



U8 MODIFIED RULES

LAW I – THE FIELD

If corner flags are not available, the game shall be played without corner flags.

A. Dimensions

The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being no more than 40 yards and its width not more than 25 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

B. Markings

1. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
2. A center circle with a five-yard radius.
3. Four corner arcs with a two-foot radius.
4. Goal area shall be (3) yards from each goal post and (3) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

C. Goals

HYS will use 6x12 goals.

LAW II – THE BALL

Size three (3) ball is used for U6. Home team supplies the game ball.

LAW III – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. Maximum number of players per team on the field at any one time is five (5).
2. Each team will consist of 2 coaches and max 14 players.
3. On game day, players will be divided in half and the dual-field method will be used for play, with half the players of each team playing on each of 2 fields. At halftime, the home team will switch fields.
4. One goalkeeper at a time can use their hands within the goalkeeper box.
5. Substitutions may be made at any time the ball is out of play, during all quarter and halftime breaks and in the case of injury.
6. Each player will play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
7. Fair Side play rule applies. If a team is short players, the other team must play down to an equal number of players. As additional players arrive, each team will be able to simultaneously add players to the field.

LAW IV – PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

Tennis shoes or soft- cleated soccer shoes may be worn. SHIN GUARDS ARE MANDATORY.

LAW V – REFEREES

Paid referees will not be used in the U7/U8 game. An Official will be designated by the coaches to act as the Game Manager. This can be one of the coaches themselves, or a parent or appropriate aged sibling (12 or older) who has some referee training or experience. The Game Manager’s job is to keep the playing environment fun, safe and focused on the child. Duties are the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of the Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play.

LAW VI – LINESMEN (ASSISTANT REFEREES)

Not used or necessary in small-sided games, but permitted if one or two parents, or appropriate age siblings are present and volunteer to signal out of bounds.

LAW VII – DURATION OF THE GAME U8 MODIFIED RULES

1. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal (10) minute quarters.
2. There shall be a (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.
3. There shall be a half-time break of five minutes.

LAW VIII – THE START OF PLAY

Conforms to FIFA with the exception that the opponent must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

LAW IX – BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

Conforms to FIFA. Ball must completely cross the line to be out of play.

LAW X – METHOD OF SCORING

Conform to FIFA.

LAW XI – OFFSIDE

There are no offsides in small-sided games.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

1. All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick with the opponent three (5) yards away.
2. The game manager must explain ALL infractions to the offending player. In all Divisions, no cautions or ejections shall be issued.

LAW XIII – FREE KICKS

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

1. All free kicks will be indirect.
2. Opponents will be (3) 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 exception that an improperly performed throw-in can be retaken.

LAW XVI – GOAL-KICK

Conform to FIFA. With the following exception:

- Goal kick may be taken anywhere in the 5-yard box, and opponents must be at the half-line from the ball until it is in play.

LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least (5) yards from the ball until it is in play.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND PARENTS

1. Good sportsmanship verbally following the game.
2. No trophies or awards are to be given for the “best” team.
3. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
4. Coaches and players ONLY will be located on one side of the field.
5. Parents, siblings and all spectators will remain on the sideline opposite the area occupied by the coaches and players.