



2021 NWISL Official Under 8 Rules

The enclosed rules and requirements are based upon modifications to the SAY SOCCER PLAYING LAWS 2020 4th Edition 07-27-2020 and NWISL requirements. These rules are subject to change by NWISL.



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: 45 yds. **Width:** 35 yds.

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than 4 inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of five 5 yards is marked around it. Spectator and Team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.

The Goal Area: The goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line 3 yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of 3 yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area: The penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line 9 yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of 9 yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made 5 yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of five (5) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

The Build Out Area: There will be no build out area or build out lines 07-27-2020

Flag Posts: Conform to SAY with minimum standard being at each corner of the field.

The Corner Arc: Conform to SAY – 3-foot arc on each corner.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line, consisting of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top a horizontal crossbar. The distance between the posts is 12 feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 6’ 0” feet. 07-27-2020

Safety: Goals must be securely anchored to the ground. Portable Goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball

The ball used at this age group is size (3) three.

Law 3 – Players

The Number of Players: Two teams play a match, each fielding not more than six (6) players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. The minimum roster size shall be six (6) and the maximum roster size shall be twelve (12). The teams are not required to play even sided. (revised 2-12-15)

Teams and matches may be coed. Any team that roster all girls must be declared a “Girls” team. Any team that roster all boys or coed must be declared as “Boys” team. The minimum number of players per team required to start a match is four (4).

Substitutions: Unlimited with referee permission, at any stoppage of play, except corner kicks and free kicks. Identified substitution player(s) shall be at midfield with pinnie in hand and given to player leaving the field

Revised 7-27-20

Playing Time: Each player shall play a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the total playing time.

Law 4 – Players’ Equipment: Conform to SAY. Non-uniform clothing is allowed under uniforms based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Referees are required to determine the safety of non-uniform clothing and can require removal of such items.

Law 5 Referee: A USSF or SAY Licensed Referee shall be assigned to each game. In the event the assigned Referee does not show, a parent, coach, or assistant may be utilized. Revised 2-02-17

Law 6 Assistant Referees: Club linesman may be used at the request of the Referee. Revised 2-02-17

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: The match shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to SAY with the exceptions of the opponents of the team taking the kick shall be at least five (5) yards from the ball. **Goal-Keeper may punt and drop kick the ball** Revised 11/28/2021

Law 9 – The Ball in and out of Play: Conform to SAY

Law 10 - The Method of Scoring: Conform to SAY

Law 11 – Offside: There is no offside offense called. “Cherry Picking” is to be managed by the coaches. The referee shall have no involvement.

Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to SAY with youth modifications.

A: Slide Tackles shall not be allowed in this age group, penalty for infraction is indirect free kick if no contact is made. Revised 1-28-17

B: Slide Tackle where contact is made, an IFK shall be awarded. A yellow or red card may also be issues based on referee opinion. Revised 1-28-17

C: A deliberate heading of the ball shall not allowed in this age group (penalty for infraction is indirect free kick). Revised 7-09-16

Law 13 Free Kick: Conform to SAY with the exception that all opponents are at least five (5) yards from the ball. All free kicks are to be Indirect Free Kick, irrelevant of the type of foul called. On all kicks, the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. Free kicks on the defender’s half of the field, the opponents must remain on their half of the field until the ball is in play Revised 2-09-20

Law 14 Penalty Kick: There are no P/K’s. Award Indirect Free Kick. Players must be 5 yards away from the ball. Ball is not in play until it crosses the penalty area line (leaves the penalty area)

Law 15 Throw-In: Conform to SAY

Law 16 Goal Kick: Conform to SAY

A: Opponents are required to be in their half of the field prior to the taking of a goalkick. Opponents cannot be in the defenders (goal keeper’s) half of the field at the taking of the goal kick. Revised 1-29-17

B: If a properly taken goal kick is taken while opponents are in the goalkeeper’s half of the field or encroach before the ball clears the penalty area, the goal kick is retaken. Revised 1-29-17

Law 17 Corner Kick: Conform to SAY with the exception that all opponents remain at least five (5)

yards from the ball until it is in play.