

Nashville Youth Soccer Association
Modified FIFA Laws
Under 8 Division

Law I – The Field

- A. Field Size: 50 yd x 30 yd
- B. Goal Size: 12'W x 6'H x 4'D

Law II – The Ball

- A. Ball Size: three (3)

Law III – The Number of Players

- A. 12 players maximum per team
- B. On Field: 5 players and a goalkeeper (6 v. 6)
- C. The coach must remain in the coach's box (from the top of the penalty area to the sideline.) The coach or anyone filling in for a coach must be at least 18 years of age. Only the coach and an assistant coach are permitted on the player's bench side of the field during the game.
- D. Coaches should refrain from talking to the referee during the game. If the coach has a question, he/she should wait for half time or the conclusion of the game. The referee will not stop the game or the clock to talk to a coach.
- E. Substitutions may only occur only at the quarter breaks, except in the case of injuries, for which substitutions may occur at any time with the permission of the referee.
- F. All players should play at least ½ the game.
- G. No player should play more than 1 half of a game in the goalkeeper position.

Law IV – Player's Equipment

- A. Footwear: Soccer cleats or tennis shoes (cleats are preferred). Baseball or Football cleats (cleats which contain a single cleat at the toe or very front of the shoe) are not allowed.
- B. Shin guards are required to be worn underneath the sock. The sock must completely cover the shin guards at all times. Players are not permitted to take the field without shin guards.
- C. ALL items of jewelry are strictly forbidden and must be removed prior to game time. This includes all necklaces and bracelets (whether string, leather, metal, or plastic), rings, earrings (including nose rings, tongue studs, and other piercings), leather bands, rubber bands etc. Using tape or band-aids to cover jewelry is NOT acceptable - the item must be removed. Furthermore, players must remove from their hair ALL hard clips, beads, or large bows from their hair. Soft "scrunchies" or pony-tail holders are permissible. The referees will inspect teams prior to each game and will ask a player out of compliance in this area to remove the jewelry or hair accessory. The player will not be permitted to play unless they are in compliance.

Law V – The Referee

- A. Certified or league approved Referee.

Law VI – The Assistant Referees

- A. Not used for this age group

Law VII – The Duration of the Match

- A. Length: The game shall be divided into 4 equal quarters of 12 minutes each.
- B. Breaks: There shall be a 2 minute break between the first and second quarter and the third and fourth quarter and a 5 minute half-time break.
- C. Teams shall switch goals at half time.

Law VIII – The Start of Play

- A. The referee shall determine the team that kicks off with a coin flip or referee discretion.
- B. Opponents must be at least 6 yards from the center mark while the kick-off is in progress. The ball is in play when it is kicked or played forward into the opponent's half of the field.
- C. A goal may be scored directly from a kick-off.

D. The player kicking the ball on a kick-off must not kick the ball again before another player touches the ball.

Law IX – Ball in and out of play

A. The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or the touch line. The ball is in play at all other times.

Law X – Method of Scoring

A. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Modified Laws has been committed by the team scoring the goal.

B. Soccer is a team sport, and as such, all players should be given the opportunity to score. Coaches should encourage players to pass the ball to other teammates. When a player has scored three goals in a game, the player should be moved into a non-scoring position, or instructed to pass rather than shoot, to allow other players the opportunity to score. No player should be allowed to score more than 3 goals per game. This is a practical rule designed improve the soccer skills of all players.

Law XI – Offside

A. Egregious offside offenses will be called.

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct

A. A foul may be called if a player commits any of the following offenses:

- kicking, striking, or attempting to kick or strike an opponent;
- charging or tackling an opponent in a violent, reckless, or dangerous manner;
- tripping, pushing, or holding an opponent in a violent, reckless, or dangerous manner or in a manner which creates an advantage for the player;
- using obscene or profane language or making such gestures;
- acting in a manner which obstructs the game or otherwise creates a disturbance;
- spitting at an opponent;
- a handball.

B. The referee and/or coach shall explain all infractions to the offending player.

C. There shall be NO SLIDE TACKLES.

D. In accordance with FIFA rules, yellow cards (warning) and/or red cards (ejection from game) may be issued to a player by the referee. If a player receives two yellow cards or one red card in a single game, the player will be ejected from the game. The team may not replace the ejected player with a substitute; they must continue play one player short. If a player receives a red card, he/she will also be required to sit out the next game played.

Law XIII - Free Kicks

A. Conform to FIFA law. All kicks will be indirect except for a penalty kick.

Law XIV – The Penalty Kick

A. A penalty kick can be awarded only for intentional hand ball in the box or in the discretion of the referee if a foul is committed to prevent a goal attempt.

Law XV – Throw-Ins

A. A throw-in is necessary when the ball goes out of play across a touchline. The thrower must face the field when delivering the ball and part of each foot shall be on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from directly behind and over his or her head.

B. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in.

C. A second throw in shall be allowed if the initial attempt is improper. The ball shall go over to the other team if the second attempt is improper.

Law XVI – Goal Kick

A. Conform to FIFA law.

Law XVII – Corner Kick

A. Conform to FIFA law.

FIFA Laws of the game may be downloaded from the FIFA web site at:
<http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html>