

Revised February 20, 2017

JASA Mini Soccer Rules (based on US Youth Soccer Official Under 8 Playing Recommendations)

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: 25 yards      Width: 15 yards      (approximate)

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: A single arc of about two (2) yards is drawn around the goal. The area bounded by this line and the goal line is the goal area. All players must remain outside of this goal area unless the ball is in the goal area. This is to prevent using a player to guard the goal.

The Penalty Area: none.

Flagposts: none.

The Corner Arc: None.

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.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2–The Ball: Size three (3).

Law 3–The Number of Players: A match is 4v4. No more than four (4) players are on the field at any time and there are NO goalkeepers. Jerseys are reversible which allows players to be loaned to the other team to make the sides even.

Substitutions: At any time – as stoppage is not necessary. Simply send a player in and remove a similar number from the field.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches 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: coaches are allowed on the field, but should refrain from trying to control the players – let the players play the game. The coaches should help keep the ball in play and quietly manage the actions required to start a quarter or bring a ball back into play. If a player commits an aggressive foul such as kicking, tripping, or pushing another player, then a coach stops the player (not the game) and kindly informs the player of the foul. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player with the intent of keeping the game safe and teaching the rules of the game in an age appropriate manner.

Law 6–The Assistant Referees: None.

Law 7–The Duration of the Match: The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters.

Law 8–The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the starting kick is indirect and a goal may not be scored from it.

Law 9–The Ball In and Out of Play: Use the “New ball” format to continue play. Each coach carries two soccer balls and when a ball goes out of play, one coach announces loudly “new ball” and then returns a ball onto the field of play by hand. This is done immediately by a coach with the express purpose of preventing any stoppage in play. Roll the ball (do NOT bounce the ball) onto the field. Allow a ball that is close to the line to be considered in – don’t be too quick to call a ball out. If there is a player who is not participating because of timidity, sometimes roll the ball to that player to give them a chance to touch the ball.

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 stopping the player (not the game) and explaining the nature of the foul. The referee/coach must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.

Law 13–Free Kicks: None.

Law 14–The Penalty Kick: None.

Law 15–The Throw-In: None.

Law 16–The Goal Kick: None.

Law 17–The Corner Kick: None.

The purpose of the modified rules is to promote touches and the free play of the game by the players. Having fun and being safe are paramount while learning the game in the process.