

LAWS OF THE GAME SPECIFIC TO UNDER 5/6 /7/8

General information:

Coaches are allowed on the field to help the players for **the first three (3) weeks of the season as long as the ball is NOT in play** for the **U5 & U6 program only**. Once the ball is in play, all coaches must be off the field.

All free kicks are indirect. The ball must be touched by another player before it can be live and score a goal. These kicks include: kick off, goal kick, corner kicks, and a kick that resulted from a foul being called. A kick off may go in any direction.

Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game. No score is kept and no standings are kept. Participation awards for **ALL**.

Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than **1 yard** from outside the touchline, **no one is allowed behind the goal line during play**. **NO** individual will be allowed to run the length of the field except participants in the game. No one shall be behind the goal line during play.

No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed in the Soccer Complex. Smoking and animals in the Complex are banned as well. This includes E-smoking. No Pets.

Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.

All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player

Field size is 20 X 30 yards for U5/6/7 and is 25 x 35 yards for U8

Ball size is a 3 ball

Under 5/6/7/8 will play 4 v 4, there will be no goalkeeper. A player may play a defender, but that player must stay out of the 2 marked areas till the ball is in their half of the field.

SUBS: For U5/6/7 subs may only be done at the end of quarters unless there is an injury or a player initiated need for a substitution and then only at the permission of the referee. For the U8 program, a coach may sub at their team's throw-in (not the opponent), at either team's goal kick, or at a kick-off. Substitutions without notification of the referee will result in a warning to the coach.

Slide Tackles are NOT ALLOWED.

Each recreational player, when present at the game, shall be required to play the minimum of 50% of the time, unless the player's time has been reduced for medical or disciplinary reasons, in which case the coach must notify the player, and the opposing coach prior to the beginning of the game that the minimum time has been reduced (**consistent non-attendance** at practice and non-payment of fees may be cause for disciplinary action). **Note:** BISA **requires** that the appropriate age group commissioner be notified prior to the game as well as the referee.

Uniforms: Each player must have a jersey with a number (no duplicate numbers on team) and shin guards **must be worn** under the sock. **No jewelry** is allowed including ear rings and hard metal hair clips. Ear rings must be removed for a player to be allowed to play. Tennis shoes or soft cleated soccer shoes - NO baseball or football cleats.

Each game will only have a center referee. Referee calls are final and will not be disputed by a coach or spectator. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their spectators and if the coach is unable to maintain composure of their spectators, he/she will be ejected from the game.

The duration of the game for U5/6 will be four 8 minute quarters and 2 minutes between quarters & a 10 min halftime. U7 will be four 10 minute quarters and 2 minutes between quarters & a 10 min halftime. U8 will be two 22 minute halves & a 10 min halftime.

Start of Play for U5/6/7 will be by kick off for the 1st and 3rd quarters. The 2nd and 4th quarters will start with where the ball was at the end of the previous quarter. If there was no stoppage then play will restart with a drop ball. Kick offs are indirect free kicks. U8 plays 2 halves.

For a ball to be out of play, it must fully cross the goal line or touchline. For a goal to be scored, it must fully cross the goal line within the goal in the opinion of the referee

As to Fouls and Misconduct:

1. It is not an intentional "hand-ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to **deliberately propel** the ball. A ball that is kicked into a player's arm is not considered handling the ball.

2. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players, i.e., cautions and/or ejections.

3. All fouls will be explained to the player. All restarts (kick off, goal kick, free kick, and corner kicks) will be indirect kicks and all opposing players must be 3 yards away

All throw-ins will be done with proper technique. Opposing players must be 2 yards away. If a throw in is done improperly, **one** redo is allowed and then play continues if the second throw is still incorrect

All goal kicks must clear the penalty area (large box) prior to being touched by any player.