

# NBSC U6 Rules and Guidelines

My name is Donny Jackson of the New Berlin Soccer Club. I want to thank you for making the effort to coach one of our U6 soccer teams. Your time and commitment is truly appreciated, as you are mentoring our youngest players in their first experience with soccer—and team sports, as well.

Soccer is a wonderfully simple game, which is ideal for the youngest players. Most U6 rules mirror the same game you see played in the World Cup. However, we do have a few special rules at U6 that are designed to encourage player participation and team play. I've spoken to some of you about these rules, but I wanted to clarify them in writing:

1. **Number of players:** Each team has 3 players on the field at any time during the game.
2. **Referees:** Coaches act as referees. A coach from each team can be on the field to direct players and make referee calls.
3. **Length of game:** Games are expected to consist of four 8-minute quarters. However, the coaches can agree to extend the game to increase playing time for players—something that can be a good idea when both teams have more than 6 players—as long as doing so does not delay the start of the next game. On the other hand, if both teams are short-handed and all the kids are tired, the coaches can agree to shorten the game. The key is that the coaches agree.
4. **Scoring:** We do not keep score at U6. Please focus on encouraging soccer skills, teaching rules and having fun.
5. **Goalies:** There are no goalies, so no players can use their hands during a game. In addition, no player should be assigned to defend the goal by simply standing in front of the net. We're not keeping score, so more goals are better. However, defenders hustling back to kick a ball off the goal line in the course of normal play is legal and should be applauded.
6. **Throw ins/Kick ins:** There are no throw ins. The ball should be placed on the ground where it exited the field, and kicked to restart play. Defenders should be at least 10 feet away from the ball.
7. **Kickoffs:** To ensure that even the most timid players touch the ball and to encourage the concept of passing, the defending team should remain in its quarter of the field until each player of the team kicking off has touched the ball. All three offensive players must touch the ball BEFORE reaching the final quarter of the field.
8. **Goal kicks:** This rule is similar to kickoffs. The defending team remains in its quarter of the field until the ball crosses midfield. With no pressure, each player on the kicking team should make a pass to a teammate before the ball crosses midfield.

As referees, coaches can control the flow of the game. Please do so in a manner that teaches players proper techniques. For instance, if a player kicks the ball out of bounds on a goal kick or kicks the ball directly to the opposing team on a kick in, have the player retake the kick. Also, try to rotate the players on your team that kick the ball on restarts (goal kicks, kick in and kickoffs) to ensure that everyone gets a chance.

And, most of all, have fun!

Thanks again for all your help. If you ever have any questions, feel free to call me at 414-529-9588.

Have a great season,  
Donny Jackson  
New Berlin Soccer Club