

REFEREE GUIDE FOR U-8 GAMES

This guide is for new youth referees, to help you with your new, exciting career as referees. The U-8 games are simple and fun. A few reminders of the Laws of soccer as they apply to this age division are listed below. Have fun!!

1. The uniform for U-8 refs is black or yellow shirt (referee shirt optional), black shorts, black knee socks or white ankle socks. Have a whistle, watch and water.
2. Please be at the field at least 15 minutes before scheduled game time. This will give you enough time to check out the field conditions, brief the players and get started.
3. Line up the players and check their equipment. Shin pads must be worn (and fully covered by socks or sweat pants). Jewelry, watches, barrettes, earrings are not allowed. If they just got their ears pierced, and have to wear the studs, they must be bandaged. Casts may be worn if fully covered, and tell them not to use it as a weapon. Goalkeepers must have a shirt (or pinny) that is any color other than red or white.
4. The field will be outlined with a goal box (for placement of goal kicks), a penalty line and a halfway line. The penalty line stretches across the field. This line is only to show where the goalkeeper may handle up the ball.
5. U-8's play with 6 players - 5 field players and a goalkeeper. The ball is size *three*.
6. They play four 12-minute quarters. Give them 2 minutes between the 1st and 2nd quarter, a 5-minute half, and 2 minutes between the 2nd and 3rd quarters. If the game is running late, make the last two quarters shorter (10 minutes each). In that way, the next games can get back on schedule. There is no coin toss. The red team can kickoff first quarter, then white.
7. There are no direct kicks in U-8's. That does not mean there are no fouls! If a player pushes, kicks at, holds etc., etc., another player, BLOW THE WHISTLE!!! Let the guilty player know what he or she did wrong, then set the ball for an indirect kick. Players from opposing team should be 5 yards away. (No direct or penalty kicks). All soccer rules apply except the offside rule. Also, a bad throw-in may be retaken by the same player.
8. Substitutions. No one should enter the field without your permission. Substitutions may be made after any stoppage of play (including corner kicks, IFKs, etc). The coach must call (ask you!) for subs. If he is subbing without permission, let him know he must call for the sub first.
9. Ball in and out of play. The ball must cross each line *completely* before it is in or out of that area. The whole ball must cross all of the line. The ball must cross completely over the goal line to be a goal. The ball must leave the goal kick area before it is in play. Know the proper way to do a throw-in. If the player doesn't do throw in correctly, let them do it over.
10. Signaling. If the ball goes across the touchline, it is a throw-in. Raise your arm at a 45-degree angle to indicate (to the player *and coaches*) which way the throw-in is going. If the ball goes across the end line, it will be either a goal kick or a corner kick. Point to the goal or to the corner to indicate where the restart will take place.
11. If you have a problem with a parent shouting too loudly, ask the coach if he would talk to the parent. If you have a problem with a coach, let the referee coordinator know as soon as possible.
12. If you have any problems at all, or if you have any questions about the Laws, please call the referee coordinator. Let's have fun out there!!!!