

U10 rules

The current FIFA Laws of the Game and Universal Guide to Referees is the official rulebook to be utilized by all coaches, players, and referees with the following exceptions:

The Field, Teams & Supporters

The USYSA "Modifications of the Laws for U10" shall be the guideline for establishing the size of the field and goals. When possible, the field should be 75-80 yards X 40-50 yards and goals are recommended to be 7 feet high X 7 yards wide. Goals MUST BE ANCHORED securely to the ground, nets are required, and the game shall not start until these two requirements are met. Team Sides of the Field: The Home Team gets to choose their sideline. The supporters of that team shall occupy the same sideline. The Visiting Team and its supporters shall occupy the opposite sideline. Coaches are asked to enforce this rule whenever possible, and avoid involving the referee.

The Ball

Size: #4 Ball

Player Eligibility

Only players registered and insured under New York State West Youth Soccer Association may participate on SWISL teams. No "carded Travel" players; those holding a current player pass from a travel soccer league are permitted to play on SWISL teams.

Number of Players

The maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be eight (8), one of which shall be a goalkeeper.

The minimum number of players required to start a match shall be five (5) on each team.

In the event that both teams cannot field the minimum required number of players, the match is canceled and the coaches may agree to scrimmage and may reschedule the match. If a team is unable to field eight (8) players, the advantage rule is as follows:

The teams shall play even manned; 7 v. 7, 6 v. 6, or 5 v. 5 (Special Note: House/recreation coaches are responsible for honoring club wishes that each player be allowed to play at least half of every match. If playing 5 v. 5 makes it impossible for one team to play all its players, coaches should consider splitting teams and playing an unofficial game.) Use the rule of Fair Play & common sense.

Substitutions:

The number of substitutions is unlimited.

Both teams may make substitutions at the start of each period, after each goal, and before each goal kick.

Only the team awarded the throw-in may make substitutions.

Substitutions are not allowed on corner kicks.

Substitution for Injury: If play has been stopped for an injury, and the coach, trainer, or other adult enters the field to attend to the injury, the injured player(s) must leave the field and may be substituted. This includes the Goalkeepers. Both teams may make unlimited substitutions at the time of an injury stoppage. The injured field player may return at the next substitution opportunity. An injured Goalkeeper may return at the next stoppage of play with the referee's approval.

Visible Blood Injuries

In the event of an injury with visible blood, the player must come off the field. They may be substituted. The injury shall be bandaged or covered, and the affected area (including clothing) shall be cleaned to the satisfaction of the referee before the injured player will be allowed to return to the match.

Players' Equipment

All jewelry must be removed with the exception of medical alert. Covering earrings with tape is not acceptable.

Shin Guards: MANDATORY!! Must be worn inside socks

Footwear: Sneaker or soft cleated soccer shoes. NO metal or screw-in cleats shall be allowed.

Goalies must have a different color shirt than either team. Team Colors: If both teams have the same color jerseys, the Home Team is responsible for wearing an alternate color shirt or vest. The Referee shall decide if the jerseys are too similar in color.

Referees

U.S.S.F. Registered or Associate Referees shall be assigned.

The referee shall be the final decision-maker on interpreting all rules. Whenever possible, the referee should explain infractions to the players. The referee shall be paid prior to the start of the match by the coach of the Home team. If the match is canceled before the start of play, the referee shall be paid a \$6.00 travel fee. If the match is canceled after the start of play, the referee shall retain the full match fee. The match fee shall be \$16.00.

Please be patient with the referees. Most of the referees doing these matches are new and young. They are going to make mistakes - that's how they learn. If there is a problem with a referee, please contact the referee assignor.

Referee No-Show

If for any reason the referee is not at the match site five (5) minutes after the scheduled starting time, the opposing coaches shall agree on a substitute to referee the match. The substitute shall receive the referee's match fee. The Home Team coach shall be responsible for notifying the Referee Assignor that no referee was present.

Volunteer Linesman

Each team shall be responsible to provide a Linesman acceptable to the Referee. The Linesman shall not be a team player or coach. The designee should be at least 13 years of age, and is not to coach while handling the flag. The Linesman shall only be responsible for signaling when the ball goes out of bounds by raising the flag straight up. The referee will signal possession for restart.

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 all quarters.

Stoppage time is not added to play time.

Free Kicks & Penalty Kicks

Penalty kicks are to be awarded, for Direct Kick Fouls which are deliberate and occur in the Penalty Area.

Opposing players shall be at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play on all free kicks.

Throw in

Players shall be given two (2) chances to make a proper throw in.

Offside

Offside infraction is to be called, but only if the player(s) are grossly in an offside position, and gaining advantage.

Match Times

All match times and dates are pre-scheduled with the knowledge of the referee assignor. It is the general policy that all matches will be played as scheduled with the following exceptions: Field closing-The home team coach shall make arrangements to reschedule the match.

Rescheduling matches

Matches may be rescheduled, before the end of the season, which is typically August 1st. The coaches shall be responsible for rescheduling the match. After agreeing on a date, the Home coach shall be responsible for contacting their Club representative for a field assignment and then contacting the referee assignor.

Game Suspension and Termination

The health and safety of players and spectators always takes precedence over other considerations in youth soccer matches. With this in mind, the coaches and the referee must cooperatively share the responsibility for decisions involving weather-related safety. The referee however, has the final decision regarding the safety of the field and goals.

Special Note - Lightning - The 30-30 Rule

Lightning is considered to be dangerous when thunder can be heard within 30 seconds of the flash. When that occurs, the game must be suspended, and the teams must leave the field and seek safe shelter. The game may not be restarted until 30 minutes after the last dangerous lightning. If the match is terminated before the start of the second half, it may be rescheduled. If the match is terminated after the start of the second half it is considered completed and may not be rescheduled. If lightning prevents the start of the contest, the referee and coaches may decide to delay the start or to cancel and reschedule the match. In the event that the first game of an evening double-header is stopped for lightning, that game is terminated, and the second game may begin only after the 30-30 Rule has been observed.

Fouls and Misconduct

Referees are instructed NOT to issue a Yellow Card Caution or a Red Card Ejection to any players in the U10 division. If a player is playing in a reckless manner, the referee may request that the player be substituted. The coach is expected to honor that request. They may return at the next allowable substitution opportunity. Each club shall be responsible for the discipline of their respective players, coaches and spectators. At the field, coaches will be held responsible for their own conduct and the conduct of their Assistant coaches, players and spectators. Any coach or spectator who is dismissed from the playing field shall have their names turned in to referee assignor. The referee will not restart the match until after the dismissed person leaves the field; out of sight, out of sound.

End of the Match

At the end of the match both coaches will have their players line up on the field and shake hands with the other team. Coaches should set an example by shaking hands with each other and the referee.

There will be no official scores or standings at this age division.