

**SOUTHWESTERN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (SYA)**  
**U14 RECREATIONAL SOCCER MODIFICATIONS TO THE IFAB 2023/24 LAWS OF THE GAME**  
**SUBURBAN FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE (SFL)**  
**Updated: September 1, 2023**

<b>Law 1</b>	<b>The Field of Play</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Field Dimensions: 100-130 yards long by 50-100 yards wide</li> <li>– Center Circle: 10-yard radius</li> <li>– Goal Area: 6 x 20 yards</li> <li>– Penalty Area: 18 x 44 yards</li> <li>– Penalty Mark: 12 yards from goal line</li> <li>– Penalty Arc: 10-yard radius from penalty mark</li> <li>– Corner Arc: 1-yard radius</li> <li>– Corner flags are not mandatory; substitute items must be safe if used</li> <li>– Goals: 7 x 21 feet</li> </ul>
<b>Law 2</b>	<b>The Ball</b>	Size 5
<b>Law 3</b>	<b>The Players</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 11 v 11 – 10 field players plus 1 goalkeeper</li> <li>– Minimum of 7 players to start/continue game</li> </ul>
	<b>Team Rosters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Coaches must provide <u>paper copy</u> of roster to other team's coach before game can begin; electronic rosters are not acceptable</li> <li>– No roster = forfeit <u>unless both teams agree to play</u></li> <li>– <u>Roster challenge</u>: if requested by either coach, referee will perform roster challenges using paper copies of each team's roster; players not listed or incorrectly listed on roster cannot play unless opposing coach agrees</li> <li>– Game shall be played in its entirety once roster challenge is performed and accepted by both coaches (i.e., no forfeit decision made at field)</li> </ul>
	<b>Grace Period</b>	15 minutes after scheduled kickoff time to field a minimum of 7 players
	<b>Substitutions</b>	In accordance with SFL rules. Referees have discretion to modify with both coaches' consent if in the best interest of the game and/or for player safety
	<b>Participation Rule</b>	Every player must play at least 50% of game
	<b>Play Down Rule</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No team shall have more than 2 additional players on field than opponent (including goalkeeper)</li> <li>– Also applies when players temporarily off field due to injury or equipment issues</li> <li>– Does not apply when players are sent-off (red card)</li> </ul>
	<b>Goal Differential (Mercy Rule)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 4 goals – leading team must remove 1 field player for each goal above 4-goal differential (until minimum number of players to continue game is reached)</li> <li>– <u>SFL Mercy Rule</u>: trailing team coach can ask referee to terminate game at any time if team trails by 4 or more goals. Both coaches can agree to continue game even if goal differential reaches 8 goals</li> </ul>
<b>Law 4</b>	<b>The Players' Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Uniform numbers are required and must be permanently affixed to shirt</li> <li>– Each player must have a unique number (not required for alternate shirts)</li> </ul>
<b>Law 5</b>	<b>The Referee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Head coach is responsible for behavior of all players, team officials, and spectators</li> <li>– Referees can show yellow/red cards to coaches/team officials but not to spectators</li> </ul>
<b>Law 6</b>	<b>The Other Match Officials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If requested by the referee, home and away team coaches will provide "club linesman" to assist referee with ball in/out of play decisions</li> <li>– Club linesman may indicate possession/direction of restart at referee's discretion</li> </ul>
<b>Law 7</b>	<b>The Duration of the Match</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2 x 35-minute halves (no added time) (total game time = 70 minutes)</li> <li>– 5-10 minute halftime</li> <li>– Referees can incorporate 1-3 minute water/hydration/cooling break in any half</li> </ul>
<b>Law 8</b>	<b>The Start and Restart of Play</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 9</b>	<b>The Ball In and Out of Play</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 10</b>	<b>Determining the Outcome of a Match</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 11</b>	<b>Offside</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 12</b>	<b>Fouls and Misconduct</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All female players may use their hands or arms for chest protection</li> <li>– Any player may use their hands or arms to protect their head, face, or neck from impact with the ball (at referee's discretion)</li> <li>– Slide tackling is permitted</li> </ul>
<b>Law 13</b>	<b>The Free Kick</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 14</b>	<b>The Penalty Kick</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 15</b>	<b>The Throw-In</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 16</b>	<b>The Goal Kick</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game
<b>Law 17</b>	<b>The Corner Kick</b>	No SYA modifications to the Laws of the Game