

U8 (6-7 Year Old's) Division Information

SAFETY – Players shall not wear anything considered dangerous to themselves or to another player.

- **No jewelry allowed.** Healing posts will need to be removed.
- **No knots or bunching of shirt tails or shirt shoulders.**
- **Medic Alert bracelets/medallions. Are allowed** but must be taped to the wrist or body.
- The referee (coaches) will check equipment before the game to ensure the players' equipment is safe. (Refer to Law IV of the Playing Laws for examples of Illegal/Unsafe Equipment.)
- All players must wear Shing-guards. Shin-guards must be totally covered with socks.
- Soccer shoes or athletic shoes must be worn.

SPECIAL NEEDS – During equipment checks the referee (coaches) should inform the other coach about players that have special needs (medic alert, need to use an inhaler, diabetic, etc.)

KICKOFF

- The ball can be kicked in any direction for a kickoff.

GOAL KICK/CORNER KICK

- When the ball crosses the goal line, but not scoring a goal, the restart is either a goal kick or a corner kick.
- If a defender last touches the ball and it crosses the goal line, the attackers are awarded a corner kick.
- If an attacker last touches the ball and it crosses the goal line, the defenders are awarded a goal kick. Any defender may take the goal kick.

BUILD-OUT AREA (see SAY Playing Laws)

- On all restarts within the Build-Out Area by the defending team, the attacking team's players must remain outside the Build-Out Area until the ball is put back into play.
 - On goal kicks the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
 - On free kicks (IFK) taken from within or outside the Penalty Area, the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
 - On goalkeeper possession, the ball is in play when:
 - It is placed on the ground and kicked.
 - The goalkeeper releases the ball by rolling it.
 - The goalkeeper releases the ball by throwing it.

PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

- Six (6) players on the field, including a goalkeeper, for each team.
- One coach is allowed on the field for each team.

THROW-INS

- Restart when ball goes over the Touchline (Sideline) and is taken by opponent of player who last touched the ball.
- Thrower must face the field of play with part of each foot on or behind the Touchline, both hands on the ball and both hands must go behind and over the head. Ball is in-play when any portion of the ball breaks the outside plane of the Touchline into the field-of-play after having been thrown.
- When an improper throw-in is taken, the Referee should stop play, explain the proper procedure and allow throw-in to be retaken.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in

GAME DURATION

- All games will have ten (10) minute quarters. One minute between quarters and a five-minute halftime. Switch ends after each quarter. Switch the team that kicks off to start the quarter.

SIDES OF THE FIELD

- The “Bench” or team areas are located on the same side of the field, separated by the halfway line, to facilitate substitutions. Substitutions are conducted from the halfway line with the referee’s permission during game time or made at the change of the quarter. Therefore, unless players are waiting to substitute, they should be in their team area away from the halfway line. Spectators may be on either side of the field. NO ONE is allowed behind the goal or goal line.

RULE EXCEPTIONS FOR THIS AGE

- Referees should be lenient on throw-ins and free kicks. They should allow “do-overs” and explain the proper way.
- All free kicks are Indirect Free Kicks. There are no direct free kicks at this age.
- Tackling in soccer is simply stopping the ball when the opponent is dribbling. NO slide tackles. Players should not slide on the ground to kick the ball. If a player continues to slide, the referee should warn the player. If it continues, the coach should sub them out and explain what they are doing wrong. KEEP IT SAFE!
- No penalty kicks. An indirect free kick is awarded at the 12-yard line. For either direct or indirect free kicks, opponents must be eight (8) yards from the ball.
- No offside. No penalty cards to players. Passing back with the foot and throwing a throw-in back to the keeper is allowed at this age level. Keepers may possess (hold with the hands) the ball longer than six (6) seconds, but should be encouraged to keep play moving.
- Heading the ball deliberately is prohibited; Indirect free kick restart for opposing team at spot of infraction.

HANDBALL

- Accidental contact, i.e., ball striking hand or arm with no intent by player, is not an offense and should not be penalized. Instinctive, self-protective reactions are not to be penalized.
- *Exception: When the ball goes directly into the goal after touching an attacking player’s hand or arm, even if accidental. No goal, restart with a free kick for opposing team.*

Coaches MAY be carded if they don’t behave themselves or become argumentative. Patience is required and referees should try to explain things to the coach before cautioning or sending off.