
TSA 12U Soccer Rules

TSASOC-220814 Revision D



August 14, 2022

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Revision History

Name	Date	Reason For Changes	Ver./Rev.
Initial Release	9/14/16		A
C. Mayeu	8/8/17	Added field size, Forfeiture rule	B
M. Bordas	9/11/17	Consistent application of playing time across all age groups	C
M. Bennett	8/14/22	General updates; conform to structure of IFAB Laws of the Game	D

Overview

Game play is governed by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game, as modified by Timbergrove Sports Association (TSA). The IFAB Laws of the Game may be accessed at: <https://www.theifab.com/>. The Laws of the Game, as modified for 12U soccer at TSA, are as follows:

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 70 yards maximum 80 yards
Width: minimum 40 yards maximum 50 yards

Note: For fall 2022, the 12U pitch was 80 yards long and 50 yards 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: 6 yards out from the base and 6 yards wide of each goal post.

Penalty Area: 14 yards from the base line and 14 yards wide of each goal post.

Flag Posts: Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game

Corner Arc: Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game

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 (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is seven (7) feet.

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

2. The Ball

Size 4 ball.

3. The Players

3.1. Number of Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of 10-11 players in the field of play, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

A team roster consists of 12-13 players. Roster sizes shall dictate the number of players who play on the field, which shall be determined by the Division Director before the start of the season.

The minimum number of players required to play an official game is 9 (in seasons where games are played with 10 players per team in the field of play) or 10 (in seasons in which games are played with 11 players per team in the field of play). If one team has fewer players than this, the game is a forfeit in favor of the team with the requisite number of players. If the match becomes out of hand, the team that is short players may request that 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 with fewer than 9 players on the field (for purposes of making 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

Unlimited and may be made an any stoppage in play.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 75% of the total playing time. It is the coach's responsibility to abide by this rule.

3.3. Substitution Procedure

Substitutions by either team may be made at any stoppage in play. Substitutions nevertheless should be made with the permission of the referee and play should be stopped until outgoing players have left the field of play and incoming players have assumed a position on the field.

4. The Players' Equipment

Conform to IFAB 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

Registered referee with a minimum U.S. Soccer certification of Grade 9 or parent/coach or assistant coach (if required and agreed to by coaches or Division Director).

6. The Other Match Officials

Use of an assistant referee is optional. If team volunteers are used as linesmen they are permitted to call out of play only.

7. The Duration of the Match

The match shall be divided into two 30-minute halves with a 5-minute halftime break. Coaches may also agree on a 1-2 minute water break during the halves. No added time added to the end of either half.

8. The Start and Restart of Play

Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game, with the exception that the opposing team is be at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

9. The Ball In and Out of Play

Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game.

10. Determining the Outcome of a Match

Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game. Official score is to be kept and then reported to the Division Director by both Head Coaches. If a team is winning by five goals the team ahead is encouraged to practice passing skills and refrain from running up the score.

11. Offside

Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game. Offside will be enforced and an indirect free kick awarded the opposing team at the spot where the infringement occurred. There is no offside if a player receives the ball directly from a throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick.

12. Fouls and Misconduct

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

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.

Headed balls are permitted in match play. However, no heading is allowed during practice or in drills.

If a player commits a foul (intentionally touching ball with hands, pushing, hitting, tripping, etc.), a free kick shall be awarded the opposing team at the spot of the foul. Referee may issue caution (yellow card) or send off (red card).

13. Free Kicks

Conform to the IFAB Laws of the Game, with the exception that the opponents are to be at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is kicked.

14. The Penalty Kick

Conform to the IFAB Laws of the Game, with the exception that the opponents are to be at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is kicked.

15. The Throw-In

Conform to the IFAB Laws of the Game. A throw-in may not go directly into the goal.

16. The Goal Kick

Conform to the IFAB Laws of the Game. The ball may be played from any spot within the goal box.

17. The Corner Kick

Conform to the IFAB Laws of the Game with the exception that the opposing players are to be at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is played.

Standings and Point System

Three points shall be awarded for each game won. One point will be awarded to each team for a game ending in a tie. If two or more teams have scored the same number of points at the conclusion of the regular season, seeding for playoffs shall be determined by the following criteria in the order listed: (1) points earned in head-to-head games; (2) total goals allowed during the regular season; (3) coin toss. Neither goals scored nor goal differential shall be taken into account in breaking ties so as not to incentivize teams to run up scores.

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.