



U8 League Rules

Note: The intent of the small-sided game is to introduce players, coaches and officials to the game, while encouraging learning, development and overall enjoyment of the sport.

THE DURATION OF THE GAME

The game consists of two equal halves of 20 minutes.

THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

The maximum number of players per team is 5 (including one goalkeeper). The minimum number of players is 4.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Players shall not wear anything that endangers themselves or other players. Players are not permitted to wear any jewelry, including earrings.

Basic compulsory equipment shall consist of:

- A jersey, shirt with sleeves or colored bib
- Shorts
- Soccer socks
- Shin guards – must be completely covered by socks
- Appropriate footwear

THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball is OUT of play when:

- It has wholly crossed the field markings (lines/cones), whether on the ground or in the air
- Play has been stopped by the Game Leader

The ball is IN play at other times, including when:

- It rebounds into play from a goal-post, a crossbar, or a corner flag post, and remains in the field of play
- It rebounds off the game leader, where applicable, when they are on the field of play

OFFSIDE

There is NO offside.

FREE KICKS

All free kicks are indirect.

PENALTY KICKS

There are no penalty kicks.

THROW-INS

There are no throw-ins.

PASS-IN or DRIBBLE IN

A pass-in or dribble in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball crosses the touch line, either on the ground or in the air.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a pass-in but can from a dribble in.

THE GOAL KICK or DRIBBLE IN

A goal kick or dribble in is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of either team, and a goal has not been scored.

Retreat Line:

The retreat line is considered to be the halfway line. Every time the goalkeeper has the ball, all the opponents must be behind the retreat line and cannot cross the retreat line until the ball:

- Is touched by a player of the team taking the goal kick
OR
- Leaves the field of play
OR
- Goes over the retreat line (If the goalkeeper chooses to play the ball across the retreat line)

The retreat line is used to enable the goalkeeper to play the ball to a defender whom can then play forward. This will help create self-confidence within the player.

THE CORNER KICK

There are no corner kicks – a goal kick or dribble in is awarded as above.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Unlimited substitutions may be made throughout the game. **Substitutions may be made on any stoppage or on the fly.**

CARDS

No cards will be awarded.