

U-8 Rules

4 v 4

No Keeper

Throw ins not kick ins

goal kick from goal box

20 or 30 x 40 or 50 yds

goals = 4' x 8' or 4' x 6'

center radius = 5 yds

corner radius = 2ft.

goal area 3 yds box

Duration & Substitution:

(2) 24 min Halves.

Unlimited Substitutions

5 min halftime break

No coaches on the field during play, just the players and referee

The Ball: #3

Substitutions: Anytime the ball is out of play with the permission of the Referee. There is unlimited substitution for **both** teams on team possession, goal kick, goal scored, or injury (not on corner kicks).

C. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Time is accounted for by Coaching Staff.

Players Equipment : Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated **soccer shoes** may be worn.

B. Shinguards are mandatory.

C. Jewelry : Jewelry is **NOT** permitted to be worn. Please don't have the players put tape over earrings. General "Rule of Thumb" is; No Rings, No Watches, No Bracelets, No Necklaces, No Friendship Bracelets (string or rope type bracelets), No earrings, No earrings studs or posts, and No HARD hair holders.

The Referee : A Certified Referee will be used. Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child. Duties are the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of The Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play.

Assistant Referee : Not needed

Duration of the Game:

A. The game shall be divided into two (2) twenty-four minute halves

B. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

The Start of Play : Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

A. Opponent must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Ball In and Out of Play : Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over touchline (sidelines), or end lines to be out of play.

Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line and between posts and beneath crossbar to count. A goal cannot be scored “directly” from a kickoff or off indirect free kicks.

Off-Side: There **is no** offside in small-sided games without goalkeepers.

Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents **MUST** be five (5) yards away before the kick is allowed.
- B. The referee/coach must explain ALL infractions to offending player.

Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. All free kicks will be **indirect** , except for fouls within the Penalty Box.
- B. Opponents must be five (5) yards away

Penalty Kicks: Penalty Kicks shall be placed nine (9) yards from the goal line.

Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Referee will allow up to one (1) illegal throw-in per restart.

Goal Kick: May be taken from any point within the goal box area. **Note:** A team cannot score off a goal kick

Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.
- B. Corner Kicks are Indirect Free Kicks.

Addendum - Goal Box: Players from either team may enter and touch the ball in the goal box without penalty. There is no “no entry” goal area, however, goal tending should be discouraged.

Addendum - Coaches on field: No coaches on the field during U-8 play, just the players and referee.

U-8 Field Max Dimensions 30yd x 50yd

Minimum Dimensions 20yd x 50yd

