

## MATCHPLAY RULES FOR U8

**Match Duration: 24-minute half with a running clock and a one-minute break at 12 minutes for water and substitutions during each half. Half time will be for 8 minutes.**

### Major rules:

- No offsides
- No slide tackling.
- One coach from each team is allowed on the field for the duration of the season.
- Free kicks and corner kicks use 8-yard rule. Penalty kicks are not allowed.
- No heading the ball in practices or games
- Throw In conforms to FIFA. We will allow one redo for the entirety of the season.
- Defenders must return to midfield on goal kicks.

### Our Guidelines for Short Sided Games

#### Law 3 – *The Number of Players*

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than seven players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than 5 players.

**Substitutions:** *Goal kicks and Throw-ins. However, BOTH teams may substitute at the same time, not just the team with possession of the ball.*

#### Law 4 – *THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT*

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry).

**Shin guards** • are covered entirely by stockings • are made of rubber, plastic or a similar suitable material • provide a reasonable degree of protection.

#### Law 5 – *The Referee*

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed. The Referee: • enforces the Laws of the Game • ensures that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 4 • acts as timekeeper and keeps a record of the match • ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return on receiving a signal from the referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped \* The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final.

#### Law 7 – *The Duration of the Match*

Conform to FIFA except for the match being divided into two (2) halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of eight (8) minutes.

#### Law 8 – *The Start and Restart of Play*

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least

eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 9 – *The Ball in and Out of Play:*** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 10 – *The Method of Scoring:*** Conform to FIFA.

**Law 11 – *No Offsides Will be enforced.***

**Law 12 – *Fouls and Misconduct***

Conform to FIFA with the exception that an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponent's penalty area.

**Law 13 – *Free Kicks***

Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

**Law 14 – *The Penalty Kick***

There will be no penalty kicks for the U8 age group for any offense.

**Law 15 – *The Throw-In:*** Conform to FIFA (We will allow one redo for first 3 weeks)

**Law 16 – *The Goal Kick:*** Conform to FIFA (The defending team must go beyond half field).

**Law 17 – *The Corner Kick:*** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.