

JASA U12 Junior Rules

Effective Date: June 1, 2025

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: 80 yards (240 feet) Width: 50 yards (150 feet) Other Dimensions: See JASA Field Chart

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than 5 inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by the halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line.

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. Goals must be anchored securely to the ground.

Law 2 – The Ball

Size: Size four (4)

Law 3 – Players

Number of Players: A total of eight (8) field players plus a goalkeeper making nine (9) total players on the field for each team.

Substitutions: Substitutions can be made at any stoppage in play (injury stoppage, ball goes out of bounds, goal is scored, etc.).

Playing Time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time unless medically or otherwise restricted to do so.

Law 4 – Player Equipment

All players are REQUIRED to wear shin guards which conform to FIFA standards for player safety. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions as long as uniform color is still distinguishable. Hoods attached to sweatshirts must be tucked in under the jersey to prevent being pulled. JEWELRY IS PROHIBITED! This includes but is not limited to earrings, nose rings, necklaces, and bracelets.

Law 5 – The Referee

JASA will provide two (2) US Soccer certified referees for all games. These referees will be responsible for keeping time, calling fouls and misconduct via the laws of the game, and

helping foster a safe and fun environment for all players, coaches and parents. The referee has final say on all matters pertaining to the game. Player, parent, or coach misconduct WILL NOT be tolerated and will be dealt with by the JASA Board of Directors when necessary and may result in further disciplinary action up to and including permanent removal from JASA facilities and programs.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referee

See Law 5.

Law 7 – Duration of the Match

The match shall be divided into two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes. There shall be a five (5) minute break between the first and second half.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

A kickoff is performed at the beginning of each half from the center circle. Before the start of the game the Referee will call for team captains from each team and a coin toss will be performed to determine possession of the first kickoff. A kickoff is also performed after any goal scored and is taken by the team that was scored against. Kickoffs are considered an “Indirect Kick” which means the team kicking is not able to score directly off the kickoff until someone other than the person taking the kickoff touches the ball. The ball must be touched and clearly move to be put into play.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

The ball will be considered “out of play” when the entire ball completely crosses over either the goal line or the touch line.

Law 10 – Method of Scoring

The entire ball must cross the goal line between the two goal posts and under the crossbar to count as a goal. If the ball does not fully cross the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, it is not a goal and play continues.

Law 11 – Offsides

Offsides will be called when a player is deemed in an offside position by the referee when the ball is played. A player shall be considered in an offsides position if they are positioned between the second to last defender and the opposing team’s goal line at the time of the ball being played by a teammate. Players may be in an offsides position, but if a ball is played towards them, they would be called for offsides.

Offsides is the most difficult law in soccer and takes time to understand. If you have any questions about how this law is enforced, please speak with the Referee or a JASA Board Member before or after the game and they will be happy to help.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Conform to FIFA and IFAB instruction.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Free kicks will be awarded at the discretion of the Referee based on fouls committed during the run of play. See Law 12.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Penalty kicks will be awarded in the event that a foul is committed inside the Penalty Area as deemed by the Referee. See Law 12.

Law 15 – Throw-Ins

Any ball that is kicked or touched out of bounds over the touchline will be awarded a throw-in to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball before it completely crossed the touchline. The player must keep both feet on the ground, behind the touchline and the ball must come over their head completely to constitute a legal throw.

Law 16 – Goal Kick

Any ball that is kicked or touched out of bounds by the attacking team over the goal line but not within the frame of the goal will be a goal kick to the defending team. The ball must be placed inside the goal box and kicked from the ground by a defending team's player. The attacking team must retreat outside of the Penalty Area and may not enter the Penalty Area until after the ball has been touched by a defending team's player and clearly moves.

Law 17 – Corner Kick

Any ball that is kicked or touched out of bounds by the defending team over the goal line but not within the frame of the goal will be a corner kick to the attacking team. The ball must be placed inside the 2ft arc on the side of the field closest to where the ball went out. The ball is in play when it is touched by an attacking team's player and clearly moves. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

Misc. Notes

Any ball that is caught or stopped by the goalkeeper with their hands or arms will be considered to be in possession by the goalkeeper. The goalie may release the ball into play by

either punting the ball, throwing the ball, or placing it on the ground and kicking it to a teammate.

The goalkeeper will be in possession of the ball if he or she has control of the ball with his hands or arms. If the goalkeeper has the ball pinned to the ground with any part of his or her hand or arm, they will be considered in possession and if any player kicks or attempts to kick the ball out of their control a direct free kick to the goalkeeper's team will be awarded.

Lastly: heading the ball is permitted in this age group.