

Modified Laws of the Game for U8  
Revised: April 2022

**LAW 1 – THE FIELD OF PLAY**

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being no greater than 35 yards and its width no greater than 25 yards.
- B. Markings:
1. Distinctive lines not more than four (4) inches wide shall be marked.
  2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  3. A center circle with a six (6) yard radius.
  4. Four corner arcs with a two (2) foot radius.
  5. Goal area: two (2) lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, two (2) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of two (2) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
  6. Penalty area: six (6) yards from outside each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
  7. Technical area: two yards back from the touch line, centered on the half line, and the same width as the center circle diameter.
- C. Goals:
1. Maximum size: six (6) feet high and eight (8) feet wide.
  2. Goals must be anchored. Stacked or weighted methods are acceptable.
  3. If no traditional goals are available, cones or flags may be used.

**LAW 2 – THE BALL:** Size three (3).

**LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

- A. Initial number of players on the field is six (6). For the sake of good sportsmanship, if a goal differential exceeds three (3), the team with fewer goals may add a player. If the goal differential exceeds five (5), the team with fewer goals may add another player to a maximum of seven (7). In the same manner, as the goal differential decreases, the extra players will be withdrawn from the field. If one team is short players, it is recommended the team with more players either play down to the team with fewer player number or loan players to the other team.
- B. No goalkeepers.
- C. Substitutions:
1. Prior to a throw in, in your favor.
  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 the end of a period.
- D. Playing time: each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- E. Spectators and players not on the field of play must remain two (2) yards behind the touchline and not within the distance of the goal/penalty area.

**LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT:** Conform to FIFA.

- A. Footwear: tennis/gym shoes or soft-cleated shoes. No cleats permitted that have a toe cleat including baseball or football cleats. A toe cleat may be removed (cut off) to make the shoe legal.
- B. Shin guards: mandatory with socks up and over the top of the shin guards. No part of the shin guard can be exposed. You must put the shin guard on first then put the sock over the shin guard. Putting the sock on first then folding the sock over the shin

Modified Laws of the Game for U8  
Revised: April 2022

guard is prohibited.

C. In case of color conflict, the designated home team will change jerseys.

#### LAW 5 – THE REFEREE

A. Acceptable Referees:

1. Registered Coach or Registered Assistant Coach (this is the normal game official for recreational league play). Agreement between coaches prior to a match concerning who will serve as a referee and for how long is mandatory.
2. Registered Referee.
3. Associate Referees.

B. Referee Actions

1. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
2. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**LAW 6 – THE ASSISTANT REFEREES:** No Assistant Referees are used.

#### LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

A. The game shall be divided into four (4) eight (8) minute quarters.

B. After the first and third quarters, there will be a three-minute rest time allowing coaches to substitute players. Restart after each quarter will be an indirect kick at the center circle with alternating possessions. Halftime, after the second quarter, will last for 8 minutes.

C. Due to schedule constraints, it is important for all coaches to follow this plan.

**LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception: opponents must be six (6) yards from the center mark while place kick is in progress.

**LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:** Conform to FIFA.

**LAW 10 – METHOD OF SCORING:** No scores or standings will be kept.

**LAW 11 – OFFSIDE:** The offside rule will not be enforced. However, players persistently standing in front of the opponent's goal will be called offside.

**LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. No caution or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral Referee.
- B. Slide tackling is not allowed.
- C. See SVSC Code of Ethics.

**LAW 13 – FREE KICKS:** All are indirect.

**LAW 14 – PENALTY KICK:** No penalty kicks.

**LAW 15 – THROW-IN:** Conform to FIFA.

Modified Laws of the Game for U8  
Revised: April 2022

**LAW 16 – GOAL KICK:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. Opponents must be six (6) yards from the ball.

**LAW 17 – CORNER KICK:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. Opponents must be six (6) yards from the ball.

FIFA Laws of the Game are available at

<http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame/index.html#>