

# THE LAWS OF THE GAME LAW 1 - THE SIMPLE FACTS FOR YOUTH SOCCER

## PARTS OF A SOCCER FIELD

Basic to understanding the rules of the game is knowing the different parts of a [soccer field](#).

**The parts of a soccer field are as follows:**

### **Center Circle**

The center circle is a circle at the center of the field. At the very center of this center circle is the center spot, where the kickoffs are taken in order to start or restart the game.

### **Halfway Line**

The halfway line divides the soccer field into two equal areas, and the halfway line goes through the center spot. The halfway line is also known as the midfield line or the centerline.

### **Penalty Area**

The penalty area is marked by a rectangle, wherein the goalkeeper is allowed to use his or her hands to catch the soccer ball. It is called the penalty area because it houses the penalty mark, wherein during fouls, the violator is awarded a penalty kick from that spot.

### **Corner Arc**

Corner arcs are the semi-circles on the four corners of the field where corner kicks are made. Each corner arc measures 1 yard radially. In each of these corner arcs, a corner flag is placed.

### **Goal Box**

Inside the penalty area is the goal box. The goal box is the area where goal kicks are taken.

## **Goal**

The goal is made up two upright posts joined by a horizontal cross bar, placed right in between the two corner flag posts. They are typically made of wood or metal.

## **Touch Line**

Touchlines are also known as sidelines. This sets the boundary for the entire soccer playing field.

## **Pitch**

The entire soccer field is also called the pitch.

When it comes to soccer fields, the important considerations are not just the parts, but also the dimensions of the soccer field. This is because the rules of soccer have been written and codified, and thus require strict implementation. FIFA, which is the international governing body for football, ensures that all rules and requirements of soccer, which includes soccer field dimensions, are followed.

Youth Soccer fields dimensions vary in measurements by team age group to accommodate the physical abilities of youth soccer players.

The 8U,9U and 10U teams play on a 7v7. As there are 7 players on each team, on the smallest field size.

The 11U and 12U teams play on a 9v9 sized field, which is larger than a 7v7 field and smaller than a full size, 11v11 field.

The 13U and up teams play on an 11v11 size field, which is the largest field size.

Spectators should be at least 10 feet off the touchlines, to allow room for the assistant referee to move along the sideline without tripping over or running into spectators. It is also safest for players and spectators, as youth players can run off the field full force and run into spectators and chairs resulting in injuries.