

Marple Newtown Soccer Association

Fall 2008

Under-7 and 8 Modified Rules

How it works:

Each team will report to their assigned field at their assigned time. Each team will have two coaches who are assigned up to 12 players.

All coaches will be provided with a “warm-up/ practice session” lesson plan for each week. The plan is designed to take 25 minutes. You must start on time to finish on time.

After the practice session, divide the team into two groups. Try to make the groups equal and different each week. Have each coach take turns with all of the children. One group stays on the field and waits for the opposing team; the other group goes to the opposing team’s field. It takes 41 minutes to play a game, make the transition quickly.

Get off the field 5 minutes prior to the next games time slot.

Do not keep score!

Try to stay focused on individual skills and helping the children have fun. They are little kids, if they don’t have fun – they will quit. We don’t want to chase away the next Mia Hamm or David Beckham because we didn’t recognize them or what their needs were.

The game is a lot like watching children play in the backyard from the kitchen window – you only want to become involved if it is absolutely necessary. Allow the game to flow.

Coaches are not permitted on the field during the game, we prefer that they coach from the sidelines.

Law I - The Field:

A. Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length not more than 50 yards, its width not more than 30 yards

Law II - The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III - Number of Players:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4).
- B. There are NO Goalkeepers.
- C. Substitutions: Allowed anytime ball is out of play
- D. Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time

Law IV - Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes

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- B. Shin guards and a water bottle are MANDATORY.

Law V - The Referee

Each game should have a registered referee. In the absence of a registered referee, a coach or parent shall monitor play. The primary concerns of the monitoring adult are the safety and enjoyment of the players.

Duties are the same as a Referee under the FIFA Laws of the Game: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players why! This is their first experience with soccer too, and the best time to educate all on the Laws of the Game.

The true goal of the referee is to minimize interruptions to the flow of the game and maximize the playing time.

Law VII - Duration of the Game:

- A. The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters.
- B. There shall be two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four.
- C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.
- D. Regardless of everything else, the game must end 5 minutes prior to the next scheduled game.

Law VIII - The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:

- A. Opponent must be three (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX - Conform to FIFA: Ball in and Out of Play: Ball must completely cross line to be out of play. Try to keep the flow of the game continuous, if it is close – play on.

Law X - Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA Ball must completely cross over the goal line between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

Law XI - Off-Side: There is no offside in small-sided games.

Crease Rules

Players cannot stand inside the crease. Players may pass through the crease; however there cannot be any contact with the ball inside the crease. If a defending player touches the ball in the crease, the offensive team will be awarded a goal. If an offensive player touches the ball within the crease, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team. If the ball comes to a stop inside the crease and the play is dead a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team.

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Law XII - Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. No cautions or ejections shall be issued to players. A player who is having difficulty controlling them self, should be sent off the field until they calm down.

Law XIII - Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

- A. All free kicks will be indirect.
- B. Opponents must be three (5) yards away.

Law XIV - Penalty Kicks: There are no Penalty Kicks in small-sided games.

Law XV - Throw-In: Replaced by a Kick-in. Awarded when ball completely crosses sideline. It is considered an indirect free kick with the opponent five (5) yards away from the ball.

Law XVI - Goal Kick: If the team attempting to score a goal kicks the ball over the goal line outside the goal posts, the opposing team puts the ball back into play with a goal kick. The Goal Kick should be taken within 4 - 5 yards of the goal and opposing players must be 5 yards away.

Law XVII - Corner Kick: If team defending the goal last touches ball before it crosses goal line, the attacking team puts it into play with an indirect kick from the corner.

US Youth Soccer Recommendations

- Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- Parent/coaches, non-playing players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Participation awards for ALL!