



# **BASC RECREATIONAL YOUTH SOCCER**

## **4V4 U8 PROGRAM OFFICIAL RULES AND POLICIES**

FIFA/USYS/OSA Laws and Policies as amended by BASC (February 2025)



*All rules herein are for BASC Closed League matches and supersede FIFA, USYS, and OSA rules for recreational soccer. Items not specifically addressed herein shall conform first to OSA rules, then USYS, and then FIFA. For play outside the BASC Closed League, OSA rules shall apply.*

### **Law I – Field of Play**

- A. Field dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular. Its length being no more than thirty (35) yards or less than twenty (25) yards and its width not more than twenty (25) yards nor less than fifteen (15) yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. BASC U8 fields are approximately 30×20.
- B. Field Markings
  - 1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
  - 2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  - 3. A center circle with a four (4) yard radius.
  - 4. Goal area: Three (3) feet from each goal post and three (4) feet into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
  - 5. Penalty area: none
- C. Goals: The size of hockey goals or approximately 4'x 6'.

### **Law II – Ball Size**

- A. Size three (3)

### **Law III – Number of Players**

- A. Maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is four (4). There are no goalkeepers. The minimum number of players to start the match is three (3).
- B. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8).
- C. Substitutions:
  - 1. Unlimited.
  - 2. At any stoppage of play.
  - 3. Players shall enter the field at the halfway line with the permission of the Referee.
- D. Playing time: Each Player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- E. Teams and games may be coed.



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### **Law IV – Player’s Equipment**

- A. Footwear: Soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- B. Shin guards: MANDATORY

### **Law V – Referees**

- A. Registered USSF Referee is desired but not mandatory, games may be played with Parent / Coach officiating the game if there is a shortage of referees so that the match can start on time.
- B. All law infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending players.

### **Law VI – Assistant Referees**

- A. Not required

### **Law VII – Duration of Game**

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) periods of twenty (20) minutes with a five (5) minute halftime break.
- B. Clock runs during the game, stopping only at the end of each 20-minute period.

### **Law VIII – Start of Play**

- A. Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions:
  - 1. Opponents must be three (3) yards from the center mark while kick-offs are in progress (outside the center circle).
  - 2. A goal may not be scored directly from the kick-off.

### **Law IX – Ball In and Out of Play**

- A. Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

### **Law X – Method of Scoring**

- A. Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game

### **Law XI – Offside**

- A. There shall be no offside.



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### **Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**

- A. Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:
  - 1. All fouls and misconduct will result in an indirect kick with the opponent five (5) yards away.
  - 2. All infractions must be explained to the offending player.

### **Law XIII – Free Kicks**

- A. Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:
  - 1. All free kicks shall be indirect.
  - 2. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
  - 3. No kicks are to be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal area.
  - 4. Opponents must be five (5) yards away before kick is allowed.

### **Law XIV – Penalty Kicks**

- A. No penalty kicks shall be taken during these games.

### **Law XV – Throw In**

- A. The player selected to throw must keep both feet on the ground while the ball is being thrown. Further, a portion of both feet must be on or behind the line as the ball is being thrown. If there is a foul throw-in, the referee must explain the proper method to the player and call a re-throw. If the second attempt also results in an infraction, the opposing team shall be awarded the throw-in at the same spot on the field.

### **Law XVI – Goal Kick**

- A. Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:
  - 1. Goal kicks are taken anywhere within the goal area.
  - 2. Opponents must drop to the build out line also known as the Halfway Line which promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting. When the defender is taking a goal kick the opposing team must move behind the halfway line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the defender can kick / pass the ball to put it into play. After the ball is put



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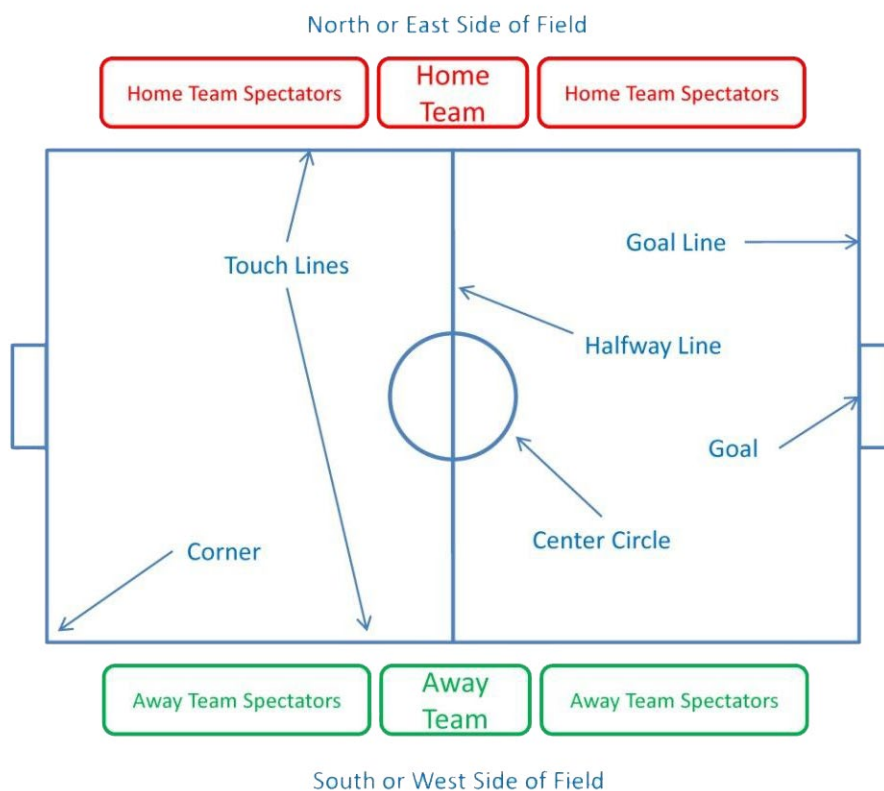
into play by the defender the opposing team can cross the half line and play resumes as normal.

3. Ideally, the defender will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line; However, the defender can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.
4. A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

### Law XVII – Corner Kick

- A. Conforms to FIFA Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:
  1. Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

## BASC U8



Field Size: 30 yds x 20 yds



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### **Additional BASC U8 Rules**

**Roster Size:** Teams are to be formed with a maximum of 8 players per OSA rules; the recommended roster size is 6 players.

**Uniforms:** Team uniforms shall consist of like-colored jerseys, shorts and socks. Names may be on the back of a players uniform as long as they are in accordance with the BASC Board Uniform Policy. <https://basoccer.club/about/basc-club-policies/basc-board-policies/>

The home team will wear a light-colored jersey. The away team will wear a dark colored jersey. Unless agreed upon by both coaches, the team not wearing the correct uniform will be required to change.

Pennies or targets may be worn over jerseys in the event of a color conflict, subject to the approval of the Referee.

Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. Undershirts exposed from beneath jerseys should be the same or similar color as the jersey.

Any sponsor's names, logos, or other wording/graphics must be approved in advance by the BASC Board.

Socks must cover shin guards and color must be consistent for the team. Any tape applied must be consistent with the sock color.

**Practices:** Three team activities per week including games, practices, scrimmages, classroom training, etc. No single activity shall exceed 90 minutes in duration with the exception for a fifteen (15) minute allowance for warm up prior to the start of physical activity. Weeks are considered Saturday through the following Friday. Non-soccer related activities such as team parties, team fundraisers, volunteering, etc. are not considered team activities/practices in respect to this rule.

**Team/Spectator Seating:** The Home team (as listed on the schedule) and their spectators shall be seated on the East or North side of the field. The Away team (as listed on the schedule) and their spectators shall be seated on the West or South side of the field. Each team and their respective spectators shall remain on their designated side of the field throughout the match.



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There shall be no climbing of trees, fences, goals, nets or other structures not specifically designed for such by any person. There shall be no coaches or spectators behind the goal lines.

**Sideline Behavior:** Coaches and spectators should keep all comments positive and supportive of the players. Spectators should refrain from providing playing instructions to the players which should only be done by the coaching staff. No referee abuse will be tolerated. Coaches may be cautioned or sent off by the referee for behavior in violation of the BASC Code of Conduct by the team's staff, players or their respective spectator sidelines.

**Grounds Clean-Up:** Each team shall clean up their respective areas before leaving.

**Match Officials:** All matches are to be officiated by a center referee.

**Coaching:** All persons coaching BASC players must be registered with the club and have an approved background check. Only registered/approved coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and managers may coach games or participate with players during team activities practice. Coaches are only permitted on the field with the referee's permission at a stoppage of play.

**Medical Devices:** All medical devices (casts, supports, braces, etc.) are subject to the approval of the referee with respect to player safety. Players with medical devices should have them padded in advance of the game and check in with the referee or at the HQ building prior to the match for approval.

**Sweeper-Keepers:** In our 4v4 leagues, coaches are strongly encouraged to have defensive players remain in the same 2/3 of the field as the ball. All players need to be encouraged to be involved in active play and not simply positioned in front of the goal to prevent scoring. This is not healthy for player development and is not consistent with the spirit of small-sided soccer, which is intended to have all players around the action and involved in the game. This does not mean that you cannot have a player focused on defense; however, coach the player who is in the defensive role to be in the same 2/3 of the field as the ball in play. For example, if the ball is on the opposing team's half of the field, the defender should be closer to the midline than to their own goal.

We are asking you, the coach, to ensure that players are positioned properly on the field. If you see coaches not following this guideline, please do not escalate the issue. Coaches who are reported as not following this guideline will be counseled and



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observed by BASC staff. Failure to follow guidelines may result in further disciplinary action.

Referees may remind coaches of this guideline, but no penalty or sanction shall be enforced by the referee. Referees will not manage this guideline during league games.

Let's work together to improve the quality of our games and ensure the development of all players.

**Slide Tackles:** Slide tackles shall not be permitted. Any player engaging in slide tackles should be counseled to not repeat. Repeated infractions may result in the player be cautioned and/or red carded.

**Mercy Rule:** There will be a 10-goal mercy rule if the losing coach requests it. The Mercy Rule cannot be applied until the first half has ended. The losing coach must notify the referee at half time if invoking Mercy Rule.

**Post-Game Sportsmanship:** All players and coaches should congratulate each other for a game well-played with handshakes/high fives along the halfway line. Parents are encouraged to form tunnels and cheer for players as they return to the side lines.

**Game Cards:** Each team should bring one printed game card to each game.

**Scores/Standings:** All scores are to be recorded on both game card by the referee and verified by each coach at the conclusion of the match (if a result or score is to be protested, the coach should note such on the Game cards and must file a protest in writing to BASC within 72 hours). Each coach will leave with a completed game card signed by the competing coach.

After each game, the winning coach must either scan the QR code or go to the GotSport website to enter the final score. This information can be found at the top of the game card. Coaches must maintain the game cards, in their possession, until 30 days after the season is over. Coaches must provide, to BASC, any game card requested. Scores/standings are not published but are used to assist in seeding teams for the following season.

**Playing Time/Substitutions/Rotations:** All recreational players are required to play at least 50% of each game for which they are present and physically able to play. Games/coaches will be periodically reviewed for compliance by the club. Coaches found to not be in compliance with this rule are subject to disciplinary review.



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Organized rotations are very important, and coaches should maintain documentation of rotations for each game.