

WSA Under 8 Guidelines

THE FIELD:

- **Size:** 180 feet long by 90 feet wide (180' x 90')
- **Markings:** Distinctive lines recommended.
 1. Halfway line the width of the field, marked equidistant between the goal lines
 2. Center circle with an eighteen (18) feet radius in the center of the field
 3. Corner arcs with a three (3) feet radius at each corner of the field
 4. Goal area in front of each goal measuring twenty feet wide by twelve feet (20' x 12')
 5. Penalty Area measuring 40 feet wide by 20 feet from goal line (40' x 20')
- **Goals:** 12 feet wide by 6 feet high.

THE BALL:

- **Size 3.** Teams are responsible for providing game balls.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM:

- Recommend **SEVEN (7)** players on the field at any time; **one of whom is a goalkeeper.**
- Can also play **SIX (6) or EIGHT (8)** players, if each player will get a minimum of **50%** of the total playing time.
- **Substitutions:** Between periods, at halftime and during stop of play **ONLY**. Teams must get the referee's permission and players must enter and exit at mid-field.
- **Playing time:** Minimum of **50%** of the total playing time for each player. No one should play four periods until everyone has played three periods.

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT:

- Soccer cleats and shin guards are **MANDATORY** for both practices and games.
NOTE: Players without the proper equipment will not be allowed to play.

REFEREE:

- The referee will be either a league-assigned referee or coach.
- Referees should emphasize fun, fairness, safety, learning

NOTE: Referees should briefly explain any infringements to the player(s) and help players with instructions. All referees must be registered WSA volunteers.

Referee decisions are final and must not be questioned by coaches or spectators/parents.

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

- Parents may be used

DURATION OF GAME:

- Four (4) periods of ten (10) minutes.
- Period breaks of **two (2)** minutes.
- Halftime break of **five (5)** minutes

THE START OF PLAY:

- No change from regular play. Opponents must be **outside the center circle** for the kick-off. The ball can be played in any direction on the kick-off.

BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

- No change from regular play.

METHOD OF SCORING:

- No change from regular play.

OFFSIDE:

- **Offside is not called.**

FOULS & MISCONDUCT:

- **No change from regular play except:**
 - Heading the ball will result in an indirect free kick foul.
 - Slide tackling will result in an indirect free kick foul.
 - Unless within the penalty area, **Indirect** free kick for all fouls, with the opponents **seven (7)** yards away.
 - Referees will work cooperatively with the coaches to eliminate the need for cautions and send-offs. If needed, yellow and/or red cards will be shown.

FREE KICKS:

- All kicks are **indirect** free kicks, unless within the penalty area.

PENALTY KICKS:

- No change from regular play. Only the penalty taker and the goalkeeper can be in the penalty area when the kick is taken.

THROW-INS:

- A second throw-in may be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The referee should explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw. **WSA suggests the re-throw option be only allowed for the first 2-4 games of the season.**

GOAL KICKS:

- May be taken from any point inside the penalty area.
- Opponents must be **seven (7)** yards from the ball.

CORNER KICKS:

- No change from regular play.
- Opponents must be **seven (7)** yards from the ball.

WSA RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Coaches and players from both teams exchange handshakes after each game.
- 2) Coaches and spectators are not allowed to run the length of the field.
- 3) Coaches and spectators should encourage players, but parents/spectators must not coach or instruct players during game time.
- 4) **Spectators are not allowed behind either goal or within two (2) yards outside the touchline.**