

Official Under 9 & Under 10 Amendments to the Laws of the Game

Law 1 – The Field

Field of Play

Length: 40 (Min) 55 (max) metres Width: 30 (Min) 36 (max) metres

Field Markings:

Distinctive lines not more than fifteen (15) centimetres wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) metres is marked around it.

NB: All field markings may be marked by the means of cones

The Goal Area:

A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) metres from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) metres and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area:

None

Flag posts:

Not required

The Corner Arc:

None

Goals:

Goals must be placed on the centre of each goal line and measure 3.657 x 1.83 metres or 12 feet wide and 6 feet high.

Law 2 – The Ball

The ball must conform to FIFA standards and must conform to the FIFA inflation specifications.

Size three (3) or four (4)

Law 3 – The Number of Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than seven players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. Players will take equal turns to play in all field positions including the goalkeeper position that must be rotated at half time. It is not necessary that all players play in the goalkeeper position during a single game. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than five players one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: At any stoppage, substitutions are unlimited and must be done with the officials' permission.

Playing time:

All players SHALL play equal playing time.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. The goalkeeper should wear a colour that distinguishes him/her from both teams. Shin guards are mandatory and must be worn under the socks. Jewellery is not permitted.

Law 5 – The Referee

A Class 5 referee or nominated person may be used. The referee's role is to keep players safe and ensure that the game is played under the "fair play" code. A Class 5 or higher official can send a team official from the field if they fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees

None; the referee or nominated person decides as to which team the throw in is awarded to.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

The match will be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) metres from the ball until it is in play. Dropped balls are not part of Small Sided Games Program at this age group and an indirect free kick will be awarded to the team who had possession when the play was stopped.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

Conform to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

Conform to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside

None

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick. An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the centre spot on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her goal area into the opponents goal area. No cards shown for misconduct. If a player intentionally strikes, deliberately kicks or spits at an opponent, this player must be substituted and will not be permitted to participate further during the game. The coach should inform the player as to why and correct these actions.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Conform to FIFA with the exception that all free kicks are indirect. All opponents are at least eight (8) metres from the ball.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

None

Law 15 – The Throw-In

Conform to FIFA, except that when there is a foul throw, the referee or nominated person explains the proper procedure and allows one re-throw.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

Conform to FIFA except that: it shall be taken from anywhere within the goal area. Opponents must remain at least eight (8) metres away from the ball until it is in play. Unlike FIFA goal cannot be scored directly from a goal kick.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) metres from the ball until it is in play. Unlike FIFA a goal cannot be scored directly from a corner kick.