

Mankato Riverbend SoccerFest

Modified Rules of Play

Rule of play conform to *Laws of the Game* with the following modifications:

Law 1 – Field

Dimensions

- Under 8: 25 yards wide by 40 yards long.
- Under 10: 35 yards wide by 55 yards long.
- Under 12: 50 yards wide by 80 yards long.
- Under 14: No modification

Markings

- Under 8: Center circle and goal area arcs with radius of 5 yards; corner arcs with radius of 2 feet.
- Under 10: Center circle with radius of 6 yards; goal areas 6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards into the field; penalty areas 10 yards from each goal post and 10 yards into the field; corner arcs with radius of 2 feet.
- Under 12: Center circle and penalty arcs with radius of 8 yards; goal areas 6 yards from each goal post and 6 yards into the field; penalty areas 14 yards from each goal post and 14 yards into the field; penalty marks 10 yards from goal lines; corner arcs with radius of 2 feet.
- Under 14: No modification

Goals:

- Under 8: 5 feet high by 10 feet wide.
- Under 10: 6-7 feet high by 12 feet wide.
- Under 12: 7 feet high by 21 feet wide.
- Under 14: No modification

Law 2 – Ball

- Under 8: Size 3.
- Under 10: Size 4.
- Under 12: Size 4.
- Under 14: No modification

Law 3 – Players and Substitutions

- Under 8: Maximum of 4 players and minimum of 3, including goalkeeper. Roster limit of 8.
- Under 10: Maximum of 6 players and minimum of 4, including goalkeeper. Roster limit of 12.
- Under 12: Maximum of 8 players and minimum of 5, including goalkeeper. Roster limit of 14.
- Under 14: No modification

Coaches shall present completed SoccerFest rosters to referees before the start of each match. Referee shall inspect player passes prior to kick-off to verify registration status and age level.

Teams may substitute during any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee.

Law 4 – Players' Equipment

Players must not wear anything which is dangerous to themselves or other players, including any kind of jewelry except medical or religious medals that are taped to the body. SMSA recommends that referees consider hard casts, splints, hinged knee braces, and padded headgear to be potentially dangerous. Eyeglasses must be secured with a strap or band.

Teammates (except goalkeepers) must wear matching jerseys or shirts and matching stockings. Goalkeepers must wear jerseys, shirts, or vests which distinguish them from the other players and the referee. All players must wear safe shoes, such as tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes, and shinguards which must be covered completely by stockings.

Law 5 – Referee

The referee is a certified USSF official who enforces the rules so as to encourage safety, fair play, and enjoyment of the game for all participants. He or she serves as timekeeper and scorer, and has the authority to stop, suspend, or terminate the match for rule violations, dangerous weather, and other causes. All referee decisions concerning the game are final.

Law 6 – Assistant Referees

Assistant referees are not required for Under 8 and Under 10 matches. If certified USSF assistant referees are available for Under 12 matches, they may indicate when the ball has passed completely out of the field of play; which side is entitled to the throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick; when a player may be penalized for being in an offside position; when a substitution is requested; and when misconduct or other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee. If club assistants are used, they shall indicate only when the ball has passed completely out of the field of play.

Law 7 – Duration

- Under 8: Two equal periods of 15 minutes.
- Under 10: Two equal periods of 20 minutes.
- Under 12: Two equal periods of 20 minutes.
- Under 14: Two equal periods of 25 minutes.

The halftime interval is five minutes.

The tournament director shall monitor the heat index and inform coaches and game officials when it reaches dangerous levels. In such cases, referees shall apply the following modifications:

Heat Index Modification(s)

- Up to 79o Normal play.
- 80o-89 o 2 minute water break with running time midway through each period.
- 90o-99 o Shorten each period by 5 minutes; 2 minute water break with running time midway through each period.
- 100 o Suspend play.

Referees shall not stop play arbitrarily for water breaks, but instead shall take advantage of normal stoppages of play near the midpoint of each period.

There is no overtime after tied games.

Law 11 – Offside

- Under 8: No offside.
- Under 10: No offside.
- Under 12: No modification
- Under 14: No modification

However, U8 and U10 coaches should discourage players from lurking deep in the opposing team's end of the field, waiting for easy scoring opportunities. Such tactics disrupt the flow of the game and undermine the positive sporting attitudes that youth soccer seeks to promote.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Referees shall explain all violations briefly to the offending players.

Under 8 and Under 10 coaches should discourage slide tackling, which is unnecessary and frequently unsafe at these ages.

Referees should avoid showing yellow and red cards to Under 8 and Under 10 players whenever less drastic means will suffice to deal with misconduct.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

- Under 8: All free kicks are indirect. Opponents must remain at least 5 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
- Under 10: All free kicks are indirect. Opponents must remain at least 6 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
- Under 12: Opponents must remain at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
- Under 14: No modification

Law 14 – Penalty Kicks

- Under 8: No penalty kicks.
- Under 10: No penalty kicks.
- Under 12: Penalty kicks are taken from 8 yards.
- Under 14: No modification

Law 15 – Throw-Ins

- Under 8: A player who makes an illegal throw is allowed another try. The referee explains the correct method before the player tries again.
- Under 10: No modification.
- Under 12: No modification.
- Under 14: No modification.

Law 16 – Goal Kicks

- Under 8: Opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least 5 yards from the ball until it is kicked into play beyond the goal area.
- Under 10: Opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least 6 yards from the ball until it is kicked into play beyond the goal area.
- Under 12: Opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked into play beyond the goal area.
- Under 14: No modification

Law 17 – Corner Kicks

- Under 8: Opponents must remain at least 5 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
- Under 10: Opponents must remain at least 6 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
- Under 12: Opponents must remain at least 8 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
- Under 14: No modification

Second Touch Violations

The referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team if a player restarts play with a kick-off, free kick, penalty kick, throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick and touches the ball again before it touches another player of either team.