

CYA U8 Soccer

Laws of The Game

Law 1: The Field – A U8 field will measure approximately 40 yards x 30 yards, or as space permits.

Law 2: The Ball – Size 3. The Home Team will supply the game ball.

Law 3: The Number of Players – Each team may have up to 4 players on the field. No Goalkeepers. Every team player shall be given the opportunity to play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. A coach may substitute with the referee's permission at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession;
- Prior to a goal kick, by either team;
- After a goal, by either team;
- After an injury on either team when the referee stops play;
- At half-time;
- On a caution, only the cautioned player may be substituted for at that time.

Note to coaches: In the spirit of maximizing playing time, and minimizing stoppage of play, U8 coaches are encouraged to limit substitution requests. The intent of substitutions at this age group is to share playing time and playing positions among all players on a team. In this age group, coaches should clearly explain to his/her players exactly who they are substituting for, and have the substitutes positioned on the touchline near midfield, so that the referee can effect a quick substitution with minimal delay of the match. Do not ask the referee for a substitution break and then start explaining to your players where they should go. Have the players prepared before you request the substitution.

Law 4: Players' Equipment – Players shall wear a team colored jersey, shin guards, socks, shorts, and footwear. Shin guards must be covered by the socks for safety. No toe-cleat or metal-cleat shoes are allowed. Sneakers or flat soled running shoes are permitted. No jewelry (earrings, bracelets, necklaces, etc) is allowed. Medical bracelets and/or necklaces must be taped to the skin.

Law 5: The Referee – The primary duty is to keep the playing environment fun, safe, and focused on the children. The official may briefly explain an infringement to the offending player.

Law 6: The Assistant Referees – Not used.

Law 7: Duration of the Match – The match lasts two (2) equal periods of 20 minutes and a half-time interval not to exceed 5 minutes. No extra time will be added to the game.

Law 8: Start and Restart of Play – Conform to FIFA with the exception that all opponents must be (5) yards away from the ball (outside the small-sided center circle). All players must be in their own half of the field with one team kicking off. The ball is in play after it is kicked and moves forward, the initial kicker does not touch the ball a second time until the ball is touched by another player.

Law 9: Ball In and Out of Play – Conform to FIFA. When the whole of the ball crosses over the whole of a boundary line, the ball is out of play. Coaches and parents are reminded that the ball can actually roll on and partially over the line and still be in play as long as any part of the ball remains within the vertical plane of the line.

Law 10: Method of Scoring – Conform to FIFA. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses over the goal line, between the goal posts, and under the crossbar.

Law 11: Offside – Offside is not used in U8 small-sided games.

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct – Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls and misconduct shall result in a direct free kick with the opponent at least 5 yards away from the ball.

Law 13: Free Kicks – All free kicks shall be direct, and all opposing players should be 5 yards away from the ball at the time of the free kick.

Law 14: Penalty Kick – Not used in small-sided games. See modified Laws 12 and 13, above.

Law 15: Throw-In – Conform to FIFA with the exception that improperly performed throw-ins may be retaken once.

Law 16: Goal Kick – If the attacking team kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. A player of the defending team shall take the goal kick from any point on the endline. The kicker does not play the ball a second time until the ball has been touched by another player. All opposing players must be at least five (5) yards away from the ball when the kick is taken.

Law 17: Corner Kick – If the defending team kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the attacking team puts the ball back into play with a corner kick. The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest corner. The ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team. Players of the defending team must be 5 yards away from the ball when the kick is taken.

ADDITIONAL RULES AND GUIDELINES:

Opposing players and coaches should shake hands after each game.

CYA expects the highest quality of sportsmanship from players, coaches and spectators. Referees may take any action against conduct which they feel is not in the best interest of the game. All coaches, players, and spectators shall refrain from making derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, opposing coach or players, or fellow spectators.

No littering. Please clean up after yourself. Leaving our facilities in better shape than we found them will insure future opportunity to participate at these venues.

All coaches have total responsibility for the conduct of their players, friends and spectators at all times. Coaching from the sideline (giving direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) is permitted, provided that the tone of the voice is instructive and not derogatory.