

MODIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GAME FOR U-Littles

Adapted from US Youth Soccer for the HYSA Junior and Senior Instructional Program

Law 1: The Field of Play: dimensions are smaller to accommodate the six-versus-six game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of eight- and nine-year-olds.

Field Markings: the penalty area is marked, but is smaller than the adult field size penalty area. The center circle is two yards smaller in radius than the adult size field marking. All other markings are per FIFA.

Goals: the goal, 6 x 18 feet, is the same for the U10 and U12 age groups.

Law 2 The Ball: must be a size four.

Law 3 The Number of Players: the six-a-side game now includes the goalkeeper.

The minimum number of players to begin a match will be five (5). Referees should be 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 are unlimited and may be made **at any stoppage in play**, as long as substitutes are at midfield prior to the stoppage.

Law 4 Players Equipment: Per FIFA, shirts, shoes, shorts, socks, shinguards (inside the socks). No jewelry, metal hair clips, or exposed piercings even if covered with tape.

Law 5 The Referee: per FIFA. Clubs are urged to use this age group as a field training opportunity for Grade 9 Recreational Referees. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 The Assistant Referees: If requested by the referee, use club linesmen/women.

Law 7 The Duration of the Match: per FIFA with the exception of the halves being 25 minutes each.

Law 8 The Start and Restart of Play: per FIFA. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle (8 yards).

Law 10 Goal Scored: shall conform to FIFA.

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

Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct: shall conform to FIFA with specific modifications to restarts for offenses committed by a defender within their own penalty area. Breaches of Law 12 must be explained to the players.

Law 13 Free Kicks: per FIFA. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle.

Law 14 The Penalty Kick: There will be no penalty kicks. All restarts for penal fouls within the penalty area shall be taken from the boundary of the penalty area, at the point closest to the original offense.

Law 15 The Throw In: Conforms to FIFA with the modification that a player making a bad throw is allowed to retake the throw until it is fairly returned to play.

Law 16 The Goal Kick: For Seniors per FIFA. For Juniors, the GK will be taken from the top of the penalty area, opponents must retire 8 yds.

Law 17 The Corner Kick: per FIFA. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle.

Law 18 Use Common Sense: Make the game safe, fair and fun.