

DEARBORN SOCCER CLUB IN-HOUSE PROGRAM

RULES FOR U-4 thru U-8

Small-Sided Games

US Youth Soccer policies require that teams under 10 play games with not more than six (6) per side (with goalies). They also recommend that under 6 players play games three (3) per side and under 8 play games four (4) per side (without goalies).

Cancelled Games

- If an in-house game is cancelled, call the in-house referee assignor immediately to cancel the referees.
- No in house games will be rescheduled.

Laws of the Game

US Youth Soccer recommends small-sided games for through ages U-10. Small-sided youth modifications aid in learning the game and can be found at www.usyouthsoccer.org. These rules supplement "official" FIFA soccer rules.

The GLSL rules for the U-8 divisions can be found at: www.dearbornsoccer.org/GLSL_Rules_2006_2007.pdf

Law I – The Field

- A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length not more than 40 yards and not less than 20 yards, its width not more than 20 yards and not less than 15 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. US Youth Soccer recommendations a 125-yard length and a 20 yard width.
- B. Markings: Distinctive lines not more than 5 inches wide as follows: A halfway line shall be marked out across the field; a center circle with a 5-yard radius; four (4) corner arcs each with a 2 foot radius; a goal area – 6 yard line
- C. Additional Markings for U-4 thru U-7: Restraining arcs in front of goals on a 4-yard radius from goal center
- D. All U8 divisions abide by GLSL U9 rules
- E. Goals: The size of the soccer goals are as follows:
 - U-4/U-7 will use the large pop-up nets
 - U-8 will use the 6/12 goals at Crowley Fields #3, #4 and #5

Law II – The Ball

- A. Size 3 Ball used for U-4 thru U-7
- B. Size 4 Ball used for U-8

Law III – Players

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4) per team for U4 & U5, five (5) per team for U-6 thru U-7 and six (6) per team for U-8. (exception: U6 Girls Division (4) players on the field)
- B. Maximum number of players on U4/U5 rosters will not exceed eight (8); U6-U7 rosters will not exceed ten (10); U8 rosters will not exceed eleven (11). (exception: U6 Girls Division not to exceed eight (8)).
- C. There will be no goalkeepers for U4 Thru U7. Per GLSL rules, U8 divisions will play 5 players and 1 goalkeeper per team.
- D. Substitutions: U4 thru U8 allowed any time ball is out of play with the permission of the referee.
- E. Playing time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% (percentage based on having an even number of players) of the total playing time of the game.
- F. Teams and games may be coed, all girls, and all boys. One (1) boy on a mostly girl team is considered an all boys team.

Law IV – Player Equipment

- A. Footwear: Tennis Shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes allowed. No toe-spikes will be allowed. All footwear must conform to FIFA (except tennis shoes).
- B. SHINGUARDS ARE MANDATORY.

Law V – Referee

- A. A certified referee will be used for all games to keep the playing environment fun, safe, and focused on the children. The referee will abide by FIFA rules, including keeping time, enforcing the laws of the game, and stopping and restarting play. When there is a stoppage in play, the referee will explain to the players why the stoppage occurred.
- B. Referees shall use the following signals along with the verbal words:
 - Indirect kick – Arm extended straight up and say “Indirect Kick”
 - Corner kick – point to the corner and say “Corner Kick”
 - Goal kick – point to the goal area and say “Goal Kick”
- C. Referees shall wear the designated uniform and have a whistle and a stopwatch.
- D. If no referee shows, coaches or parents will referee the game and will notify the In-House Referee Assignor of the no-show.
- E. Any problems are to be addressed to the In-House Referee Assignor.

Law VI – Assistant Referee

- A. Not used for U4 thru U8; center referee only.

Law VII – Duration of the Game

- A. U4 thru U7: The game shall be divided into four (4) equal quarters. Total Game Time Is 40 Minutes. (10 minute quarters)
- B. U8: The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves. Total Game Time Is 40 Minutes. (20 minute per half)
- C. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters U4 thru U7
- D. There shall be a five (5) minute break at halftime U4 thru U8.
- E. Players must be ready to play and on the field at the 2 or 5 minute mark.

Law VIII – The Start of Play

- A. Conform to FIFA with the following exception:
 - Opponents must be five (5) yards from the center mark at kickoff
 - No coin tosses; the visiting team will kick off first and alternate with the home team between quarters or halves.

Law IX – Ball In and Out of Play

- A. Ball must completely cross the line to be out of play.

Law X – Method of Scoring

- A. Conform to FIFA except no official score shall be kept
- B. U4 thru U7: After ball crosses the goal line into goal, the game shall be restarted from center mark. Opposing team shall move back to 6-yard line (goal kick line)
- C. U8 will abide by GLSL rules. (Restart at center mark)

Law XI – Offside

- A. Conform to FIFA with the following exception:
 - No offside calls for U4 thru U8.
 - All U8 Divisions abide by GLSL rules.

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct

- A. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
 - No cautions (yellow cards) or ejections (red cards) shall be issued to the players U4 thru U7; coaches may be carded.
 - Red and yellow cards apply to players and coaches for all U8 divisions.
 - Slide tackling will not be permitted and shall be mentioned in the pre-game talk. When the referee stops the game because of a slide tackle, the game will be restarted by an indirect free kick against the team of the player that did the slide tackling.
- B. When a player enters restraining arc, an indirect free kick will be awarded at the 6-yard line.

Law XIII – Free Kicks

- A. Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:
 - All free kicks will be indirect.
 - Opponents must be five (5) yards away.

Law XIV – Penalty Kicks

- A. There are no penalty kicks in small-sided games.

Law XV – Throw-Ins

- A. U4 thru U7 Kick-Ins only.
- B. All U8 Divisions will Throw the ball in (abide by GLSL rules).
- C. Kick-Ins will be considered an indirect free kick cannot score from them (see Law XIII).

Law XVI – Goal Kick

- A. If the team attempting to score a goal, kicks the ball over the goal line, the defending team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick.
- B. The goal kick should be taken within the designated 6 yard goal box. U4-U7, the opposing players must move back to the half way line.
- C. All U8 divisions abide by GLSL rules.

Law XVII – Corner Kicks

- A. If team defending goal last touches ball before it crosses the goal line, the attacking team puts ball into play with an indirect kick at the corner arc.
- B. Ball must be placed inside or on the corner arc.

Law XVIII – Coaches

- A. Referees decisions are final. Parents and spectators on the sidelines may not yell at referees or enter the field of play during the game. Coaches are responsible for parents and spectators of his or her players. Coaches are to be familiar with soccer rules and to be able to explain them to parents before and/or after the game. Parents or spectators entering the field or arguing with referees will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- B. U4 thru U8 Coaches will be issued a caution (yellow card) and ejection (red card). A red card results in a minimum two (2) game suspension and will be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee for possible further action.
- C. U4 thru U7: One coach from each team will be allowed on the field at any one time. No coach allowed behind goal area. No coaches on the field is recommended as soon as team is ready for this change.
- D. U8: Will abide by GLSL rules. (No coach on field and can only go from 18 yd. line to 18 yd. line.)

Miscellaneous:

- No jewelry is to be worn by any player on the field. **Earrings are not allowed.** Starter earrings have to come out, no taping ear rings or the individual cannot play. No wristbands or friendship bracelets allowed.
- No parents or spectators will be allowed behind the goal areas.
- All U4 thru U8 parents must sit on same side as their team. The team will sit on one side of the half line and the parents will sit on the other side. The game will not begin until this rule is acknowledged by the referee. The Referee will start time on the hour and it will count against your playing time.
- Opposing teams (players/coaches) should shake hands after each game.
- Participation awards will be given to all players. No trophies or awards will be given for best team.
- All players, coaches, parents, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products will not be allowed near the playing areas.
- Changes to these rules are not permitted without the DSC Board approval.