

U8 rules

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

The Field

The USYSA "Modifications of the Laws for U8" shall be the guideline for establishing the size of field and goals. When possible, the field should be 50 yards long X 30 yards wide. Goals are recommended to be 6 ft. high X 12 ft. wide. Goals MUST BE ANCHORED securely to the ground, nets are required, and the game shall not start until these two requirements are met.

The Ball

Size: #3 Ball

Player Eligibility

Only players registered and insured under the New York State West Youth Soccer Association may participate on SWISL teams.

Number of Players

The maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be seven (7); 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 seven (7) players, the advantage rule is as follows:

The teams shall play even manned; 6 v. 6 or 5 v. 5

(Note: House/recreation coaches are responsible for honoring club wishes that each player be allowed to play at least half of every match.)

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 kick restarts.

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 permission.

Visible Blood Injury

In the event of an injury with visible blood, the player must come off the field and 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. Teams should carry alternate color t-shirts or vests in the event of their opponent having the exact color shirt.

Referees

Registered or Associate Referees may be assigned, or a volunteer coach or parent utilized.

The referee shall be the final decision-maker on interpreting all rules, and whenever possible should explain infractions to the players.

A referee formally assigned to the game 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 \$14.00.

The coach shall be responsible for reporting to their respective Associations the names of any players, that have been ejected and or received a YELLOW or RED card, or coach or spectator that has been dismissed from the field of play.

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.

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.

Linesman (Optional)

Each team may be requested 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. 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.

Fouls, Free Kicks & Penalty Kicks

Direct & Indirect Free Kicks shall be awarded for appropriate fouls. No Penalty Kicks shall be awarded. For Direct Kick Fouls inside the Penalty Area, a Direct Kick is awarded where the foul occurred.

Opposing players shall be at least five (5) 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 not to be called, unless a player is grossly offside, with a goal scoring opportunity. If a goal is scored, it shall be disallowed, with a restart of goal kick. Coaches and referees are asked to use this moment to briefly instruct the player(s) about offside position.

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 regarding 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 a contest, the referee and coaches may decide to delay the start or 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.

Cautions, Ejections and Misconduct

Referees are instructed NOT to issue a Yellow Card caution or a red Card Ejection to players in the U8 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.

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.

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.