

WCSA Rules of Play for Small-Sided Games

Changes and clarifications are in *italics* and highlighted – **REVISED SPRING 2016**

FIFA Law	U5 and U6	U7 and U8	U9 and U10	U11 and U12
1-Field of Play	Up to 30 x 25 yard field	Up to 35 x 30 yard field	Up to 60 x 45 yard field	Up to 80 x 55 yard field
	No penalty area		10 x 26 yd penalty area	14 x 35 yd penalty area
	No penalty mark		Penalty mark 8 yards from the end line	Penalty mark 10 yards from the end line
	No goal area	No goal area	6 x 18 yard goal area	6 x 19 yard goal area
	4 x 6 foot goals	6 x 12 foot goals	6 x 18 foot goals	7 x 21 foot goals
2-Ball	Size 3		Size 4	
3-Number of Players	3v3 play, Minimum of 2v2 to begin play. Opposing teams play equal numbers.	4v4 play, Minimum of 3v3 to begin play. Opposing teams play equal numbers.	6v6 including GKs, Minimum of 4v4 to begin play. Opposing team plays equal numbers.	8v8 including GKs, Minimum of 6v6 to begin play. Opposing team plays equal numbers.
	No goalkeeper		No player may play more than half the game as GK, and every player must play “in the field” (not as GK) for some of the game.	
	Roster of 10 with 2 squads of 5.	Roster of 12 with 2 squads of 6.	Roster of 10 with one squad.	Roster of 12 with one squad.
	Both squads play at the same time. Opposing coaches work together and make every effort to field balanced squads by quarter.			
	Substitution at throw-ins for team with possession, at goal kicks, at quarter-end, at halftime, after a score and due to injury ALL with referee permission. Each player plays at least 50% of the game.		Substitution at throw-ins for team with possession, at goal kicks, at halftime, after a score and due to injury ALL with referee permission. Each player plays at least 50% of the game.	
4-Equipment	FIFA rules			
5-Referee	None Required	Yes	Yes	
6-Assistant Referee	None Required	N/A, ARs for training purposes and dependent on referee availability.	N/A, ARs for training purposes and dependent on referee availability.	Yes (2)
7-Duration of the Match	Four 8-minute quarters. 2-minute breaks at the quarter. 5-minute halftime.	Four 12-minute quarters. 2-minute breaks at the quarter. 5-minute halftime.	25-minute halves and a 5-minute halftime. No quarters	30-minute halves and a 5-minute halftime. No quarters
8-Start & Re-start of Play	FIFA rules. Opponent gives up 4 yards.		FIFA rules. Opponent gives up 8 yards.	
9-Ball In & Out of Play	FIFA rules			
10-Scoring	FIFA rules	FIFA rules plus no goals may be scored from the defensive half.	FIFA rules	
11-Offside	None			Yes – FIFA rules
12-Fouls & Misconduct	All fouls result in a direct free kick. No cards for misconduct. Coach/assistant briefly explains infractions to the offending player.		FIFA rules. Exception – if a GK punts or drop-kicks a ball in the air from his penalty area into the opponent’s penalty area, the opponent gets an indirect free kick at the center spot on the mid-line.	
13-Free Kicks	All free kicks are direct. Opponent gives up 4 yds.		FIFA rules. Opponent gives up 8 yards.	
14-Penalty Kick	None		FIFA rules. Penalty mark 8 yards from goal.	FIFA rules. Penalty mark 10 yards from the goal.
15-Throw In	FIFA rules. 2nd try given for incorrect first try.		FIFA rules	
16-Goal Kick	Taken from the end line at the nearest point from where the ball was retrieved. Opponents are on the other side of the mid-line until the ball is kicked.	Taken from the end line at the nearest point from where the ball was retrieved. Opponents are on the other side of the mid-line until the ball is kicked.	FIFA rules. Opponent gives up 8 yards.	
17-Corner Kick	None – goal kicks for ALL balls crossing the end line.	FIFA rules. Opponent gives up 4 yards.	FIFA rules. Opponent gives up 8 yards.	
Miscellaneous	No scorekeeping for U5, U6, U7. Scorekeeping in U8 ONLY. Participation awards for all.		Scorekeeping and standings. Awards for 1st and 2nd place.	Scorekeeping and standings. Awards for 1st and 2nd place.

- (1) **U16/U19 SMALL-SIDED: MODIFICATIONS AS U11/12 LISTED ABOVE EXCEPT FOR GK PLAY TIME RESTRICTION, WITH 35 AND 40 MINUTE HALVES, RESPECTIVELY.**
- (2) **ALL TEAMS MUST PLAY AT EVEN STRENGTH UNLESS A TEAM HAS HAD A PLAYER SENT OFF/EJECTED (RED CARD).**
- (3) **A TEAM NOT FIELDING THE REQUIRED MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS WITHIN 10 MINUTES AFTER THE SCHEDULED START TIME OF THE GAME WILL HAVE FORFEITED THE GAME.**
- (4) ***U10 AND UNDER: When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the IFK should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.***

* Any violation of these rules by a coach may result in sanctioning, up to and including that coach's dismissal. For U9 and above age groups, violations may also result in forfeiture of the game.