



U8/U9 Division Supplement

U8/U9 Rules of the Game

Participation: All players MUST play a minimum of 50% of each game. The purpose of the league is to help develop the understanding of the game of soccer through play.

Players: Teams will be coed and consist of up to 7-8 players. There are goalkeepers in this age group. Players should be discouraged from hanging back near the goal during play. That's why we have goal keepers. Players should be encouraged to roam the field and be involved in the play, do not force your defense to stop at the mid-field line but rather use it as guide and teach them to stay back in support of the offense. Substitutions are allowed anytime the ball is out of play or after a goal scores.

Here are some things to emphasize;

- Staying in their positions
- Emphasize Spacing

Ball Size: size 3

Number of players: 6 vs. 6 (5 vs. 5 plus Goalies)

Game Duration: The game will be divided into two 25 minute halves. There will be a five minute half-time.

Referees: There will be one coach referee from each team on the field for each game. Assistants should be on the sidelines.

Team and spectators: No coaches or spectators should be behind the goals during play when possible

Start of Play: At the start of each half and following a goal an indirect kick will be taken from the center of the field. The opposing players must stay out of the midfield circle. The kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

Ball in and out of play: The ball must completely cross the sideline to be out of play. This same rule applies to goals. When the ball goes out of play the opposing team will have a kick-in or Throw-in depending on the spot. The opposing players must be five yards away from the player kicking/throwing the ball.

Offsides: there is no offsides.

Fouls and Misconduct: All fouls will result in an indirect free kick with the opposing players five yards away.

Kicks:

Free: All frees kicks are indirect (a goal can not directly be scored from this kick.) **Opposing players must at least five yards** away from the player taking the kick.

Penalty: There are no penalty kicks.

Goal Kick: If the team attempting to score a goal kicks the ball over the goal line out side the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. The goal kick will be taken anywhere inside the small goal box area. **The opposing team must go back towards their half of the field and be outside the large goal box area.**

Corner Kick: If the team defending the goal last touches the ball before it crosses the line, the attacking team puts the ball into play with an indirect free kick from the corner arcs.

Substitutions: can be made whenever the ball is dead (out-of-bounds, goal kick, corner kick or after a goal is scored).

Hand ball: if one of the players touches the ball with their hands, stop play; explain why play has been stopped and then allow the opposing team to kick the ball from the spot of the infraction. The ball can not be kicked directly into the goal, encourage the players to pass the ball to a teammate.

Conclusion: Do not keep score of the game; there is no winning team and losing team. The concept is for the kids to have fun, learn some soccer skills and become comfortable with the basic concepts of soccer. At the end of the game, instead of emphasizing the score, ask the players if they scored any goal, made any passes or blocked any shots.

Practices: There is an open practice every Saturday. It will be run by your coach . Websites such as www.beningtonsoccerclub.org , <http://www.soccerhelp.com> , and www.usyouthsoccer.org all have sections devoted to coaching.

Characteristics of U-8/9 Children

- Attention span beyond U-6 but still not extended. ☺ Inclined more towards group activities.
- Still in motion.
- Still very sensitive (Dislike personal failure in front of peers).
- Beginning to develop physical coordination (Most can ride a two-wheeler at this point).
- Still into running, jumping, climbing, and rolling.
- More into imitation of the “big guys” (Sports heroes becoming important).
- Still lack sense of pace (Go flat out).

Goals for the season

The primary goal with this age group is to begin developing skills, as a player, in ball handling, passing, and shooting. While no positions are being played, you should begin emphasizing spacing on the field. If their teammate has the ball there is no reason to go to the ball, but rather they should find open space on the field. The emphasis should still be on having fun with the sport, and not on competition.

Three “goals” for the season:

1. Recognize where their teammates are on the field, find an appropriate space on the field
2. Begin to develop passing skills
3. Recognize they should not be taking the ball from their teammate