

# TCSA Soccer League U-8 Rules

## LAW I THE FIELD OF PLAY:

### A. Dimensions:

The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 50 yards nor less than 39 yards and its width not more than 25 yards nor less than 24 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

### B. 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 six (6) yard radius.
4. Four corner arcs with a Two (2) foot radius.
5. Goal area - ten (10) yards in length and four (4) yards to the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
6. Penalty area – twelve (12) yards in length and six (6) yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
7. Build out line – will be marked halfway between the penalty area and the halfway line. This can be a solid or

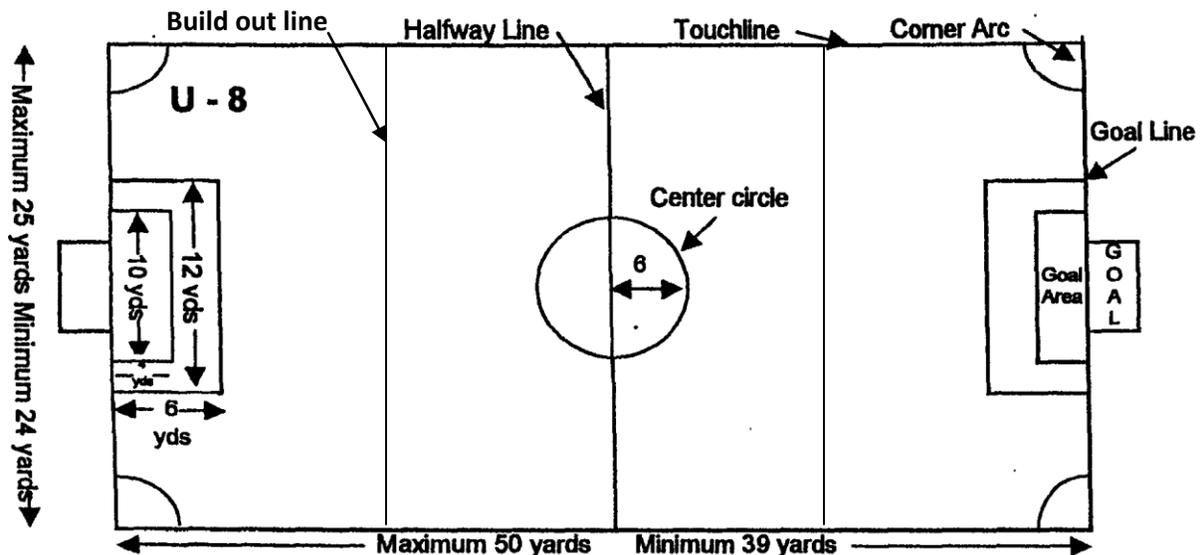
### C. Goals:

Maximum: six (6) feet high and ten (10) feet wide.

Minimum: size of Hockey goals.

### TCSA recommendations

Teams should be on one side and spectators should be on the other side of the field. Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game. Parents, non-playing players, and spectators should be located not less than six (6) feet outside touchline nor should be closer than ten (10) yards to the goal line. No individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game. Spectators should not instruct the players during the game time. No alcoholic beverages should be consumed or allowed near the playing area. Tobacco products should not be used at or around playing areas. Sportsman like conduct expected from players, teams and fans.



## **LAW II THE BALL:**

- A. Size three (3).

## **LAW III THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS:**

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: Seven (7). One of whom must be a goalkeeper. T.C.S.A states that all players take turns playing various positions.
- B. Playing time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. T.C.S.A wants coaches to do a game line up to ensure all players present get equal play time.
- C. Substitutions:
  - 1) If a player is injured and cannot play.
  - 2) When the next quarter starts.
- D. Teams and games may be co –ed.
- E. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed: Fourteen (14).

## **LAW IV PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT:**

Conform to FIFA with the following additions:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft cleated soccer shoes. Baseball shoes are acceptable if they do not have toe spike.
- B. Shin-guards: Mandatory and socks must cover entire shin guard.
- C. Jewelry: No jewelry is to be worn during play. This includes but is not limited to earrings, bracelets, necklaces, watches, etc. Earrings shall not be permitted to be worn under any circumstances, even if covered by tape. Bracelets of any material are prohibited. This includes rubber, string, or any other type of material. Hair accessories may be worn only as necessary provided they are deemed to be safe by the referee.
- D. Not allowed to wear anything that can be used to injure another player. If a player has a cast, it needs to be a soft cast or suitably padded to play. The cast should be evaluated by both coaches and approved by the referee.
- E. Goalkeepers on both teams must wear shirts differing from either team's colors.

## **LAW V REFEREE:**

A one (1) referee system is typical. The referee has full authority to enforce the laws of the game.

- A. Registered/Associated/Coach/Assistant/Parent
- B. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- C. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

## **LAW VI THE ASSISTANT REFEREE:**

Typically not used

## **LAW VII DURATION OF THE GAME:**

- A. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal ten (10) minute quarters.
- B. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarter one (1) and quarter (2), and another two minute break between quarters three (3) and four (4).
- C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between quarters two (2) and three (3).

## **LAW VIII THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY:**

- A. The referee will conduct a coin toss prior to the start of the match to determine who will “kick-off” to begin the match. The opposite team will “kick off” the second half of play.
- B. Kick-offs are taken:
  - At the start of the match.
  - After a goal has been scored.
  - At the start of new period of play (beginning of second half).
  - At the start of an Overtime period.
- C. A goal can be scored directly from a kick-off.
- D. Opponents must be outside the center circle while kick-off is in progress.
- E. Ball does not have to move forward on a kick-off.
- F. If the kicker touches the ball before it touches another player, an Indirect Free Kick is awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the foul.

## **LAW IX BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:**

The ball is out of play when:

- A. It has completely crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air.
- B. The game has been stopped by the referee.

The ball continues to be in play even though it comes in contact with the field outlines, the goal structure in the field of play, the flags or the referee.

## **LAW X METHOD OF SCORING:**

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross-bar, provided that no infringement of the laws of the game have occurred.

## **LAW XI OFFSIDE:**

Warn offenses when seeking unfair advantage

- A. Advise players to move – cannot cherry pick.
- B. Warn coaches about players in offside position.
- C. Indirect kick allowed after Coaches are warned about improper player positioning.

## **LAW XII FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:**

**SLIDE TACKLING IS NOT ALLOWED AT THIS LEVEL (Except Goal Keeper when done properly)**

### **Fouls**

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- jumps at an opponent
- charges an opponent
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- pushes an opponent
- tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- holds an opponent
- spits at an opponent
- handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
- takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession
- Goalkeeper touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player
- Goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate
- Goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate.
- Intentional stalling/delay of game - examples include but are not limited to deliberately kicking the ball extremely far out of bounds, forming a permanent wall on the goal line/in front of the goal.

Note: Deliberate heading of the ball at the U8 level will result in an Indirect Free kick

- A. All fouls will result in an **Indirect Free Kick** with opponents six (6) yards away. An indirect free is taken from where the offence occurred.
- B. The Referee must explain ALL infractions to the offending player.
- C. Caution or ejections issued to players only by an independent neutral Referee.

## **LAW XIII FREE KICKS**

All Free Kicks will be indirect.

### **The Indirect Free Kick**

#### Signal

The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising his arm above his head. He maintains his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

#### Ball Enters the Goal

A goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal.

- if an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded.
- if an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team.

### **Position of the Free Kick**

#### Free Kick Inside the Penalty Area

Indirect free kick to the defending team:

- all opponents are at least six (6) yards from the ball.
- all opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- the ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area.
- a free kick awarded in the goal area is taken from any point inside that area.

Indirect free kick to the attacking team:

- all opponents are at least six (6) yards from the ball until it is in play, unless they are on their own goal line between the goalposts.
- the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- an indirect free kick awarded inside the goal area is taken from that part of the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

#### Free Kick Outside the Penalty Area

- all opponents are at least six (6) yards from the ball until it is in play.
- the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- the free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

## **LAW XIV PENALTY KICKS**

No penalty kicks are taken during these matches.

## **LAW XV THE THROW IN**

A throw-in is a method of restarting play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

A throw-in is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, either on the ground or in the air; from the point where it crossed the touch line; to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball. The ball is in play immediately after it enters the field of play.

### **Procedure**

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- faces the field of play;
- has part of each foot either on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
- uses both hands
- delivers the ball from behind and over his head.
- The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
- All opponents must stand no less than two (2) yards from the point at which the throw-in is taken.

A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on initial attempt. The Referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw. If the second throw-in fails the ball is awarded to the other team.

## **LAW XVI GOAL KICK**

A goal kick is a method of restarting play. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team. A goal kick is awarded when:

- the whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the attacking team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10.

### **Procedure**

- The ball is kicked from any point on the goal box line by a player of the defending team.
- Opponents must be behind the build out line.
- The kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area.

If the ball is not kicked directly into play beyond the penalty area: the kick is retaken.

If, after the ball is in play the kicker touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it has touched another player: an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player: an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player: an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

For any other infringement of Soccer Law 16: the kick is retaken.

## **LAW XVII BUILD OUT LINE**

- On a goal kick, a defensive free kick inside the penalty area, or when the goalkeeper has possession of the ball with their hands, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put back into play.
- The goal keeper can pass, throw, roll, or punt/drop kick the ball to put it back into play. (Punts and drop kicks should not be the main source of distributing the ball.)
- The opposing team may cross the build-out line when:
  - The goal keeper changes possession from their hands to play the ball with their feet, or
  - A second touch is made by another player on the goalkeepers team, or
  - The ball comes to a complete stop, or
  - The ball crosses the build-out line

## **LAW XVII CORNER KICK**

A corner kick is a method of restarting play. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team. A corner kick is awarded when:

- the whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10.

### **Procedure**

- The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest corner flag post.

- The corner flag post is not moved.
- Opponents remain at least six (6) yards from the ball until it is in play.
- The ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- The kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it has touched another player: an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player: an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

For any other infringement: the kick is retaken.

## **LAW XVIII INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If lightning is seen or thunder is heard there is to be a 30 minute suspension of play. All in attendance should seek shelter for the 30 minute suspension of play. And there should be a 30 minute delay after the last instance of lightning or thunder.

## **TCSA RECOMMENDATIONS**

All pets (Dogs, Cats, etc.) should be kept 25 yards away from any soccer field that is occupied by soccer players. This is for the safety of the soccer players as well as the safety of the pets.