

8-U Boys and Girls Rules and Guidelines:

1. On a kick off (at the beginning of the game, the beginning of the second half, or after a goal is scored) the ball must move forward by the kick off team before it is passed back. After the ball is moved forward the player that passes it forward **may not** touch it until another player on either team touches it first. All defensive players are to remain on the painted circle until the ball is touched. After the ball is touched the Defensive player may advance towards the ball or player. Offensive players may have up to **TWO** players approach the ball, **however**; the offensive players **MAY NOT** cross the half field line prior to the ball being touched. If an **OFFENSIVE** player crosses the line and/ or passes the ball backwards rather than forwards that team will *forfeit* their possession and the other team will be awarded the kick off.
2. Each player should play at least 50% of the game.
3. In the U-8 division each team will play with Seven (7) players on the field at a time.
 - 3.1. Three Forwards
 - 3.1.1. The Forwards have the run of the field. They may go anywhere on the field except in the "safe" box.
 - 3.2. Two Full Backs

The Fullbacks are allowed to play anywhere on their teams side of the field. *Anywhere up to the painted half field line* unless they have possession of the ball. Once they lose possession by either passing the ball, having the ball taken from them by another player, or by shooting the ball, they must return back to their team's side of the field and continue playing in the Fullback position.
 - 3.3. One Sweeping Full Back
 - 3.3.1. The sweeping middle full back is played as a full back, but may have the run of the field the same as the forwards.
 - 3.4. One Goalie
 - 3.4.1. The Goalie is to remain in the goalie box and protect their team's goal.
 - 3.5. Off sides is introduced at this level of play at an instructional level.
 - 3.5.1. A player may **NOT** position themselves in front of the goalie to wait for a pass from their teammate
 - 3.5.2. Players must remain as even as possible with the opposing teams Full Backs until they have possession or their teammate plays the ball through.
 - 3.5.3. If a player is in the off sides position: the ref will make the call, play will stop and the other team will be awarded the ball in the spot where the player was called off sides. Play will resume when the ball is kicked off from the spot of the foul
4. A total of Four quarters will be played with Twelve (12) minute quarters. At the end of each quarter there is to be a *short* Two (2) minute break and a Four (4) minute Half Time so players may rehydrate and receive instructions from their coach.
5. On a goal kick the Goalie may place the ball **ANYWHERE** on the goal box line.
6. Never criticize or argue with the Referee. It's is a tough job and mistakes will be made. **REMEMBER** we as coaches are the role model. The Referee's have the final decision.
7. Scores are **NOT** to be run up. If you are ahead put your "weaker" players in the forward position so that they may have the opportunity to learn newer positions and gain newer skills. This level of play is intended to still instruct and to teach the players the game of soccer. Winning isn't everything.
8. **ALL** Official FIFA Rules and Regulations of the game will also be in effect.

Who makes the rules? The official soccer rules are called the "Laws of the Game" and are revised annually (usually in July) by FIFA (pronounced "FEE' fuh"), the world soccer governing body, but youth organizations usually adjust the rules to fit children. Typical adjustments are field sizes, game lengths, number of players per team, the number and frequency of substitutions, "offside" is sometimes not called, and slide tackling is sometimes not allowed. Field sizes, ball sizes, length of games & rules vary by age group. The FIFA rules do not require separate teams for girls and boys, but many soccer clubs and associations have separate leagues for boys and girls. Discuss the rule variations with an official of your league. You can find the "Laws of the Game" at www.fifa.com (on the FIFA Home Page enter "Laws" in the search feature).