

# Yukon Soccer Club Under 8 Rules

Under 8 Playing recommendations  
as modified for Yukon Soccer Club from the US Youth Soccer recommended  
modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

FIFA Laws of the Game can be found at [www.ussoccer.com/referees](http://www.ussoccer.com/referees).

## **Law 1 - The Field of Play:**

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 yards maximum 35 yards

Width: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area. There is a line painted approximately 6 yards from the goal line all the way across the field. All opposing players are to be outside of this line during the taking of the goal kick. The ball must travel past this line before anyone touches it or the kick will be taken again.

The Penalty Area: None.

Flagposts: None.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is 6 feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 6 feet.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground.

**Law 2 - The Ball:** Size three (3).

**Law 3 - The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than four players. There are NO goalkeepers. Defenders should not stand in the goal box during the entire game and are encouraged to move up the field when their team moves the ball over the half line.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and games may be coed.

**Law 4 - The Players Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

**Law 5 - The Referee:** An OFFICIAL (Game Manager or Coordinator or Parent or Coach or Grade 9 referee) may be used. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**Law 6 - The Assistant Referees:** None.

**Law 7 - The Duration of the Match:** The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, twelve (12) minute quarters. There shall be two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 9 - The Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 10 - The Method of Scoring:** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 11 - Offside:** None.

**Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in a direct free kick. The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct. No slide tackling is allowed.

**Law 13 - Free Kicks:** Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that all free kicks are direct and opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 14 - The Penalty Kick:** None.

**Law 15 – The Throw-In:** Throw-ins are to be taken correctly. Do-overs are allowed if not. Opponents should be 2 yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 16 - The Goal Kick:** The goal kick should be taken at the goal area. Opposing players must be outside the goal area AND on the other side of the line until the ball is in play. If the ball is touched by any player before the ball crosses the line the kick will be retaken.

**Law 17 - The Corner Kick:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

# ADDENDUM

## Law 1

**The Field of Play:** dimensions are smaller to accommodate the four-versus-four game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of six and seven-year-old children. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful.

**Field Markings:** the center circle gives the players a concrete marking on where to be for the kick-off. The corner arc gives the young player a concrete place to put the ball to kick it back onto the field of play. While kids this young will execute corner kick plays to a modest degree taking a kick from the corner is a reasonable way for them to put the ball into play and provides continuity with all other age groups.

**Goals:** the goal, 6 x 6 feet. Clubs are free to use cones, pop-up goals or other items to designate the goal for this age group. Any goal must be properly anchored to the ground.

## Law 2

**The Ball:** must be a size three. The smaller ball is lighter and more easily kicked, received, dribbled and passed.

## Law 3

**The Number of Players:** there are no goalkeepers in the U8 age group so that all of the players may chase the ball around the field. The kids want to be where the action is and at this age it is around the ball. This will provide the opportunity for the children to further develop their running, jumping and kicking coordination. These are valuable traits for all soccer players to develop. The smaller number of players takes into account the egocentrism of this age group and therefore allows each child more opportunities for kicking and dribbling the ball. With fewer players on the field each child has an increased number of contacts with the ball and has more actual playing time. Additionally the players will be required to make more decisions and experience repeating game situations frequently. The involvement of players will be more consistent. While learning both offense and defense, players will become well rounded and will understand more readily the roles and importance of teammates. Children in the U8 age group will intentionally play in pairs. The smaller number of players on the field will make it easier and more likely that passing and receiving will occur.

## Law 5

**The Referee:** a referee is assigned to this age group. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

## Law 6

**The Assistant Referees:** none are needed.

### **Law 7**

**The Duration of the Match:** the game is divided into four quarters. Quarters are played in the U8 age group to accommodate the attention span and physical limitations of the children.

### **Law 10**

**Goal Scored:** shall conform to FIFA.

### **Law 11**

**Offside:** there shall be no offside called during these games.

### **Law 12**

**Fouls and Misconduct:** no caution or send off shall be issued to players. If a child is being too rambunctious then the game official will ask the coach to make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play. No slide tackling is allowed.

### **Law 13**

**Free Kicks:** all free kicks shall be direct. This should keep the game flowing and keep the attention of the kids.

### **Law 14**

**The Penalty Kick:** for this age group there will not be any penalty kicks called.

### **Law 15**

**The Kick-In:** some U8 players do not yet have the eye-hand coordination to execute a throw-in to the letter of the law. However, some U8 players have sufficient eye-hand coordination to attempt the throw-in. One 'do-over' per thrower should be the normal response if the throw-in is incorrect. The referee officiating the match should explain to the child how to execute the throw-in correctly.

### **Law 16**

**The Goal Kick:** per FIFA. The defending players must stand at least 4 yards away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play once it has crossed the line painted across the field.

### **Law 17**

**The Corner Kick:** per FIFA. The defending players must stand at least four yards away from the ball until it is in play.

## **OTHER**

**Roster Size:** Under the single field method the recommended minimum roster size is six players and the maximum roster size is eight players.

**Playing Time:** A minimum of at least 50% playing time is required. The goal of the U6 facilitator is to achieve 100% playing time for each child.

## **ADVANTAGES OF PLAYING SMALL SIDED GAMES**

- More time with the coach/facilitator
- Energetic workouts due to playing both offense and defense
- More efficient use of field space
- Matches can be played simultaneously across a full size field
- Children are physically more efficient in smaller space
- Children are actively involved for a longer period of time
- It takes less time to score a goal or advance to goal
- Greater success rate for the players

## **US Youth Soccer Recommendations**

- Opposing coaches, players and parents should shake hands after each match.
- Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- No slide tackles to be allowed in this age group.
- Coaches of U6 teams should attend the U6/U8 Youth Module coaching course and the Grade 9 referee course.