



2020 NWISL Official Under 12 Rules

The enclosed rules and requirements are based upon modifications to the **SAY SOCCER PLAYING LAWS 2020 4th** Edition Revised 2-09-20 and NWISL requirements. These rules are subject to change by **NWISL Revised 6-02-2020**.

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: 75min. to 80max. yds. Width: 55min. to 60max. 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 8 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 4 yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of 4 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 14 yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of 14 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 10 yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of 8 yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

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 between minimum 18 feet and maximum 21 feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is between minimum 6 ½ feet and maximum 7 feet.** Revised 2-09-20

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 (4) four.

Law 3 – Players

The Number of Players: Two teams play a match, each fielding not more than 9 players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. The minimum roster size shall be 9 and the maximum roster size shall be sixteen (16).

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.



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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 five (5).

Substitutions: Unlimited with referee permission, at any stoppage of play, except corner kicks and free kicks.

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:

Two USSF or SAY Licensed Referee shall be assigned as a linesman for each game. In the event one or both of the assigned linesman do not show, the center Referee may use club linesman. Revised 2-02-17

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:

The match shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) 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 exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick shall be at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

Law 9 – The Ball in and out of Play:

Conform to SAY

Law 10 - The Method of Scoring:

Conform to SAY

Law 11 – Offside:

Conform to SAY



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Law – 12 Fouls and Misconduct:

Conform to SAY with youth modifications.

A: 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 eight (8) yards from the ball. **On all kicks, the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.** Revised 2-09-20

On a Free Kick for U12, U14, U19 games, all attackers must be 1 yard from the defensive wall prior to the ball being put into play (kicked). If encroachment occurs, an IDF is awarded to the defending team.

Revised 2-09-20

Law 14 – Penalty Kick:

Conform to SAY with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball and outside the penalty area.

Law 15 – Throw-In:

Conform to SAY

Law 16 – Goal Kick:

Conform to SAY

Law 17 – Corner Kick:

Conform to SAY with the exception that all opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.