

## U8 4v4 In House Rules

### Length of Games, Number of Players, Overtime Periods and Ball Specification

Age Group	Game Length	Ball Size	Number of players
U8	4 – 10 min quarters	#3	3

#### Law 1 – The Field

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular; it's length not more than 35 yards nor less than 25 yards. It's width not more that 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. The length in cases shall exceed with width. US Youth Soccer Recommendation: Length 25 yards Width 20 yards.
- B. Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with a three (3) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius. A Goal area to be marked 3 yards by 12 yards
- C. Goals: The size of hockey goals or 4x6 feet

#### Law II – The Ball: Size three (3)

#### Law III – Number of Players

- A. Maximum numbers of players on the field at any one time is three (4)
- B. Maximum number of the roster should not exceed six (6). (If playing “Duel Field” method roster size may be larger)
- C. There are NO goalkeepers
- D. Substitutions: Allowed anytime ball is out of play – with the permission of the referee
- E. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time
- F. Teams and games may be coed
- G. No scores are kept nor recorded

Law IV – Player Equipment: A player must not use equipment wear anything, which is dangerous to himself or another player including jewelry. The basic compulsory equipment of player is:

- Jersey or shirt
- Shorts
- Stockings/socks
- Footwear
- Shin guards are covered entirely by the stockings, are made of a suitable material and provide a reasonable degree of protection

Non uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniform must still distinguish teams.

Law V – The Referee: Rather than a certified Referee, a club provided Junior Referee will be provided. Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focus on the child. They have same duties as a FIFA Referee: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When they stop the game for a foul they will time to explain to the player WHY! This is their first experience with soccer, too, and the best time to educate.

Law VI – Assistant Referee: Not used in the small sided game.

Law VII – Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal eight (10) minutes quarters
- B. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters; between one and two and again between three and four.
- C. There shall be a half time break of five (5) minutes; between two and three

Law VIII – The Start and Restart of Play: A coin is tossed and the team, which wins the toss, decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick off to start the match. The team switches halves at halftime. Each team alternates taking the kick off at the beginning of each quarter. A goal may NOT be scored from the kick off. After a goal is scored, the other team takes the kick off. A kick off is a way of starting or restarting play:

- A. At the start of the game
- B. After a goal has been scored
- C. At the start of each quarter play
- D. If a goal is scored directly from an indirect kick the restart is a goal kick.

Procedures:

- A. All players are in their own half of the field
- B. The opponents of the team taking the kick off are at least 4 yards from the ball until it is play
- C. The ball is stationary on the center mark
- D. The referee gives the signal
- E. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward – it must cross the center line
- F. The kicker does not touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player

Law IX – Ball in and Out of Play: The ball is out of play when:

- A. It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air.
- B. Play has been stopped by the referee.

The ball is in play at all other times, including when:

- A. It rebounds from a goalpost, cross bar or corner flag post and remains in the field of play
- B. It rebounds from the referee when they are in on the field of play

Law X – Method of Scoring: A goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the goal line, between the goal post and beneath the crossbar, provided NO infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal. There will be NO keeping of goals scored for any recorded purposes –

Law XI – Off-Sides: There are no offside in small-sided games

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct: The following fouls and misconduct are penalized:

- A. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- B. Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- C. Jumps at an opponent
- D. Charges an opponent
- E. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- F. Pushes an opponent
- G. Holds an opponent
- H. Spits at an opponent
- I. Handles the ball deliberately
- J. Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball.

All fouls shall result in an **indirect** free kick (in house modification). The Referee must explain the ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct. Be advised that persistent infringement will cause a player to be removed from the field of play.

No cautions or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee (a Junior Referee)

Law XIII- Free Kicks; Confirm to FIFA with the following exception: All free kicks are indirect kicks (in house modification) and opponents are at least 3 yards from the ball until it is in play. The ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker must not touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

Law XIV- Penalty Kicks: There are no penalty kicks in small sided games.

Law XV- Throw In: A throw in is a method of restarting play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a thrown in. A throw in is awarded:

- A. When ball the whole of the ball passes over the touch line, either in the air or on the ground.
- B. From the point where it crossed the touch line
- C. To the Opponents of the players who last touched the ball

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- A. Faces the field of play
- B. Has to have both feet behind the touch line and must be in contact with the ground
- C. Uses both hands
- D. Delivers the ball from behind and over his head

The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. The ball is in play immediately it enters the field of play. For this age group improperly performed throw-ins can be retaken once.

Law XVI- Goal Kicks: The Goal kick is a method of restarting the game. A goal may NOT be scored directly from a goal kick. A goal kick is awarded:

- A. When the whole of the ball, having touched a player of the attacking team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air and a goal was not scored.

Procedures:

- A. The ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- B. Opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least 3 yards from the ball until the ball is in play
- C. The Kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by a second player
- D. The ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the goal area.

The goal kick should be taken within 3 yards from the goal line anywhere across the width of the fields of play at the nearest point from where the ball was retrieved. Opposing players must be 3 yards away from the ball until it's in play.

Law XVII- Corner Kick: A corner kick is method of restarting play. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team. A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball, having touched a player of the defending team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air.

- A. The ball is placed inside the corner arc nearest to the corner
- B. Opponents remain at least 3 yards from the ball until it is in play
- C. The ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team
- D. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- E. The kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- F.

Miscellaneous:

1. No goal shall be awarded from the kick off.
2. Opposing Parents and players should shake hands after each game.
3. No sliding or sliding tackling this infringement will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.
4. There is NO goalie or Goal tending or having a "defensive player" camped out in front of the goal area. If the ball is not on your half, you may have a player at the center circle. Remember this to be FUN, SAFE and each player is to participate.
- 5.

