



U-8 Guidelines

The Field:

The field size for U-8 games is 50 yards long, 25 yards wide (max).

The Markings:

Distinctive lines recommended.

Halfway line the width of the field, marked equidistant between the goal lines. Center circle with an six-yard radius in the center of the field. Corner arcs with a one-yard radius at each corner of the field. Goal area in front of each goal measuring 6 x 12 yards.

The Goals:

Maximum six feet high and six yards wide.

The Ball:

A size 3 ball is used for U-8 games.

The Players:

There will be Five per team on field; no goalkeepers. Seven maximum on roster.

Substitutions are between periods, at halftime and for injuries. The players will be seperated by girls and boys teams at all levels of play. Playing time is a minimum of two periods per game and no player should play four periods until everyone has played three. Separate girls and boys teams should be promoted at all levels of play.

Player Equipment:

Shoes and shinguards, covered by the socks are mandatory at all practice and game activities. Soccer shoes, tennis shoes, or similar type athletic shoes are recommended. The type and condition of cleated shoes must be inspected for safety before use.

Duration of Game:

Four 10-minute periods. Halftime break of 5–10 minutes.

The Start of Play:

The game should be started with a kick-off in the middle of the field.

The Kick-off:

A coin toss is used to determine which team kicks off to start the game and the other team kicks off to start the second half. Opponents must be six yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Method of Scoring:

See U-8 Coaching Manual.

Fouls & Misconduct

The coaches will asses direct free kicks for all fouls, with the opponents six yards away from the ball.

Direct free kicks for all fouls, with the opponents six yards away from the ball. Free kicks are awarded the attacking team inside the defending team's goal area should be taken from the nearest point on the goal area line in front of the goal. There are no penalty kicks. Referees will work cooperatively with the coaches and eliminate the need for cautions and send-offs. Do not show yellow or red cards

U-8 Officials:

AYSO certified U-8 Officials or higher are required for U-8 games. The U-8 Official should briefly explain any

infringements to the player(s) and encourage proper play and sporting behavior. As with all games, every effort should be made to keep the game moving and free from stoppages for doubtful infractions. Let them play and enjoy.

Assistant Referees/Club Linesmen:

If available, qualified assistant referees who have completed Assistant Referee Certification may be used to assist the referee. This is an opportunity for new assistant referees to begin getting experience. If qualified assistant referees are not available, Club Linesmen (untrained volunteers who may be affiliated with one of the teams/clubs) may be recruited from the spectators to assist the referee with calling the ball in and out of play only. This is an opportunity for parents to get involved.

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