

MODIFICATION TO LAWS OF THE GAME
FOR SJGSL SMALL SIDED GAMES –U9-U12– FALL 2016

All IFAB/FIFA Laws of the Game 2015-2016 and SJGSL Rules of Competition apply, except as modified herein.

LAW 1 - THE FIELD

A. **Dimensions**

U9-U10 – 47 yds long by 30 yds wide (minimum) 70 yds long by 45 yds wide (max)
U11-U12 – 70 yds long by 45 yds wide (minimum) 80 yds long by 55 yds wide (max)

B. **Markings**

1. U9-U12 - A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius.
2. Goal Area - U11-U12 – five (5) yards from each goal post and five (5) yards into the field of play.
U9-U10 – four (4) yards from each goal post and four (4) yards into the field of play.
3. Penalty Area - U11-U12 - fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play.
U9-U10 – twelve (12) yards from each goal post and twelve (12) yards into the field of play.
4. Penalty Mark – U9-U12 - ten (10) yards from the goal line at a spot measured into the field of play from the point midway between the goal posts. From the penalty mark, an eight (8) yard arc is marked beginning from one point that intersects with the line parallel to the goal line and continuing to the second point which intersects that line.
5. Build Out Line – U9-U10 only – connecting the touchlines and parallel to the goal line, marked halfway between the penalty area and the halfway line.

C. **Goals**

Maximum: Twenty one (21) feet wide by seven (7) feet in height
Minimum: Eighteen (18) feet wide by six (6) feet in height

LAW 2 – THE BALL

- A. A size 4 ball shall be used.

LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. U11-U12 - The maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be nine (9), one of which shall be the goal keeper. The minimum number of players for a match to start or continue shall be six (6).
- B. U9-U10 - The maximum number of players on the field at any one time shall be seven (7), one of which shall be the goal keeper. The minimum number of players for a match to start or continue shall be five (5).
- C. Substitutions: Same as SJGSL Rules

LAW 4 – THE PLAYER’S EQUIPMENT: Conform to FIFA and/or SJGSL

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE: Conform to FIFA and/or SJGSL

LAW 6 – THE ASSISTANT REFEREES

- A. If no assistant referees are assigned to the game, a volunteer from each team’s spectators will be requested to help with signaling when the whole of the ball has left the field of play. Such “club linesmen” are not empowered to signal or assist the referee in calling fouls, misconduct, or offside infractions.

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

- A. The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves, with a five (5) minute break between the halves.
 - 1. U9-U10 (7v7) halves will be 25 minutes in duration.
 - 2. U11-U12 (9v9) halves will be 30 minutes in duration.

LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY: Conform to FIFA and/or SJGSL

LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY: Conform to FIFA and/or SJGSL

LAW 10 - METHOD OF SCORING: Conform to FIFA and/or SJGSL

LAW 11 - OFFSIDE: Conform to FIFA and/or SJGSL, except:

- A. (U9-U10 only) The build out line will be used to start where offside position may begin.
 - 1. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line
 - 2. Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line

LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:

- A. Punting:
 - 1. U9-10 - There is NO punting in 7v7 games. When the GK has possession, the opposing team must move out beyond the build-out line and may not cross that

line until the GK puts the ball in play. “In play” occurs when the ball leaves the GK’s possession.

- i. If a goalkeeper punts the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense
 - ii. If the punt 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 infringement occurred
2. U11-12 - Under 9v9 rules, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the CENTER MARK on the halfway line if the GK punts or drop-kicks the ball from her penalty area and it lands in the air in the opponents’ penalty area. If the ball goes directly into the goal, no goal is awarded and the ball is returned for an indirect kick as above.

B. Heading – U11 and below teams may not intentionally head balls in games. Players who are 10 years old or younger and playing up on a U12 team are also prohibited from heading balls in games. Intentional heading a ball during a game will result in an indirect kick being awarded to the opponent from the point of the infraction, unless the ball goes directly out of play. In the case of a U10 player playing on a U12 or older team, the responsibility is with the coach to enforce this restriction, not the referee

C. Build Out Line Violations

1. Encroachment – Once keeper gains possession of the ball, ball goes out of play over the endline or there is a foul by the attacking team beyond the build out line, the attacking team must retreat fully behind the build out line.
- i. When the goalkeeper gains possession with her hands, players should retreat immediately. Once players are beyond the build out line, the GK has 6 seconds to release the ball back into play with a throw, roll or placing the ball at her feet and kicking or dribbling. The opposing team may enter the build out line once the GK releases the ball from her hands.
 - ii. If a player encroaches the build out line before the GK releases the ball, or goal kick or free kick leaves the penalty area, and intentionally plays the released ball, it is encroachment. Except as noted in the next paragraph, the restart shall be an Indirect free kick from the spot of the encroachment.
 - iii. If an opposing player encroaches and plays ball on a goal kick or free kick inside the penalty area, and before the ball leaves the penalty area, the kick is retaken (the ball was never in play).
 - iv. Goal keepers may play the ball immediately upon possession of the ball. If the goalie plays the ball immediately and it hits one of the retreating opposing players, it is treated the same as a quick free kick, play on.
 - v. Referees can manage the encroachment situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate.
 - vi. Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line.

LAW 13 - FREE KICKS: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away at the time the kick is taken, or beyond the Build Out Line, whichever is further, unless a team opts to take a “quick kick”.

LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away at the time the kick is taken.

LAW 15 – THE THROW IN: Conform to FIFA

LAW 16 – THE GOAL KICK: Conform to FIFA except:

- A. U9-U10 – the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play. After the ball is put into play, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal

LAW 17 – THE CORNER KICK: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away at the time the kick is taken.