

Small-Sided Soccer



**RULE
DIFFERENCES**

Small-Sided Soccer Rule Modifications

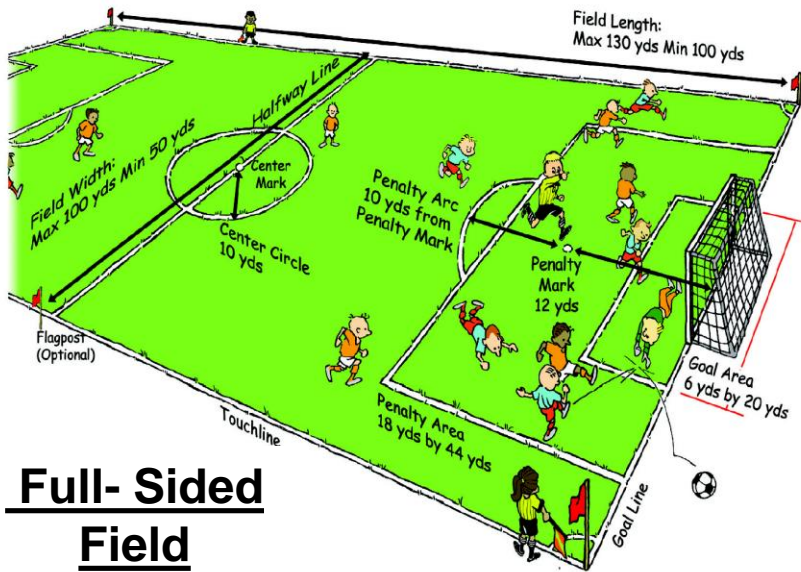


The Soccer Rule Differences contained in this presentation are based upon the latest recommended modifications by US Youth Soccer to the FIFA (USSoccer) Laws of the Game.

Local league and/or tournament rules may vary significantly, especially with regard to number of players and field sizes used. As a game official, you will need to verify and understand the particular rules of the competition prior to officiating any game.

LAW 1 – SMALL-SIDED FIELDS

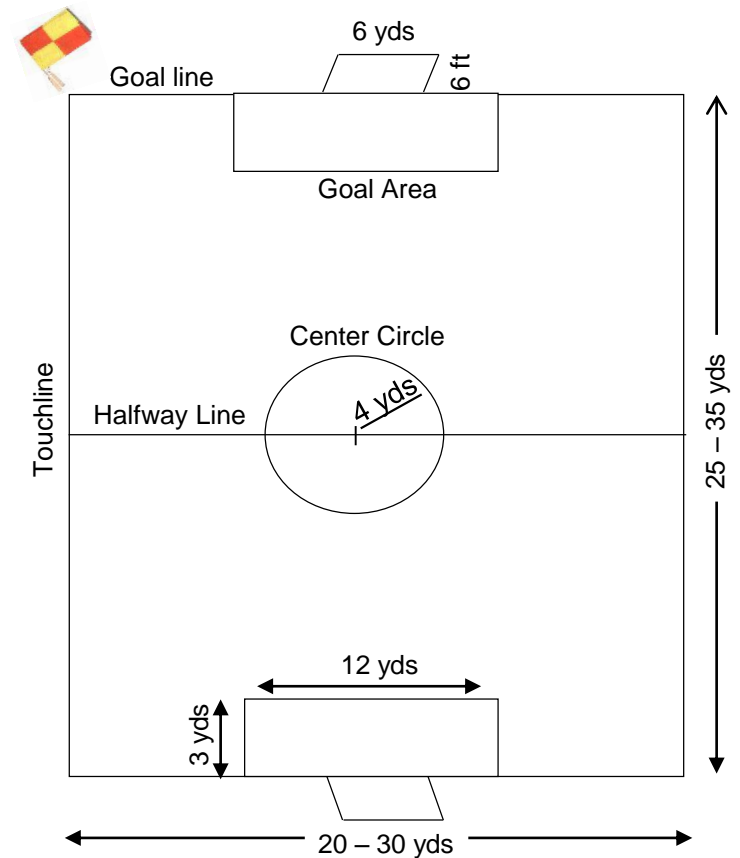
U13 & Older (11 v 11) (FIFA Laws of the Game)



Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground.

Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

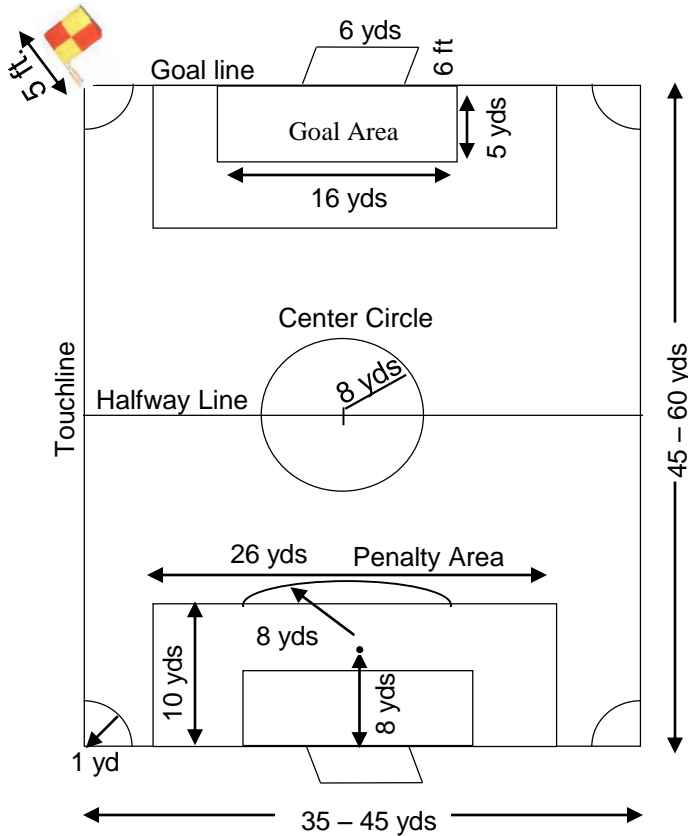
U7 & U8 (4 v 4)



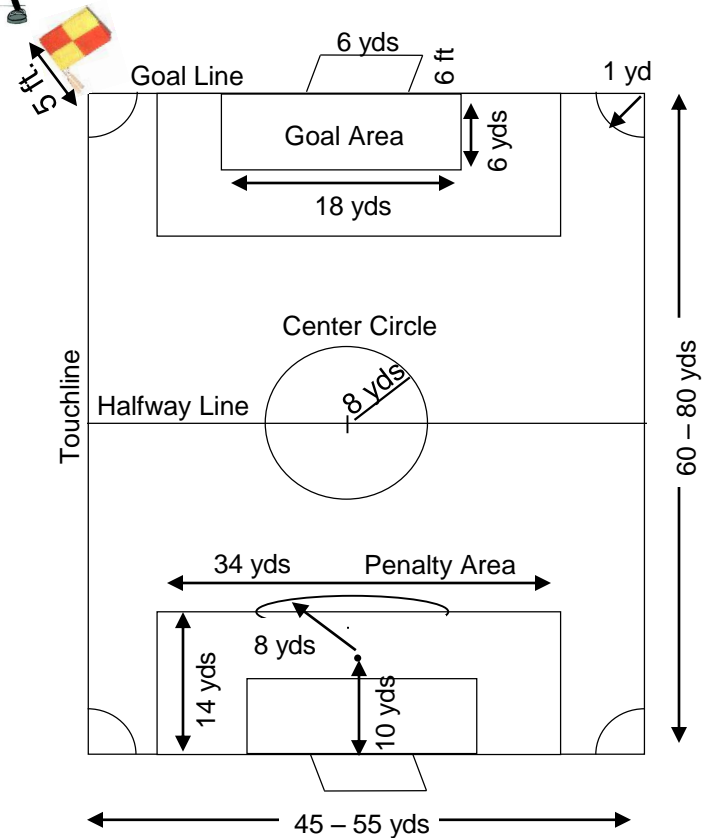
LAW 1 – SMALL-SIDED FIELDS



U9 & U10 (6 v 6)



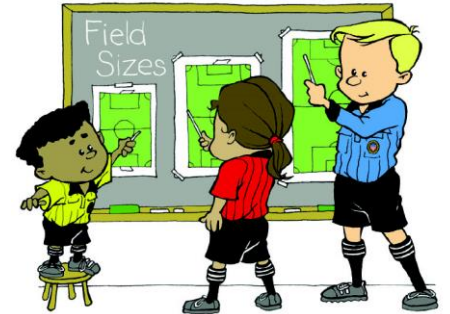
U11 & U12 (8 v 8)



**Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground.
Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.**

LAW 1 - THE FIELD OF PLAY

Recommended Small-Sided Field Dimensions



	<u>4v4</u> (U7 & U8)	<u>6v6</u> (U9 & U10)	<u>8v8</u> (U11 & U12)	<u>11v11</u> (U12 & Older)
Goal Area Line	3 yds.	5 yds.	6 yds.	6 yds.
Penalty Area Line	None	10 yds.	14 yds.	18 yds.
Penalty Spot	None	8 yds.	10 yds.	12 yds.
Center Circle Radius	4 yds.	8 yds.	8 yds.	10 yds.

Law 2 - THE BALL

Spherical

Not dangerous



Ages: U7 & U8

U9 thru U12

U13 & Older

Ball Size: 3

4

5

Pressure: “Thumb test”

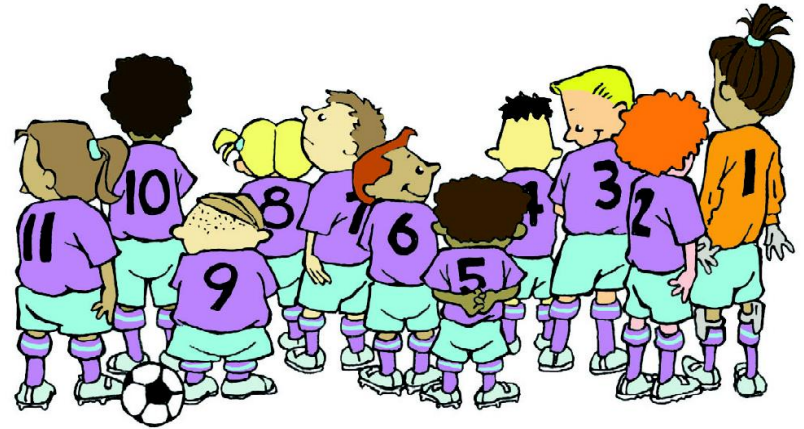


Change only when authorized by Referee.

LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Full-Sided Games

U 13 & Older: 11 v 11 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper ... (minimum of 7 players to continue)



Small-Sided Games (Local Rules May Vary)

U11 & U12: 8 v 8 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper ... (minimum of 7 players to continue)

U9 & U10: 6 v 6 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper ... (minimum of 5 players to continue)

U7 & U8: 4 v 4 players, no goalkeepers

Law 3 - SUBSTITUTIONS

U7 & U8 (Local rules may vary):

Unlimited at any stoppage of play

Between quarters

It is recommended that each player play at least 50% of the game



U9 thru U12 (Local rules may vary):

Unlimited at any stoppage of play

Injury Stoppage

Goal Kick

Kick Off (after goal)

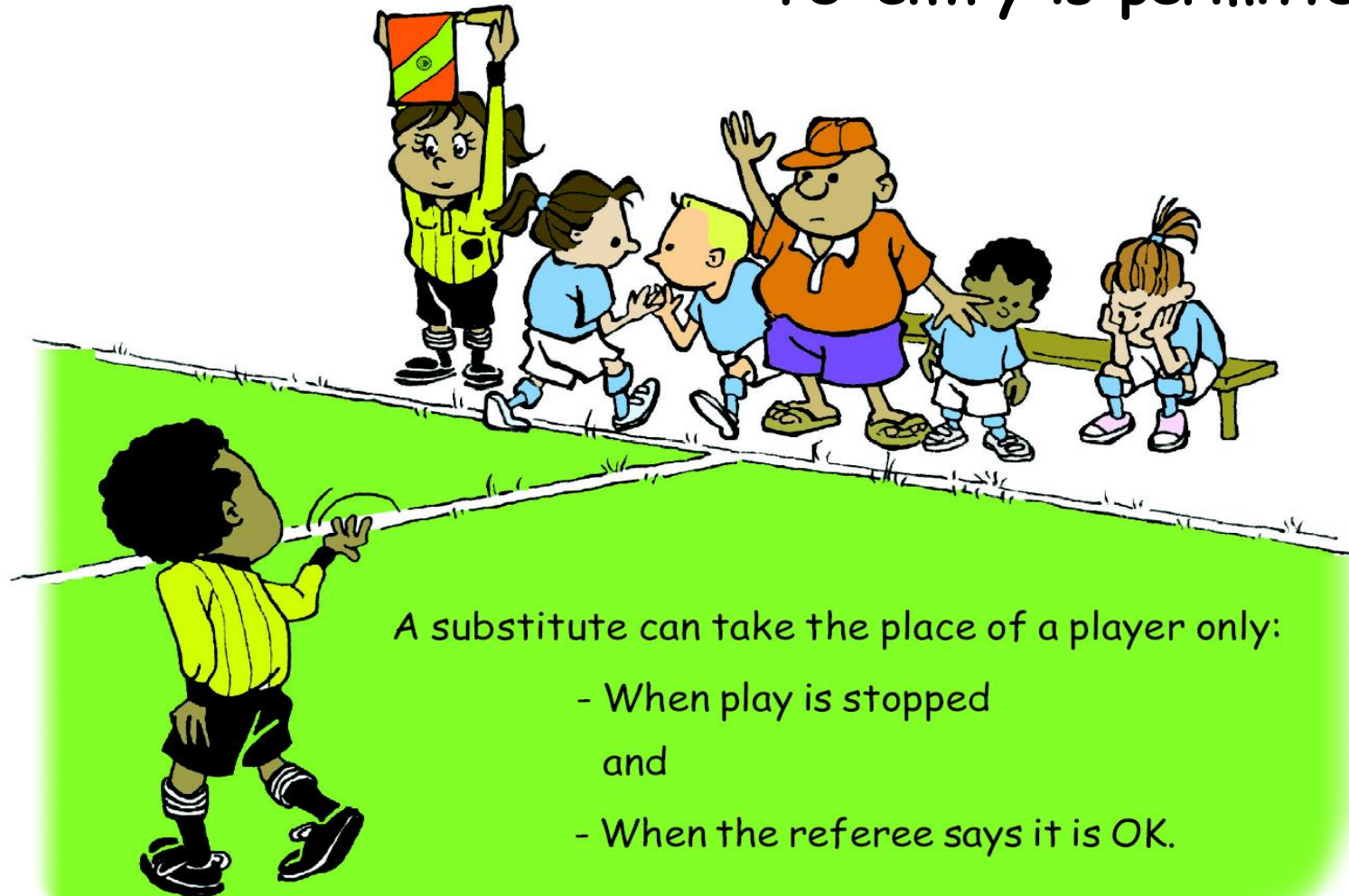
Between Periods

Throw-In ... By team in possession (opponent's may also sub, but only if team in possession is substituting)

... **By either team**

LAW 3 - SUBSTITUTION STEPS

Number of substitutions is unlimited,
re-entry is permitted



A substitute can take the place of a player only:

- When play is stopped
- and
- When the referee says it is OK.

LAW 4 - PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

5S Shirt, **S**horts, **S**hinguards,
Socks, **S**hoes

Nothing which is dangerous to self
or to another player (jewelry).

Tennis shoes or soft-cleat soccer
shoes – even shoes metal studs are OK.

Non-uniform clothing is OK based on
weather conditions, but uniforms
(typically shirt colors) must still
distinguish teams



NO EARRINGS
NO EXCEPTIONS

LAW 6 – ASSISTANT REFEREES

U7 & U8

Assistant Referees are not needed for this age group.

U9 & U10

Assistant Referees are not required for this age group. Club linesmen may be used.

(Local Rules May Vary)

U11 & Older

Registered Assistant Referees are to be used for these age groups.

LAW 7 - DURATION OF THE GAME

U7 & U8

12-min

Quarters

U9 & U10

25-min

Halves

U11 & U12

30-min

Halves

U13 & U14

35-min

Halves

(Local Rules May Vary)

2-minute break between quarters ... 1&2 ... 3&4

5-minute half-time break (all ages)

Add time for:

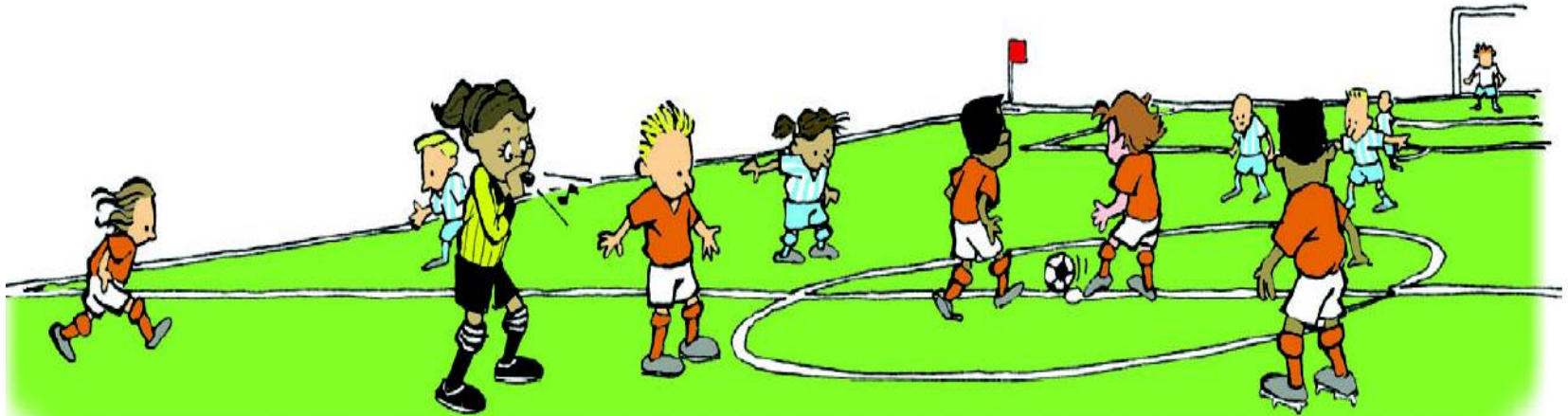
Injury Stoppage

Substitutions



But some tournaments may not allow add time!

LAW 8 - START OF PLAY



Distance from the Ball (Until ball is in play):

Kick-off	U7&U8	U9&U10	U11&U12	U13 & Older
Opponents	4 yds.	8 yds.	8 yds.	10 yds.

All players must be in their own half of field

Ball in play when it is kicked and moves forward

Goal may be scored directly (on first kick)

LAW 11 - OFFSIDE



4 v 4 No Offside, but “cherry picking” not allowed

6 v 6 No Offside, but “Cherry picking” not allowed

8 v 8 Offside as per FIFA / USSoccer

11 v 11 Offside as per FIFA / USSoccer

(Local Rules May Vary)

LAW 12 – FOULS & MISCONDUCT

U7 & U8

All kicks are DIRECT (DFK)

Referee should explain All fouls to offending player

No cards are shown for misconduct

U9 thru U12

A goalkeeper may punt the ball the full length of the field, but the goalkeeper's distribution of the ball is limited.

An Indirect Free Kick (IFK) is to be awarded to the opposing team and taken from the Center Spot on the Halfway Line, if a goalkeeper **punts** the ball **in the air** from their own Penalty Area **directly into** the opponent's Penalty Area. **(Local Rules May Vary)**

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

The minimum distance that all opposing players must be from the ball at the taking of a free kick is the same as the “radius of the center circle”.

	<u>4v4</u>	<u>6v6</u>	<u>8v8</u>	<u>11v11</u>
Center Circle Radius	4 yds.	8 yds.	8 yds.	10 yds.

(Local rules may vary and use a different center circle radius than indicated above, which affects the minimum distance that opponents will need to be away from the ball)

U7 & U8 Games:

All free kicks shall be DIRECT (DFK)

No kicks shall be taken within the opponent’s goal area

LAW 14 – PENALTY KICK

U7 & U8

No Penalty Kicks

U9 & U10

Penalty Spot is 8 yds. from the Goal Line

U11 & U12

Penalty Spot is 10 yds. from the Goal Line

U13 & Older

Penalty Spot is 12 yds. from the Goal Line

LAW 15 – THROW-IN / PASS-IN

U7 & U8

A kick-in pass (instead of a throw-in) may be used to put the ball back into play. It is considered to be an direct free kick (DFK) taken from the touch-line. Opponents must remain 4 yds. away until the kick-in is taken.

If a throw-in is taken, a second throw must be allowed if the initial throw-in is taken incorrectly. Referee shall explain proper method to player before throw-in is retaken.

U9 & Older

If a throw-in is taken incorrectly, a throw-in will be then be given to the opposing team.

LAW 16 - GOAL KICK

U7 & U8

Opponents must be outside goal area AND at least 4 yds. away from the ball, until it has been kicked and moves.

It is suggested that opponents are in their own half of the field, until the ball has been kicked and moves

U9 & U10

Opponents must be outside penalty area. The ball is in play when it is kicked outside the penalty area.

ALL Ages:

The goal kick may be taken anywhere within the goal area.

Kicker may not play the ball twice in succession.



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The goal kick may be taken anywhere within the goal area.

Kicker may not play the ball twice in succession.



LAW 17 - CORNER KICK

Distance from the Corner Arc (Until ball is in play):

Corner Kick:	U7&U8	U9 thru U12	U13 & Older
Opponents	4 yds.	8 yds.	10yds.

Can score directly (first kick)

Ball is in play when kicked and moves

Second-touch by the kicker is not allowed

No Offside on a corner kick

