HSC: Nashville Youth Soccer Association
Modified FIFA Laws
Under 5 Division

Law I – The Field
A. Field Size: 20 yd x 40 yd
B. Goal Size: 10'W x 5'H x 3'D

Law II – The Ball
A. Ball Size: three (3)

Law III – The Number of Players
A. Maximum of 8 players per team
B. On Field: 4 players and the coach (4 v. 4) Note: The coach or anyone filling in for a coach must be at least 18 years of age. Since the coach is on the field during the game, either *one* parent or an assistant coach is permitted on the player's bench side of the field during the game. All other parents and spectators must watch the game from the opposite touch line. No assistant coaches or spectators may sit/stand/coach from behind the goal or along the goal lines.
C. No goalkeeper in this age division.
D. Substitutions may 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. However, once a player is substituted out, he/she may not return for the rest of that quarter.
E. All players must be given the opportunity to play at least ½ of the game.

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. <u>ALL items of jewelry are strictly forbidden and must be removed prior to game time</u>. 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.
D. 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 8 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 5 yards from the center mark while the kick-off is in progress

and all players must be in their own half of the field of play
C. The ball must be stationary on the center mark until the referee gives a signal to start.
D. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
E. The player kicking the ball on a kick-off must not kick the ball again before another player touches the ball.
F. A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from the kick-off.

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.

Law XI – Offside
A. There is no offside offense in this division.

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct
A. Fouls shall be called with an understanding of the age of the players. A foul may be called if a player commits any of the following offenses: kicking, striking, or attempting to kick or strike and 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; spitting at an opponent; deliberate handling of the ball.
B. All fouls shall result in an INDIRECT FREE KICK.
C. The referee and/or coach shall explain all infractions to the offending player.
D. There shall be NO SLIDING by a player on the field for any reason. A slide is defined as the deliberate leading of one foot or both feet when going to ground.
E. In accordance with the U.S. Soccer Concussion Initiative, deliberate heading of the ball is prohibited. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.

Law XIII- Free Kicks
A. There are no direct kicks and all fouls shall result in an indirect free kick taken at the spot of the foul. The ball must be stationary on the taking of the free kick and the kicker shall not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player of either team.
B. There shall be no free kicks taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal area. If a foul is committed in the defending team's goal box, the ball shall be placed 5 yards away from the goal box for the indirect free kick.
C. The opposing team shall be at least 5 yards away from the ball when the free kick is taken.
D. The referee has the discretion to stop play and award a free kick to the defending team if play has become stalled or hazardous because of congestion of players around the ball.

Law XIV – The Penalty Kick
A. There are no penalty kicks in this age group.

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. At the discretion of the referee, successive throw-ins may be allowed if the initial attempt

is improper.
D. After delivering the ball, the thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
F. All opponents must stand no less than 2 yards from the point at which the throw-in is taken.

Law XVI – Goal Kick
A. A goal kick shall occur if the attacking team kicks the ball over the defending team's goal line without scoring a goal.
B. The ball must be stationary and is kicked from any point inside the goal area by a player of the defending team.
C. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
D. The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player.
E. The opposing team must be five yards from the goal box when the ball is kicked.
F. A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from a goal kick.

Law XVII – Corner Kick
A. A corner kick shall occur if the defending team kicks the ball over their own goal line.
B. A corner kick shall occur from anywhere inside the corner arc with the opposing team at least 5 yards away. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
C. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.
D. The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player.

The International Football Association Board *Laws of the Game* may be downloaded from the USSF web site at:
http://www.ussoccer.com/referees/laws-of-the-game

or from the FIFA web site at:
http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html