



Academy Game Rules & Game Day Procedures

Length of the Game:

U9/U10 - two 25-minute halves - 10-minute halftime
U11/U12 – two 30-minute halves – 10-minute halftime

Slide tackles are allowed U8-U12

Player passes & game cards

Game card and laminated or digital player passes are required for every game. No player passes, No Game.

Build-out Lines U9 and U10 Age Groups

- The build-out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.
- Build-out lines should be equidistant from the penalty area lines and halfway line OR
- Build-out lines should be 8 yards from halfway line.
- When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build-out line until the ball is put into play.
- Once the opposing team is behind the build-out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball to a teammate.
- After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build-out line and play resumes as normal.
- The opposing team must also move behind the build-out line prior to a goal kick and may only cross the build-out line once the ball has left the penalty area.
- If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred.
- The build-out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build-out line.
- Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build-out line and the goal line.
- Punts and drop kicks are not allowed.

Build-out Line Practical Applications

- Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build-out line.
- However, the goalkeeper 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.
- To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build-out line prior to the ball being put into play.
- Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players.
- Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate.
- Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6-second rule and counting the time.

**Goalkeepers Punting the Ball:**

If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. Even when the keeper throws the ball in front of him, the ball bounces 2-3 times and he kicks it in the air, an indirect free kick should be awarded to opposing team from the spot of the offense. Goalkeepers can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting is not allowed).

Substitutions in Academy:

Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage with the consent of the referee. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

1. Substitution on either throw-in if the refs are ok with it
2. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.
3. After a goal, by either team.
4. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play. Substitutions shall not be limited to only the injured player or his team.
5. At half time.
6. After a caution or sending off, by either team.

Coaches' Responsibility During Game Day:

- Every coach is responsible to control his parents' group.
- Offensive, insulting, and abusive language will not be tolerated, either on field of play or in the field's general area.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
- Respect for the referee, either on field or in the field's general area, must be shown by all.
- Dangerous play must not be taught or encouraged. All players must be taught to "play the ball" and not the "man".
- Parents/Spectators are not allowed to verbally question, address or critique (criticize) any game official's judgment during or after the match.
 - The first instance that any Parent/Spectator violates this rule, the game official will ask the appropriate coach to dismiss the parent from the game.
 - If the referees don't know who violated this rule, then it is the coach's job to figure out which parent needs to be dismissed. He should ask his respective parents. If both teams' parents don't admit to who it was, the entire sideline of parents will then be dismissed.
 - If the Parent/Spectator is using "offensive vulgar language" at any game official during or after the match, they will be instantly removed.
 - If the offending Parent/Spectator refuses to leave, then the game will not restart. If they continue to refuse to leave, the game could be suspended by the referee and an incident report submitted to SCCL.
 - If the offending team coach refuses to address the parents when asked by the official, then the game will be suspended and the referee will write up a report to SCCL.

If needed, please call the referee assignors:

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