

# **U-8 4v4 Rules**

Created September 2008 ; Updated 1/25/10

**Length of field:** The field will be 40 yards x 30 yards with a center arc of 4 yards

**Ball Size:** They will use a size 3 ball

**Goal:** The goal is appx 4' x 6'

**Length of Play:** (4) 12 minute running quarters 2 minute break between quarters and 5 minute break for halftime.

**Number of players:** Each team will have four players on the field. There are no goalkeepers.

**Substitution:** Both teams may be allowed to substitute all their reserves once during a quarter. Substitutions should be made around the six minute mark during a stoppage of play.

**Free Kicks:** All free kicks are indirect. Defensive players must be at least 4 yards from the ball. Please note that starting or restarting the game from the center circle is considered an indirect kick, therefore a player may not shoot the ball from the kickoff.

**Improper Throw-ins:** If an improper throw-in is made the referee should instruct the player, and allow the player to try again. A player can not score a goal from a throw-in unless it is touched by another player on the field.

**\*Goal Kicks:** Goal kicks will be taken within 3 yards of the goal anywhere along the end line. Opposing players must be a minimum of 4 yards away from the ball until it is in play. USYSA suggest that if necessary, opponents are in their own half of the field until the ball is in play.

**Goalie Box/Arc :** There will be 4 yard arc (from center of goal) around the goal. Players are NOT allowed to touch the ball in the box/arc. If a ball rolls into the box, players must allow the ball to stop rolling completely. If the ball stops in the box/arc the referee will restart the game with a goal kick. If the ball rolls through the box, play continues.

If a offensive player touches the ball in the box/arc, a goal kick will be awarded. If a defensive player touches the ball in the box/arc, the offensive team will be awarded a goal and the game will restart from the center circle.

\*Players shall not act as a goalie, or a sweeper defender in her 1/3 of the field, while her team has possession of the ball (play is on her offensive end of the field); No goal will count and the referee will restart the game with a goal kick awarded to the defending team.

**Defensive Wall:** A defensive wall may be set up on any indirect kick. The wall must be a minimum of 5 yards from the ball.

**Corner Kicks:** There are no corner kicks. A throw-in should be awarded from the side.

**Indirect Kicks:** An indirect kick requires the ball to rotate at least a 1/2 turn. If a player taps the top of the ball, it will not be considered a proper indirect kick and should be taken again. The nearest defensive player must be a minimum of 5 yards from the ball.

**Offside:** Offside is not enforced.

**Coaching from endlines:** Coaches must stay on the sideline during play. No one including parents may be on the end lines.

**Player equipment:** Every player must wear shin guards and soccer cleats.

**Goals may only be scored when the ball is played from the offensive team's side of the field.** Balls that are scored from the defensive end will result in a goal kick for the opposing team.

**NO SLIDE TACKLING.** Please encourage players to stay on their feet when trying to win the ball.

**Game starts** and re-starts from the center circle may be played forward or backwards.