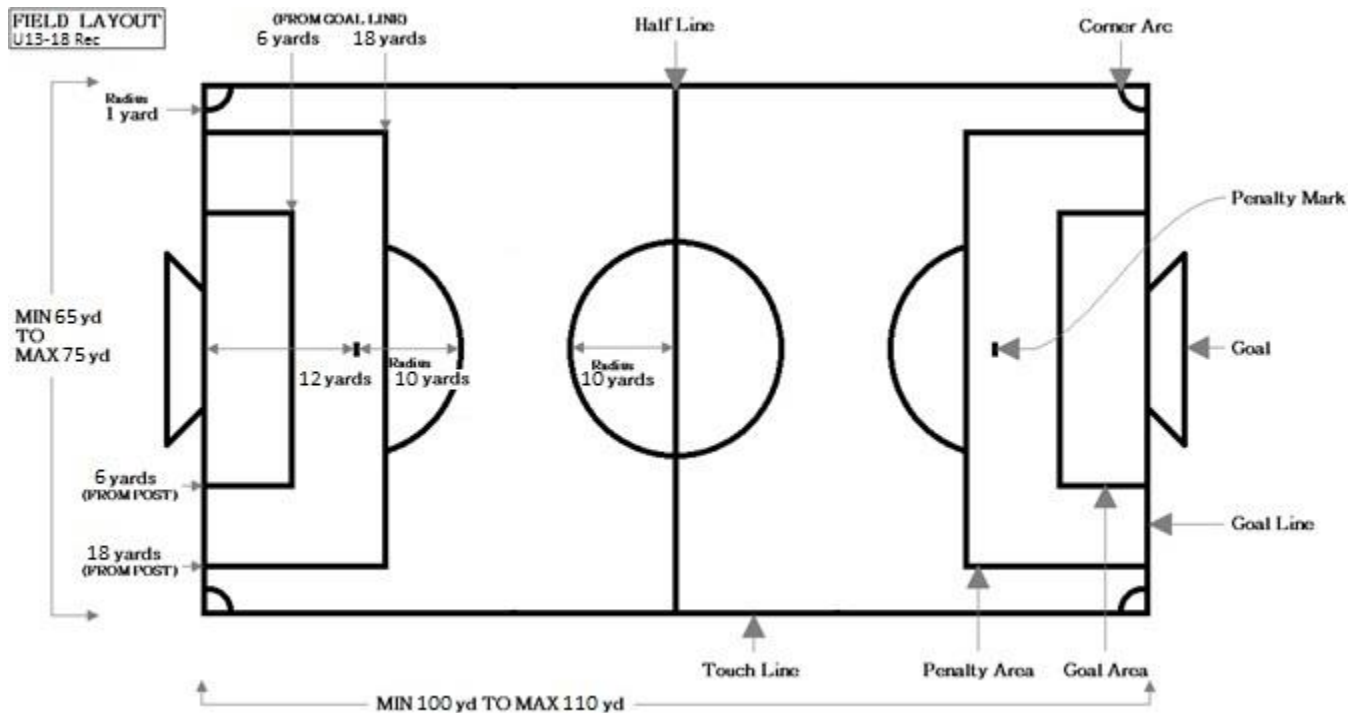




MODIFIED FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME
 Recreational League
 U13 – U18



LAW I – THE FIELD

- A. DIMENSIONS. The field shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 110 yards nor less than 100 yards and its width not more than 75 yards nor less than 65 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- B. MARKINGS:
 - 1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
 - 2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
 - 3. A center circle with a ten (10) yard radius.
 - 4. Four corner arcs with a one (1) yard radius.
 - 5. Goal Area – six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal-line.
 - 6. Penalty Area – Eighteen (18) yards from each goal post and 18 yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- C. GOALS - Maximum: eight (8) feet high and twenty-four (24) feet wide

LAW II – THE BALL

Size five (5) for U13 to U18

LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: eleven (11) one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster shall not exceed sixteen (16) for U14 and eighteen (18) for U15 and older.
- C. Substitutions – an unlimited number of players may be substituted:
 1. Substitutions may be made, with **only** the consent of the referee, **at any stoppage (except on Corner Kicks and if it slows down the opponent from restarting play)**.
 2. Each player **shall** have equal playing time. All positions **shall** be rotated.

LAW IV – PLAYER’S EQUIPMENT

- A. Shirt: Shall be the navy/white reversible jersey approved by Arsenal CO.
- B. Shorts: Must be athletic appropriate shorts (no jean or cargo shorts).
- C. Shinguards: **MANDATORY** and must be worn over the shin.
- D. Socks: **Must** completely cover the shinguards.
- E. Shoes: Shall be safe – sneakers or soccer cleats. No street shoes, bare feet or football/baseball cleats (any cleats with a “toe” cleat or any cleats protruding on the sides are unsafe and shall not be allowed).
- F. **NO jewelry**, watches, rings, belts, necklaces, earrings or anything dangerous to players shall be permitted. The only exception would be for medical alert identification.

LAW V – THE REFEREE

A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. His/her authority and the exercise of the powers granted to him/her by the Laws of the Game commence as soon as he/she enters the field of play. His/her power of penalizing shall extend to offenses committed when play has been temporarily suspended, or when the ball is out of play. His/her decision on points of fact connected with the play shall be final, so far as the result of the game is concerned. He/she shall:

- A. Enforce the Laws of the Game.
- B. Allow play to continue when the team against which an offense has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalizes the original offense if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time.
- C. Keep a record of the match; act as timekeeper and allow the full or agreed time, adding all time lost through accident or other cause.
- D. Have discretionary power to stop the game for any infringement of the Laws and to suspend or terminate the game whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other cause, he/she deems such stoppage necessary.
- E. From the time he/she enters the field of play, caution and show a yellow card to any player guilty of misconduct warranting a caution.
- F. Allow no person other than the players and assistant referees to enter the field of play without his/her permission.
- G. Stop the game if, in his/her opinion, a player has been seriously injured, have the player removed as soon as possible from the field of play, and immediately resume the game.
- H. Send off the field of play and show a red card to any player who, in his/her opinion, is guilty of misconduct warranting a sendoff.
- I. Signal to recommence the game after all stoppages.
- J. Decide that the ball provided for a match meets with the requirements of Law II.

**** If a certified referee is unable to be provided, each team will need to provide an appointed Club Official to help facilitate the match enforcing the laws of the game to the best of their ability.**

LAW VI – ASSISTANT REFEREES

Two assistant referees shall be appointed, whose duty (subject to the decision of the referee) shall be to indicate:

1. when the ball is out of play;
2. which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick, or throw-in
3. when a player may be penalized for being in an offside position
4. when misconduct or other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee.
3. when a substitution is desired.

LAW VII – DURATION OF THE GAME

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal
 1. thirty-five (35) minute halves for U13 to U14
 2. forty (40) minute halves for U15 and older
- B. There shall be a five (5) minute half-time interval.
- C. Time shall be extended to permit a penalty-kick being taken at or after the expiration of the normal period in either half.

LAW VIII – THE START OF PLAY

- A. The team that wins the coin toss shall choose either: which goal it will attack in the first half of the match (the other team takes the kick off to start the match) **OR** to take the kick off (the other team will then choose which goal it will attack first half). Away team calls the coin toss.
- B. Kick off at the start of each half. The teams shall change ends at half time and the team that defended in the first half shall kick off.
- C. Kick off after each goal by the team giving up the goal.
- D. All players must be in their half of the field when the ball is kicked and the defending players must be at least ten (10) yards from the ball (outside the center circle).
- E. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. Only minimal movement is required.
- F. The player taking the kick off may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player -- violation results in an indirect free kick for the opponents.
- G. A goal can be scored directly from a kick off.

LAW IX – BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- A. The ball **is out** of play when:
 1. it has **completely** crossed the goal-line or touch-line, whether on the ground or in the air.
 2. the Referee has stopped play.
- B. The ball **is in** play at all other times from the start of the match to the finish including:
 1. If it rebounds from a goal-post, cross-bar or corner-flag into the field of play.
 2. If it rebounds off the Referee when they are in the field of play.

LAW X – METHOD OF SCORING

The whole of the ball must completely cross the goal-line below the cross-bar and between the goal-posts, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm by a player of the attacking side. This does not apply to a goalkeeper who is within his/her own penalty area. A team may not score directly on itself from a direct free kick or goal kick. The team that scores the greater number of goals is the winner.

LAW XI – OFF-SIDE

1. A player is in an off-side position if he/she is nearer to his/her opponents' goal line than the ball, unless:
 - a. he/she is in his/her own half of the field of play.
 - b. he/she is not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his/her opponents.
2. ***It is not an offense in itself to be in an off-side position. A player shall only be penalized for being in an off-side position if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by one of his/her team, he/she is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:***
 - a. interfering with play, or
 - b. interfering with an opponent, or
 - c. gaining an advantage by being in that position
3. A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee;
 - a. merely because of his/her being in an off-side position, or
 - b. if he/she receives the ball direct from a goal-kick, a corner-kick or a throw-in.
4. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

A foul may only occur on the field, during play and against an opponent. A player who commits any of the following six offenses in a manner considered by the Club Official to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force:

1. kicks or attempts to kick an opponent; or
2. trips an opponent; or
3. jumps at an opponent; or
4. charges an opponent; or
5. strikes or attempts to strike an opponent; or
6. pushes an opponent; or

who commits any of the following offenses:

1. when tackling an opponent makes contact with the opponent before contact is made with the ball; or
2. holds an opponent; or
3. spits at an opponent; or
4. handles the ball deliberately, i.e., carries, strikes or propels the ball with his/her hand or arm.

Shall be penalized by the award of a **direct free-kick** to the opposing team from the place where the offense is committed. If the offense is committed by the attacking team within the goal area, the free kick shall be taken on the goal area line nearest to the point at which the offense is committed. If the offense is committed by the defending team within the penalty area, a penalty kick will be awarded the attacking team.

A player committing any of the five following offenses:

1. Playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous.
2. Charging fairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (continued)

3. When NOT playing the ball, impeding the progress of an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent.
4. Charging the goalkeeper except when he/she:
 - a. is holding the ball
 - b. is obstructing an opponent
 - c. has passed outside his/her goal-area
5. When playing as a goalkeeper and within his/her own penalty-area:
 - a. After taking control of the ball, takes more than 5 to 6 seconds without releasing it into play.
 - b. Having released the ball into play, he/she touches it again with his/her hands, before a player of the opposing team has touched it.
 - c. Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked or thrown to him/her by a team mate.
 - d. Indulges in tactics, which in the opinion of the referee, are designed to waste time.

Shall be penalized by the award of an **indirect free-kick** to the opposing team from the place where the offense is committed. If the offense is committed within the goal area, the free kick shall be taken on the goal area line nearest to the point at which the offense is committed.

Misconduct may occur at anytime, anyplace against anyone. A player shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card if:

1. is guilty of unsporting behavior
2. shows dissent by word or action
3. persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
4. delays the restart of play
5. fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
6. enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
7. deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

For offenses 1 through 3 the opponents will be awarded an indirect free kick from the place where the offense occurred. For offenses 6 and 7, if the referee stops the game to administer the caution, the game will be restarted by an indirect free kick taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was when the referee stopped the game.

A player shall be sent off the field of play and shown the red card, if in the opinion of the referee, he/she:

1. is guilty of serious foul play
2. is guilty of violent conduct
3. spits at an opponent or any other person
4. denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper in his own penalty area)
5. denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or penalty kick
6. uses offensive, insulting or abusive language
7. receives a second caution in the same match

If play is stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field for an offense without a separate breach of the Law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an **indirect free kick** awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (continued)

It is **serious foul play** when a player infringes the laws of the Game and uses intentional violence when challenging for the ball against an opponent.

It is **violent conduct** when a player is guilty of aggression towards an opponent even when they are not challenging for the ball. The ball can be in or out of play. If the ball is in play he/she shall be sanctioned with a direct free kick in favor of the team of the player who was attacked, from the place where the offense was committed, or with a penalty kick if it took place within the penalty area. If the ball is out of play, the game shall be resumed at the stage where it was interrupted prior to the offense (throw-in, free kick, etc.). Moreover, if a player attacks one of his teammates, the referee, an assistant referee, a spectator etc., this shall also be considered **violent conduct**.

LAW XIII – FREE KICKS

- A. Free kicks shall be classified as INDIRECT or DIRECT.
- B. A goal may not be scored directly from an indirect free kick, it must be touched by another player, any other player. A goal may be scored directly from a direct free kick.
- C. Any free kick awarded to the defending team, within its own goal area may be taken from any point within the goal area.
- D. Any indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's goal area shall be taken on the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line nearest to where the offense was committed.
- E. The ball must be stationary when the free kick is taken.
- F. If a player of the opposing side encroaches into the penalty area, or within ten yards of the ball, as the case may be, before a free kick is taken, the referee shall delay the taking of the kick, until the Law is complied with.
- G. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player – the violation results in an indirect free kick for the opponents.
- H. All opposing players must be at least ten (10) yards from the ball.
- I. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves – only minimal movement is required.

LAW XIV – PENALTY KICKS

- A. A penalty kick shall be taken from the penalty mark.
- B. All players with the exception of the player taking the kick, and the opposing goalkeeper, shall be within the field of play but outside the penalty area at least ten (10) yards from the penalty mark and must stand behind the penalty mark.
- C. The opposing goal keeper must stand on his/her own goal line between the goal posts until the ball is kicked. The goal keeper may move laterally along the goal line, but may not move forward.
- D. The ball shall be in play when it is kicked and moves forward -- only minimal movement is required, but it must be forward.
- E. A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.
- F. The player who takes the penalty kick may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player -- the violation results in an indirect free kick for the opponents.

For any infringement of this Law:

- a. By the defending team, the kick shall be retaken if a goal has not resulted.
- b. By the attacking team, results in an indirect free kick for the defending team at the spot of where the infringement occurred. If a goal is scored during the infringement, the goal is not allowed.

LAW XV – THROW-IN

- A. Shall be taken when the ball has completely crossed the touch-line – either on the ground or in the air.
- B. Taken by a player of the team opposing the team that last touched the ball before it went out of play.
- C. The thrower shall not play the ball again until it has been touched by another player, any other player – the violation results in an indirect free kick for the opponents.
- D. Opponents can stand in front of the thrower two (2) yards away but cannot jump or attempt to distract the player throwing in the ball.
- E. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.
- F. A proper throw-in requires that:
 - 1. the thrower face the field, and
 - 2. throw the ball with BOTH hands, from
 - 3. directly over and behind his/her head, with
 - 4. both feet on the ground, and
 - 5. on or behind the touch-line.

LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

- A. Shall be taken when:
 - 1. the ball has completely crossed the goal-line -- either on the ground or in the air; and
 - 2. not below the cross-bar and between the goal-posts; and
 - 3. was last touched by a player of the **attacking** team.
- B. The goal kick is taken by a player on the defending team from anywhere within the goal area.
- C. Defending players may be anywhere on the field.
- D. Attacking players must be outside the penalty area.
- E. The ball is in play once it is kicked and moves (does not need to leave the penalty area).
- F. The player who kicks the ball may not touch or play the ball again until it has been touched by another player.
- G. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick. Such a goal may be scored only against the opposing team.

LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

- A. Shall be taken when:
 - 1. the ball has completely crossed the goal-line – either on the ground or in the air; and
 - 2. not below the cross-bar and between the goal-posts; and
 - 3. was last touched by a player of the **defending** team.
- A. The corner kick is taken by a player on the attacking team from the corner arc nearest the point where the ball went out.
- B. Attacking players may be anywhere on the field.
- C. Defending players must be ten (10) yards away from the ball.
- D. The kicker cannot touch the ball again until it has been touched or played by another player – violation results in an indirect free kick for the opponents.
- E. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.