

GRJSA

U-8 Laws of the Game

Player Exposure & Learning Experience

LAW 1 - THE FIELD:

A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular; length not more than 40 yards nor less than 35 yards; width not more than 25 yards nor less than 20 yards. The length shall exceed the width.

GRJSA RECOMMENDATION: Length: 35 yards Width: 25 yards

B. Markings: To be done by the home club.

1. Field markings are to be distinctive lines not more than four (6) inches wide or saucer cones.
2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
3. A center circle with a six (6) yard radius.
4. Four corner arcs with a one (1) yard radius.
5. Goal area – two (2) yards out from each goal post and two (2) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
6. Penalty area – six (6) yards out from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

C. Goals:

1. Two (2) furnished by the home club.
2. The goal size is six (6) feet high and six (6) to twelve (12) feet wide.
3. The goals must be anchored down if not permanent goals.

GRJSA RECOMMENDATION: Height: 6 feet Width: 8 feet

LAW 2 - THE BALL:

A. Size three (3) furnished by the home team.

LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: four (4), one (1) may be a goalkeeper.
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed: eight (8).
- C. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, during any stoppage of play.
- D. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total season playing time.

LAW 4 - PLAYER EQUIPMENT:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules with the following exceptions:
 1. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soccer shoes with soft cleats.
 2. Approved manufactured age and size-specific shin-guards are mandatory. Must be completely covered by socks.
 3. No jewelry of any kind or decorative items in the hair such as beads, clips, etc.
 4. No casts or splints are allowed. Other medical devices may be allowed as long as such a device does not pose a hazard to other players.
 5. Shorts and shirts should be of like color for each team. Home team will switch colors if needed.

LAW 5 - REFEREE:

- A. Responsibility of home club:
 1. Registered Referee.
 2. Parent/Coach or Assistant Coach.
 3. Referee's decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
 4. Rule infractions may be briefly explained to the offending player.

LAW 6 ASSISTANT REFEREES:

- A. GRJSA does not recommend the use of assistant referees for U-8 games.

LAW 7 DURATION OF GAME:

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) twenty-five (25) minute halves.
- B. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between halves.

LAW 8 THE START OF PLAY:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules with the following exception:
 1. Opponents must be six (6) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.
 2. A goal may be scored directly from a kick-off.

LAW 9 BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules.

LAW 10 METHOD OF SCORING:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules.

LAW 11 OFFSIDE:

- A. Modified offside, meaning the spirit of the offside law applies (no cherry picking).

LAW 12 FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules with the following exceptions:
 - 1. All fouls will result in an INDIRECT FREE KICK with the opponents six (6) yards away.
 - 2. No slide tackles.
 - 3. No contact with the goalkeeper in the penalty area.
- B. No caution or send offs shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral Referee.
- C. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of parents, spectators and players.
- D. Misconduct by parents, coaches and spectators MUST be reported to the Association.

LAW 13 FREE KICKS:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules with the following exceptions:
 - 1. All free kicks shall be classified as indirect.
 - 2. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
 - 3. No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal area. The ball will be placed on the six (6) yard line.

LAW 14 PENALTY KICKS:

- A. No penalty kicks are to be taken during these games:

LAW 15 THROW-IN:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules with the following exception:
 - 1. A second throw-in is allowed if the player commits a foul on initial attempt. The Referee may explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

LAW 16 GOAL KICK:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Goal Kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area.
 - 2. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

LAW 17 CORNER KICK:

- A. Conform to FIFA rules with the following exception:
 - 1. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

LAW 18 COACHING:

- A. Coaching will be made from the touchline through positive reinforcement.
- B. A coach may NOT step onto the field during play.
- C. A coach shall not enter the penalty area or stand behind the goal line. This includes parents and spectators.
- D. Coaches and spectators must remain between the penalty areas.
- E. There will be no standings kept for this league.
- F. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- G. Use of tobacco products is prohibited on all school properties.
- H. The home team shall choose the side that their team and spectators will be on and the opposing team, and their spectators, must be on the other side. If the field conditions prohibit the use of both sides of the field (decided by the referee) then each team and their spectators shall be on their half of the side line.