

MCSA U-8 Soccer Rules (Fall 2008)

Law 1-The Field:

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length shall be 120 feet and its width shall be 90 feet.
- 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 a six (6) yard radius.
 - d. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.
 - e. Goal area: Length 6 yards, Width 16 Yards
 - f. Penalty area: None
 - g. A line shall be marked across the field 10 yards from the goal line.
 - h. Flag posts: None
- C. Goals: The size of goals shall be 6 x 12 feet

Law II-The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III-Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is five (5).
- B. Substitutions:
 - a. Injuries
 - b. Only at the start of a new quarter.
- 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. Associate referee
- B. Parent/Coach or assistant.
- C. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player and a "Do-over" encouraged.

Law VI-Assistant Referees: None.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, ten (10) minute quarters.
- B. There shall be two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.
- C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.
- D. Quarters 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 six (6) 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: None.**Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:**

- A. The following actions are considered fouls:
 - a. Deliberately kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
 - b. Deliberately tripping or attempting to trip an opponent
 - c. Charges an opponent
 - d. Deliberately striking or attempts to strike an opponent
 - e. Deliberately pushes an opponent
 - f. Deliberately holds an opponent
 - g. Spits at an opponent
 - h. Deliberately "Hands" the ball
- B. No cautions or ejection's shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.
- C. All fouls shall result in a direct free kick with the opponent six (6) yards away from the ball.

Law XIII-Free Kicks:

- A. All free kicks are direct
- B. The kicker cannot touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- C. If the ball is kicked into the opponent's goal, a goal is awarded
- D. Opponents must be 6 yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: None**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 be beyond the 10 yard line marked across the field.
- D. No players shall touch the ball after it has been kicked until it crosses the 10 yard line.
- E. If the ball does not cross the 10 yard line, 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 six (6) 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 10 players.