



## Rules of Competition for OJSC U7/U8 Games 2015 Fall Season



This document describes modifications to the FIFA/USSF Laws of the Game (2015) as implemented by OJSC for U7/U8 games. Except as modified herein, all Rules of Competition will comply with FIFA Laws. The following FIFA Laws have been modified as necessary for children under the age of 8.

### **Note to coaches:**

*U7/U8 is a recreational division designed to give players an opportunity to play and enjoy the game of soccer. All players must play at least half of the available playing time, and should be allowed to play a variety of positions during the course of the season. Kids like to win, but not at the expense of minimized playing time or in a position they don't enjoy.*

### **Parent Participation**

As OJSC is a volunteer-run organization, parent participation will help the coach and players to have the best experience possible. We recommend that a Team Manager and an Assistant Coach be recruited from your team's parents. On game days, both teams must ensure that goals are setup for the first game of the day and taken down after the last game of the day. **While OJSC usually provides for field setup and take down, it is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that the field is setup in the event that an OJSC representative fails to do so.**

### **Team Field Assignment**

Except as noted below, **opposing teams are required to occupy opposite sides of their assigned field.**

The scheduled HOME team has the right to choose which side of the field they wish to occupy. The visiting team shall occupy the opposing sideline. At no time shall any coach or spectator maintain a position on their opponents sideline during the match.

Any spectator maintaining a position outside the boundary of the defined technical area must remain "outside" the perimeter of the field, equating to a minimum of ten (10) yards from either goal line or touch line.

### **Field Restrictions**

Where it is physically impossible to occupy opposing sidelines, teams may be forced to occupy the same sideline. In these extreme cases, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- A. Home team chooses which side of the halfway line to occupy.
- B. Coaches and substitutes shall, at no time, occupy the sideline area of their opponents
- C. The technical area for each coach shall extend twenty (20) yards from the halfway line on their side of the halfway line.
- D. All parents and spectators shall maintain a minimum distance of six (6) feet from the touchline.

### **No Pets Allowed**

Where matches are played on OUSD (Orange Unified School District) school properties, please note that pets are NOT allowed on school property, especially on or around the fields. Whether the animal is leashed or not, any person found to have a pet on school grounds will be asked to remove the animal immediately. Suspension or termination of the match may result if compliance

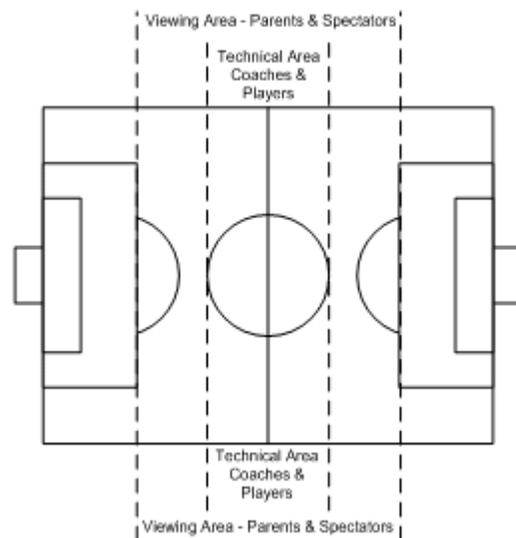
is not made expeditiously in any case.

### Technical Area/Viewing Area

All coaches and substitute players shall remain within the technical area during the game, which is a minimum of 1 yd away from the touch line (sideline). If not marked, the technical area shall be located along the touch line, 1 yd. away from the touchline, and bounded by two imaginary lines running from the center circle to the touch line.

Parents and all spectators shall remain in the viewing area, located behind the technical area, bounded by two imaginary lines running from the penalty areas to the touch line.

Only licensed coaches and administrators **visibly displaying a current coach/administrator card, who are within the technical area**, are permitted to provide instruction to players during the game. Neither team officials nor spectators, regardless of qualification, are permitted to "coach" outside the technical area. *Coaches or spectators found doing so will be cautioned by the referee. If not corrected, subsequent ejection will follow.*



### Sideline Conduct

**The head coach and other team officials are responsible for their own conduct and that of their sideline.**

If, in the opinion of the referee, a team official or spectator behaves in an irresponsible manner, the referee MAY caution the acting head coach or other team official. *(The caution may be given verbally or by the showing of a yellow card.)*

*Failure to heed an earlier warning by the referee, or by demonstrating any conduct that is threatening or abusive, will result in an immediate ejection of the team official responsible.* If a spectator demonstrates any conduct that is threatening or abusive, their immediate ejection shall be mandated by the referee to the head coach or team official. In the event of an ejection, the team official or spectator must immediately leave the vicinity of the field, which equates to a minimum of 100 yards. Failure of that person to leave the area in urgency, and/or to the satisfaction of the referee, may result in the ejection of another team official, and/or the termination of the match.

NOTE: The referee cannot caution or eject any spectator directly. However, the referee is authorized to caution or eject a coach (or other team official) if a specified spectator does not comply with a referee's request. Remember, the team officials are responsible for their sideline's conduct. If the team officials cannot maintain the responsible behavior of their entire sideline, the team officials will be dealt with accordingly, up to and including expulsion and/or termination of the match.

### Player Injuries

**Minor Injuries** — In many cases, a player may only be slightly injured. In these cases, the referee may choose to evaluate the player's condition prior to beckoning a team official onto the field. This is done so that a player is not needlessly substituted as the result of the team official entering the field (see below). The referee will ask the player, if necessary, if he/she would like to continue or to substitute.

In some instances, the referee MAY allow play to continue if, in his/her opinion, the player is only "slightly" injured; but does maintain the responsibility of verifying the player's condition at the next stoppage of play, or by stopping play if the player seems unable to recover. Please note that player safety is of prime importance, but that, as can often occur, the referee may not be immediately aware of an injury that occurs away from play.

**Adults on the field** — At NO TIME shall any team official or spectator enter the field of play without the permission of the referee. In all circumstances, no persons other than the players and the referee(s) shall enter the field of play WHILE THE BALL IS IN PLAY. Should this occur, play may be stopped and the infringing team's acting head coach (or other team official) shall be cautioned and/or ejected as appropriate.

**Restrictions** — Only in the event of an injury, **WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE REFEREE**, shall any team official(s) enter the field of play. This is allowed for the sole purpose of tending to the aid of the injured player(s), and NO MORE THAN TWO (2) team officials shall be permitted to enter the field of play at one time. No discussion, debate, or comments

shall be directed to the referee(s), nor shall any instruction be provided to any player(s) on the field by the team official(s) on the field at that time. Any team official(s) doing so will be reprimanded with either a caution or ejection as circumstances dictate.

**Player Removal** — If no head, neck or back trauma has occurred, then the team official(s) shall work to remove the player(s) from the field as quickly as possible. Once a team official enters the field of play to care for an injured player, that player **MUST BE** removed from play. A substitution may be made for the injured player(s), if desired and available, but is not required. The only requirement is that **the injured player be removed from play** as quickly as possible so that play may continue. If a player is not substituted, then that player may re-enter play at any time **WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE REFEREE.**

*NOTE: If head, neck or back trauma has occurred, then the player should NOT be moved unless the player is conscious and can clearly indicate their condition. If a player is unconscious, then that player should NOT BE MOVED except by emergency medical personnel or the player's parents/guardians, as indicated on the player's medical release form.*

### **Quarters & Water Breaks**

In those instances where a "quarter" break is allowed, it is to be noted that the **CLOCK IS NOT STOPPED.** As that "half" is still underway, the provided break is designed specifically for allowing players to gain liquid refreshment and for the coach to make substitutions as desired.

Since the half is still in progress, no team official, spectator or player (except for a substitute with the referee's permission) shall enter the field of play, nor shall any player leave the field of play (except for those being replaced by a substitute with the referee's permission).

Parents/spectators may bring refreshments to the sideline while the players remain on the field. Bottles and other containers are NOT to be thrown onto the field. **This break should not exceed two (2) minutes** under normal circumstances, and should not be exaggerated so as to maintain the flow of the game. The referee is in charge of the allotted time, and all team officials shall be respectful of this break time.

In cases of an injury where a player cannot be removed from the field immediately, it is recommended that players take advantage of these "breaks" to gain refreshment provided that the guidelines above are followed. Remember that a player is permitted to "get a drink" at ANY TIME DURING A MATCH provided that they remain on the field of play and that no container is brought onto the field.

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## **LAW I — THE FIELD**

### **E. Dimensions**

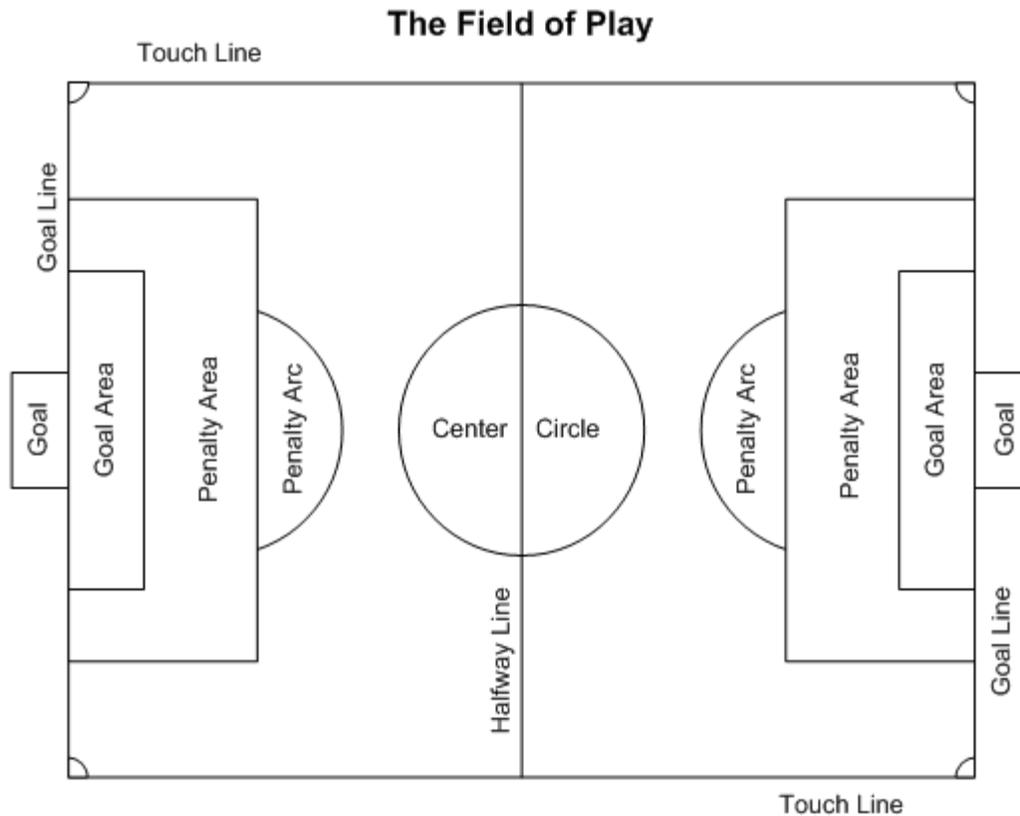
1. Length: sixty (60) to seventy (70) Yards
2. Width: Forty five (45) to sixty (60) Yards

### **F. Markings**

1. Touch lines (sidelines), goal lines and corner arcs
2. Halfway line and center circle (6 yd. radius)
3. Penalty Area measured 14 yards from the goal line and 14 yards from each goalpost.
4. Goal Area measured 6 yards from the goal line and 6 yards from each goalpost.
5. A penalty mark, approximately 18 inches in length, is made 10 yards from the goal line, parallel to the goal line, and centered between each goalpost. An arc of a circle with a radius of 6 yards from the penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

### **G. Goals**

1. Seven (7) feet high by twenty one (21) feet wide




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## **LAW 2 – THE BALL**

### **H. Size four (4)**

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## **LAW 3 – NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

*Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:*

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any time: eight (8) per team, one (1) of which shall be the designated goalkeeper.
- B. **Sportsmanship Rule**

If a team gains a five (5) goal advantage over their opponent, the "Sportsmanship Rule" will be implemented.

The team with the greater number of goals must reduce the number of players on the field to the minimum of six (6), one of which must be the designated goalkeeper.

The team size reduction stays in effect through the end of the match.

Anytime after the sportsmanship rule has been invoked for a particular match, any player who has scored (or later does score) three (3) or more goals in the match is restricted to his/her own half of the field.

The 50% minimum playtime rule applies for all players regardless of whether the sportsmanship rule is invoked or not.

Coaches are encouraged, where possible, to vary skill levels, positions, and team sizes beyond the requirements of this rule in an effort to keep matches fun for all participants.

- C. Minimum number of players on the field at any time: six (6), one (1) of which shall be the designated goalkeeper.
- D. After the game has started, if a team temporarily falls below the minimum number of players due to an injury, needed equipment repair, or a Caution, play may continue. If in the opinion of the referee, the team will not be able to return to the minimum number of players in a reasonable period of time, the game shall be terminated by forfeit.
- E. All players must have an OJSC issued player card to be eligible to play. Player cards will be mandatory beginning in the third week of the season.
- F. Substitutions
  - 1. There is no limit to the number of players that may be substituted during a game. There is no limit to the number of times a player may be substituted during a game.
  - 2. Either team may request a substitution at any stoppage in play, but a substitution may only be made with the consent of the referee.

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## **LAW 4 — PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT** *Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:*

- A. Soccer shoes must have molded plastic cleats. Shoes with a toe-cleat (baseball or football shoes) or metal cleats are not allowed.
- B. Shinguards - Mandatory, Note: Socks must completely cover the shinguard.
- C. If two teams have the same or similar color uniforms, it is the home team's responsibility to change uniform colors. Coaches are encouraged to have practice vests whose color is different than their assigned uniform.
- D. Players may not wear jewelry (rings, bracelets, watches, necklaces, earrings, body piercing, etc) or any other hard or sharp object (bobby pins, hair barrettes, casts, etc) that may cause injury to themselves or to another player.

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## **LAW 5 — REFEREE**

A USSF certified referee shall oversee each game in accordance with FIFA/USSF Laws of the Game (2013/2014) except as modified by this document.

In addition to the game's referee(s), an additional USSF certified referee may be appointed by OJSC to serve as Referee-Field Marshal at any OJSC game location.

The Referee-Field Marshal has the final authority on the field, and there shall be no dispute, even if their decision is in contradiction to these Rules of Competition.

All persons on OJSC fields are under the authority of the Referee-Field Marshal on site. This includes board members and other OJSC representatives not acting in an official capacity.

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## **LAW 6 — ASSISTANT REFEREE**

When appointed by the league, two USSF certified assistant referees shall assist the referee in overseeing each game in accordance with FIFA/USSF Laws of the Game (2015) except as modified by this document.

In the event that assistant referees are not appointed by the league or are otherwise unavailable, the referee, at his/her

discretion, may appoint two (2) Club Linesmen to assist with ball in and out of play. The Club Linesman must stand at opposite corners of the field (touch line/goal line intersection) and may not assist in judging offside, which is the sole discretion of the referee.

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## **LAW 7 – DURATION OF GAME**

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) halves of twenty five (25) minutes each.
  - B. There shall be a seven (7) minute break between each half.
  - C. In the event of dangerously hot weather, at the discretion of the Referee, a two (2) minute water break will be provided approximately twelve and one half (12:30) minutes into each each half, whenever stoppage of play allows. After such a break, play will resume based on the location, possession, and reason for stoppage prior to the break.
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## **LAW 8 – THE START OF PLAY and RESTART OF PLAY**

*Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:*

- A. At the beginning of a game, a coin toss will determine which team takes the opening kick off and which goal each team will attack. The visiting team will call the coin while it is in the air; the coin toss winner shall select which goal they wish to attack in the first half and the other team shall take the opening kick off.
  - B. Opponents must be six (6) yards from the center mark while a kick off is in progress.
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## **LAW 9 – BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

*Conform to FIFA.*

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## **LAW 10 – METHOD OF SCORING**

*Conform to FIFA.*

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## **LAW 11 – OFFSIDE**

- A. No offside
    - Cherry Pick only – if a player is hanging around his/her goal waiting for the ball, making no attempt to be where the ball was, gets it, and scores, disallow the goal and give the opposing team a goal kick.
    - Encourage the cherry picking players to join in the action.
    - If a player who has already scored a few goals is constantly offside and continuing to score, extend the cherry pick call and make it prior to any goals being scored.
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## **LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

*Conform to FIFA with the following exception:*

- A. There is **NO** slide tackling allowed
- B. Players that are Cautioned (i.e. receive a Yellow Card) shall immediately be substituted; they may re-join the game at the team's next (or subsequent) substitution opportunity.
- C. **Sportsmanship Rule**
  - i. If a player, who has been restricted to his/her own half of the field (as a result of the sportsmanship rule), is found to occupy a position within the opponent's half of the field **WHILE THE BALL IS IN** the opponent's half of the field, regardless of which team is in possession, the referee will stop play and award an indirect free kick to the

ii. opposing team on the halfway line nearest to where the infringing player was located when play was stopped.



## **LAW 13 — FREE KICKS**

*Conform to FIFA with the following exception:*

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards from the ball when the kick is taken.
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## **LAW 14 — PENALTY KICKS**

*Conform to FIFA with the following exception:*

- A. Opponents must be a minimum of eight (8) yards from the ball, outside the penalty area, and behind (or even with) the ball, when the kick is taken
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## **LAW 15 — THROW IN**

*Conform to FIFA.*

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## **LAW 16 — GOAL KICK**

*Conform to FIFA.*

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## **LAW 17 — CORNER KICK**

*Conform to FIFA with the following exception:*

- A. Opponents must be six (6) yards from the corner arc when the kick is taken.
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