

Revised: January 20, 2012

MODIFICATIONS OF THE GAME FOR U5/U6

LYSCA SOCCER LEAGUE CONFORMS TO US SOCCER RULES

US Youth Soccer recommended modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
FIFA Laws of the Game can be found at www.ussoccer.com/referees.

Law 1 – The Field of Play:

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

Game format: 4v4

Length: minimum 30 yards

Width: minimum 20 yards

Goal Area: 10 feet wide by six feet long

Penalty Area: none

Law 2 – The Ball: Size three (3)

Law 3 – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than four players.

Substitutions: At any stop play during game time and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and games may be coed. **COACHES PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CHILDREN NEED PLAYING TIME IN ORDER FOR SUCCESSFUL PLAY.**

Law 4 – The Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. **NO SHINGUARDS = NO PLAY.**

Law 5 – The Referee: All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees: None.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conforms to FIFA.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring: Conforms to FIFA.

Law 11 – Offside: None

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in a direct free kick. The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct. No caution or send off shall be issued to players. If a child is being too rambunctious then the game official will ask the coach to make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play.

Law 13 – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that all free kicks are direct and opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play. This should keep the game flowing and keep the attention of the kids.

Law 14 – The Pass-In: A pass-in is considered as a direct free kick with the opponents four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 15 – The Goal Kick: The goal kick should be taken from any corner of the goal box. Opposing players must be four (4) yards away from the ball until it is in play. It is suggested that if necessary that opponents are in their own half of the field until the ball is in play. If the goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponent's penalty area then the other team is awarded an indirect kick from the middle of the field.

Law 16 – The Corner Kick: Conforms to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Law 17 -- The Field of Play: the dimensions are smaller to accommodate the four-versus-four game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of four- and five-year-old children. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful. Field Markings: the center circle gives the players a concrete marking on where to be for the kick-off. The corner arc gives the young player a concrete place to put the ball to kick it back onto the field of play. While kids this young will not execute corner kick plays taking a kick from the corner is a reasonable way for them to put the ball into play and provides continuity with all other age groups. Goals: the goal, 4 x 6 feet, is the same for the U5 to U6 age groups. Finally the shooting odds for the U6 age group are one versus four, so let's give them a chance by having a larger target.

Law 18 -- The Number of Players: there are no goalkeepers in the U5/U6 age group so that all of the players may chase the ball around the field. The kids want to be where the action is and at this age it is around the ball. This will provide the opportunity for the children to further develop their running, jumping and kicking coordination. These are valuable traits for all soccer players to develop. The smaller number of players takes into account the egocentrism of this age group and therefore allows each child more opportunities for kicking and dribbling the ball. With fewer players on the field each child has an increased number of contacts with the ball and has more actual playing time. Additionally the players will be required to make more decisions and experience repeating game situations frequently. The work rate and involvement of players will be more consistent. While learning both offense and defense, players will become well rounded and will understand more readily the roles and importance of teammates.

The rationale for substitutions at any stoppage is to give more playing time as noted. Allowing subs at any stoppage is on the same page as FIFA. The only thing that we need remember is that play must be stopped for all substitutions; we can never allow on-the-fly substitution.

Law 19 -- The Pass-In: most U5/U6 players do not yet have the eye-hand coordination to execute a throw-in to the letter of the law. This leads to endless retakes from one team to the other. Additionally with a pass-in the ball is on the ground and stationary so the U5/U6 player has a better chance of striking it correctly.

Law 20 -- Minimum roster size is four players and the maximum roster size is eight players.

ADVANTAGES OF PLAYING SMALL SIDED GAMES

- **More time with the coach**
- **Energetic workouts due to playing both offense and defense**
- **More efficient use of field space**
- **Matches can be played simultaneously across a full size field**
- **Children are physically more efficient in smaller space**
- **Children are actively involved for a longer period of time**
- **It takes less time to score a goal or advance to goal**
- **Greater success rate for the players**

LYSCA'S FAIR PLAY RULE

- **Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each match.**
- **Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.**
- **Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.**
- **No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be consumed or allowed.**
- **No slide tackles to be allowed in this age group.**