

WSA Under 8 Guidelines

THE FIELD:

- **Size:** 170 feet long by 100 feet wide (170' x 100')
- **Markings:** Distinctive lines recommended.
 - Halfway line the width of the field, marked equidistant between the goal lines
 - Center circle with a five yard radius in the center of the field
 - Corner arcs with a one yard radius at each corner of the field
 - Goal area in front of each goal measuring twenty feet wide by twelve feet (20' x 12')
 - Penalty Area measuring 40 feet wide by 20 feet from goal line (40' x 20')
- **Goals:** 6 feet high by 12 feet wide.

THE BALL:

- **Size 3.** Teams are responsible for providing game balls.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM:

- Maximum of **SEVEN (7)** players on the field at any time; **one of whom is a goalkeeper.**
- Substitutions: Between periods, at halftime and during stop of play.
- Playing time: Minimum of **50%** of the total playing time for each player, if possible. No one should play four periods until everyone has played three periods

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT:

- Soccer cleats and shin guards are **MANDATORY** for both practices and games.

NOTE: Players without the proper equipment will not be allowed to play.

REFEREE:

- The referee will be either a league-assigned referee or coach.
- Referees should emphasize fun, fairness, safety, learning

NOTE: Referees should briefly explain any infringements to the player(s) and help players with instructions. All referees must be registered WSA volunteers.

Referee decisions are final and must not be questioned by coaches.

ASSISTANT REFEREES:

- Parents may be used

DURATION OF GAME:

- Four **10-minute** periods
- Period breaks of **two (2)** minutes.
- Halftime break of **five (5)** minutes

THE START OF PLAY:

- No change from regular play except that opponents must be **five (5)** yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

- No change from regular play.

METHOD OF SCORING:

- No change from regular play. Score not kept.

OFFSIDE:

- **There should be no offside called.**

FOULS & MISCONDUCT:

- **No change from regular play except:**
 - Slide-Tackling will result in a foul
 - Direct free kick for all fouls, with the opponents **five (5)** yards away
 - Referees will work cooperatively with the coaches and eliminate the need for cautions and send-offs. Do not show yellow or red cards.

FREE KICKS:

- All kicks are direct free kicks.
- Free kicks awarded to the attacking team inside the defending team's goal area should be taken from the nearest point on the goal area line in front of the goal.

PENALTY KICKS:

- No penalty kicks.

THROW-INS:

- A second throw-in should be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The referee should explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

GOAL KICKS:

- May be taken from any point inside the goal area.
- Opponents must be **five (5)** yards away from ball.

CORNER KICKS:

- No change from regular play, except that opponents must be **five (5)** yards from the ball.

WSA RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Parents, coaches, and players from both teams exchange handshakes after each game.
- 2) All players receive participation awards.
- 3) No individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.
- 4) Parents and coaches should encourage players, but only the coaches can instruct or coach during game time.
- 5) **Spectators are not allowed behind either goal or within three (3) yards outside the touchline.**