different volunteer for the 2nd half.

B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

VII. Duration of the Game:

A. The game shall be divided into 2 equal halves of 20 minutes. With a 5 minute halftime.

VIII. Start or Restart of the Game:

A. Both teams must be on their half of the field to begin the game.

B. A kick-off is used to start a game or second half, or after a goal is scored.

C. A kick-off is an indirect kick, which may be kicked in any direction. The ball must leave the center circle before a shot on goal may be attempted. Restart shall be a goal kick for the opposing team if the ball enters the goal.

D. A kicker who touches the ball first during the kick-off may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

E. Opponent must be outside of the 6 yard circle while the kickoff is in progress.

IX. Ball In and Out Of Play:

A. The ball is out of play if it completely crosses the goal end line or touch line, or if the referee stops the play.

B. The ball is in play all other times when remaining in the field of play.

X. Method of Scoring:

A. A goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar.

B. The team with the most goals wins. A tying score ends in a draw.

XI. Off-side

A. Off-side position is not enforced at this age level. Cherry picking is not allowed in the penalty area.

XII. Misconduct:

A. Referees may card (yellow and red card) coaches in the same manner as players. A card is not required for a referee to dismiss anyone but a player from a game.

B. A player is cautioned and shown a yellow card if he/she is guilty of unsporting behavior, shows dissent by word or action, persistently infringes the laws of the game, delays the restart of a game, fails to respect the required distance when play is

restarted, enters, or re-enters the game without the referee's approval, or deliberately leaves the field without the referee's approval.

C. A player is sent off and shown a red card if he/she is guilty of a serious foul play, guilty of violent conduct, spits at an opponent or any other person, denies the opposing team an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handballing the ball or by an offense punishable to a free kick or penalty kick, uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures, or if a player receives a second caution in the same match.

D. In the event of a red card, the player must leave the field and may not return or be substituted for, and the player's team must play short. The disqualified player is restricted to the team area. Disqualified team members who are not players are restricted to the team area and may not enter the game.

XIII. Free Kicks:

A. All free kicks will be indirect kicks.

B. A player may receive an indirect kick and must be taken where the foul occurred. The ball must be stationary, and the player cannot touch the ball twice in a row without another player touching the ball.

C. In the case of a free kick, the opposing team must stand at least 8 yards away from the ball.

D. A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits a careless, reckless act, or uses excessive force.

E. A free kick is put into play once one player touches the ball.

F. A free kick cannot be scored unless one player touches the ball before entering the goal or if the ball goes out of play.

XIV. Penalty Kicks:

A. If a foul is committed inside of the penalty area, the ball shall be placed on the nearest penalty area line for a free kick. The opposing team must stand at least eight yards away from the ball, if possible. If not possible, the ref shall determine a safe distance for the players to stand from the ball.

XV. Throw-in:

A. A throw-in is awarded if the ball passes over the touch lines on either side of the field. The throw must be taken from where the ball went out of play and is taken by the team in which their opponents touched the ball last before going out of play.

B. A throw must be taken facing the field, part of each foot on the ground, outside the touchline, using both hands, and delivering the ball over and directly behind their head.

C. A same player throwing the ball in play cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

D. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

E. A second throw in can be allowed if player commits a foul on the initial attempt.

1.) The Referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to attempt any subsequent throw in.

XVI. Heading:

- A. Any purposeful header within the game shall result in an indirect kick from the spot of the infraction.

XVII. Goalie Punts and Drop Kicks:

- A. Goalkeepers are **not allowed** to punt or drop kick.
- B. The opposing team must retreat to behind the penalty box area once the goalkeeper has possession of the ball in his or her hands. The opposing team must remain outside the penalty box area until the ball is played from the goalkeeper from a throw, roll, or kick.
- C. Passbacks to the goalkeeper are not allowed at all ages with goalkeepers. An indirect free kick shall be awarded at the spot of the foul, per FIFA rules. The passback itself is legal, the penalty comes into play if the goalkeeper handles the pass with his or her hands. If the goalkeeper plays the passback with his or her feet, there is no penalty.

XVIII. Goal Kick:

- A. A goal kick is awarded if the ball, having last touched by the opposing team, passes over the goal line except for if a goal is scored.
- B. A goal kick is taken within the goal area by a player or goalie of the defending team.
- C. Opponents must remain at build out line until the ball is in play. No player may touch the ball until it is outside the penalty area.
- D. A player taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches it.

XIX. Corner Kick:

- A. A corner kick is awarded when the whole ball, having last been touched by the defending team, passes over the goal line and a goal is not scored.
- B. The ball is placed next to the nearest corner flag without removing the flag and is kicked by a player on the attacking team.
- C. Opponents must remain eight yards away from the ball until it is in play. A ball is in play once it is kicked or moved, and the player taking the corner kick may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.

XX. Sliding:

- A. Sliding is **not** allowed at this age. Sliding shall consist of sliding, slide kicking, and slide tackling.
- B. Result of sliding would result in a yellow card for player commits the slide and indirect kick from spot of the infraction is awarded to the opposing team.

XXI. Scoring Rule:

- A. When a team has a 5 goal lead, the losing team may add a player. If the losing team scores a goal to bringing the lead down to 4, you must remove the add player.
- B. When a team has a 7 goal lead losing team may add a second player, or the winning team can remove a player. If the losing team scores a goal bringing the down to 6, you must remove the second player, or the winning team can add the player that was removed.

- C. Winning by 10 or more goals will results in the coach get an emailed warning for first offense. Second offense will result in email and only 1pt for the win.
Coach must report a loss by 10 points to their community's LCSL Rep. The LCSL Rep will report the 10 or more point loss to LCSL Board.

XXII. Score Reporting:

- A. The score should be reported on LCSL Website by the HOME team within 48 hours of the game.
- B. If the score is not reported by the home team within 48 hours of the game, the away team can report the score.