

## US Youth Soccer Official Under 8 Playing Recommendations

US Youth Soccer recommended modifications to the FIFA  
Laws of the Game.

- The Ball: Size three (3).
- The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than five players, one of whom is the goalkeeper (wearing different color).
  - ❖ Coaches are encouraged to allow players from the team with sufficient numbers to “loan” a player or two to the team that is short players and then PLAY.
- Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.
- Playing Time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% total playing time. Teams and games may be co-ed.
- The Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.
- The Referee: An OFFICIAL (Game Manager or Coordinator or Parent or Coach or Grade 9 referee) may be used. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player. FSC allows for one do-over.
- The Duration of the Match: The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, twelve (12) minute quarters. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.
- The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.
- Offside: None.
- Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in a direct free kick. The referee must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.
  - ❖ If a child is being too rambunctious, 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.
- Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that all free kicks are direct and opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.
- The Penalty Kick: None.
- The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an improperly performed throw-in can be retaken once. \*\*\*\* redoes unlimited for the first week explaining that by week 2 a single re-do should be expected the following week \*\*\* explain to the coach
- The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.