

**Ellis Recreation Commission**  
**Outdoor Soccer Rules**  
**U8 League**

**Laws of the Game**

**The Ball:**

1. Size 4

**Number of players:**

1. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: **Three (3)**.
2. No goalkeeper.
3. Teams and games are co-ed.
4. A team must have at least three (3) players to start a game

**Substitution:**

1. Injuries
2. At the 4 min mark the referee will stop the game for substitution.
3. At the end of each quarter.
4. Each player SHALL play a minimum of **50%** of the total playing time.
5. Each player will also sit out for one 4-minute period during the game (exception would be if the team has no subs available).

**Player's equipment**

1. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleat soccer shoes
2. Shin-guards: **Mandatory** (Players need to provide their own shin-guards.)
3. Must wear Team Color T-Shirt.

**Duration of the game:**

1. The game shall be divided into four 8 min quarters.
2. Two minute between quarters.
3. There shall be a 5-minute half-time break.
4. No overtime will be played.
5. There will be no team timeouts.
6. The game clock will run continuously, stopping only for official time-outs and injuries.

## Starting and Restarting the Game

Specific procedures are used to start a game of soccer and to restart it following the ball going out of bounds. The start is done as a center kickoff and a goal cannot be scored until another teammate has touch the ball; restarts of the game, which occur after the ball goes out of bounds, can be a goal kick, a corner kick, or a throw-in, depending on the situation.

### Center Kickoff

Soccer games begin with one team kicking the ball from the center spot. (The team is often chosen by a coin toss.) The opposing team's players are not allowed within the center circle during the kickoff. The opponents must be three (3) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress. Players on both teams must be on their half of the field during the kickoff, and the kicked ball must roll forward at least one complete rotation before another player may touch it. These same procedures are followed after a goal is scored. In this situation, the team that was scored against restarts the game by kicking off from the center spot, and the team that scored stands outside of the center circle in this half of the field. A goal cannot be scored on a kickoff without it being touched by another player first.

### Goal Kick

When an attacking team kicks the ball out of bounds beyond the goal line, as in a missed shot, the opposing team is awarded a free kick called a *goal kick*. This kick is made by the defending team. For goal kicks the opposing team must move behind the midfield line until the ball been kicked and received by a player on the offense's team. The rule doesn't apply once the ball has crossed the midfield line.

### Corner Kick

If a team kicks the ball beyond its own goal line, the other team is awarded a corner kick from a corner arc. During the kick, defensive players must be at least 3 yards from the player kicking the ball. The kicker's teammates may position themselves anywhere they choose.

### Throw-In

When the ball is kicked out of bounds along the touchline, the game is restarted with a throw-in. The team that last touch the ball loses possession and the other team gets to throw in the ball. The player putting the ball back into play must use both hands to throw the ball and keep both feet on the ground. The throwing motion should begin from behind the head and be a continuous forward thrust until the ball is released in front of the head. The throw-in should be put into play quickly.

**Officiating in this age group will be flexible on throw-ins, goal kicks and corner kicks for the first two (2) weeks of the season. After that everything will be called.**

## **Fouls**

Fouls are called when one player runs into, charges, pushes, trips, kicks, or holds an opposing player. A handball foul is called when a player intentionally touches the ball with his or her hand or arm to gain control. Players who continually intentionally foul or play dangerously are warned once by the official, who presents them with a yellow card. The next time they intentionally foul or play dangerously, they receive a red card and are ejected from the game. Officials also can eject a player without warning if they rule a behavior unacceptable. Two kinds of kicks can be awarded for fouls, based on where the foul is committed: direct free kicks or indirect free kicks.

### **Direct and Indirect Free Kicks**

Fouls usually result in either direct or an indirect free kick. The type of foul committed determines which of the two is awarded. Direct free kicks may be kicked directly at the goal, whereas indirect free kicks must touch another player before a goal can be scored. All penalties awarded will be an indirect kick in this league. This means that no goal can be scored directly off the kick. Opponents must be at least 2 yards away from the ball during a free kick.

### **Free Kick Fouls**

- Handball
- Kicking an opponent
- Striking an opponent
- Trapping an opponent
- Holding an opponent
- Pushing an opponent
- Jumping at an opponent
- Charging into an opponent
- Charging from behind

## **Offside**

There are no offside

## **Goalkeeping**

The goalkeeper is the one position in soccer that has special rules. The biggest difference from the other players is that a goalie can touch the ball with their hands while in the penalty area of the field. In this league we do not have a goalkeeper. A team can utilize a player to defend the goal. This player cannot set up inside the ark around the goal or use their hands to defend the goal.

## **Scoring**

There is no goalie in this age group. There is an ark around the goal that marks the area that neither offense nor defense can enter. If the ball stops in that area without scoring a goal, then the defense can enter the zone and a goal kick is awarded. If the defense is illegally in the zone and stops a goal from being scored, then then the official will award

a goal. If the offense is in ark around the goal, then the ball will be whistled dead and the defense will take over possession. When the offense is in the process scoring they must kick the ball before entering the ark area for the score to count.

## Officiating

The referee is responsible for enforcing the rules, keeping the time and score, and issuing warnings and ejecting players and coaches. The referee signals the start and end of the game. The referee (or an assistant referee) indicates when and where a ball goes out of bounds and determines which team is awarded a goal kick, a throw-in, or a corner kick.

1. Referees are in total charge of the game.
2. Unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.  
Coaches should remove such players prior to an official having to eject him/her.
3. Players ejected from a game will be ineligible to play the next game.
4. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player

## Special Rules

1. **Slide tackling will not be allowed.**
2. There will be no team timeouts.
3. Standings will not be kept.
4. No Headers

## Sportsmanship

1. The **Officials** and the **Director** reserve the right to disqualify a player for rough play and or unsportsmanlike conduct toward an official, coach, or fellow player.

**\*Coaches, please inform your assistant coaches, parents and spectators of the following rules in this section:**

2. Unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind (this includes not shaking hands, etc.) by coaches, parents, and spectators will not be tolerated. The Officials and Director have the authority to remove players, coaches, parents, and spectators from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct towards staff, players, coaches, officials, or spectators. Officials have the right to forfeit the game if in their opinion, it is necessary to do so. One removal of a coach, parent, or spectator will result in that person being banned from coaching or attending anymore ERC activities the remainder of the school year. (Example: A spectator banned during football season cannot attend anymore football, basketball, or soccer games) unless worked out with the Director of the ERC. All decisions made by the Director, concerning this and all youth sports programs, are final.