

# WVSA

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## ***MODIFIED LAWS OF THE GAME FOR U8***

**Law 1**            The Field of Play shall be at least 25 yards long and 22 yards wide.  
Field Markings: the center circle gives the players a concrete  
Goals: the goal, 4 x 6 feet, is the same for the U6 and U8 age groups.  
However, manufactured goals are not mandatory for U8 Small Sided Games.  
Clubs are free to use cones, corner flag posts, Pug goals or other items to designate the goal for this age group.

The goal area will be 3 yards from each post and 3 yards into the field of play. The goal area will be an exclusion zone. No player, offense or defense may enter the zone ahead of the ball. If a defensive player violates this rule a goal will be awarded to the other team. If an offensive player violates this rule the defensive team will be awarded a goal kick.

**Law 2**            The Ball: must be a size three. The smaller ball is lighter and more easily kicked, received, dribbled and passed.

**Law 3**            The Number of Players:

A: There will be four players on the field per team. There are no goalkeepers in the U8 age group so that all of the players may chase the ball around the field.

B: Substitutions may be made during any stoppage in play. Each player shall play at least 50% of the playing time in each match.

**Law 5**            The Referee: a referee is not really needed for this age group. Instead a parent or a coach should officiate the game. If a referee is used then a Grade 9 is recommended. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**Law 6**            The Assistant Referees: none are needed.

**Law 7**            The Duration of the Match: The game is divided into four 8 minute quarters. Clubs may make the quarters shorter in duration if necessary. Quarters are played in the U8 age group to accommodate the attention span and physical limitations of the children.

**Law 8**            Start of Play: per FIFA, with opponents 4 yards away from the ball.

**Law 9**            Ball in and out of Play: per FIFA.

**Law 10** Method of Scoring: per FIFA

**Law 11** Offside: There shall be no offside called during these games.

**Law 12** Fouls and Misconduct: No caution or send off shall be issued to players. If a child is being too rambunctious then the game official will ask the coach to make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play.

**Law 13** Free Kicks: All free kicks shall be indirect. This will keep the game flowing and keep the attention of the kids. Opponents shall be 4 yards away from the ball.

**Law 14** The Penalty Kick: there will not be any penalty kicks called.

**Law 15** The Throw-In: Some U8 players do not yet have the eye-hand coordination to execute a throw-in to the letter of the law. However, some U8 players have sufficient eye-hand coordination to attempt the throw-in. One 'do-over' per thrower should be the normal response if the throw-in is incorrect. The adult officiating the match should explain to the child how to execute the throw-in correctly. If the throw in is still wrong the player gets a kick in. A kick-in is an indirect kick.

**Law 16** The Goal Kick: per FIFA. Defending players must be 4 yards away from the ball until it is kicked. The ball is in play once it has left the goal area and has traveled at least one full revolution.

**Law 17** The Corner Kick: per FIFA. Defending players must be 4 yards away from the ball until it is kicked.

- ⇒ Roster Size The minimum roster size is three players. The maximum roster size is eight players.
- ⇒ Playing Time Players shall play at least 50% of the total match time.
- ⇒ No score or standings should be kept

### **ADVANTAGES OF PLAYING SMALL SIDED GAMES**

- ❑ More time with the coach
- ❑ Energetic workouts due to playing both offense and defense
- ❑ More efficient use of field space
- ❑ Matches can be played simultaneously across a full size field
- ❑ Children are physically more efficient in smaller space
- ❑ Children are actively involved for a longer period of time
- ❑ It takes less time to score a goal or advance to goal
- ❑ Greater success rate for the players

### **US Youth Soccer Recommendations**

- ❖ Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each match.
- ❖ Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- ❖ Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.
- ❖ No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- ❖ No slide tackles to be allowed in this age group.