

## **RULES FOR 8U (5 v 5)**

### Law 1 The field:

- a. Field Length – 30 yards to 40 yards
- b. Field Width - 20 yards to 30 yards
- c. Goal Size: 6-ft high by 12-ft wide
- d. 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, three (3) yards from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line parallel to the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.
- e. Penalty Area: None (except that there is a designated “goalkeeper box” in front of the goal).
- f. Halfway Line: A halfway line shall divide the field into two halves with a center mark indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line.
- g. Center Circle: 4-yard radius drawn from center mark.
- h. Corner Arc: Conform to IFAB/FIFA (1 yard radius from the intersection of the touchline and goal line).
- i. Flag Posts: At each corner.
- j. Build out line: The build out line will be marked halfway between the penalty area line and the halfway line and from one touch line to the other across the field of play. **The line will be of a different color than the other markings on the field and may be painted as a dotted (or dashed) line.**

### Law 2 Ball Size: Size three (3)

Law 3 Number of players: Maximum number of players on field at one time is five (5) per team (so the game is played 5 v 5)

- a. Roster Size: Maximum roster size is ten (10) players per team.
- b. Goalkeepers: **Four goalkeepers will be used in each game per team. Each keeper will only play one (1) quarter per game. There will be no punting/drop kicking of the ball by the goalkeeper, the ball may be thrown or placed on the ground and kicked back in to play, both will be considered in-direct and must touch another player before entering opponent’s goal.**
- c. Substitutions: Only in between quarters or at half-time or for an injury. There is NO “free” substitution during a quarter .
- d. Playing Time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of total playing time (i.e., at least two quarters each game).

Law 4 Player's Equipment: Conform to IFAB/FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Players may use tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

**SHINGUARDS ARE MANDATORY**

Law 5 The Referee: One Official (coach or manager or designated parent) from each team is used and may be present on the field during games (but shall not interfere with play of the game).  
Infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player. If a center referee is used, then no team representative shall be permitted on the field during games.

Law 6 Assistant Referee: None.

Law 7 Duration of Game: Four equal quarters of 10 minutes each with 5-minute halftime break and a break of 2- minutes each between the quarters per half.

Law 8 Start/Restart of Play: Conform to IFAB/FIFA. With the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick are at least four (4) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 Ball in & Out of Play: Conform to IFAB/FIFA (e.g., balls out of bounds on the sidelines are re-started by way of throw-ins and balls going out of bounds on the end lines are re-started by way of goal kicks or corner kicks).

Law 10 Method of Scoring: Conform to IFAB/FIFA.

Law 11 Offside: None.

Law 12 Fouls & Misconduct: All fouls shall result in an in-direct free kick. The game manager/coach/parent must explain infringements to the offending player. There is no heading in this age group. Any headers result in an in-direct kick to the opposing team and an explanation shall be given to players on both teams. Placement of the in-direct kick is at the spot of the infraction or otherwise according to IFAB/FIFA (e.g., when the spot of the infraction is closer than four (4) yards to a goal).

Law 13 Free Kicks: Conform to IFAB/FIFA with the exception that all free kicks are in-direct with the opponents four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 14 Penalty Kicks: None.

Law 15 Free Kicks: All free kicks are considered as in-direct (meaning the ball must touch another player other than the kicker before it can count as a goal) with the opponents four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 16 Goal Kick: The goal kick should be taken within the smallest box located around the goal. If there is no box, then the goal kick should be taken 2 to 3 yards of the goal line anywhere across the width of the field of play at the nearest point from where the ball was retrieved. Opposing players must be four (4) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

Law 17 Corner kick: Conform to IFAB/FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.