

## ***U7/U8 Division Rules – Spring 2025***

Points to remember for U7/U8 play:

- In the event of poor weather, assume the games are on as scheduled unless notified by a league official. Games are **NOT** cancelled for rain.
- **Game play**
- Play is 7 v 7 for U7/U8.
- The number of players fielded by both teams can be adjusted downward based on player attendance.
- Coaches need to agree and the ref needs to be informed.
- Quarters are 10 minutes.
- Ball size is number 3.
- Line-up cards must be filled out and given to the referee prior to the game.
- No jewelry of any kind during games or practices. Earrings must be removed prior to the game. Earrings covered by tape or band aids will not be acceptable.
- Players must have shin guards and shin guards must be worn under the socks.
- U7/U8 *does* have goalkeepers
- Players cannot play if bleeding.
- Substitution: Every player must play in at least half of the game. It is recommended players play equal time and rotate positions. The games in AYSO are about PLAYER DEVELOPMENT and playing only one position limits the player's development.
- No player should play a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter until all players have played a 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Going forward, a player shouldn't play a third quarter until all have played a second quarter.

### **Referees and game rules**

- U7 / U8 games are youth refed.
- *If you believe a call is incorrect, either let it go in the spirit of good sportsmanship or speak privately to the ref at the quarter or half break. Constructive criticism is fine, but don't make it abusive. Remember your behavior sets an example for your team.*
- There can be penalty kicks.
- Throw ins - Players are allowed two rethrows. If both the first and second retry are done incorrectly, the ball is turned over to the other team.
- Goal kicks - The ball is in play once the goal kick is taken.
  - The ball does not have to go out of the box to be played.
- Corner kicks are short corners. They are taken from the intersection of the end line and penalty area.
- **Build Out line**
  - Defenders can be in the box.
  - The line will be about 5 yards from the penalty box.
  - All offensive players must be behind it when the goal kick is taken.
- There is no offsides.
- Heading and slide tackling are not allowed. They will be considered dangerous play.
- A handball needs to be deliberate and affect the play in the opinion of the referee to be a penalty. Every touch by a hand isn't necessarily a penalty.
- If a penalty occurs but it is to the fouled team's advantage to continue play, the penalty is not called. This is referred to as advantage.
- **Half-line violation:**
  - The ball must touch the field or a player before it crosses midfield when distributed from inside the penalty box by the keeper or any other player.

- This is regardless of the distribution method, including throw, punt, drop kick or even putting the ball on the ground and kicking it.
  - The restart is an indirect kick to the other team at the center spot of the halfway line.
- **“Blowout” games**
  - Coaches should do what they can to avoid running up the scores.
    - Put the better players on the bench (assuming they’ve had their 2 quarters of play) or allow the other team to play with one additional player until there is only a 5-goal difference. Coaches should be able to agree on this at the quarter breaks.
    - Put the better players on defense.
    - Ask the players to pass “x” number of times before shooting. Instruct your team at the quarter breaks.

**Contact Information**

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