



USSOC



Law 2 – The Ball



**U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Entry Level Referee Courses
Competitive Youth Training
Small Sided and Recreational Youth Training**



USSOC



Requirements



The requirements are that the ball must be spherical and made of leather or some other suitable material.



USSOC



Requirements

The referee is the sole judge as to whether the ball meets the requirements for the game they are officiating, regardless of the opinions of the players and coaches.





Requirements

Referees can check the air pressure by pressing in on the ball using their thumbs or bouncing the ball on the ground.



The air pressure for a standard size 5 ball must be between 8.5-15.6 pounds per square inch. Some referees working competitive youth games utilize a gauge to accurately check the air pressure.

Referees can also reference the manufacturers' recommendations for ball inflation, which is typically printed on the ball itself.



USSOC



Ball Size

All officials should know the correct ball size for the game they are officiating based on the local rules of competition. U13 and older use a size 5 ball.



The U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiative recommends that small-sided youth games use the following:

U8 and younger - size 3 ball

U9 thru U12 - size 4 ball

The home team usually supplies the game ball.



USSOC



Ball Safety

- ❖ **The referee must make sure the ball is suitable and safe for play.**



- ❖ **This means checking the air pressure of the ball and making sure there are no sharp or jagged edges on the surface of the ball.**



Additional Balls

In some competitive youth games, teams may wish to use extra balls to help speed up restarts.



It is acceptable to place additional balls around the outside of the field but, before the start of the game, the referee must inspect all additional balls to make sure that they meet the requirements of Law 2.



Replacement

❖ If the ball becomes defective or deflated in the game:

- **During Play**

- The referee must stop play and replace the ball
- Play is restarted with a dropped ball from the spot where the ball was when play was stopped.



Replacement

❖ If the ball becomes defective or deflated in the game:

- **During a Stoppage**

- If the ball is already out of play, the referee must replace the ball
- Restart the game accordingly with the appropriate restart.



Replacement

If the ball bursts or becomes defective or deflated in the game:

- **During the Taking of a Penalty Kick**

- **Stop the game and replace the ball**
- **Retake the penalty kick, if the ball becomes defective before it touches any player or the goalposts or crossbar.**
- **Restart play with a dropped ball, if the ball becomes defective after making contact with a player or the goal frame.**



Review Question

7. Who is responsible for ensuring the game ball is suitable and safe for play?

- A. Goalkeeper
- B. Home team coach
- C. Assistant referee
- D. Referee



USSOC



Review Question

8. Who or what at will determine the size of the ball used for the game?

- A. Laws of the Game
- B. Local rules of competition
- C. Home team coach



Review Question

9. What should the referee do if the ball becomes defective during a stoppage in play?

- A. Stop play, replace the ball, and restart play with a dropped ball
- B. Replace the ball and resume play with the appropriate restart based on the stoppage