



**U.S. Youth Soccer  
8 v 8 Under Eleven & Under Twelve Program  
Official Laws  
(As amended by GCSA)**

**Law I - The Field of Play:**

- A. **Field Dimensions:** The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than eighty (80) yards nor less than sixty (60) yards and its width not more than fifty-five (55) yards not less than forty-five (45) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. U.S. Youth Soccer Recommendations: Length - eighty (80) yards; width - forty-five (45) yards.
- B. **Field Markings:**
  1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
  2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  3. A center circle with a eight (8) yard radius.
  4. Four corner arcs with a three (3) foot radius.
  5. Goal Area: Six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
  6. Penalty Area: Fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goal post and Fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goal posts. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.
- C. **Goals:** Six (6) feet high and eighteen (18) feet wide up to seven (7) feet high and twenty-one (21) feet wide.

**Law II - The Ball:** Size Four (4).

**Law III - Number of Players:**

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be eight (8). One of whom may be a goalkeeper. The match shall not start if either team consists of fewer than six (6) players. \*
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster shall be a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of twelve (12). The Club may elect to extend the maximum number of players on the roster to fourteen (14). \*
- C. **Substitutions:**
  1. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor.
  2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
  3. After a goal, by either team.
  4. To replace a player for health reasons. \*
  5. At half time.
  6. For a player who has received a yellow card, at the discretion of the coach and with permission of the referee. \*
  7. To allow a player who has left the game due to a minor injury to return to the game, as soon as possible, replacing the same player who replaced him. \*

- D. **Playing Time:** Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- E. Teams and games may be coed.

**Law IV - Player's Equipment:** Conform to FIFA, with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- B. Shin guards: MANDATORY. \*

**Law V - Referees:**

- A. Registered referee/new referee program.
- B. Associate referees.
- C. Parent/Coach or assistant.
- D. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**Law VI - Assistant Referees:** Use Club Assistant Referees.

**Law VII - Duration of the Game:**

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minute each.
- B. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

**Law VIII - The Start of Play:** Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-offs are in progress.

**Law IX - Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law X - Method of scoring:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law XI - Off-Side:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law XIII - Free Kicks:** Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XIV - Penalty Kick:** Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

**Law XV - Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law XVI - Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law XVII - Corner-Kick:** Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be ten (10) yards away from the ball.

\* GCSA amendment.