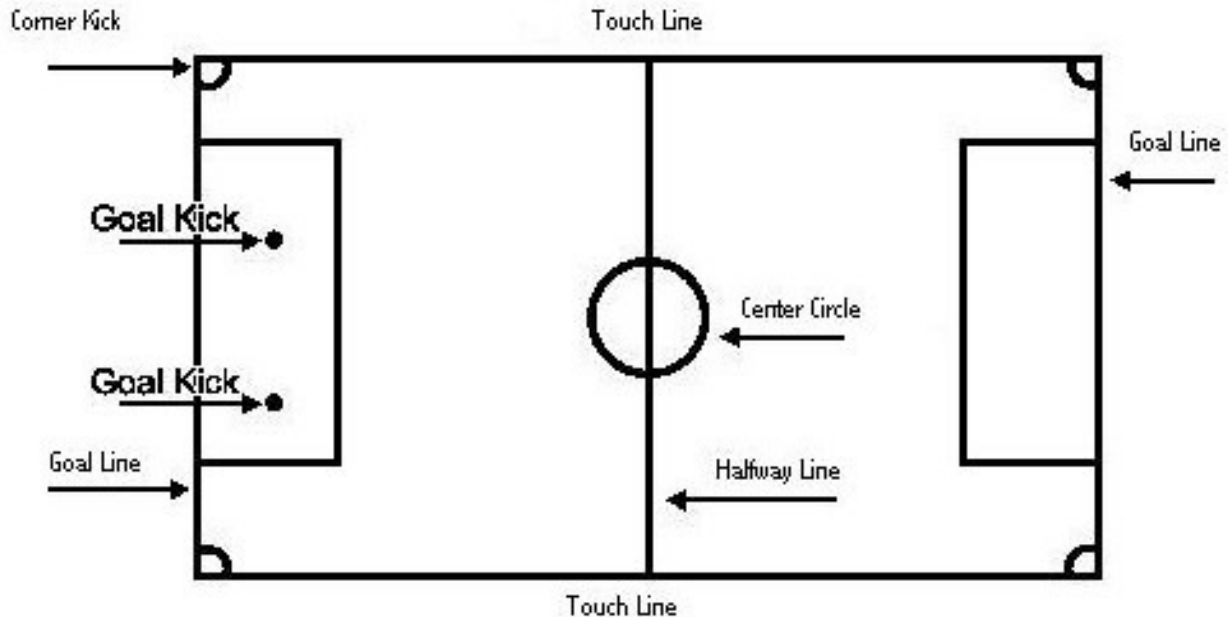


U-8 Short-Sided Games Guide 572



Field Separation:

Coaches and Parents should be separated on opposite sides of the field.

The Ball:

A size 3 ball is used for U-8 games.

The Teams:

Games are played with 5 players per team on the field (5v5) and with goalkeepers

Player Equipment:

Shoes and shinguards covered by the socks are mandatory at all practices and games for all age groups. Soccer shoes, tennis shoes or similar type athletic shoes are recommended. The type and condition of cleated shoes must be inspected for safety before use.

The Start of Play:

To start the first and second halves and following each goal in all age group games, play is started or restarted with a kick-off in the center of the field. A coin toss is used to determine which side of the field the coin winner wants to defend first. The team that Following a goal, the team scored upon kicks off.

The Kick-off:

The kick-off is taken from the center of the field with each team in their own half and the team not kicking off at least 10 yards from the center. losses the toss kicks off the first half. Teams must switch sides of the field at the half.

Ball In and Out of Play:

The ball is out of play in all age group games when it completely crosses the touch line (side line) or goal line (end line) either on the ground or in the air. The Referee, in U-8 games, will determine when the ball is out of play and should interfere as little as possible in the restart.

Method of Scoring:

A goal, in all age group games, is awarded when the ball completely crosses the goal line into the goal. Goals should be enthusiastically celebrated by everyone. **No Score Keep Everyone Wins**

Referee:

Referees should briefly explain any infringements to the player(s) and encourage proper play and sporting behavior. As with all games, every effort should be made to keep the game moving and free from stoppages for doubtful infractions. Let them play and enjoy.

Duration of Game:

U-8 games are forty minutes and are played in 2 twenty minute halves with substitutions allowed 10 minutes into each half at a stopping point the clock does not stop (this should only take 20 to 30 sec no more). The half-time break is 5-10 minutes.

Fouls:

The following, if deliberately done, are the fouls most likely to occur in U-8 games: kicking, tripping, pushing, holding, handling the ball and dangerous play. Do not stop play for trifling violations. It's a player's game so keep the fun going and let them play.

Misconduct:

Misconduct should be rare in U-8 games. There is no need for the public cautioning and sending off of young players. Coaches should work cooperatively with the other coach when a U-8 player may need a "time out".

Free Kicks:

All free kicks in U-8 games are direct free kicks. Opponents must be at least 6 yards from the ball or on the goal line between the goal posts during free kicks. Free kicks awarded the attacking team inside the defending team's goal area are to be taken from the nearest point on the goal area line parallel to the goal line.

Throw-in:

A second throw-in should be allowed in U-8 games if the first attempt was improperly done. Following brief corrective instructions, a second attempt should be permitted. If the second attempt is still done improperly, let it go. Proper technique can be reinforced later by the coach. Keep the game moving and minimize interruptions.

Goal Kick:

A goal kick is awarded the opposing team, in U-8 age groups and older, when the attacking team is last to touch the ball before it crosses the goal line but not scoring a goal. The goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area from goal line to goal kick marks. Ball can not be played until it has been kicked beyond the goal box. Kick is retaken if ball is touched or played before leaving goal box.

Corner Kick:

A corner kick is awarded the opposing team, in U-8 age groups and older, when the defending team is last to touch the ball before it crosses the goal line but not scoring a goal. The opposing team must be at least 6 yards from the ball when the corner kick is taken in U-8 games.