

2025 Fall Season Davis AYSO – Age-Specific Rules

Topic	6U	7U	8U	10U	12U
Ball size	3	3	3	4	4
Length of half (minutes)	10	20	20	25	30
Max./min. # of players	4/3	4/3	4/3	7/5	9/6
Substitution	Midway of each half (“quarter”), half, and injury. Additional substitutions may be allowed during hot weather.				
Playing time	Three “quarters” of the game				
Deliberate heading	Not Allowed – results in indirect free kick for the opposing team				
Slide tackling	See below—Note 1				IFAB Laws
Misconduct	Does not apply			See below—Note 2	
Offside	Does not apply			Judged at the build-out line	IFAB Laws
Penalty kicks	Does not apply			IFAB Laws	
Free kicks	All free kicks are indirect			IFAB Laws	
Goalkeepers	No goalkeepers			No punting	IFAB Laws
Build-out line	Does not apply			Defensive players must move behind build-out line on goalkeeper possession and on goal kicks	Does not apply
Restart if ball leaves field over touchline	Kick-in	Throw-in		IFAB Laws	

Note 1: Slide tackling in 10U and younger

Allowed if done in a manner that the referee decides is NOT careless, reckless, or with excessive force (same applies to any age group). Safety should be the first priority to a greater extent for younger players.

Note 2: Misconduct and showing cards in 10U and 12U

Misconduct is rare in younger players' games. If it occurs, referees should generally be able to deal with it informally, without showing cards. If a young player is behaving unacceptably, the referee may choose to involve the coach. In particular, if a player's behavior is uncontrolled (for example, they throw a tantrum and strike other players), the referee should get the coach involved and the player moved off the field. A misbehaving player may be cautioned or sent off, but the cards should not be shown in 10U and is discouraged but not prohibited in 12U games. Instead of showing a card, the referee should explain the misconduct to both the player and the coach.

Team and Spectator Field Arrangement

Teams shall be located on the same side of the field, on two sides of the halfway line. Coaches shall remain within their technical areas (10 yards from the halfway line).

Spectators are encouraged to be on the side of the field which is opposite from the teams.

However, spectators are allowed to seek shady spots, provided that they are behaving properly, showing good sportsmanship, and not distracting players. "Distraction" is not only limited to any negative comments, but also to "coaching" advice. Spectators can volunteer as coaches if they wish to coach.

No spectators are allowed behind the goal lines. The only exception can be made on very hot days, and if the only shaded areas are behind the goal lines, and spectators should not be close to the goal line.

All decisions regarding the spectators' location (based on the considerations above) are at the discretion of the Referee.

Last updated: 08/022/2025