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## Y. Laws of the Game

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The following rules apply to the BTT Youth League.

**Note:** These rules do **not** apply to Youth League teams participating in the District III or Outback leagues. The District III League and Outback League have their own set of rules.

### **Law #1 – Field Dimensions**

The dimensions of the field are modified for our league, according to the following table:

Age	Field Size	Goal Size	Penalty Box Size	Goal Box Size
U5	20 yds x 30 yds	4' x 6'	(none)	(none)
U6	20 yds x 30 yds	4' x 6'	(none)	(none)
U7	30 yds x 45 yds	6' x 12'	24 yds x 10 yds	12 yds x 4 yds
U8	30 yds x 45 yds	6' x 12'	24 yds x 10 yds	12 yds x 4 yds
U9	40 yds x 70 yds	6' x 18'	34 yds x 14 yds	18 yds x 6 yds
U10/U11	40 yds x 70 yds	6' x 18'	34 yds x 14 yds	18 yds x 6 yds
U12/U13	70 yds x 110 yds	8' x 24'	44 yds x 18 yds	20 yds x 6 yds
U14/U15	70 yds x 110 yds	8' x 24'	44 yds x 18 yds	20 yds x 6 yds

### **Law #2 – Ball Size**

The size of the soccer ball is modified for our league, according to the following table:

Age	Ball Size
U5	Size #3
U6	Size #3
U7	Size #3
U8	Size #3
U9	Size #4
U10/U11	Size #4
U12/U13	Size #5
U14/U15	Size #5

During games, the HOME team provides the game ball.

### **Law #3 – Number of Players**

The number of players is modified for our league, according to the following table:

Age	Number of Players	Maximum Team Size
U5	4 v 4 (no goalie)	8 max
U6	4 v 4 (no goalie)	8 max
U7	5 v 5 (inc. goalie)	10 max
U8	5 v 5 (inc. goalie)	10 max
U9	6 v 6 (inc. goalie)* (see below) 7 v 7 (inc. goalie)	12 max
U10/U11	7 v 7 (inc. goalie)* (see below) 8 v 8 (inc. goalie)	14 max
U12/U13	11 v 11 (inc. goalie)**	16 max
U14/U15	11 v 11 (inc. goalie)	16 max

\* Both coaches may agree to play 7 v 7

\*\* We may end up playing small sided games in the U12/U13 Bracket

### **Law #4 - Player's equipment**

The BTT Youth League provides a uniform for each player. This uniform consists of a pair of black shorts, a white jersey and a red jersey. In addition, the player is to provide white socks, shin guards, and appropriate shoes (tennis shoes or soccer cleats).

- Shin guards are MANDATORY.
- Socks must be pulled up over shin guards.
- BTT Youth League-issued uniform must be worn.
- Cleats may not be made of metal.
- No baseball cleats because the front cleat stick out.
- No jewelry may be worn. No earrings may be worn, even if they are taped.

**Coaches:** Please advise players that soccer season is NOT a good time to get your ears pierced.

**Note:** During games, the **Home Team** wears White jerseys, **Away Team** wears Red jerseys

### **Law #5 – Referees**

The referee's main concern is the safety of the players. The referee enforces all the rules of the game. The referee rules are modified for our league, according to the following table:

Age	Referee Notes
U5	Both head coaches, if desired, can be on the field during games to act as co-referees and to provide guidance on the field.
U6	Both head coaches, if desired, can be on the field during games to act as co-referees and to provide guidance on the field.
U7	Home Team head coach or asst coach referees 1 <sup>st</sup> half of game Away Team head coach or asst coach referees 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of game
U8	Home Team head coach or asst coach referees 1 <sup>st</sup> half of game Away Team head coach or asst coach referees 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of game
U9	The league provides center referees
U10/U11	The league provides center referees
U12/U13	The league provides center referees
U14/U15	The league provides center referees

The referees that the youth league provides are usually referees-in-training.

**Note:** Verbal/Physical abuse of referees is not permitted.

### **Law #6 – Assistant Referees**

The assistant referee rules are modified for our league, according to the following table:

Age	Assistant Referee Notes
U5	Not used
U6	Not used
U7	Not used
U8	Not used
U9	Each team is to supply one assistant referee for the entire game.
U10/U11	Each team is to supply one assistant referee for the entire game.
U12/U13	Each team is to supply one assistant referee for the entire game.
U14/U15	Each team is to supply one assistant referee for the entire game.

Each team should secure two volunteers to act as assistant referees. Assistant referees should attend the league's Linesperson Training.

**Note:** Assistant Referees do not change sides at halftime. Assistant referees should not cheer or talk while performing their duties. The same assistant referees should be used for both halves of a game.

### **Law #7 - Duration of the Game**

The duration of the game is modified for our league, according to the following table:

Age	Game Duration
U5	2 x 15 min halves (optionally, coaches can agree to play 20 min halves)
U6	2 x 20 min halves
U7	2 x 20 min halves
U8	2 x 20 min halves
U9	2 x 25 min halves
U10/U11	2 x 25 min halves
U12/U13	2 x 30 min halves
U14/U15	2 x 30 min halves

## **Law #8 - Start of play**

The start of play rules are modified for our youth league:

- The two halves will start with a kick-off from the center circle. Home Team (white) kicks off 1st half, Away Team (Red) kicks off 2nd half.
- The kick-off is taken at the center spot.
- The game will be re-started from the center circle after every score.
- The ball has to move forward at kick-off to start the ball in play.
- Each player must be in his or her half of the field.
- Each player on the non-kicking team must be outside the center circle.
- If a referee has to do a drop ball, the play resumes when the ball hits the ground.

In addition to the rules listed above, our league also has age-specific rules for start of play:

Age	Kick-off Rule
U5	Kick-offs will be indirect kicks. This means that you can NOT score directly from a kick-off without someone else touching the ball first.
U6	Kick-offs will be indirect kicks. This means that you can NOT score directly from a kick-off without someone else touching the ball first.
U7	Kick-offs will be indirect kicks. This means that you can NOT score directly from a kick-off without someone else touching the ball first.
U8	Kick-offs will be indirect kicks. This means that you can NOT score directly from a kick-off without someone else touching the ball first.
U9	A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.
U10/U11	A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.
U12/U13	A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.
U14/U15	A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.

## **Law #9 - Ball In And Out Of Play**

The ball is out of play when it COMPLETELY goes over the goal line or touch-line. It doesn't matter whether it's in the air or on the ground.

## **Law #10 - Method of scoring**

The ball must COMPLETELY go across the line into the goal.

## **Law #11 – Offside**

One of the most complicated laws of the game. The basic concept is that a player must have at least one defender (not including the goalkeeper) between him and the goal WHEN the ball is played to him. Also, to be offside, the player must be in the opponent's side of the field and looking to gain an advantage.

In our league, the offside rule is modified depending on the age group:

Age	Offside Rule
U5	Offside will not be called.
U6	Offside will not be called.
U7	Discourage "cherry picking"
U8	Discourage "cherry picking"
U9	(See section <b>J. Build Out Lines</b> )
U10/U11	(See section <b>J. Build Out Lines</b> )
U12/U13	The center referee will enforce FIFA Offside rules
U14/U15	The center referee will enforce FIFA Offside rules

## **Law #12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

At the youth level most fouls are due to pushing, holding or tripping, and result in a free kick. Other ones to watch out for are handballs and charging.

- Handball only called if player purposefully uses his/her hand and not when he/she is defending him/herself.

## **Law #13 – Freekicks**

There are two types of freekicks, direct and indirect. At the youth level most free kicks are classified as indirect. This means a goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player on either team.

Age	Freekicks
U5	All freekicks are indirect, which means a goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. Players should be 4 yards away from the kicker.
U6	All freekicks are indirect, which means a goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. Players should be 4 yards away from the kicker.
U7	All freekicks are indirect, which means a goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. Players should be 4 yards away from the kicker.
U8	All freekicks are indirect, which means a goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. Players should be 4 yards away from the kicker.
U9	The center referee will determine if a freekick is direct or indirect, according to FIFA rules. Players should be 8 yards away from the kicker.
U10/U11	The center referee will determine if a freekick is direct or indirect, according to FIFA rules. Players should be 8 yards away from the kicker.
U12/U13	The center referee will determine if a freekick is direct or indirect, according to FIFA rules. Players should be 10 yards away from the kicker..
U14/U15	The center referee will determine if a freekick is direct or indirect, according to FIFA rules. Players should be 10 yards away from the kicker..

## **Law #14 - Penalty Kick**

If a player commits a foul in their own penalty area, a Penalty kick will be awarded. The penalty kick rules for our league depend on age group:

Age	Penalty Kicks
U5	There will be no penalty kicks.
U6	There will be no penalty kicks.
U7	Penalty kicks will be taken from the top center of the penalty box.
U8	Penalty kicks will be taken from the top center of the penalty box.
U9	Penalty kicks will be taken from the spot indicated by the center referee, 10 yards from the goal.
U10/U11	Penalty kicks will be taken from the spot indicated by the center referee, 10 yards from the goal.
U12/U13	Penalty kicks will be taken from the spot indicated by the center referee, 12 yards from the goal.
U14/U15	Penalty kicks will be taken from the spot indicated by the center referee, 12 yards from the goal.

All players shall remain outside the penalty box, with the exception of the defending goalie and kicker, until the ball is kicked. The kicker may not kick the ball again until it is touched by another player on either team.

## **Law #15 - Throw In**

The Throw In rule has been modified for different age groups in our league. Balls over the sidelines will be restarted by the other team as follows:

Age	Throw In Rule
U5	New Ball. When the ball goes out of bounds, the coach/referee will throw a new ball into play. (See Section I. <b>New Ball</b> )
U6	New Ball. When the ball goes out of bounds, the coach/referee will throw a new ball into play. (See Section I. <b>New Ball</b> )
U7	Kick in. Ball is placed on the line where it went out of bounds. Other players stand at least 3-4 coach steps away from the ball. Player kicks the ball back into play, and cannot touch the ball again until someone else touches it. Goals may not be scored on kick in until touched by another player.
U8 U9 U10/U11 U12/U13 U14/U15	Throw In. Goals may not be scored on throw in until touched by another player.

The thing to teach your players is both feet have to be on the ground, must have two hands on the ball, and the throw must come from behind the players head. The penalty for a bad throw in is that the opposing team gets the ball.

## **Law #16 - Goal Kick**

A goal kick is granted when the attacking team kicks the ball over the goal line. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has left the penalty area and has been touched by another player on either team.

Age	Goal Kick Location
U5	New Ball. When the ball goes out of bounds, the coach/referee will throw a new ball into play. (See section <b>I. New Ball</b> )
U6	New Ball. When the ball goes out of bounds, the coach/referee will throw a new ball into play. (See section <b>I. New Ball</b> )
U7 U8	The ball is placed on one of the corners of the goal box (the smaller of the two boxes in front of the goal). Defending players should remain outside the Penalty Box and not touch the ball until it is out of the Penalty Box.
U9 U10/U11	The ball is placed on one of the corners of the goal box (the smaller of the two boxes in front of the goal). (See section <b>J. Build Out Lines</b> for instructions regarding opponent positioning.)
U12/U13 U14/U15	The ball is placed on one of the corners of the goal box (the smaller of the two boxes in front of the goal). Defending players should remain outside the Penalty Box and not touch the ball until it is out of the Penalty Box.

## **Law #17 - Corner Kick**

A corner kick is awarded when the defending team kicks the ball over their own goal line. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick. Corner kicks are taken from the corner flag.

U5s and U6s will NOT use corner kicks. New Ball will be used instead (See Section **I. New Ball**).

## **Substitutions**

Substitutions may occur at the following times:

Age	Substitution Rule
U5	Substitutions may occur at any time (on the fly)
U6	Substitutions may occur at any time (on the fly)
U7	At any stoppage (prior to a kick off, throw-in, goal kick or after an injury)
U8	At any stoppage (prior to a kick off, throw-in, goal kick or after an injury)
U9 U10/U11 U12/U13 U14/U15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After a goal</li><li>• Before a goal kicks</li><li>• Before throw-ins on your possession</li><li>• Before throw-ins on opposing possession if the team in possession is subbing</li><li>• at the referee's discretion ie: in the event of injury</li><li>• at halftime</li></ul> No substitutions before a corner kick. Observe proper substitution protocol.

**Protocol:** When substituting players prior to a throw in with a league-supplied referee, players should not enter the field until the center referee signals them to do so, and not until other players have left the field.

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## Z. Other League Rules

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### Slide Tackles

Slide tackles are illegal in the BTT Youth League. Don't train them – Don't allow your players to do them.

### Playing Time:

Every attempt should be made to give each player on your team **equal** playing time. At the minimum, each player should play at least 50% of each game, unless the player does not want to play or is sick/injured.

**Note 1: Weaker players need more playing time than stronger players, not less.**

**Note 2: Do not use playing time during games as a punishment.**

### Sportsmanship:

- Opposing coaches are to shake hands prior to kick-off.
- Players are to shake hands after the game.
- Teams should not exceed a 6 point goal differential. **No Exceptions!**

### Coach/Asst Coach T-shirts

During games, coaches and asst coaches will wear red staff T-shirts. T-shirts may be worn under an open jacket, as long as the shirt is visible. Coaches/Assistant Coaches that are NOT wearing their red staff T-shirts should sit on the spectator side of the field.

**NO CASTS OR SPLINTS, PADDED OR OTHERWISE, WITH OR WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S NOTE, AT ANY TIME!!! THIS ISSUE IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.**

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## AA. Game Day Instructions

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- **Home team wears WHITE. Away team wears RED**
- **Home team** provides the game ball.
- **Home team** selects which goal they will defend 1<sup>st</sup> half. Teams change sides at halftime.
- **Home team** kicks off 1<sup>st</sup> half, **Away team** kicks off 2<sup>nd</sup> half.
- **Goal Differential:** Under no circumstances shall a team defeat another team by more than 6 goals.
- **IMPORTANT !!!** Teams scheduled for the first time slot are responsible for moving goals and corner flags onto the field. Teams scheduled for the final time slot are responsible for moving goals completely off the field onto the gravel parking lot. Corner Flags should be placed in the trash can by the concession stand.
- All Players and Coaches sit on one side of the field.  
Parents/Spectators sit on the other side of the field.

(see field map on next page of this document)