



Law 2 (8 & 9)



U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Grade 8 Referee Course
Competitive Youth Training

Ball Size



It is the referee's responsibility to make sure the ball meets the requirements for the game they are officiating.



Ball Size

The home team usually supplies the ball and it comes in three standard sizes, size 3, size 4 and size 5.



All officials should know the correct ball size for the game they are officiating based on the local rules of competition.



Requirements

It is the referee's responsibility to make sure the ball meets the requirements for the game they are officiating and, most importantly, that it is safe.

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





Requirements

For U13 competitive youth games and older, all games should be played using a size 5 ball.



The air pressure for a size 5 ball must be between 8.5-15.6 pounds per square inch and many referees working competitive youth games will 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.



U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiative

Size of the ball

U-6 : 3

U-7: 3

U-8: 3

U-9: 4

U-10: 4

U-11: 4

U-12: 4

The USSoccer Player Development Initiative recommends that small-sided youth games use this chart for guidance on the size of the ball depending on the age of the game.

Requirements



The referee is the sole judge of whether the ball meets the requirements for Law 2, regardless of the opinions of the players and coaches.

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, the referee is responsible for ensuring that the ball is replaced.

During Play

- **The referee shall 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 during the game, the referee is responsible for ensuring that the ball is replaced.

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.**



Defective Ball

If the ball bursts or becomes defective in the game:

During 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.**
- **Play is restarted with a dropped ball if the ball becomes defective after making contact with a player or the goal frame.**



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OR PLAY

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

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Review Question

7. 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



Review Question

8. 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



Review Question

9. What will determine the size of the ball used for the game?

- A. Laws of the Game
- B. Local rules of competition