



**Rockridge Soccer Club  
U8 Referee Guide  
2006**

## Rules for Play Modified for Under-8 Soccer in the Rockridge Soccer Club

The Rockridge Soccer Club plays under the FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME, the people who bring you the World Cup, and the rules of the Jack London Soccer League of which we are a member (along with Montclair, Piedmont, Oakland, Alameda and Bay Oaks). The Under 8s are run by the separate clubs. The FIFA Laws consist of 17 rules, which are used world wide, but can be modified for age considerations. These are the Abridged Laws as modified for U8 play.

Law 1: Field of play- shall be rectangular 100-130 yards long (50-60 for U8) by at least 50 yards (30-40 Yards for U8). The Referee should be sure there are no unsafe playing conditions. Teams set up on opposite side of the field, with home team getting first choice. All players, coaches and fans shall stay within the technical area of their sideline. No coaching will be allowed behind the goal area.

Law 2: The Ball. U8's play with a size 3 ball (U10-U12 use a size 4 ball-U14 to adult use a size 5 ball). The home team provides the ball and the referee makes sure it is properly inflated.

Law 3: The number of players on the field is as follows (one of whom shall be a goalie):

	Normal	Minimum
U8	7	5

Law 4: Players Equipment- Shall consist of Shirts, Shorts, Socks, Shoes and Shin guards. Soccer shoes are recommended. No hard street shoes or shoes with metal or other dangerous appendages will be allowed. No player is allowed to practice or play without shin guards. Socks will completely cover shin guards and shirts will be tucked in. No jewelry. **No earrings.**

Law 5: Referee- shall be appointed to officiate in each game. The referee is sole arbiter of points of fact. There is no dissent to decisions of the referee. If a licensed referee is not available, the coaches will decide on a referee and game will be played. **Home team normally provides the referee.**

Law 6: Linesman shall assist the referee. In U8's the side referee ([parent volunteer) shall indicate throw-ins to the referee and assist in instructing the player on re-throws. Ask each team prior to the beginning of the game for a volunteer.

Law 7: Duration of games shall be two 20-minute halves with a timeout at approximately 10 minutes for player substitution (4-10 minute quarters). There is no overtime in U8's. Injury time is not added in U8's. Half time at all ages will normally be the minimum required 5 minutes.

Law 8: Start of play- To begin game and second half, and after a goal is scored there will be a kickoff. Before the game a coin toss will be held. The winning team determining side of field and other team kicking off. At the half time field side and kickoff is changed. The team being scored upon will kick off to restart play. Game is started by kickoff in center circle. Each team will be on their side of field to start game, with only members of the kicking team allowed in center circle on their side of the field. The ball must go forward and the kicker cannot play the ball until some other player from either team has touched the ball.

Start of play after 10-minute substitution break will be the team that did not kick off . At the start of each quarter and half time the teams will take turns kicking off.

Law 9: Ball in and out of play- After start of play, the ball is in play unless 1) the ball is completely kicked over the goal line or touch (side) line or 2) the referee stops the game. If the ball is kicked out of play see Laws 15 to 17 for restart of play. If a referee stops play, and restart of play is not governed by other laws, the referee will start replay by a drop ball normally, but not necessarily, between a player from each team.

Law 10: Method of scoring shall be when the ball completely crosses the goal line and within the goal posts and cross-bars. The team with most goals wins. Standings will not be maintained in U8's nor will win-loss be publicized in game descriptions in media.

Law 11: Offside is when a player is in the attacking half of the field, is ahead of the ball and does not have at least 2 defending players (one of which could be the goalie) between him/her and the opponents GOAL LINE. The player in such a condition is in an offside position and is offside when the ball is played to that player.

Offside is NOT called in U8's; however serious violation of the offside rule will not be allowed (no flagrant cherry picking- positioning a player in front of the opposing team's goal).

Law 12: Fouls and misconduct; A player who intentionally commits any of the following nine offenses:

- 1 kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- 2 trips an opponent, i.e., throwing or attempting to throw him by the use of the legs or by stooping in front of or behind him
- 3 jumps at an opponent;
- 4 charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner;
- 5 charges an opponent from behind unless the latter is obstructing;
- 6 strikes or attempts to strike an opponent or spits at him;
- 7 holds an opponent;
- 8 pushes an opponent;
- 9 handles the ball, i.e., carries, strikes or propels the ball with his/her hand or arm;  
(this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty-area);

Shall be penalized by awarding a kick to the opponent. This shall be an indirect kick in under 8's

Slide tackles or playing the ball while prone on the field near other players is not allowed in u-8s. Slide tackle from back is not allowed at any age.

A player is warned (given a yellow card in U10's and older) if he/she persistently infringes the Laws of the Game, or he/she shows, by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the referee, or he/she is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct. In the Jack London league, a player so warned shall be replaced on the field for 8 minutes (10 minutes in U10's and older).

A player shall be sent off the field of play (given a red card for U10's and older), if, in the opinion of the referee, he/she is guilty of violent conduct; is guilty of serious foul play, uses foul or abusive language, or is guilty of a second cautionable offense after having received a caution. In U10's and older such player will not be replaced on the field, will have to leave the game area and will miss at least one more full game.

Law 13: Free kick is awarded for penalty. The kick in U8's shall be indirect. An indirect kick means that the ball must touch another player on either team before a goal can be scored. All free kicks shall be taken from outside the penalty area. All opposing players must be at least **6 yards** (10 yards for U12 and older- 8 yards for U10) from the point of the free kick.

Law 14: Penalty Kick- is awarded for fouls in the penalty area and is taken from a spot within in the goal area. All other players except the kicker and the defending goalie shall be outside the penalty box. **Penalty kicks ARE NOT awarded in U8's.** An indirect free kick outside the penalty box is awarded and players are allowed in the penalty area (see law 13).

Law 15: Throw In- When the ball completely crosses the touch (Side) Line, the ball is thrown in by a player of the opposing team of the player who last touched the ball before it went out. At U8's, re-throw are allowed on bad throw-ins.

Law 16: Goal Kick- When the ball completely crosses the end line, but not in the goal, and the last player to touch the ball was an attacking player, a goal kick is awarded the defensive team from a point in the goal box.

Law 17: Corner Kick- When a ball completely crosses the end line, but not in the goal, and the last player to touch the ball was a defensive player, a corner kick is awarded the offensive team from within the corner circle. A corner kick that goes directly into the goal will not be allowed as a score.

Slaughter (Blowout) Rule: When one team obtains a 3-goal lead, the other team may insert an extra player on the field, a second extra player for a 4-goal lead, etc.

Playing Time: Every player plays at least 50% of the game. (Reasonable effort will be made to equalize position assignments and playing time over the season.)

Parental & spectator input from the sidelines should be positive only " Great job Team ! " Nothing negative should be shouted at the players or referee. (If something must be said, consult with an assistant coach, who can consult with the coach as circumstances permit.) Generally, even encouraging comments should not be directed at the player with the ball, because they are distracting; comments are more effectively directed to players who are not yet in the play, or on the sidelines.

# Game Day Prep & Notes for the U8 Referee

- Be prepared with your cleats and whistle. You are expected to run up and down the field.
- Know the rules.
- Get to the field early.
- Clear the field of any debris and look for any hazardous areas
- 10-15 min. before kickoff conduct player check- check for the proper uniform, soccer cleats & shin guards
- Encourage great sportsmanship.
- No earrings, jewelry or hats of any kind. **No exceptions**
- Home Team decides which side of the field to place players and parents
- Assign a parent or experienced youth to assist with each sideline
- Goalkeeper will wear a different color jersey or pinney.
- Conduct coin toss. Winning team may kick off.
- Get the game started on time. Blow your whistle loudly so the kids can hear you.
- If you have a problem with a loud or rude parent please stop the game and discuss the situation with the head coach, not the parent.
- Keep the game moving and fun. Use your whistle when you need to stop play.
- Stop play at the 10 min. mark for a very quick (1-2 min) water break & player exchange
- Stop play at the 20 min. mark for a 5 min. halftime break
- Stop play at the 30 min. mark for a very quick (1-2 min.) water break & player exchange
- End the game on time.
- Your job is to make sure the kids are having fun !
- We encourage you to assist & teach the kids the rules during the game. Help them out.