

Official Under 10 Playing Guidelines

Black Swamp Soccer League/US Youth Soccer modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Effective beginning Spring 2011 Season

Roster Size: Minimum 6 – Maximum 9

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 35 yards maximum 45 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 six (6) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line **five (5) yards** from the inside each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of **five (5) 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 goal area.

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, **twelve (12) yards** from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of **twelve (12) 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 ten (10) 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 twenty-one (21) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is seven (7) feet.

Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

Law 2 – The Ball: Size four (4).

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.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited by both teams at the referee's discretion.

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: Registered referee, especially Grade 9 or parent/coach or assistant coach. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referees: Not required. May use club linesmen if desired.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

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 with the exception that an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks or throws the ball across the field's midline. The restart will occur where the ball crossed the midline. A goalie may not pick up a deliberately kicked or thrown ball to them by a teammate (conform to FIFA) (**This will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent.**)

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: Conform to FIFA.

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.

BSSL Rule – When a start or restart occurs at the center mark, the ball must leave the center circle before a shot on goal may be attempted. Restart shall be a goal kick for the opposing team if the ball enters the goal..

Cherry picking in BSSL games is strongly discouraged. Cherry picking is defined as a player hanging out around their opponent's goal area when the ball is being played on the other end of the field, as determined by the referee. If someone is coaching a player to cherry pick they will be warned a max of two times to stop. The third time the coach may be ejected from the match. Offside is not enforced in U8/U10 but it is not in the spirit of the game to cherry pick.