

SYA U7 AND U8 RECREATIONAL SOCCER RULE MODIFICATIONS TO THE IFAB 2026/27 LAWS OF THE GAME

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Law 1	The Field of Play	- Field Dimensions: 25-35 yards long by 15-25 yards wide (SYA fields: 40-45 yards by 28-32 yards) - Center Circle: Not required; if marked, 10-foot radius - Goal Area: Not required; if marked, 4 x 8 yards - No Penalty Area, Penalty Mark, or Penalty Arc - Corner Arc: Not required; if marked, 1-yard radius - Corner flags are not mandatory; substitute items must be safe if used - Goals: 4 x 6 feet
Law 2	The Ball	Size 3
Law 3	The Players	5 v 5 – no goalkeepers - Minimum of 3 players to start/continue game - No team captains are required on the field of play nor any player wear a qualifying armband
	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	- Certified referees are not required; use Game Facilitator (when there is no referee) - Game Facilitator (or referee) has all responsibilities and authorities under the Laws of the Game - Head coach is responsible for behavior of all players, team officials, and spectators - No yellow/red cards shown to players, coaches, team officials, or spectators
Law 6	The Other Match Officials	- None. If used, other match officials have all responsibilities and authorities under Laws of the Game - No "club linesman" unless requested by the Game Facilitator (or referee)
Law 7	The Duration of the Match	2 x 20-minute halves (no added time) (total game time = 40 minutes) 5-minute halftime - Can be adjusted by mutual agreement of coaches and Game Facilitator (or referee)
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	- No scores are kept - No penalty shoot-out to determine a winner
Law 11	Offside	No offside
Law 12	Fouls and Misconduct	- Restart for all fouls and misconduct is an indirect free kick - 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) - No yellow/red cards shown to players, coaches, team officials, or spectators
	No Heading Rule	Players cannot play the ball with their head - If action is intentional, restart is an indirect free kick to opponent - If action is unintentional or accidental, restart is a dropped ball
	No Sliding Rule	Field players cannot slide on the ground (intentionally leave their feet) for any reason
Law 13	The Free Kick	- All free kicks are indirect <u>Kicks Taken in Kicking Team's Half of Field</u>: Opponents must move behind the halfway line <u>Kicks Taken in Defending Team's Half of Field</u>: Opponents must be at least 10 feet from position of the kick (unless standing on own goal line and between goal posts)
Law 14	The Penalty Kick	No penalty kicks
Law 15	The Throw-In	- Players can throw-in, kick-in, or dribble-in ball to restart play on a throw-in - Opponents must be at least 10 feet away from position of throw-in - Players cannot throw-in or kick-in ball to themselves (another player must touch the ball) - Kick-in is an indirect free kick—goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in (another player must touch the ball) - Team taking throw-in does not lose possession for "illegal" throw-in
Law 16	The Goal Kick	- Taken 3-4 yards from goal - Opponents must move behind the halfway line - Players can kick-in or dribble-in ball on a goal kick
Law 17	The Corner Kick	- Taken 1-2 yards from corner of field - Opponents must be at least 10 feet away - Players can kick-in or dribble-in ball on a corner kick