

8 and Under Playing 9 v 9

- 1) This is a non-competitive league – the object of this age group is to provide a solid base in the fundamental of the game, to begin teaching Soccer techniques, and to get the kids used to playing in an organized environment. There will be one referee directing this game, but no official score recorded.
- 2) This league will use a number 3 size ball.
- 3) 9 players including a goalie will be on the field for games. A team needs a minimum of 5 players to start the game.
- 4) There will be no offsides.
- 5) No direct fouls, all fouls and infractions are indirect or drop ball (no penalties)
- 6) No sliding tackles.
- 7) Throw ins will be used.

When the ball goes out of bounds over the sideline, it is out on the team that last touched the ball before it crossed totally over the sideline, and the opposing team is allowed to get the ball and one of their players (often the closest, or player designated by the coach to take the throw ins) is allowed to inbound the ball by picking it up with his hands and throwing it back onto the field over head. This is called a throw in. This is the only time a player other than the goalkeeper is legally allowed to pick up the ball with his hands. For a throw in to be legal: (A) the ball must be thrown from behind and over the head (B) it must be thrown using both hands (C) The thrower must face the field (D) at the instant the ball leaves the throwers hands some part of both feet must be on the ground either on or outside the sideline (E) the ball must be throw in from the place where it went out of bounce. Players are allowed a second attempt.

Corner kicks will be used.

A Corner kick is a method of restarting play. When the ball goes out of bounds over the end line (a.k.a. the “goal line”) and was last touched by the defending team, the attacking team, inbounds it from the nearest corner by kicking it from the corner arc.

Goal kicks will be used.

When the ball goes out of bounds over the end line and was last touched by the attacking team, it is put back into play by the defending team, who may place it anywhere within their goal box (including on the line.) And then kick it. The kickball may not be touched again by anyone on either team until it clears the penalty box and the other team must stay outside the penalty box until the ball clears the penalty box if your goalkeeper has a strong leg have him take your goal kicks. Otherwise, you may want to have another player take the kick while the goalkeeper stays in front of the goal.

Build-out Lines

- The spirit of this rule is to encourage the U8 teams to learn how to play the ball forward from the first third. Traditionally keepers have been able to just punt the ball across the midway line which was a detriment to the players learning how to progress the ball forward from defense to mid field to the attackers.
- When the goalkeeper (Team O) has the ball in his/her hands during play, the opposing team (Team X) must move behind the build-out line until the ball is released from the goalkeeper's possession and crosses the penalty area.
- Once the opposing team is behind the build-out line, the goalkeeper can release the ball by passing (NOT dribbling), throwing, or rolling the ball to a teammate who is on his/her side of the build-out line or beyond the build-out line.
- PUNTS and DROP KICKS are not allowed from the keeper.
- The goalkeeper releasing the ball from possession or the player taking the goal kick does not have to wait for the opposing players to move behind the build-out line.
- The play from the goalkeeper or from the goal kick can be played to a teammate beyond the build-out line.

- 8) The goalie may only handle the ball within the penalty area.
- 9) There must be female players in the game at all time
- 10) One teams coach may position themselves besides their own team's goal to help coach and organize the goalie and defense. (Note: the coach is not to make protests/dissent, make calls, or interfere physically in the game.)
- 11) If a player appears to be injured during play, politely bring it to the referee's attention, and the referee will stop play immediately regardless of the action.
- 12) Duration of game.
 - A) A game will consist of two 20 minute halves
 - B) time between halves will be five minutes.
 - C) the referee keeps official time.
- 13) When a player deliberately heads, the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot 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 point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.