

St. Mary's Youth Soccer Modified Laws of the Game

St. Mary's Youth Soccer will follow FIFA Laws of the game except as noted here.

Guidelines for all Divisions

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed: after a goal, before a goal kick, before a throw-in for team in possession (the team not performing the throw-in may sub if the team in possession is making a substitution), and before the start of the half.
- All players are required to play at least half the game, unless in the event of an injury or disciplinary action.
- An easy to read site that discusses the Laws of the Game is at <http://www.drblank.com/slaws.htm>.
- Soccer/Athletic Shorts are required (No Zipper or Pockets).
- Wear league issued team shirt, tucked in.
- Rubber Soccer Cleats or Sneakers are required.
- Shin Guards covered by socks are required.
- No Jewelry or chewing gum is allowed.
- Casts must be wrapped to protect other players and the player must have a doctor's note stating that they are allowed to play.
- Referee will check players uniform for safety before each game.
- Failure of a player to come prepared may result in the referee not allowing that child to play.

Recreation Division

U5 Division – This division is run as a clinic, meeting weekly for about 7 weeks. There are no formal teams. The day and time of the weekly clinic is determined by the Division Manager/Facilitator. Players are required to bring water, a #3 soccer ball, and wear shin guards.

U6 and U7 Divisions – This division provides the players the first opportunity to play on a formal teams, however goal keepers are not used in games. Teams typically meet once a week for practice and have a game on Saturday. Teams are split in half on game day and teams play 2 simultaneous 4v4 games using a #3 soccer ball, with the coach's facilitating the games. No referees are used and there are no offsides. U6 and U7 play four 10 minute quarters.

U8 Division – Players are introduced to using goal keepers and having a USSF Certified referee officiating the game as the players move up to a bigger field. Teams play 6v6 including the goal keeper and use a #3 soccer ball. All kicks are indirect, there are no penalty kicks, and no offsides. U8 plays four 12 minute quarters.

U9 through U12 Divisions – Players in this division play with an 8v8 formation including the goal keeper and a #4 soccer ball.

U9 and U10 play 25 minute halves

U10 and U12 play 30 minute halves

U14, U15, and U18 Divisions – Players in this division play with an 8v8 formation including the goal keeper and a #5 soccer ball.

U14, U15, and U18 play 35 minute halves

U18 Division Unique Rules:

Once a goal keeper takes control of the ball with their hands inside the penalty area, any release of the ball from within the penalty area may not land on the fly across the halfway line, unless first touched by another player from either team. This includes throwing, punts, volley kicks, and kicks from a dribble. Restart with an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the point the ball passed over the halfway line.

If the keeper dribbles the ball out of the penalty area, there are no restrictions related to the ball passing over the halfway line.

A goal kick may not be kicked over the halfway line on the fly, unless first touched by another player from either team. Restart with an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the point the ball passed over the halfway line.

Recreation Plus Division

U8 Division – Players in this division play with a 7v7 formation including the goal keeper and a #4 soccer ball.

U8 plays 25 minute halves

U10 and U12 Divisions – Players in this division play with an 8v8 formation including the goal keeper and a #4 soccer ball.

U10 plays 25 minute halves

U12 plays 30 minute halves

U14 Division – Players in this division play with an 8v8 formation including the goal keeper and a #5 soccer ball.

U14 plays 35 minute halves