

MCSA U-12 Soccer Rules (Fall 2006)

Law 1-The Field:

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length shall be 80 yards and its width shall be 50 yards.
- B. Markings:
 - a. Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide.
 - b. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
 - c. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius.
 - d. Four corner arcs each with a three (3) foot radius.
 - e. Goal area: Length, 6 yards, Width 18 yards
 - f. Penalty area: Length 14 yards, Width 34 yards
- C. Goals: The size of goals shall be 7 x 21 feet

Law II-The Ball: Size four (4)

Law III-Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight (8).
- B. Substitutions:
 - a. Prior to throw, in your favor.
 - b. Prior to goal kick, by either team.
 - c. After a goal, by either team
 - d. After an injury, by either team, when referee stops the play.
 - e. At half time.
- C. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time
- D. Teams and games may be coed

Law IV-Players Equipment:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes
- B. Shin-guards are mandatory.
- C. No Jewelry is allowed (Including necklaces, rings, bracelets, rubber bands and earrings)

Law V-The Referee:

- A. Registered referee.
- B. Associate referee.
- C. Parent/Coach or assistant.

Law VI-Assistant Referees:

- A. Registered referee.
- B. Associate referee.

- C. Parent/Coach or assistant.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each.
- B. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.
- C. Halves may be shortened in duration to accommodate weather conditions.

Law VIII-The Start of Play:

- A. A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match.
- B. The other team takes the kick-off to start the match.
- C. In the second half of the match, the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals.
- D. Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.
- E. A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play:

- A. The ball is out of play when:
 - a. It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air.
 - b. Play has been stopped by the referee.

Law X-Method of Scoring:

- A. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

Law XI-Off-Side:

- A. A player is penalized for being offside if at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee:
 - a. Nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second to last opponent.
 - b. Involved in active play by:
 - i. Interfering with play or
 - ii. Interfering with an opponent or
 - iii. Gaining an advantage by being in that position.
- B. A player is not in an offside position if he is in his own half of the field of play.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:

- A. A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
 - a. Deliberately kicks or attempts to kick an opponent

- b. Deliberately trips or attempts to trip an opponent
 - c. Jumps at an opponent
 - d. Charges an opponent
 - e. Deliberately strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
 - f. Deliberately pushes an opponent
- B. A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following four offences:
 - a. Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball.
 - b. Deliberately holds an opponent
 - c. Spits at an opponent
 - d. Deliberately "Hands" the ball
- C. An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following four offences:
 - a. Takes more than 6 seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession
 - b. Touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player
 - c. Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate.
 - d. Touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate.
- D. An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player in the opinion of the referee:
 - a. Plays in a dangerous manner
 - b. Impedes the progress of an opponent
 - c. Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
 - d. Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

Law XIII-Free Kicks:

- A. Free kicks are either direct or indirect.
- B. The kicker cannot touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- C. If a direct free kick is kicked into the opponent's goal, a goal is awarded.
- D. If an indirect free kick is kicked into the opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded.
- E. Opponents must be eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks:

- A. A penalty kick is awarded if an attacking player commits one of the ten offences for which a direct free kick is awarded inside the defending team's penalty area while the ball is in play.
- B. All players other than the kicker and the goalkeeper shall be:
 - a. Inside the field of play
 - b. Outside the penalty area
 - c. Behind the penalty mark

- d. At least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark
- C. The goalkeeper must remain on his goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked.
- D. The kicker cannot touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- E. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

Law XV- Throw-In:

- A. A throw-in is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the side line.
- B. The throw-in should be taken on the side line at the point from where the ball crossed the line.
- C. At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower shall:
 - a. Face the field of play
 - b. Has both feet on or behind the touch line
 - c. Uses both hands
 - d. Delivers the ball from behind and over his/her head.
- D. The thrower cannot touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

Law XVI-Goal Kick:

- A. 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 and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10.
- B. The goal kick should be taken anywhere within the goal area.
- C. Opposing players must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- D. No players shall touch the ball after it has been kicked until it leaves the penalty area.
- E. If the ball does not leave the penalty, the kick is retaken.

Law XVII-Corner Kick:

- A. 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 and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10.
- B. The ball is placed inside the nearest corner arc.
- C. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.
- D. The kicker cannot touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

US Youth Soccer Recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- No score or standings should be kept.

Team organization:

- A. Maximum roster size is 12 players.