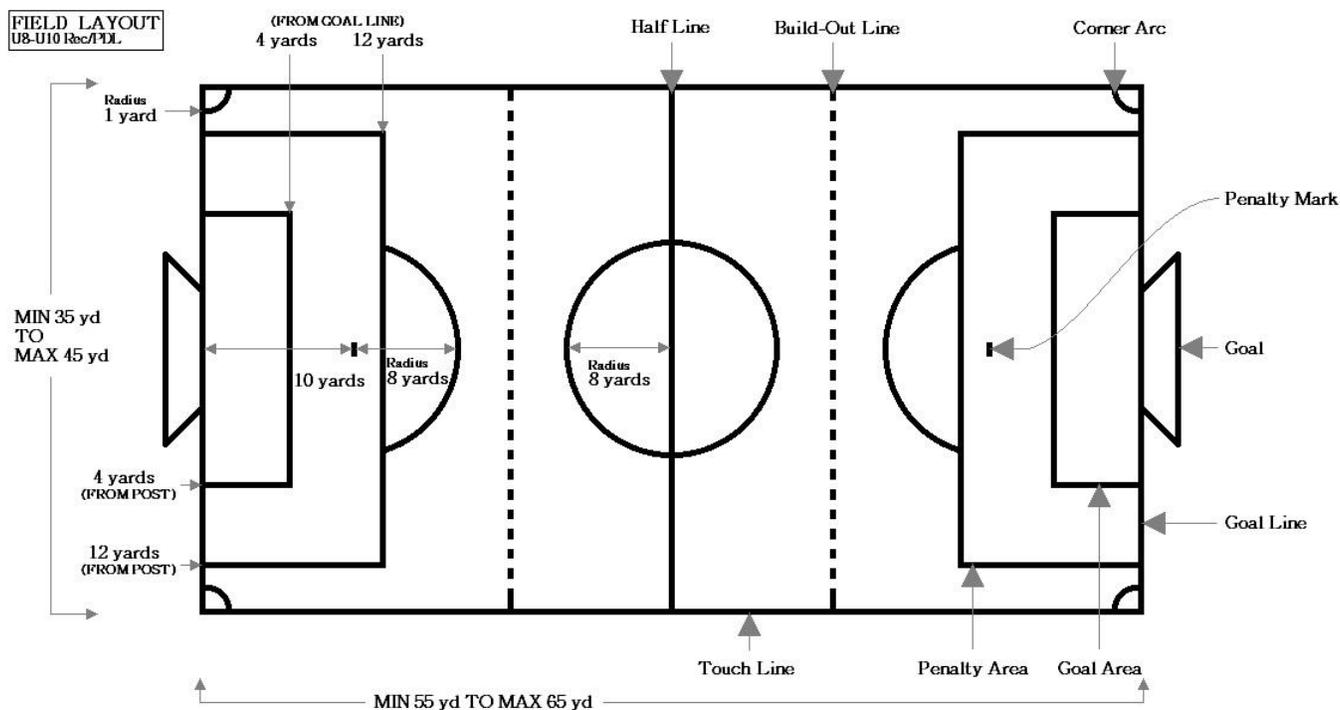




## MODIFIED FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

### Recreational & PDL League

### U8 - U10



### LAW I – THE FIELD

- A. **DIMENSIONS:** The field shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 65 yards nor less than 55 yards and its width not more than 45 yards nor less than 35 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. Two build-out lines shall be marked out in a dashed line across the field in each half. **(Please refer to separate “Build-Out Line Guidelines” posted on the website)**
  4. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius.
  5. Four corner arcs with a one (1) yard radius.
  6. Goal Area – four (4) yards from each goal post and four (4) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal-line.
  7. Penalty Area – twelve (12) yards from each goal post and twelve (12) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
- C. **GOALS -** Maximum: seven (7) feet high and twenty one (21) feet wide. Minimum: six (6) feet high and sixteen (16) feet wide.

**LAW II – THE BALL:**

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Size four (4).

**LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

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- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: seven (7), one of whom shall be the goalkeeper (who will need to be identified by wearing a different color jersey or pinney).
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster shall not exceed twelve (12).
- C. 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)**.
- D. Each player **shall** have equal playing time. All positions **shall** be rotated.

**LAW IV - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

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- 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. Socks: **Must** completely cover the shinguards.
- D. Shinguards: **MANDATORY** and must be worn over the shin.
- 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.
- G. Players on PDL rosters will adhere to the uniform policy set forth by the Player Development League guidelines.

**LAW V – THE REFEREE**

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- A. If a certified referee is not assigned by the club, each team supplies one parent for each game to serve as ‘Club Official’. Each parent volunteer shall read and be familiar with the Official Modified Rules of the club prior to the beginning of each season. (Referees are NOT provided for u8 or u9 recreation during league play. The club will try it’s best to provide a certified referee for the u10 recreation and both u9 and u10 PDL during league play.)
- B. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- C. The game is for the players and the primary function of the Club Official is to ensure:
  1. **SAFETY** of the players – stop play for any dangerous situation and for any injury.
  2. **EQUALITY** of play. Don’t allow any player to gain an advantage from any of the infractions listed in Law XII.
  3. **ENJOYMENT** of all players and spectators. Focus on the Positive aspects of individual skills and team play and above all, **ENCOURAGE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!**

**LAW VI – ASSISTANT REFEREES**

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Assistant referees are NOT provided for these matches.

**LAW VII – DURATION OF THE GAME**

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- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal twenty-five (25) minute halves.
- 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**

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- 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.
- 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 eight (8) 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 (only on opposing team's goal).

**LAW IX – BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

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- 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**

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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**

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- A. A player is in an off-side position if he/she is nearer to his/her opponents' goal line than the ball, unless:
  1. he/she is behind the defending team's **build-out line** (or not in the attacking third of the field).
  2. he/she is not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his/her opponents.
- B. A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee;
  1. merely because of his/her being in an off-side position, or
  2. if he/she receives the ball direct from a goal-kick, a corner-kick or a throw-in.
- C. ***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:***
  1. interfering with play, or
  2. interfering with an opponent, or
  3. gaining an advantage by being in that position
- D. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the place nearest to where the "off-side line" was established when the infringement occurred.

**LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

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- A. The Club Official should briefly explain ALL infractions to the offending player.
- B. A foul may only occur on the field, during play and against an opponent.
- C. All fouls will result in either an **INDIRECT FREE KICK** or a **DIRECT FREE KICK** at the spot of the foul (with exception to any fouls inside the goal area... See law XIII).
- D. A player who commits any of the following nine offences in a manner considered by the Club Official / Referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force will result in a **DIRECT** free kick for the opposing team:
  - 1. kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
  - 2. trips an opponent
  - 3. jumps at an opponent
  - 4. charges an opponent
  - 5. strikes or attempts to strike an opponent (player should be dismissed from the field)
  - 6. pushes an opponent
  - 7. holds an opponent
  - 8. spits at an opponent (player should be dismissed from the field)
  - 9. handles the ball deliberately, i.e., carries strikes or propels the ball with his/her hand or arm.
- E. A player who commits any of the following four offences in a manner considered by the Club Official/Referee to be dangerous or unsporting will result in an **INDIRECT** free kick for the opposing team:
  - 1. dangerous play around other players (such as playing on the ground or kicking above waist)
  - 2. intentionally heading the ball
  - 3. impeding the progress of an opponent from getting the ball not within playing distance
  - 4. shows dissent towards the referee
- F. Misconducts pertaining to Goal Keepers within his/her own penalty area that will result in an **INDIRECT** free kick for the opposing team:
  - 1. takes control of ball in his/her hands and holds onto it more than 5 to 6 seconds, **AFTER** all opponents drop behind build-out line, without releasing it into play. (Goal Keeper does not have to wait for all opponents to drop behind build-out line before releasing the ball).
  - 2. touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked (using feet) or thrown (from throw-in) to him/her from a teammate.
  - 3. has control of the ball in his/her hands and then sets it into play where after he/she handles the ball again before an opponent touches it.
  - 4. punts the ball. The Goal Keeper may not punt the ball, instead it may be thrown or kicked after it has been released and touches the ground.
  - 5. indulges in tactics, which in the opinion of the referee, are designed to waste time.

**DO NOT STOP PLAY FOR EVERY INCIDENT. THE LAWS OF THE GAME ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE THAT THE GAME SHOULD BE PLAYED WITH AS LITTLE INTERFERENCE AS POSSIBLE, AND IN THIS VIEW IT IS THE DUTY OF THE CLUB OFFICIAL TO PENALISE ONLY DELIBERATE BREACHES OF THE LAW.**

Misconduct may occur at anytime, anyplace against anyone. A player shall be cautioned / highly warned (yellow card offence):

- 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

**LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (continued...)**

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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, 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/her 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.

**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**

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- 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 (direct or indirect) awarded to the defending team, within its own goal area will be taken like a goal kick (for procedures see Law XVI).
- 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. (Defenders may stand between the posts of the goal no closer than the goal line).
- 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, build-out line or within eight 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 eight (8) 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**

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- 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 eight (8) 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**

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- 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**

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- 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 behind the defending team's build-out line. Once the ball has been put back into play they may cross the line.
- 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

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- 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.
- B. The corner kick is taken by a player on the attacking team from the corner arc nearest the point where the ball went out.
- C. Attacking players may be anywhere on the field.
- D. Defending players must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.
- E. 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.
- F. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.