



Green Country Soccer Association

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OFFICIAL SMALL-SIDED PLAYING RULES

4 V 4 – U08.

Recommended modifications to the FIFA Laws of The Game. FIFA Laws of The Game can be found at www.fifa.com.

U08 addendum and appendix included.

Law I – The Field of Play:

A. Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: Minimum 25 yards/Maximum 35 yards

Width: Minimum 20 yards/Maximum 30 yards

B. Field Markings:

Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line.

The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

C. 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 for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

D. The Penalty Area: None.

E. Flagposts: None.

F. The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

G. Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equal distance from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

Law II – The Ball: Size three (3).

Law III – Number of Players:

A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4).

B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed six (8).

C. There are NO Goalkeepers.

D. Substitutions: At any stoppage of play.

E. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

F. Teams and games may be coed.

Law IV – Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

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

B. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.

C. Shinguards are MANDATORY.

Law V – The Referee: An OFFICIAL (Game Manager or Coordinator or Parent or Coach or Grade 9 referee) may be used. All infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

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, twelve (12) minute quarters. Clubs may make the quarters shorter if necessary.

B. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.

C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law VIII – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

A. Opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law IX – Ball in and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA. Ball must completely cross line to be out of play.

Law X – Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA. Ball must completely cross goal line between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

Law XI – Off-Side: There is no off-side in small-sided games.

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. All fouls shall result in a direct kick.

B. The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infractions to the offending player.

C. No cards shown for misconduct.

Law XIII – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. All free kicks will be direct to keep the game flowing and keep the attention of kids.

B. Opponents must be four (4) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

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

Law XV – Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. An improperly performed throw-in can be retaken once.

Law XVI – Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. Opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play. Ball is in play once it has left the goal area.

Law XVII – Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

A. Opponents must remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Read U08 Addendum.

ADDENDUM
Modified Laws of the Game for U08

Law 1 The Field of Play: Dimensions are smaller to accommodate the four-versus-four game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of six- and seven-year-old children. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful.

Field Markings: The center circle gives the players a concrete marking on where to be for the kick-off. The corner arc gives the young player a concrete place to put the ball to kick it back onto the field of play. While kids this young will execute corner kick plays to a modest degree, taking a kick from the corner is a reasonable way for them to put the ball into play and provide continuity with all other age groups. However, the center circle and the corner arc for U08 small-sided games are not mandatory field markings.

Goals: The goal, 6 x 18 feet or smaller, is the same for the U06 to U08 age groups. By using the same size goal for these age groups, clubs will have to buy fewer goals and there will be greater flexibility in the use of fields. A big goal without a goalkeeper should mean a few more goals for kids whose shooting technique is primitive along with their eye-foot coordination. Let's give them the broadside of the barn at which to shoot, the more goals the merrier. Finally, the shooting odds for the U08 age group are one versus seven, so let's give them a chance by having a larger target. However, manufactured goals are not mandatory for U08 small-sided games. Clubs are free to use cones, corner flag posts, Pug goals or other items to designate the goal for this age group. Any goal must be properly anchored to the ground.

Law 2 The Ball: Must be a size three (3). The smaller ball is lighter and more easily kicked, received, dribbled and passed.

Law 3 The Number of Players: There are no goalkeepers in U08 age group so that all the players may chase the ball around the field. The kids want to be where the action is and, at this age, it is around the ball. This would provide the opportunity for the children to further develop their running, jumping and kicking coordination. These are valuable traits for all soccer players to develop. The small number of players takes into account the egocentrism of this age group and, therefore, allows each child more opportunities for kicking and dribbling the ball. With fewer players on the field, each child has an increased number of contacts with the ball and has more actual playing time. Additionally, the players will be required to make more decisions and experience repeated game situations more frequently. The involvement of players will be more consistent. While learning both offense and defense, players will become well rounded and will understand more readily the roles and importance of teammates. Children in the U08 age group will intentionally play in pairs. The smaller number of players on the field will make it easier and more likely that passing and receiving will occur.

Law 5 The Referee: A referee is not really needed for this age group. Instead, a parent or a coach should officiate the game. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player. It is strongly recommended that the adult officiating the U08 game attend the Grade 9 referee course.

Law 7 The Duration of the Match: Quarters are played in the U08 age group to accommodate the attention span and physical limitations of the children.

Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct: If a child is being too rambunctious, then the game official will ask the coach to make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play.

Law 15 The Throw-In: Some U08 players do not yet have the eye-hand coordination to execute a throw-in to the letter of the law. However, some U08 players have sufficient eye-hand coordination to attempt the throw-in. One “do-over” per thrower should be the normal response if the throw-in is incorrect. The adult officiating the match should explain to the child how to execute the throw-in correctly.

- Roster Size: Under the single-field method, the recommended minimum roster size is six (6) players and the maximum roster size is eight (8) players.

Under the dual-field method, the recommended minimum roster size is ten (10) players and the maximum roster size is twelve (12) players. This range of roster sizes allows for a club to use either the single-field or dual-field setup.

Recommendations:

- No score or standings should be kept.
- Opposing coaches, players and parents should shake hands after each match.
- Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.
- No slide tackles to be allowed in this age group.
- Coaches of U08 teams should attend the U06/U08 Youth Module coaching course and the Grade 9 referee course.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.