

# Laws of the Game

## WSA & CSC modifications of the Soccer Game for 8U - 4v4 format

Visit [www. FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com) for the complete Laws of the Game



**Law 1** – Field of play is rectangular. \*\* The dimensions are smaller to accommodate the 4v4 game and the young players. The field size is appropriate for the movement capabilities of children 8 and younger.

**Field markings** – Distinctive outline of the field with a **halfway line** across the field. The **center circle** gives the players a marking on where to be for kick-off.

**Touch Line** - Players, coaches, parents and spectators need to stay at least 3 yards from the touch line. Which may be indicated by a spectator line.

Teams will be on one side of the field with parents on the opposite side of the field. Teams will have a technical area that is approximately 6-10 ft from the center line. The technical area is the team box. The coaches will coach from the technical area. Parents are not allowed in the technical area.

**Goals** - 4" X 6"

**Law 2** – The Ball –Size #3

**Law 3** – Number of Players on the field – 4 v 4– no goalkeeper.

The number of players provides the opportunity for the children to further develop their physical and technical abilities and requires the players to make more decisions and experience repeating game situations more frequently. The player will touch the ball often.

**Substitutions:** At any stoppage of play and unlimited. When subbing a player, have them stand off the field about 1 yard at the center line for the referee to call them into the game.

**Playing time:** Every effort shall be made for each player to play a minimum of 50% of the game.

**Law 4** – Player Equipment

- Jersey and Shorts - Home team will wear white. Away team will wear red.
- Shin-guards are MANDATORY, socks covering the shin-guards.
- Footwear –Athletic shoes or cleats – cleats are recommended-no toe cleat

**Law 5 and 6** – Referee – 1 Center referee or Game Manager. Assistant referees are not needed for the small-sided game.

***Every effort will be made to have a referee assigned to the game. Referees are in high demand and short supply in the youth game. If a Referee is not available, the Coaches from both teams will be the “referee” for the game. 1 Coach can manage the game the first half and the other coach manage the second half. Every effort will be made to inform the coaches ahead of time.***

**Law 7** - Duration of the game 2 – 20-minute halves with approximately a 5 min half time. (A parent can keep time for the game as the coaches manage the game.)

**Law 8** – Start of a Game – The distance of the opposing team must be the same as the radius of the center circle away from the ball until it is kicked. Ball may go in any direction. Kick-offs, free kicks, throw-ins, goal kicks and corner kicks are used to start or restart play.

**Law 9** – Ball in and out of play – Must be over the line to be out of play.

**Law 10** – Goal Scored – per FIFA- the ball must pass completely over the line. Scores are not recorded.

**Law 11** – Off-Side do not apply in 4v4.

**Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct – per FIFA - Maintain safe playing conditions. Fouls may include slide tackling or kicking while on the ground. These may be determined as dangerous play by the referee/game manager. **No heading the Ball.** Intentional heading will result in an in-direct free kick (IDK) to the opposing team.

**Law 13** – Free Kicks – all free kicks are indirect. A goal cannot be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.

**Law 14** – Penalty Kicks – any player from the team awarded the penalty kick may take the kick. - per FIFA

**Law 15** – Throw-Ins - per FIFA - Over the head, both feet on the ground. Referee *may* grant a “do over” with providing some guidance on the proper technique of a throw-in.

**Law 16** – Goal Kick will be taken in the vicinity of the respective goal. During a goal kick, the opposing team must retreat past the half mark and remain on their defending half until the ball has been played (kicked). **Infractions of this rule will result in a retake of the goal kick.**

**Law 17**- Corner Kick will be taken in the vicinity of the respective corner.

Goal Safety – Do Not allow the children to climb, hang or swing on the goals or the nets.

Goals must be anchored. Do not remove the anchors or move the goals.

