

SAI – Under 6 Playing Rules

Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 40 yards nor less than 30 yards and its width not more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with a five (5) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius – optional.

Goal area: Three (3) feet from each goal post and five (5) feet into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Area: None

Goals: The size of goals will be 4 x 6 feet. Goals may be smaller.

Law II-The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III-Number of Players:

Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is three (3), there is no Goalkeeper. *Players should be encouraged NOT to “goal tend” or “cherry pick” as this may be deemed “Unsporting Behavior” – the coach will be accountable for this action.*

Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is two (2).

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed seven (7) players.

Substitutions: Anytime ball is out of play with the permission of the Referee.

Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time

One coach or representative may be allowed on the field at any time during play to assist a timid child, but is not allowed to interfere with play.

Law IV-Players Equipment: Players may not wear any item of equipment that may be dangerous to themselves or others. Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shinguards are mandatory. *Ear rings, necklaces, wrist bracelets and “hard” hair barrettes are examples of jewelry that should be removed.*

Law V-The Referee: An official licensed referee will be assigned to each field. Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child. Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players WHY! This is their first experience with soccer and the best time to educate.

Law VI- Assistant Referee: Not used.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters.

There shall be a half-time break not to exceed five (5) minutes.

Breaks between first and second quarter AND third and fourth quarters shall not exceed two (2) minutes.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress. *Double touches are discouraged BUT may be allowed. No goal may be scored if this occurs.*

Law IX-Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line to be out of play.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line and between posts and beneath crossbar to be a goal.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick with opponent five (5) yards away.

The referee must explain ALL infractions to offending player.

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

All free kicks will be indirect. Opponents must be five (5) yards away

Law XI V-Penalty Kicks: There are no Penalty Kicks.

Law XV-Throw-In: Replaced by a Kick-in. Awarded when ball completely crosses sideline.

Kick-in is considered as an indirect free kick with the opponent five (5) yards away from the ball.

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

Goal kick may be taken any where on the goal line Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball.

Law XVI I-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception:

Opponents must be five (5) yards away from the ball. Corner Kicks are Indirect Free Kicks.

Coaches are encouraged to ensure that all players on the field (including the opposing team) are having fun and have the opportunity to touch the ball and experience soccer at this young age!