

## KYSA U6 SOCCER RULES

Updated: 04/03/22

### Coaches:

- **U6 Coaches serve as referees for U6 games.** Work together with the coach of the other team to share refereeing and time-keeping duties throughout the game. **(In other words, one coach for each team should be on the field so that the two opposing coaches are on the field at the same time refereeing and keeping time during all four quarters.)**
- Work collaboratively as coaches to establish a clinic environment as the game progresses; your teams are playing “against” each other; at the same time, both coaches are there to help the players learn, and that includes working with and instructing players from both sides as needed.
- Before the game begins coaches will:
  - Have the children tap their shin guards with their knuckles
    - They must have shin guards to play
  - Check for soccer cleats
    - No front spike
    - Sneakers are fine
  - Check for jewelry, earrings, chains, etc. Chains & bracelets must be removed; earrings should be removed too but can be taped or covered with bandaids if they cannot be removed. Medical bracelets may remain on as long as they are taped to the wrist.
- Work with the other coach to determine sides of the field and who kicks off first
- Start the game ON TIME

### Rules for Game Play:

- Ball – size 3.
- Number of players – 4 V 4, no goalie, and **EVERYONE** plays a minimum of 2 quarters.
- Substitutions are permitted between quarters or upon an injury.
- Shin guards are required for safety reasons and need to be covered by a pair of socks.
- Duration of the game – four 6-minute quarters with two minutes between quarters and five minutes for half time.
- Work together with the coach of the other team to share refereeing and time-keeping duties throughout the game.
- **Start of the Game / Kickoff:** Before the game decide who is kicking off. Kickoff is intended to ensure possession and should be kicked laterally or backwards. **Do not allow players to kick the ball forward on kickoffs in U6.**
- All players must be on their own half of the field with one team kicking off. **Since the U6 field and circle are relatively small, defending players should stand 5 yards back from the circle to allow the team kicking off to bring the ball into the offensive zone.** The idea is to not have defenders swarming the circle to thwart the kickoff but rather to allow the offensive team to bring the ball into the offensive zone.
- Offside – Offside is not used in the small-sided games.

- **Do not leave any players back on defense while you have possession of the ball. All four players should be on the offensive side of the midline while your team is on offense. Also, do not allow players to plant themselves in front of the goal as though they are a goalie; there are no goalies in U6.**
- **Corner kicks, goal kicks, free kicks, penalty kicks, and throw-ins are not used in this age group.** In the event that an egregious offense has been committed the referee should inform the player to not repeat it and play on.
- **If the ball leaves the field of play the referee or coach should blow his or her whistle loudly, determine possession, and allow a player from the team with possession to dribble the ball in to resume play from that spot. We will keep this simple: if team A kicks the ball out of bounds, team B gets possession. If it's unclear who kicked the ball out of bounds, the referee or coach will just pick a side and grant possession. (This rule is a minor step up in complexity from U4, where coaches/referees simply toss the ball back into play.)**

#### **Additional Points about Sportsmanship and Game Play:**

- Coaches are responsible for the sportsmanship of the team and are expected to talk to any players who are not displaying good sportsmanship. Parents and guardians are expected display good sportsmanship as well.
- The coaches are also expected to work together to referee and coordinate the game in a way that fosters a positive environment for the players on both teams.
- All players, coaches, and assistant coaches (apart from those who are on the field refereeing the game) should stay on one side of the field for the duration of the game. The designated side for coaches and players is opposite the parents/guardians (spectators). This will enable parents to see their children play and also allow the coaches who are refereeing to run freely with the children. (Players' and spectators' sides will be marked when the first week of games begin.)
- Instruct your players to take a knee if a player is injured and is being tended to on the field.
- Use your whistle – children pay attention and will learn from it.
- Your job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE, INSTRUCTIVE, and focused on the child.
- **Any concerns or issues related to U6 should be communicated to the U8 & Down Commissioner & the President.**

### **GAMES ARE TO BE USED AS A TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND NO SCORES OR STANDINGS ARE TO BE KEPT.**

To learn about the standard rules of soccer as they apply to older age groups, please see the KYSA U8 Soccer Rules Sheet as well as the NEFYSL Recreational League Rules and Regulations.