

U8 Soccer Program: FUNdamentals

Modified Laws for U8
Revised March 2017



U-8 program

In all cases, the requirement for safety of all players supersedes these rules.

Objectives of the U8 game

- To provide a safe, supportive, challenging environment
- To maximize playing time for each player
- To prepare the players for the 7vs.7 game
- Develop passing and receiving skills
- Help create a passion for the game

Law I – The Field:

A. Dimensions:

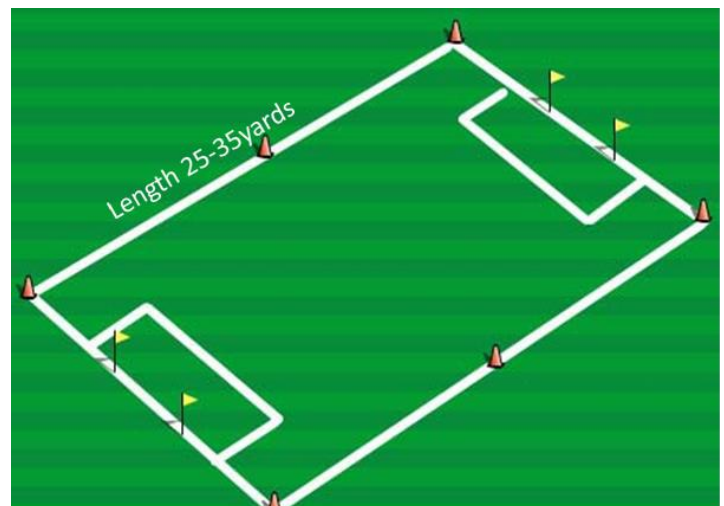
- a. As much as possible U8 games will be scheduled to play across U12 regular fields unless the community league has established a clear U8 playing area.
 - b. If setting up green space for a playing field the area should be a Length of 25 – 36 meters with a Width of 20 - 26 meters
 - c. The field must be rectangular in shape; if lines are not provided, use cones to set out appropriate area. The field of play shall always be rectangular.
- d. Depending on your field availability the field can be extended 3 or 5 meters. However, the field should not be less than the above format.

B. Markings:

1. Distinctive lines are necessary, sidelines and end-lines.
2. Where lines have washed away coaches should place cones to mark the play area
3. If playing on a U12 field the halfway line can be marked out across the field by placing cones in the appropriate halfway area on the sidelines.
4. Other marks are possible but not necessary for the enjoyment and development of the youngsters.
 - A. A center circle with a five yard radius
 - B. Four corner arcs with a two-foot radius
 - C. A goal area

C. Goals:

1. U8 teams use Bow Nets.
2. Cones may be used to create a goal area forming a rectangular box 8 feet deep x 12 feet long.
3. If a team is missing their bow net, flags or cones can be used to set a goal. Both sides should follow this format.



Law II- The Ball: The ball should be size 3

Law III- Number of Players:

- A. Teams play 5 vs 5 with a minimum of 4 players per team on the field at all times.
- B. Maximum number of players on the field at any time will be 10. 1 player is permitted to play the position of goalkeeper.
- C. Substitutions: During any stoppage of play.
- D. Playing time: each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. (whenever possible)
- E. Players should be provided the opportunity to play all positions.

Law IV – Players equipment:

- A. Footwear: Runners, turf shoes or cleated soccer shoes. (no baseball cleats)
- B. Shin-guards and socks covering the shin-guards - Mandatory
- C. Jersey- Supplied by community. In case of jersey conflicts the home team is responsible for putting their players in pennies. The Keeper should wear a pennie at all times and be distinguishable from other players.
- D. No jewelry on the field, piercings must be removed and cannot be covered by tape. No hard casts, soft casts may be permitted provided it does not pose a risk to other players

Law V– Stats and Scores

No stats or scores are kept at this age level.

Law VI- Referee:

There are no referees at U8 and the players need to be in close contact with the instructional coach, each team should have a representative on the field. Each person (preferably the coach) will take their half a field.

Law VII – Linesmen: No linesmen at this level

Law VIII- Duration of Game:

- A. The first 25 minutes will consist of skills and drills.
- B. Short break for snacks
- C. Then a 25 minutes game will be played. There are no half times to worry about changing sides.
- D. Home team has preference for the side of the field they wish to play on.

Law IX – The Start of play:

- A. The start of play shall consist of the visiting team starting with the ball at center.
- B. The defending team shall be 6 meters away from the center at any start from center.
- C. The ball may be played in any direction but cannot be touched by the same player twice or before another player has touched it. If this occurs the ball must be restarted.

Law X – Ball in and out of play:

- A. Any ball played out of bounds shall be awarded to the opposite team that put it out of the field of play. A throw in is awarded.
- B. Throw-ins during games should be played without great concern for form. Teach throw-ins during practice; let the game continue if the player misses the throw in.

Law XI – Method of Scoring:

- A. Goals will be awarded when the ball is kicked into the net, or between the goal posts (pylons, flags).
- B. For the protection of the goal keeper no scoring may occur **inside** the goal area.
- C. A goal can be scored from anywhere on the field except inside the goal area, directly from a kick-off, goal-kick, free-kick or throw-in.
- D. Goals must be scored no higher than 5 feet. (If there are no nets)

Law XII – Off-Side: There are no off-sides.

Law XIII – Fouls and misconduct:

All fouls are IN-DIRECT: this means the ball must be first passed to another player before a goal can be scored. Most fouls are not intentional, but rather are due to lack of understanding or coordination.

- A. No pushing, hitting, kicking or holding an opponent and no intentional hand balls.
- B. All fouls or free kicks will result in an **indirect** free kick with the opponents 6 meters away. Indirect means it must touch another player from any team before a goal can be scored.

Law XIV – Free Kick:

- A. All free kicks are Indirect and the ball must clearly move before it is considered in play. If the ball does not move the player retakes the kick.
- B. A goal shall not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. (Indirect)
- C. No free kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending teams' goal box.
- D. Coaches should whistle any attacking play that moves inside the defending team goal area to protect the keeper. Play is restarted with a goal kick.
- E. Restarts by a goal kick require pushing opposing players back 6 meters to create playing space.
- F. The ball must touch a team mate of the keeper before the opposing team can attack the ball.

Law XV – Penalty Kicks: No penalty kicks

Law XVI – Throw-in:

At this stage of player development, the skill of throwing in the ball correctly might prove too difficult for all players. If a throw-in is not executed in accordance with FIFA Laws, allow the player to try again. If unsuccessful for the second time, proceed with the game reminding the player of the correct technique for a throw-in at the next practice session.

When a player kicks the ball beyond the sidelines, a throw-in is awarded to the opposing team.

(Technique)

- Two hands on the ball
- Try to throw the ball from behind the head
- Try to keep both feet on the floor
- Must be thrown in the direction that the player is facing

Law XVII- Goal Kick:

When a player on the attacking side of the ball is the last person to touch the ball over the opposing team's goal line and not between the goal posts, a goal kick is awarded.

- A. Goal kicks will occur when the attacking team puts the ball across their opponents' goal line.
- B. This will result in the goalkeeper kicking the ball from anywhere in the goal area.
- C. All opposing players must be 6 meters back from the top of the goal area.
- D. The ball must move outside the goal area and be touched by a teammate of the goalie before the opposing team can challenge the ball.

Law XVIII- Corner Kicks

When a player on the defensive side of the ball is the last person to touch the ball over their own goal line and not between the goal posts, a corner kick is awarded to the attacking team.

- A. A corner kick will be awarded when the opposing team.
- B. The corner kick is taken at the corner closest to where the ball exited the playing area.
- C. All corner kicks are indirect; a goal may not be scored directly from a corner kick without the ball touching any other player.

Recommendations:

- Both teams shake hands after the game.
- Do not leave any child unattended after the game; ensure all players have a ride home.
- Having fun is more important than goal scoring. Use this opportunity to teach players good sportsmanship, safe play and respect for each other, their opponents and the coaches.
- Respect the other coaches; all of you are involved because you care and want your respective teams to experience maximum enjoyment from the game.