

## SOUTHWESTERN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (SYA)

### U7 AND U8 RECREATIONAL SOCCER MODIFICATIONS TO THE IFAB 2023/24 LAWS OF THE GAME

Updated: September 1, 2023

<b>Law 1</b>	<b>The Field of Play</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Field Dimensions: 25-35 yards long by 15-25 yards wide (SYA fields: 40-45 yards by 28-32 yards)</li> <li>– Center Circle: Not required; if marked, 10-foot radius</li> <li>– Goal Area: Not required; if marked, 4 x 8 yards</li> <li>– No Penalty Area, Penalty Mark, or Penalty Arc</li> <li>– Corner Arc: Not required; if marked, 1-yard radius</li> <li>– Corner flags are not mandatory; substitute items must be safe if used</li> <li>– Goals: 4 x 6 feet</li> </ul>
<b>Law 2</b>	<b>The Ball</b>	Size 3
<b>Law 3</b>	<b>The Players</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 5 v 5 – no goalkeepers</li> <li>– Minimum of 3 players to start/continue game</li> </ul>
	<b>Grace Period</b>	10 minutes after scheduled kickoff time to field a minimum of 3 players
	<b>Substitutions</b>	Unlimited at any stoppage in play (with Game Facilitator's permission)
	<b>Participation Rule</b>	Every player must play at least 50% of game
<b>Law 4</b>	<b>The Players' Equipment</b>	Uniform numbers are not required
<b>Law 5</b>	<b>The Referee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Not required; use Game Facilitator (when there is no referee)</li> <li>– Game Facilitator (or referee) has all responsibilities and authorities under the Laws of the Game</li> <li>– Head coach is responsible for behavior of all players, team officials, and spectators</li> <li>– No yellow/red cards shown to players, coaches, team officials, or spectators</li> </ul>
<b>Law 6</b>	<b>The Other Match Officials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– None. If used, other match officials have all responsibilities and authorities under the Laws of the Game</li> <li>– No "club linesman" unless requested by the Game Facilitator (or referee)</li> </ul>
<b>Law 7</b>	<b>The Duration of the Match</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2 x 20-minute halves (no added time) (total game time = 40 minutes)</li> <li>– 5-10 minute halftime</li> <li>– Can be adjusted by mutual agreement of coaches and Game Facilitator (or referee)</li> </ul>
<b>Law 8</b>	<b>The Start and Restart of Play</b>	Opponents must be at least 10 feet from ball on kickoff
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No scores are kept</li> <li>– No penalty shoot-out to determine a winner</li> </ul>
<b>Law 11</b>	<b>Offside</b>	No offside
<b>Law 12</b>	<b>Fouls and Misconduct</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Restart for all fouls and misconduct is indirect free kick</li> <li>– Any player may use their hands or arms to protect their head, face, or neck from impact with the ball (at the Game Facilitator or referee's discretion)</li> <li>– No yellow/red cards shown to players, coaches, team officials, or spectators</li> </ul>
	<b>No Heading Rule</b>	Players cannot play the ball with their head <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If action is intentional, restart is an indirect free kick to opponent</li> <li>– If action is unintentional or accidental, restart is a dropped ball</li> </ul>
	<b>No Sliding Rule</b>	Field players cannot slide on the ground (intentionally leave their feet) for any reason
<b>Law 13</b>	<b>The Free Kick</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– All free kicks are indirect</li> <li>– <u>Kicks Taken in Kicking Team's Half of Field:</u> Opponents must move behind halfway line</li> <li>– <u>Kicks Taken in Defending Team's Half of Field:</u> Opponents must be at least 10 feet from position of kick (unless standing on own goal line and between goal posts)</li> </ul>
<b>Law 14</b>	<b>The Penalty Kick</b>	No penalty kicks
<b>Law 15</b>	<b>The Throw-In</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Players can throw-in, kick-in, or dribble-in ball to restart play on a throw-in</li> <li>– Opponents must be at least 10 feet away from position of throw-in</li> <li>– Players cannot throw-in or kick-in ball to themselves (another player must touch ball)</li> <li>– Kick-in is indirect free kick—goal cannot be scored directly from kick (another player must touch ball)</li> <li>– Team taking throw-in does not lose possession for "illegal" throw-in</li> </ul>
<b>Law 16</b>	<b>The Goal Kick</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Taken 3-4 yards from goal</li> <li>– Opponents must move behind halfway line</li> <li>– Players can kick-in or dribble-in ball on a goal kick</li> </ul>
<b>Law 17</b>	<b>The Corner Kick</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Taken 1-2 yards from corner of field</li> <li>– Opponents must be at least 10 feet away</li> <li>– Players can kick-in or dribble-in ball on a corner kick</li> </ul>