



Laws of the Game Under-12 (5th-6th Grades)

Law 1: The Field of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 45-55 yards long x 35-45 yards wide field. ➤ 7 foot high x 21 foot wide goal.
Law 2: The Ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Size 4
Law 3: The Number of Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8v8 with goalkeepers. ➤ Coaches & referees may cooperatively adjust down to 5 or up to 9 if desired. ➤ Substitutions may occur at any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee.
Law 4: The Players' Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Uniform, shorts, socks provided by program. In an emergency, similar colors can be worn. ➤ Shin pads required. ➤ Tennis shoes or cleats acceptable, NO baseball/football cleats. ➤ No earrings or jewelry!!!!
Law 5: The Referee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two referees provided by club. ➤ Referees paid by mailed check directly from the club. ➤ Contact Referee Assignor with referee issues. 952/215-8303.
Law 6: The Assistant Referees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No assistant referees.
Law 7: The Duration of the Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two 35-minute halves, with a five-minute halftime. Coaches & referees may cooperatively adjust. ➤ Game is considered complete if at least half of the second half has been played. ➤ A forfeit <u>may</u> be declared if a team is not ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled kickoff.
Law 8: The Start & Restart of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At the beginning of each half and after a goal play begins with a kickoff. Each team must be in own half. Ball is placed in center of field and a player from one team (determined by pregame coin flip) or the team who was just scored on kicks ball to one of their teammates to start play. Kick may go in any direction.
Law 9: The Ball In & Out of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If the ball passes completely over either of the sidelines, play is restarted with a throw-in. ➤ If the ball passes completely over either end line without going into the goal, play is restarted with a goal kick (last touched by offense) or corner kick (last touched by defense.) ➤ Defending team should give at least 3 yards until ball is back on field. ➤ Play begins as soon as ball enters field.
Law 10: The Method of Scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A goal is scored when the entire ball is completely across the goal line.
Law 11: Offside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Offsides occurs when a player is already behind the second to last defender AND involved in the play when their teammate passes the ball to them, UNLESS they are in their own half.
Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Players may not kick, trip, hit, jump at, push, hold, or spit at an opponent. ➤ Players may not handle the ball. Handling occurs when a player intentionally uses any part of their hand or arm to contact the ball. If the ball hits a player in the arm without them moving their arm to the ball, it is not handling. Handling is hand to ball, not ball to hand. ➤ Players may not intentionally block an opponent from getting to the ball unless they are playing the ball themselves. ➤ Players may not charge an opponent illegally. Contact is allowed as long as both players are playing the ball. Pushing with arms extended, coming in too hard in a violent manner, tackling from behind and hitting the player before the ball, and kicking the opponents legs are examples of illegal play. The key is whether the player is focused on the ball & does not go THROUGH the opponent to get there! ➤ Any play judged to be dangerous to other players is a foul. ➤ Any play judged to be unsporting (e.g. taunting, delaying game) is a foul.
Law 13: Free Kicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After any foul, play will restart with either a direct or indirect free kick from the spot of the foul. Opponents must be at least 3 yards away. Direct kicks may be kicked directly into the goal. Indirect Kicks may not be kicked directly into the goal, someone else must touch it before it goes in the goal. The kicker may not touch it again until someone else does.
Law 14: Penalty Kicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A penalty kick is awarded when a direct kick foul is committed by the defending team in their own penalty area. All players except the shooter and keeper must be behind ball, outside the penalty area and at least 3 yards away.
Law 15: The Throw-In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A throw-in is used to restart play when the ball goes out of bounds along a sideline. A player from the team that did not touch the ball last stand with both feet on the ground, and throws the ball onto the field using both arms equally and releasing the ball from behind and over the head.
Law 16: The Goal Kick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A goal kick is used to restart play when the ball goes over an end line and is last touched by the offense. The defensive team kicks the ball into play from any spot within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside of penalty area until ball is touched.
Law 17: The Corner Kick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A corner kick is used to restart play when the ball goes over an end line and is last touched by the defense. The offensive team kicks the ball into play from the corner of the field closest to where the ball went out.

Standings are kept for the Under-12 League. Game scores are reported by the winning coach.