

## U8 BOYS/GIRLS 4 v 4 RULES OF COMPETITION

- All U8 games are 4v4 format with NO GOALKEEPER.
- Home team ALWAYS WEARS WHITE.
- Home team occupies the NORTH OR EAST side of every field. (Parents and Players of one team occupy one side of the field, while Parents and Players of the other team occupy the other side of the field.)

Referees should follow USYSA rules with the following changes adapted for the Edmond Soccer Club:

1. Ball Size: Size three (3)
2. Duration of Match: Four (4) quarters of 10 minutes each with a break during a convenient stoppage in play. Quarter breaks should be no more than 1 or 2 minutes in duration. Half time should be no more than 5 minutes. Substitutions are allowed with the referee's permission.
3. Free Kicks: All free kicks will be Indirect Free Kicks (IFK). This means a goal can not be scored directly from a free kick, including Kick Offs and Goal Kicks. There are NO penalty kicks in U8 soccer. (No penalty kicks and No offside)
4. Fouls: The restart for all fouls will be a Indirect Free Kick. Whenever possible, the referee should use the stoppage in play as a brief teaching opportunity for the players. Instructional correction by the referee is preferred over the showing of cards to players at this age level.
5. Slide Tackling: There is NO slide tackling in U8 soccer and referees may consider the player guilty of Dangerous Play. The correct restart is a Indirect Free Kick.
6. Goalkeeper: THERE IS NO GOALKEEPER IN U8 SOCCER. DEFENDERS/SWEEPERS MUST BE INVOLVED IN ACTIVE PLAY OUTSIDE THE PENALTY AREA WHEN APPROPRIATE OR WHEN BECKONED BY THE REFEREE.
7. Active Play Rule: The intent of 4v4 soccer is to involve as many players as possible in active play at all times. Active play is defined as near enough to the players and the movement of the ball so as to be affected by the motion of the ball in any direction.
  - a. If, in the opinion of the referee, an offensive or defensive player is not involved in active play, the referee will verbally direct the player to move to a position where they are involved in active play. This rule does not prevent a team from using a sweeper. A player playing a position on his or her own defensive half of the field does not violate the active play rule.
  - b. Persistent Infringement: If the referee determines a player is persistently infringing on the spirit of the active play rule, or is being directed by the coach to do so, the referee will request that the offending player be substituted by the coach at the next stoppage in play. If the coach refuses, the referee may consider the coach guilty of unsporting conduct and caution him/her if necessary.
  - c. In situations where the teams are mismatched, and the score is lopsided, the referee will use his judgment as to whether a defensive player should be penalized for not being involved in active play as defined above.
8. Sideline Behavior: Coaches and parents must comport themselves at all times. Insulting, Offensive, or Abusive language of any kind WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY ESC. OFFENDERS WILL BE

SUSPENDED FROM COACHING DUTIES. Coaches are responsible for their spectators. Coaches MUST BE CAUTIONED for failing to control their sideline. Insulting, Offensive, or Abusive Language are ALL Actionable Offenses. Should it occur before, during, or even after the match, the referee must record the incident in explicit detail in the misconduct report.

- Playing time: EACH PLAYER must play at least 50% of each match.

Rules, questions, or clarifications should be directed to the Referee Coordinator.