

**U7 AND U8 RECREATIONAL SOCCER MODIFICATIONS TO THE IFAB 2024/25 LAWS OF THE GAME  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

Law 1	The Field of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Field Dimensions: 25-35 yards long by 15-25 yards wide (SYA fields: 40-45 yards by 28-32 yards)</li> <li>– Center Circle: Not required; if marked, 10-foot radius</li> <li>– Goal Area: Not required; if marked, 4 x 8 yards</li> <li>– No Penalty Area, Penalty Mark, or Penalty Arc</li> <li>– Corner Arc: Not required; if marked, 1-yard radius</li> <li>– Corner flags are not mandatory; substitute items must be safe if used</li> <li>– Goals: 4 x 6 feet</li> </ul>
Law 2	The Ball	Size 3
Law 3	The Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 5 v 5 – no goalkeepers</li> <li>– Minimum of 3 players to start/continue game</li> </ul>
	Grace Period	10 minutes after scheduled kickoff time to field a minimum of 3 players
	Substitutions	Unlimited at any stoppage in play (with Game Facilitator's permission)
	Participation Rule	Every player must play at least 50% of game
Law 4	The Players' Equipment	Uniform numbers are not required
Law 5	The Referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Not required; use Game Facilitator (when there is no referee)</li> <li>– Game Facilitator (or referee) has all responsibilities and authorities under the Laws of the Game</li> <li>– Head coach is responsible for behavior of all players, team officials, and spectators</li> <li>– No yellow/red cards shown to players, coaches, team officials, or spectators</li> </ul>
Law 6	The Other Match Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– None. If used, other match officials have all responsibilities and authorities under Laws of the Game</li> <li>– No "club linesman" unless requested by the Game Facilitator (or referee)</li> </ul>
Law 7	The Duration of the Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2 x 20-minute halves (no added time) (total game time = 40 minutes)</li> <li>– 5-10 minute halftime</li> <li>– Can be adjusted by mutual agreement of coaches and Game Facilitator (or referee)</li> </ul>
Law 8	The Start and Restart of Play	Opponents must be at least 10 feet from ball on kickoff
Law 9	The Ball In and Out of Play	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
Law 10	Determining the Outcome of a Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No scores are kept</li> <li>– No penalty shoot-out to determine a winner</li> </ul>
Law 11	Offside	No offside
Law 12	Fouls and Misconduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Restart for all fouls and misconduct is indirect free kick</li> <li>– Any player may use their hands or arms to protect their head, face, or neck from impact with the ball (at the Game Facilitator or referee's discretion)</li> <li>– No yellow/red cards shown to players, coaches, team officials, or spectators</li> </ul>
	No Heading Rule	Players cannot play the ball with their head <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If action is intentional, restart is an indirect free kick to opponent</li> <li>– If action is unintentional or accidental, restart is a dropped ball</li> </ul>
	No Sliding Rule	Field players cannot slide on the ground (intentionally leave their feet) for any reason
Law 13	The Free Kick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All free kicks are indirect</li> <li>– <u>Kicks Taken in Kicking Team's Half of Field</u>: Opponents must move behind halfway line</li> <li>– <u>Kicks Taken in Defending Team's Half of Field</u>: Opponents must be at least 10 feet from position of kick (unless standing on own goal line and between goal posts)</li> </ul>
Law 14	The Penalty Kick	No penalty kicks
Law 15	The Throw-In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Players can throw-in, kick-in, or dribble-in ball to restart play on a throw-in</li> <li>– Opponents must be at least 10 feet away from position of throw-in</li> <li>– Players cannot throw-in or kick-in ball to themselves (another player must touch ball)</li> <li>– Kick-in is an indirect free kick—goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in (another player must touch ball)</li> <li>– Team taking throw-in does not lose possession for "illegal" throw-in</li> </ul>
Law 16	The Goal Kick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Taken 3-4 yards from goal</li> <li>– Opponents must move behind halfway line</li> <li>– Players can kick-in or dribble-in ball on a goal kick</li> </ul>
Law 17	The Corner Kick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Taken 1-2 yards from corner of field</li> <li>– Opponents must be at least 10 feet away</li> <li>– Players can kick-in or dribble-in ball on a corner kick</li> </ul>