

Berlin, Boylston and Clinton Soccer U8 Rules and Regulations

Current FIFA International Laws of the Game shall govern play with the exceptions as noted below:

- Size 3 soccer ball shall be used.
- Number of Players: 5 per team. Four field players and one keeper
- The match shall be divided into four 10-minute quarters, running time.
- The home team kicks off at the beginning of the match. The visiting coach picks the side of the field.
- Teams do not have to switch sides at the end of a quarter.
- Teams switch sides at halftime.
- There will be a 1 minute break between each quarter and a 5 minute break at half time. Play is restarted with a kick off from center field.
- There shall be no offside.
- All fouls and stoppage in play result in indirect free kicks.
- All free kicks must be from outside or on the penalty area line.
- If the foul occurred inside the penalty area, the ball is placed on the penalty area line closest to where the foul occurred.
- Opponents must be six yards from the ball when it is first kicked.
- There are **No** penalty kicks.
- Corner kicks are indirect free kicks.
- Goal kicks must cross out of the penalty area before any player touches it. If the goal keeper cannot kick the ball out of the penalty area, move the ball closer to the line.
- On goal kicks, the opposing players must remain at mid-field until the ball is kicked.
- **Goal keepers may punt the ball over the midfield line, however the ball must touch another player before crossing the goal line.**
- Substitutions may be made on either team's throw-ins or goal kicks, and at kick offs and stoppage for injury.

Rule Reminders - Consistent with FIFA

- **At kickoff, the ball must move forward and the** original player can not touch the ball again until another player on either team has touched the ball.
- Goalkeepers must have different color jersey than field players.
- The ball is in play until it entirely crosses the touchline or goal line or until the Referee stops play.
- Substitutions will be made from the center line and only after the Referee acknowledges the substitutions.
- Substitutions will remain one yard off of the touchline at center field. There is no subbing off the bench except for injury.

Player and Field Equipment

- Players can wear sneakers or soccer cleats. Shin guards are mandatory; Socks must be worn on the outside of the shin guard and must fully cover the shin guards. No "toe cleats" are allowed, which are typical on football or baseball cleats.

- **No jewelry** (this means no earrings of any sort!), with the exception of jewelry used for medical purposes or religious reasons. This must be taped down.
- **No metal or hard hair fasteners** – no hard hair decorations, hair beads, bobbie pins, or barrettes.
- No hard casts are allowed, even if taped, covered or bubble wrapped.
- No hard braces will be allowed with metal showing or covered.
- It is the responsibility of the coaches to anchor the goals. **The Referee will not start the game without properly anchored goals.**

Additional U8 Policies

- The Referee shall use hand and **verbal** signals to communicate calls for the benefit of the players and coaches.
- Any adult who is not a rostered coach must be on the opposite side/touchline of the field from the team (not beside or behind the goal). Adults and other fans must remain one yard off the touchline at all times. If the Referee sees adults on the team side of the field, or along the goal line, the Referee should instruct the coaches to remove the parents to the opposite of the field. The game will not start or resume until the adults have moved.
- Coaches must remain on their half of the touchline for the duration of the match. Coaches are responsible for keeping their players at least one yard away from the touchline for the duration of the match. Coaches may not enter the field of play unless called onto the field by the Referee.
- Referees will correct a player's throw-in twice if they are doing it incorrectly but will let the third throw-in stand even if incorrect, and play will continue.
- There will be no red or yellow cards issued.
- Any overly aggressive or dangerous plays (hitting another player, yelling or swearing at another player) shall be called a foul. At the discretion of the referee, the offending player shall be sent off the field. The player may be substituted back in if the player's coach has decided the player is calm enough to re-enter play and is not a danger to other players.
- At U8, play is for development purposes only. There are no team standings or playoffs. We strongly encourage coaches to keep the game differential six goals or less. It is up to the coach to keep a record of the score of the match and regulate his/her teams' goal scoring accordingly. One effective way of managing the game at U8 is by swapping players during the game.
- Coaches should use a different goalkeeper each quarter