

Revised: January 20, 2012

# **MODIFICATIONS OF THE GAME FOR U9-U12**

## **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](http://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: 8v8

Length: minimum 70 yards

Width: minimum 40 yards

Goal Box: 10 yards wide by 26 yards long

Goal : 6.5 feet height by 18.5 feet long

Penalty Area: 10 yards

### **Law 2 – The Ball: Size four (4)**

**Law 3 – The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eight players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven players.

\*Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

\*Teams and matches may be coed.

**Law 4 – The Players Equipment:** Conforms 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:** None infringements shall be explained to the offending player.

**Law 6 – The Assistant Referees:** None.

**Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:** The match shall be divided into two halves of 25 minutes. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:** Conforms 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:** Conforms to FIFA.

**Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conforms to FIFA. Cards will come in to play. The yellow card is a five minute time-out and allowing other player to come into the game. The red card is an ejection from game with no substitution.

**Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conforms to FIFA.

**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. If the goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponent's penalty area than 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** -- With fewer players on the field each player 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 18** -- Throw-in: Conforms to FIFA.

**Law 19** -- Minimum roster size is eight players and the maximum roster size is fourteen players.

**Law 20** -- The Field of Play: dimensions are smaller to accommodate the 8v8 game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of the player. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful. Field Markings: the penalty area is marked, but is smaller than the adult field size penalty area and within the penalty area is the penalty mark at 10 yards. The center circle is eight yards.

**Law 23** -- The Ball: must be a size four. The smaller ball is lighter and more easily kicked, received, dribbled and passed.

**Law 24** -- The Number of Players: the 8v8 game now includes the goalkeeper. The smaller number of field players will provide the opportunity for the children to further develop their physical and technical abilities. These are valuable traits for all soccer players to develop. 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 more 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 need for the players to make the mental and physical transition from offense to defense and vice-versa will be enhanced in this playing environment. The minimum number of players to begin a match for preteen players should be one (1) less than the number required on the field.

**Law 25** -- The Duration of the Match: per FIFA with the exception of the halves being 25 minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**Law 26** -- The Start and Restart of Play: per FIFA. The defending players must be 4 yards away from the ball until it is kicked.

**Law 27** -- Goal Scored: Conforms to FIFA.

**Law 28** -- The rule on the goalkeeper's distribution still allows for the ball to be punted the entire length of the field, it just can not go directly into the opponents' penalty area.

## **COACHES PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CHILDREN NEED PLAYING TIME IN ORDER FOR SUCCESSFUL PLAY.**

### **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.**