

UNDER 7 AND UNDER 8 LAWS OF THE GAME

Pitch size should be 40 yards x 30 yards

LAW 1

Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a half way line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid point of the half way line. This is also used as a retreat line when restarting play with a goal kick.

Goal size

The distance between the posts is 12 feet and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 6 feet.

LAW 2

The Ball

The ball should be size three for u7 and u8. It should be safe and made of leather or other suitable material.

LAW 3

Number of players.

Maximum number per team including goalkeeper

Under 7 is 5x5 and Under 8's 7 x 7 for season 2013/14 and 5x5 for season 2014/15 onwards.

The above table indicates the maximum number of players per team at that age group. If the competition would like to have smaller numbers e.g. 4x4 at U7 or U8, this is allowed within this framework.

A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than four players. The minimum number of players in a team required for a match to CONTINUE is also four. Matches can begin with 5x4 but the importance and ethos of Mini Soccer should be upheld wherever possible and the development of the children should come before the score line.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition Rules. Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

All team members should receive equal playing time where possible, with a best practice recommendation of at least 50% per player for each game.

LAW 4

Playing Equipment.

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear distinguishing playing top. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks. Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependant on the weather.

Correct footwear must be worn for the surface of the pitch e.g. no metal studs on artificial grass pitches.

LAW 5

Referees

The authority of the referee.

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the laws for mini soccer in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

Furthermore, referees should also recognise their role is to facilitate the learning of the players, for example, allow young children to take a second attempt at a throw in if the first is not within the laws.

LAW 6

Assistant Referees

Assistant referees are not required

LAW 7

Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than 40 minutes. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer or organisation to ensure the child does not exceed this. Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted, however, the maximum duration will be two halves of 20 minutes.

It is permitted during development matches that the period can be split into equal quarters. The half time interval must not exceed five minutes.

Please refer to the Standard Code of Rules for youth competitions.

LAW 8

Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game or after a goal has been scored. Opponents must be five yards away from the ball and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward. In mini soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match, after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area, takes place on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped. No goal can be scored direct from a dropped ball.

LAW 9

Ball in and out of play

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 10

Method of Scoring

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of association Football.

LAW 11

Offside

There is no off side.

LAW 12

Fouls and Misconduct

Normal rules apply, as per the Laws of Association Football. However, in Mini Soccer all free kicks are direct. A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper.

- Takes more than six seconds to release the ball from his/her hands.
- Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player.
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team mate.
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw in taken by a team mate.

For all these offences, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line, parallel with the goal line, at the nearest point to the offence.

LAW 13

Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be five yards from the ball.

LAW 14

Penalty Kicks

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty mark. The ball must be kicked forward.

LAW 15

Throw in

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

In addition, U7 and U8 children are permitted to roll the ball underarm with one or both hands into the field of play.

The role of the referee is to also allow young players to learn the game. This may involve letting players take throw-ins again, if incorrect technique is used. The Referee should ensure the same player attempts a second time, with guidance and help from the match official.

LAW 16

Goal Kick

Procedure

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area.

Opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play.

The defending team does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game before should they choose to.

The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.

LAW 17

Corner Kicks

The opposing players must retain at least five yards from the ball until it is in play.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick is awarded against them.

The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

UNDER 9 AND UNDER 10 LAWS OF THE GAME

Pitch sizes should be 60 yards x 40 yards

LAW 1

Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a half way line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid point of the half way line. This is also used as a retreat line when restarting play with a goal kick.

Goal size

The distance between the posts is 12 feet and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 6 feet.

LAW 2

The Ball

The ball should be size three for U9 and size four for U10. It should be safe and made of leather or other suitable material.

LAW 3

Number of players.

Maximum number per team including goalkeeper

Under 7 and Under 8's 7 x 7

The above table indicates the maximum number of players per team at that age group. If the competition would like to have smaller numbers e.g. 4x4 at U9 or U10, this is allowed within this framework.

A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than four players. The minimum number of players in a team required for a match to CONTINUE is also four. Matches can begin with 7x6 but the importance and ethos of Mini Soccer should be upheld wherever possible and the development of the children should come before the score line.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition Rules.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

All team members should receive equal playing time where possible, with a best practice recommendation of at least 50% per player for each game.

LAW 4

Playing Equipment.

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear distinguishing playing top. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks. Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependant on the weather.

Correct footwear must be worn for the surface of the pitch e.g. no metal studs on artificial grass pitches.

LAW 5

Referees

The authority of the referee.

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the laws for mini soccer in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

Furthermore, referees should also recognise their role is to facilitate the learning of the players, for example, allow young children to take a second attempt at a throw in if the first is not within the laws.

LAW 6

Assistant Referees

Assistant referees are not required

LAW 7

Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than 60 minutes. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer or organisation to ensure the child does not exceed this. Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted, however, the maximum duration will be two halves of 25 minutes.

It is permitted during development matches that the period can be split into equal quarters. The half time interval must not exceed five minutes.

Please refer to the Standard Code of Rules for youth competitions.

LAW 8

Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game or after a goal has been scored. Opponents must be five yards away from the ball and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward. In mini soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match, after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area, takes place on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped. No goal can be scored direct from a dropped ball.

LAW 9

Ball in and out of play

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 10

Method of Scoring

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 11

Offside

There is no off side.

LAW 12

Fouls and Misconduct

Normal rules apply, as per the Laws of Association Football. However, in Mini Soccer all free kicks are direct. A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper.

- Takes more than six seconds to release the ball from his/her hands.
- Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player.
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team mate.
- Touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw in taken by a team mate.

For all these offences, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line, parallel with the goal line, at the nearest point to the offence.

LAW 13

Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be five yards from the ball.

LAW 14

Penalty Kicks

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty mark. The ball must be kicked forward.

LAW 15

Throw in

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

In addition, U7 and U8 children are permitted to roll the ball underarm with one or both hands into the field of play.

The role of the referee is to also allow young players to learn the game. This may involve letting players take throw-ins again, if incorrect technique is used. The Referee should ensure the same player attempts a second time, with guidance and help from the match official.

LAW 16

Goal Kick

Procedure

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area.

Opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play.

The defending team does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game before should they choose to.

The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.

LAW 17

Corner Kicks

The opposing players must remain at least five yards from the ball until it is in play.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick is awarded against them.

The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

UNDER 11 AND UNDER 12 LAWS OF THE GAME

Pitch sizes should be 80 yards x 50 yards

LAW 1

Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a half way line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid point of the half way line.

Goal size

The distance between the posts is either 16 feet or 21 feet and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 7 feet.

LAW 2

The Ball

The ball should be size four for U11 and U12. It should be safe and made of leather or other suitable material.

LAW 3

Number of players.

Maximum number per team including goalkeeper
Under 11 and Under 12 9 X 9

The above table indicates the maximum number of players per team at that age group. If the competition would like to have smaller numbers e.g. 7x7 at U11 or U12, this is allowed within this framework.

A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than six players. The minimum number of players in a team required for a match to CONTINUE is also six. Should a team fall below this, normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition Rules. Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

All team members should receive equal playing time where possible, with a best practice recommendation of at least 50% per player for each game.

For all other substitution rules, normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 4

Playing Equipment.

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear distinguishing playing top. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks. Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependant on the weather.

Correct footwear must be worn for the surface of the pitch e.g. no metal studs on artificial grass pitches.

LAW 5

Referees

The Authority of the Referee.

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the laws for mini soccer in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

The powers and duties of the referee are as normal Laws of Association Football.

LAW 6

Assistant Referees

Two assistant referees may be appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:

- When the whole of the ball leaves the field of play.
- Which team is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in.
- When a player may be penalised for being in an offside position.
- When a substitute is requested.
- When misconduct or any other incident occurs out of the view of the referee.
- When offences have been committed whenever the assistant referee have a better view than the referee (this includes, in certain circumstances, offences committed in the penalty area).
- Whether, at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line before the ball is kicked and if the ball crosses the line.

LAW 7

Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than 100 minutes. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer or organisation to ensure the child does not exceed this. Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted, however, the maximum duration will be two halves of 30 minutes.

It is permitted during development matches that the period can be split into equal quarters.

The half time interval must not exceed 15 minutes.

Please refer to the Standard Code of Rules for youth competitions.

LAW 8

Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game or after a goal has been scored.

Opponents must be nine yards away from the ball and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward.

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 9

Ball in and out of play

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 10

Method of Scoring

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 11

Offside

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 12

Fouls and Misconduct

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 13

Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be ten yards from the ball.

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 14

Penalty Kicks

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least nine yards from the penalty mark.

LAW 15

Throw in

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 16

Goal Kick

Procedure

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

LAW 17

Corner Kicks

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.