



U9/U10 Game Rules

Ball size – 4 (only goalies are permitted to touch the ball with their hands)

Equipment – soccer cleats/turf shoes and shin guards are mandatory

Players on field – 6 v 6 (including a goalie keeper, encourage keeper to “rove” and play defence as well)

Playing time – equal playing time for all players, minimum 2 goalies per game.

Substitutions – at stoppage of play only with referee’s permission (a loud “subs please” to the referee)

Game time – two (2) 25-minute halves with 5 minute half time and change ends. Posted time on schedule is GAME START TIME. If you wish to warm-up, this needs to be done in advance of game start time. If a game starts late, the referees will adjust the playing time so that the game finishes on time.

Scoring – score from anywhere, no offside. No need to rack up the score – this is NOT the World Cup and no scores are reported.

Throw-ins – There are no throw-ins. Law 15 has been modified to dribble or pass in (see separate document). A Dribble or Pass in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the sideline, on the ground or in the air.

Encourage passing, team work and SPORTSMANSHIP.

PARITY RULE - There is no fun or learning from lopsided games. At anytime, except the last 5 minutes of game, when there is a 4 goal differential, play will stop. The "leading" coach will be asked to switch his line-up, implement a 5 passes before shot (as an example), move forwards to defence, etc... If the lopsided scoring continues, the other team will be able to put on an extra player. If it further continues, play will stop and both teams will be asked to divide their team in two and send one half to the other team. One new team wears pinnies.

Fouls – referee calls. Coach to sub player off and instruct if bad foul play.

Kickoff – all players in own half, opponents retreat 8 metres

Free kicks – all indirect. Opponent retreat 8 metres.

Corner kicks – opponents retreat 8 metres

Penalty kicks – none

Goal kicks/RETREAT LINE RULE – taken from anywhere in penalty box. Opponents retreat halfway (meaning halfway between the centre line and end line) and the ball must leave the penalty box. A goal cannot be scored directly from a goal kick. At U9/U10 RFC uses the “retreat line” rule for goal kicks. Players from the opposition must “retreat” halfway to allow the goalkeeper to play the ball out of the box on the ground with a pass to his teammate rather than just punting the ball in the air down field. RFC is encouraging players to develop their soccer skill and pass. Please follow the goal kick retreat line rule.

End of game – 3 cheers, no hi-5s. PLAYERS AND COACHES LEAVE THE FIELD THROUGH DESIGNATED EXIT.