

# *St. Mary's Youth Soccer*

## **Official U8 Playing Recommendations**

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.

Length: minimum 45 yards maximum 60 yards

Width: minimum 30 yards maximum 40 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

**Law 2 – The Ball:** Size four (3).

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

Substitutions: Unlimited substitutions are allowed: after a goal, before a goal kick, before a throw-in (only the team performing the throw-in can sub), after an injury or disciplinary action

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

**Law 4** – The Players' Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

**Law 5** – The Referee: USSF Certified Referees are used.

**Law 6** – The Assistant Referees: Not Required.

**Law 7** – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into four (4) equal quarters of twelve (12) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes, and a two (2) minute interval between quarters.

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

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

**Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 11** – Offside: None.

**Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

**Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: No penalty kicks.

**Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.