



EBU Laws of the Game

Law 1: Field of Play

Field size for U6 through U12 players is reduced for small-sided play. U13 and older play on full-sized regulation fields.

Law 2: The Ball

U6/U7/U8 players play with size 3 soccer ball

U9-U12 players play with size 4 soccer ball

U13 and older play with size 5 soccer ball

Law 3: Number of Players

U6 = 4v4

U7 = 4v4

U8 = 4v4

U9 = 7v7

U10 = 7v7

U11/U12 = 9v9

U13/U14 = 11v11

Substitutions for U6/U7/U8 soccer are allowed by both teams at any stoppage of play. Substitutions for U9-U14 soccer are allowed on kick-offs, goal kicks, and at the beginning of the half or on OWN throw-ins. **All players will be given the opportunity to play 50 percent of the game.**

Law 4: Player Equipment

Wearing shin guards underneath a player's socks is mandatory. Cleats are highly recommended, but not required. **No metal spikes. No jewelry.** Wearing tape over earrings is not permitted even if the earrings are new and may not be removed. If the jewelry can't be removed, the player can't play.

Law 5: The Referee and Assistant Referee

U6/U7/U8 soccer games are officiated by a volunteer parent referee

U9 and older games are officiated by licensed referees

Law 6: Duration of the Match

U6 plays four 10-minute quarters, with a 2-minute break in between quarters and a 5-minute halftime.

U7 plays four 10-minute quarters, with a 2-minute break in between quarters and a 5-minute halftime.

U8 plays four 12-minute quarters, with a 2-minute break in between quarters and a 5-minute halftime.

U9 plays two 25 minute halves, with a 5-minute halftime break.

U10 plays two 25 minute halves, with a 5-minute halftime break.

U11/U12 plays two 30 minute halves, with a 5-minute halftime break.

U13/U14 plays two 35 minute halves, with a 5-minute halftime break.

Law 7: Start and Restart of Play

Team's alternate kicks from the center mark to start play at the beginning of each quarter or half. On the kickoff, the ball may only be touched once by player A and then the ball is "live". After player A touches the ball, players from both teams can play and touch the ball as many times as they want.



Law 8: Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is in play until it completely crosses over a touchline or goal line.

Law 9: Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses over the goal line, between the goal posts and below the crossbar.

Law 10: Offside Rule

U6 through U10 there is NO OFFSIDE.

U11 through U14, there is OFFSIDE. A player is offside the moment the ball is played by a teammate to a player in the opponent's half of the field, nearer the goal than the second to last defender. To be called offside, the player must be involved in "active play" by gaining an advantage by being offside, or interfering with the play or an opponent. To be offside, the player must also be on the opponent's half of the soccer field, being closer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the next to last defender. (The goalkeeper is usually the last defender.)

Law 11: Fouls and Misconduct

Fouls are classified as either contact fouls or non-contact fouls. Contact fouls include tripping, pushing, etc. while non-contact fouls include dangerous play, offside, or foul language. Referees administer yellow and red cards at their own discretion for fouls committed carelessly or recklessly. Coaches should deal with inappropriate behavior by removing the player from the game for a "cool down" period.

Law 12: Free Kicks

All free kicks for U6/U7/U8 are INDIRECT. Free kicks for U9 and up are either direct or indirect. A goal can be scored from a direct free kick. Indirect kicks must be touched by 2 players before going in the goal in order for the goal to count.

Law 13: Penalty Kick

Penalty kicks are awarded when the defense commits a direct, free kick foul in the penalty area.

Law 14: Throw-Ins and Kick-Ins

U6 - Kick-ins start the play after the ball goes out of bounds on the sideline. The team that touched the ball last is on defense, the team who didn't touch the ball last starts the play back up with a kick-in. Defensive team must move back approximately 4 yards to allow the ball to get into play.

U7 and Up - Throw-ins start the play after the ball goes out of bounds on the sideline. For a player taking the throw-in, the ball must go behind the player's head and the ball must be thrown forward with both of the player's hands. Both feet must stay on the ground through the entire throw-in motion. The defensive team must move back approximately 4 yards to allow the ball to get into play. U7/U8/U9 players are allowed a second attempt after an illegal throw. After the second attempt, the opposing team would be awarded a throw-in.



Law 15: Goal Kick

A goal kick is awarded when the attacking team kicks the ball over the opponent's goal line. On the goal kick, the ball must leave the goal area to be in play or the kick should be retaken.

U6/U7/U8 – The defending team will be moved behind the mid-field line. This enables the team taking the goal kick to make an uncontested pass to a teammate.

U9 and Up – On a goal kick, the defending team's players can be anywhere outside of the goal box.

Law 16: Corner Kick

Defensive team is the last person to touch the ball before it goes out of play on the end lines. Attacking team would start play with a corner kick or a kick-in from the corner. If the ball goes out of bounds between the goal and the flag on the left, a corner will be taken from the left corner. If the ball goes out of bounds between the goal and flag on the right, a corner kick will be taken from the right corner.

Law 17: Lopsided Game Rule

If a recreational team, U6-U14, goes up by 5 goals the losing team is allowed to add an additional player.

Law 18: Head Balls

Players 10 and younger will be barred from heading the ball during any game or practice session. An indirect free-kick from the spot of the "foul" will be awarded. Players 11-13 years old will have limited heading during training.