

Modified Laws of the Game

U6 and U8

Region 290

Principles

- 1) Soccer should be “FUN, SAFE and FAIR”.
- 2) U6 and U8 are non-competitive, instructional divisions
 - a) No scores, no standings
 - b) Each player receives a medal from the Region at end of the year
 - c) Teach the players how to play the game properly
- 3) Scoring goals is fun
 - a) No goal keepers
 - b) If score is lopsided, allow the other team to score
- 4) Remember the “spirit of the game”
 - a) There are only 17 laws of soccer – why do we have to have so many rules for U6 and U8’s? This is not the World Cup, these are 4-7 year-old children.
 - b) If you cannot find a rule that applies to a situation, think about principle #1 – Is it fun? Is it safe? Is it fair?

Field

- 1) The touch line, goal lines, center line and center circle will be marked.
- 2) Only one box (penalty area) will be marked. There will not be a goal area (small box).
- 3) The corner and penalty arcs will not be marked.
- 4) Corner flags may or may not be provided.

Rules

- 1) Referees
 - a) Each team will provide a referee for the match
 - b) Both referees will work together to manage the match
- 2) The game
 - a) Size 3 ball. If no ball is available at the referee tent, use the best available size 3 ball from either coach.
 - b) The game will consist of 2 20-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime. Games start on the hour and should end 10 minutes before the hour.
- 3) Players
 - a) Each team plays 6 players on the field at a time.
 - b) Players will remove all jewelry before playing.
 - c) Shinguards are required.
 - d) Cleated shoes are not required.

- 4) Substitutions
 - a) There is no free substitution
 - b) Players may only be substituted at quarter breaks and half-time except for injuries or “timeouts”.
 - c) Halfway into the first and the second half, when the ball is out-of-play, the referee should stop the game to allow each team to substitute.
 - d) The referee should mark the game card with the players who are out of the game.
 - e) Each player is guaranteed to play at least 1/2 the game or 2 quarters.
- 5) No goal keepers
- 6) No offside.
- 7) No “cherry picking”.
 - a) When ball is in the defensive half of the field, attackers may not stand inside the penalty area.
 - b) When the ball is in the offensive half of the field, attackers should not be encouraged to stand in front of the goal **behind** the defenders.
- 8) No “guarding the goal”.
 - a) When the ball is in their offensive half of the field, defenders may not stand inside the penalty area.
 - b) When the ball is in their defensive half of the field, defenders should not be encouraged to stand in front of the goal, to “guard the goal”, especially when the goal is not directly under attack.
- 9) Free kicks.
 - a) No penalty kicks.
 - b) Corner kicks. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.
 - c) Goal kick. A goal can be scored directly from a goal kick.
 - d) Kick off. A goal can be scored directly from a kick off.
 - e) All other free kicks are indirect.
 - i) A goal can only be scored from an indirect free kick if the ball touches a second player before it enters the goal. The second player may be either an attacker or defender.
- 10) Fouls
 - a) Call fouls appropriately for this age group.
 - i) Most common fouls – pushing, pulling, tripping, kicking
 - ii) The referee is allowed to explain the player why the foul was called
 - b) Fouls committed in the penalty area
 - i) By defense. Ball is to be placed outside the penalty area.
 - ii) By offense. Ball is to be placed where foul occurred
- 11) Restarts
 - a) Restarts include kick off, goal kick, corner kick, throw in and all free kicks
 - b) The player who does the restart, may not touch the ball again until a second player touches the ball. For example, the player who takes the throw in, may not play the ball until another player touches it.

12) Throw-ins

- a) Give each player at least 2 chances to do the throw-in
- b) If the player cannot do a throw-in properly after 3 chances, let another player from the same team take the throw-in

13) Goal kicks

- a) Initially place ball about 4 yards from the goal line
- b) The ball may not be touched until it leaves the penalty area
- c) If the player has trouble kicking the ball out of the penalty area, place the ball to a spot where they will be able to kick it out from.

14) Injuries

- a) The referees shall, at their discretion, stop play for injuries.
- b) The referees shall, at their discretion, allow the coach and/or parents of the injured player to enter the field to attend to the injured player.
- c) The coach may choose to substitute the injured player.
- d) If the injury was not a result of a foul, the restart shall be an indirect free kick to the team that had the ball last. If the referee is unsure who had last possession, the defensive team shall be given the indirect free kick.

15) Spectators

- a) No one is allowed behind the goals. Spectators should be encouraged NOT to sit anywhere behind the goal line.

16) Misconduct

- a) Players.
 - i) Do NOT show a card to any U6 or U8 player.
 - ii) If a player is especially troublesome, the referee may ask the coach to remove the player from the field for the rest of the quarter (“timeout”). When this happens, the coach is allowed to replace this player with another.
- b) Coaches.
 - i) Coaches may be cautioned or sent off during a match. Any cautions or send-offs must be reported to the division representative for appropriate disciplinary action by the Region.
 - ii) If a coach refuses to leave when asked, the referee may immediately terminate the match. If this happens, the referee should immediately report the action to the referee tent.
 - iii) Coaches are role models for the players and the parents.
- c) Spectators
 - i) Coaches are responsible for the behavior of all spectators on their sideline. This includes not only the parents but other parties such as relatives and friends of the players or the parents.
 - ii) Spectators may be asked to leave the field for inappropriate behavior. If the spectator refuses to leave, the referee may immediately terminate the match and should report it immediately to the referee tent.