

# Soccer Lot Youth League Rules:

## Rule 1: Constitutional Procedures

Each team will play each other once. Teams will be awarded 3 points for a win, 1 for a tie, and 0 for a loss. In the last week of the season, teams will face off in a playoff round to determine the champions.

Teams are asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled kick off times.

Teams failing to appear for their designated fixture or not giving notice the day before of cancellation, will have the match awarded to their opponents 5 – 0, will be deducted 3 points and, for repeated absence, may be ejected from the League.

In the event that a team refuses to complete a match which has already started, the match will be awarded to the other team 5 - 0 and the team refusing to complete the match will be deducted 3 points. If the score at the time produces a goal difference greater than 5-0 then that score will stand.

All games are to be played unless adverse weather conditions make the field unplayable. Any decision to cancel a game can only be made by The Soccer Lot management. If a game(s) are cancelled due to weather conditions, every attempt will be made to reschedule.

## Rule 2: Field Of Play

### **Field Surface**

Matches can be played on natural or artificial surfaces.

### **Field Markings**

The field will be rectangular with outer boundaries marked by walls, and inner boundaries marked with lines. If there are no nets to mark the vertical boundary height, the vertical boundary will be determined as 6 feet above the ground.

The dimensions of the field are a set and uniform size. The two larger outer boundaries are called the touchlines. The two shorter outer boundaries are called the goal lines.

A goal must be placed at the center of each goal line.

The center mark is indicated at the center of the field by a dot, line or X.

### **Goal Area**

The goal area is marked by two lines at a right angle extending a set distance, and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line with rounded corners.

A penalty mark is indicated at a set location from the goal area by a dot, line or X.

## **Rule 3: The Ball**

All matches will be played with size five FIFA International Matchball Standard balls.

## **Rule 4: Number Of Players**

### **Number of Players**

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of five or fewer players, one of whom must be recognized as the goalkeeper.

For teams U8 and under, games consist of 4 players to a side on the field. All players are field players and there is no goalie.

### **Substitutions**

There is no limit to substitutions made

Substitutions for field players can occur at any time of the game, during play or at a stoppage of play. Play does not stop or will not remain stopped for substitutions to occur except for at the discretion of the referee.

### **Substitution Procedure**

The substitution procedure in all matches requires the field player to first leave the field of play before the substitute player may enter the field. The substitution is complete when the substitute player enters the field of play. From that moment the substitute becomes a field player and the player becomes a substitute player.

### **Changing Of Goalkeeper**

*Any of the other players or substitutes may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that:*

- the referee is informed before the change is made
- the change is made during a stoppage in the match

### **Players And Substitutes Sent Off**

Both field players and substitute players can be cautioned or sent off. If a substitute player is cautioned or sent off a field player must appropriately leave the field of play to accommodate for the sanction.

### **Infringements and Sanctions**

*If a substitute enters the field of play without the referee's permission:*

- the referee stops play (although not immediately if the substitute or substituted player does not interfere with play)
- the referee cautions him for unsporting behavior and orders him to leave the field of play
- if the referee has stopped play, it is restarted with an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the position of the ball at the time of the stoppage

*If a player changes places with the goalkeeper without the referee's permission before the change is made:*

- the referee allows play to continue
- the referee cautions the players concerned when the ball is next out of play.

*In the event of any other infringements of this Law:*

- the players concerned are cautioned
- the match is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken by a player of the opposing team from the position of the ball at the time of the stoppage

### **Players And Substitutes Sent Off**

A player who has been sent off before the kick-off may be replaced only by one of the named substitutes.

A named substitute who has been sent off, either before the kick-off or after play has started, may not be replaced.

## **Rule 5: Player Equipment**

### **Safety**

A player may not use equipment or wear anything deemed dangerous by the referee.

### **Basic Equipment**

*Required player equipment includes:*

- a jersey or shirt
- shorts or pants
- stockings
- footwear

### **Shinguards**

- are covered entirely by stockings

- are made of rubber, plastic or a similar suitable material
- provide a reasonable degree of protection
- Shinguard are optional but highly suggested.

### **Colors**

- The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from the other team and the referee.

### **Infringements/Sanctions**

In the event of any infringement of this rule:

- play need not be stopped
- the player at fault is instructed by the referee to leave the field of play to correct his equipment
- the player leaves the field of play when the ball next ceases to be in play, unless he has already corrected his equipment
- any player required to leave the field of play to correct his equipment must not re-enter without the referee's permission
- the referee checks that the player's equipment is correct before allowing him to re-enter the field of play

### **Restart Of Play**

*If play is stopped for an infraction of this rule:*

- the match is restarted by an indirect free kick taken by a player of the opposing team, from the place where the ball was located when the referee stopped the match

## **Rule 6: The Referee**

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the league rules.

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with the game, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match are final. The referee may change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect, provided that he/she has not restarted play or ended the game.

The referee may allow play to continue when a foul or infraction has occurred but stopping play would be at the benefit of the team who had committed the foul or infraction.

The referee may allow play to continue when a foul or infraction has occurred but not affected play to either team's advantage, to help maintain a better flow of the game.

## Rule 7: Duration Of The Match

### **Periods of play**

The match lasts four equal periods of ten minutes, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the ref and two teams, or at the discretion of the league officials.

### **Between Period Intervals**

Players are entitled to an interval of three minutes between periods. The duration of intervals may be altered at the discretion of league officials.

### **Penalty Kick**

If a penalty kick has to be taken or retaken, the duration of the period will be extended until the penalty kick is completed.

## Rule 8: Start And Restart Of Play

### **Kick-off**

*A kick-off is a method of starting or restarting play*

- at the start of the match
- after a goal has been scored
- at the start of each period
- at the start of each period of extra time where applicable
- a goal can be directly scored from a kick-off

### **Procedure**

- The home team will take the kick-off in the starting period
- The team taking the kick-off alternates each period
- Teams change defending ends and attack opposite goals each period

### **Kick-off**

- after a team scores a goal, the kick-off is taken by the other team
- all players must be in their own half of the field of play
- the opponents of the team taking the kick-off must be at least 2 yards from the ball until it is in play.
- the ball must be stationary on the center mark
- the referee gives a signal
- the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player

### **Infringements/Sanctions**

*If the player taking the kick-off touches the ball again before it has touched another player:*

- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team to be taken from the position of the ball when the infringement occurred

*In the event of any other infringement of the kick-off procedure:*

- the kick-off is retaken

### **Drop Ball**

A drop ball is a method of restarting play when, while the ball is still in play, the referee stops play temporarily for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the league rules.

### **Procedure**

The referee drops the ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

The ball is in play when it touches the ground.

### **Infringements/Sanctions**

*The ball is dropped again:*

- if it is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground
- if the ball leaves the field of play after it makes contact with the ground, without a player touching it.

*If the ball enters the goal:*

- if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the goal, a goal kick is awarded for the defending team

## **Rule 9: In and Out Of Play**

### **Ball Out Of Play**

*The ball is out of play when:*

- it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air, or touches any of the boundary nets
- play has been stopped by the referee

### **Ball In Play**

The ball is in play at all other times.

## Rule 10: Method Of Scoring

### **Goal Scored**

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and below the crossbar, provided no infringement of the league rules has been committed prior to the goal being scored in the play by the scoring team.

### **Winning Team**

The team scoring the greater number of goals during the match is the winner.

If both teams have an equal number of goals scored, an extra period of five minutes may be played. The first team to score in this period will be winning team of the match. If no goals are scored in this period, the match is drawn.

### **Competition Rules**

When competition rules require there be a winning team after a draw, penalty kicks will taken to determine the winning team.

## Rule 11: Free Kicks

### **Types Of Free Kicks**

Free kicks are either direct or indirect.

#### **Direct Free Kick**

##### *Ball Enters the Goal*

- If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded.
- If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a rollout is awarded to the opposing team.

#### **Indirect Free Kick**

##### *Signal:*

- the referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising his/her arm above the his/her head. He maintains his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

##### *Ball Enters the Goal*

A goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal.

- If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a rollout is awarded to the opposing team.

- In an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a rollout is awarded to the opposing team

### **Free Kick Procedure**

For both direct and indirect free kicks,

- the kick is taken from where the infraction occurred, or in the case of the infraction taking place in the goal area the ball is placed two yards outside the goal area line closest to where infraction took place.
- all opposing players must be 2 yards from ball
- the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken
- the ball is in play after it is kicked and moved

### **Free Kick Infringements**

If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance, the kick is retaken.

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team

## **Rule 12: Penalty Kick**

A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits one of the offences which result in a penalty kick.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each period as need be.

### **Position Of The Ball And Players**

#### *The ball*

- must be placed on the penalty mark by the player taking the kick

#### *The player taking the kick*

- must be properly identified

#### *The defending goalkeeper*

- must remain on his/her goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked

#### *The players other than the kicker must be located*

- inside the field of play
- behind the penalty mark
- at least 2 yards from the penalty mark

## **Procedure**

# **Rule 13: Fouls And Misconducts**

### **Direct Free Kick**

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- jumps at an opponent
- charges an opponent
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- pushes an opponent
- tackles an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if the player commits any of the following three offenses:

- holds an opponent
- spits at an opponent
- handles the ball deliberately, except for the goalkeeper within his/her own goal area

A direct free kick is taken from the place where the offence occurred.

### **Penalty Kick**

A penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team if any of the following offences are committed:

- goalkeeper plays the ball outside their own goal area
- defender enters their own goal area and is involved in active play

### **Indirect Free Kick**

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if, in the opinion of the referee, a player:

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- uses the boundary walls as leverage to sustain their position over the ball
- commits any other offense not previously mentioned in Rule 13, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player

An indirect free kick is taken from the place the offense occurred.

### **Disciplinary Sanctions**

The blue card is used to communicate that a player or substitute player has been cautioned.

The red card is used to communicate that a player or substitute player has been sent off.

Only a player or substitute player may be shown the red or blue card. The referee has the authority to take disciplinary sanctions from the moment he enters the field of play until he leaves the field of play after the final whistle.

A player who commits a cautionable or sending-off offense, either on or off the field of play, whether directed towards an opponent, a team-mate, the referee or any other person, is disciplined according to the nature of the offence committed.

### **Cautionable Offenses**

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following seven offenses:

- unsporting behavior
- dissent by word or action
- persistent infringement of the league rules
- delaying the restart of play
- failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted
- entering the field of play without proper substitution procedure

A substitute player is cautioned if he commits any of the following three offenses:

- unsporting behavior
- dissent by word or action
- delaying the restart of play

A player or substitute who has been cautioned must leave the field of play and remain in the technical area for a duration of two minutes. The team of a cautioned player cannot replace the player during this duration. The team of a cautioned substitute must send a player to the technical area and cannot be replaced during this duration.

### **Sending-off Offenses**

A player or substitute is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offenses:

- serious foul play
- violent conduct
- spitting at an opponent or any other person
- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- receiving a second caution in the same match .

A player or substitute who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area and cannot return, and cannot be replaced for a duration of two minutes. The team of a sent off substitute must send a player to the technical area and cannot be replaced during this duration.

## Rule 14: Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits one of the two offenses for which a penalty kick is awarded, pertaining to their own goal area and while the ball is in play.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each period or at the end of periods of extra time.

### Position Of The Ball And The Players

*The ball:*

- must be placed on the penalty mark

*The player taking the kick:*

- must be properly identified
- must complete the kick with a single, uninterrupted motion

*The defending goalkeeper:*

- must remain on his/her goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked

*The players other than the kicker must be located:*

- inside of field of play
- behind the penalty mark
- at least 2 yards from the penalty mark

### Procedure

- After the players have taken positions in accordance with Rule 14, the referee signals for the penalty kick to be taken
- The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward
- He must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

The referee decides when a penalty kick has been completed.

### Infringements/Sanctions

If the referee gives the signal for a penalty kick to be taken and, before the ball is in play, one of the following occurs:

*The player taking the penalty kick infringes the Laws of the Game:*

- the referee allows the kick to be taken
- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and the match is restarted with an indirect free kick to the defending team, from the place where the infringement occurred.

*The goalkeeper infringes the Laws of the Game:*

- the referee allows the kick to be taken
- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken.

*A teammate of the player taking the kick infringes the Laws of the Game:*

- the referee allows the kick to be taken
- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and the match is restarted with an indirect free kick to the defending team, from the place where the infringement occurred.

*A teammate of the goalkeeper infringes the Laws of the Game:*

- the referee allows the kick to be taken
- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken.

*A player of both the defending team and the attacking team infringe the Laws of the Game:*

- the kick is retaken

If, after the penalty has been kicked:

*The kicker touches the ball again (except with his hands) before it has touched another player:*

- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

*The kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:*

- a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

## Rule 15: Kick-in

A kick-in is a method of restarting play.

A kick-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball crosses the touch line, either on the ground or in the air, or touches the vertical or touch line boundary nets.

A kick-in is also awarded to opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the height of 6 feet off the ground if no net represents the vertical boundary, except if the ball is above the goal area of the opposing team of the player who last touched the ball.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in.

### **Procedure**

All opponents must stand no less than 2 yards from the point at which the kick-in is taken.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves in any direction.

After the ball is kicked and moved, the kicker cannot touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

A kick-in is taken on the ground from a 1 yard radius closest to where the ball left the field of play.

### **Infringements/Sanctions**

*If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again (except with his hands) before it has touched another player:*

- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

*If, after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:*

- a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

## **Rule 16: Goal Kick**

A goal kick is a method of restarting play.

A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, or touches any goal line boundary nets, and a goal is not scored.

A goal kick is awarded when an attacking player enters the opposing goal area while involved in active play.

A kick-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the ball touches the vertical boundary nets, if when the ball leaves the field of play it was above the defending goal area.

A goal kick is awarded to opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the height of 6 feet off the ground if no net represents the vertical boundary, if when the ball leaves the field of play, it was last above the defending goal area.

A goal may not be scored directly off a goal kick.

### **Procedure**

- The ball is kicked or thrown from any point within the goal area by the goalkeeper of the defending team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked or thrown directly out of the goal area

### **Infringements/Sanctions**

*For any infringement of this rule:*

- the kick is retaken