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# 6U and 8U Small Sided Rules, TSA Soccer

SOC-170212 Revision C



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## Revision History

Name	Date	Reason For Changes	Ver./Rev.
Initial Release	2/12/17		A
C. Mayeu	3/1/17	Added no slide tackles, clarified no referee for 8U	B
M. Bennett	1/17/22	General updates; conform to structure of FIFA Laws of the Game	C

## Overview

The structure of these rules is designed to align with FIFA Laws of the Game with modifications determined by TSA to be appropriate for our league structure and recreational play.

# 1. The Field of Play

## 1.1. Dimensions

The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 yards    maximum 35 yards  
Width: minimum 15 yards    maximum 25 yards

*Note: For spring 2017 both the 6U and 8U pitches were 105' long and 73' wide.*

## 1.2. Field Markings

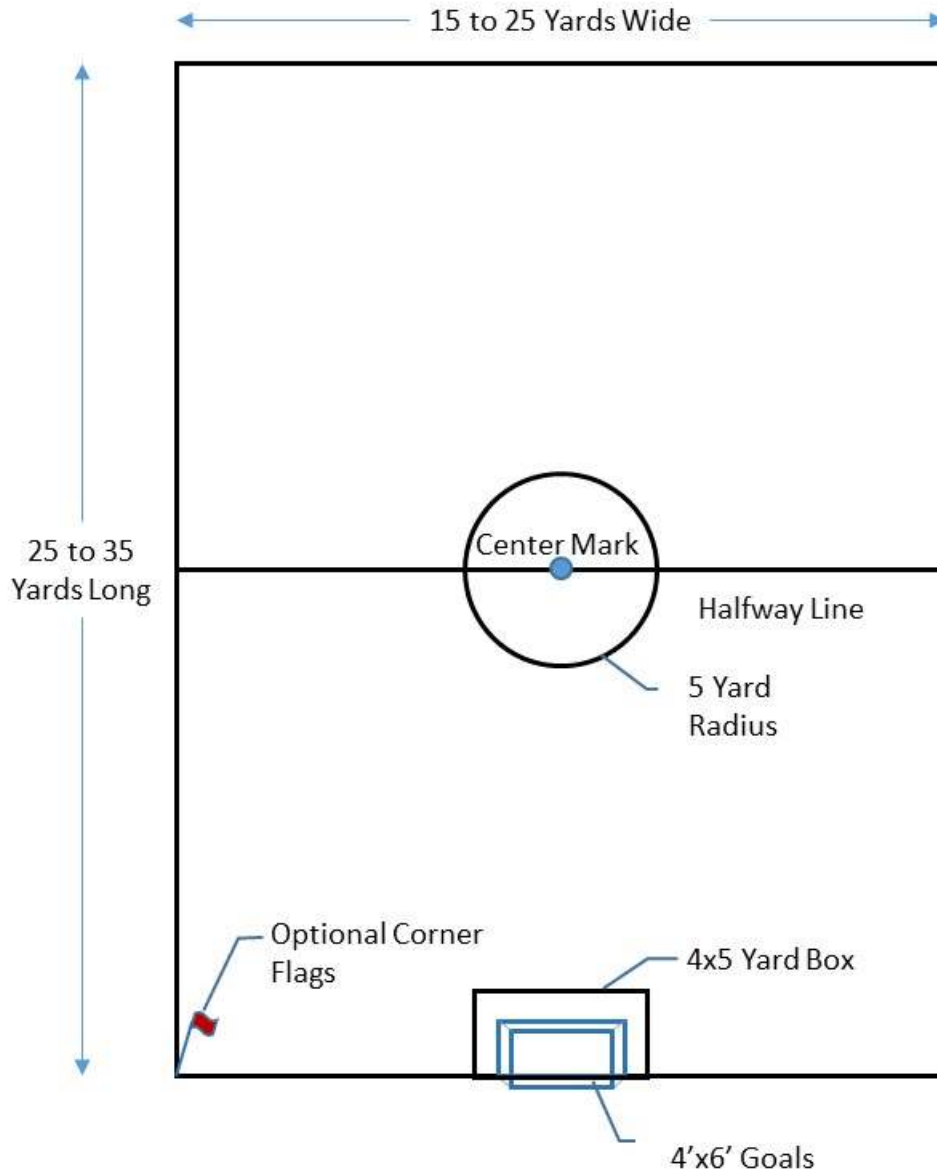
Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line.

Goal Area: 4 yards deep x 5 yards wide  
Penalty Area: None.  
Flag Posts: Corner flags are optional  
Corner Arc: None.

## 1.3. Goals

Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is six (6) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is four (4) feet. Goals for this age group may be smaller.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.



## 2. The Ball

Size three (3). The ball will need to be FIFA Quality.

## 3. The Players

### 3.1. Number of Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than four (4) players. There are NO goalkeepers.

The maximum team roster size is seven (7) with the preferable roster size being six (6).

If a team is short players for a match the match may still be played. If the match becomes out of hand the team short players may request players from the opposing team switch sides (provided they have subs). However, the game score is considered final at that point. The point of this provision is to provide our players with as much quality playing time as possible.

The team that is short players may only request that the opposing team play short players on the field to make the number of players even if all of the players on the larger squad are able to reach a minimum of 50% playing time for **all** players. Additionally, the game will be a forfeit with a 3-0 victory being awarded to the team sitting its players. It is not the responsibility of the opposing team to bear the burden for a team that is not able to field a squad.

### **3.2. Number of Substitutions**

At any stoppage of play and unlimited. If a player leaves the field of play for reasons other than a substitution (injury, etc.), a substitution can be made in that moment.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. No player shall exceed 75% playing time unless all other players exceed 60%. It is the coach's responsibility to enforce this rule.

### **3.3. Substitution Procedure**

Substitutions by either team may be made at any stoppage in play. If there is a referee (8U), substitutions may only be made with the permission of the referee.

## **4. The Players' Equipment**

Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must distinguish teams. Shin guards are MANDATORY for both practices and games, and must be covered entirely by socks. If needed, teams can be distinguished by scrimmage vests.

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry; with the exception of a medical alert bracelet).

## **5. The Referee**

6U: One or both of the coaches should officiate / manage the game. Basic fouls and boundaries should be respected. All infringements should be briefly explained to the players.

8U: Registered referee with a minimum U.S. Soccer certification of Grade 9 or parent/coach or assistant coach if required.

## 6. The Other Match Officials

None.

## 7. The Duration of the Match

The match shall be divided into four (4) periods of 10 minutes. There shall be a maximum of a five (5) minute break between each period.

## 8. The Start and Restart of Play

Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.

## 9. The Ball In and Out of Play

Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.

## 10. Determining the Outcome of a Match

Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.

## 11. Offside

None.

## 12. Fouls and Misconduct

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that deliberate heading is not allowed (in games or practices). In all instances, the referee should explain the offense to the player.

A free kick is awarded to the other team at a spot nearest the offence. All free kicks shall be indirect. No cards will be shown in this age group.

A hand ball offense occurs when a player handles the ball with their hand/arm deliberately. The upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit. Instinctive, self-protective reactions are not penalized in these divisions unless the player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger (e.g., the ball strikes hand/arm extended above the head). Accidental contact (ball striking hand or arm) is not an offense and should not be penalized.

**Special Goal Box Rule for Small-Sided Play.** No defenders are allowed in the goal box unless the ball is entering or is in the goal box or if they are actively marking an opponent off the ball which brings them into the box. The first two goal box offenses by a team result in an in-bounds play for the other team from the sideline nearest the infraction. Additional offenses result in an indirect kick from the nearest corner of the goal box.

The purpose of this rule is to keep the players actively involved in the play on the field. We do not want players stationed “back on defense” during these games. As the coaches are refereeing these games please work together to keep all players moving from end to end.

**Slide tackling is not allowed at any time.** Players should receive specific instruction from coaches about slide tackling and that players must remain on their feet. A player who commits more than one slide tackling offense should be at least briefly substituted to receive additional instructions on the prohibition against slide tackling. The player may return to the pitch after sitting out enough time to reset. At all times, the objective is to protect player safety.

### **13. Free Kicks**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game, with the exception that all free kicks are indirect and the opponents are to be at least five (5) yards away from the ball until it is kicked.

### **14. The Penalty Kick**

None.

### **15. The Throw-In**

There are no throw-ins. The ball is out of play when the whole of the ball passes over the sideline on the ground or in the air. When the ball goes out of play on the sideline/touchline, the ball shall be placed at the point on the sideline where it passed out of play. The opponents of the player who last touched the ball before the ball passed out of play may dribble or pass the ball in bounds from this location.

All opponents must stand at least 2 yards (6 feet) from the point on the sideline where the ball is dribbled or passed into play. A goal cannot be scored directly from an in-bound play. If the ball is kicked directly by the in-bounding player into the opponents’ goal, a goal kick is awarded. If the ball is kicked directly by the in-bounding player into the in-bounding team’s goal, a corner kick is awarded.

### **16. The Goal Kick**

The ball shall be placed on or within the goal box (4x6 yard). The player taking the kick may dribble or pass the ball into play. The opposing team is to pull back to midfield until the ball is played. Otherwise conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.

### **17. The Corner Kick**

The player taking the kick may dribble or pass the ball into play. Opponents must stand at least 2 yards (6 feet) from the corner where the kick is taken until the ball is dribbled or passed into play. Otherwise conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.

## **Concussion Initiative**

If a player is suspected of having a head injury, the player may not return to that game. As with any injury, TSA recommends that the player seek medical attention as soon as possible.