

## EYSA SOCCER RULES

### U7/U8

#### **Number of Players**

U7/U8 is 4 versus 4 with no goalkeeper. If the opposing team does not have enough players, the teams will play 3 versus 3.

#### **Ball Size**

U7/U8 players use a size 3 ball.

#### **Start of Play**

At the beginning of the game and following each goal, the kick-off can be played backwards from the center spot to ensure possession.

Players are to remain on their own half of the field until the ball is kicked.

#### **Game Duration**

The game shall consist of four 8-minute quarters. Each quarter shall be separated by a two minute water break.

#### **Substitutions**

Substitutions are unlimited for the team in possession of the ball. Both teams may make substitutions before a throw-in, after a goal, or prior to a goal kick or corner kick.

#### **Offside**

The offside rule does not apply, but a team cannot station an attacking player at their opponent's goal.

#### **Heading**

NO HEADING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM. If a player heads the ball, it will result in a free kick for the other team.

#### **Sliding and Slide Tackling**

NO SLIDING OR SLIDE TACKLING IS ALLOWED.

#### **Corner Kicks**

When a ball crosses a goal line and was last touched by a defender, the game is restarted by a corner kick by an offensive team player.

#### **Throw-ins**

The ball shall be restated with a throw-in from the spot where it left the field of play on the sideline.

### **Goals**

U7/U8 will use the large PUG goals. Following a goal, the ball is restarted from the center spot on the field.

### **Scoring**

A team may only score when they are on their opponent's half of the field. No scoring from a team's own defensive half. If this happens, restart with a goal kick.

### **Handball**

A handball will result in a free kick from the point on the field where the handball occurred.

### **Five Yard Rule**

In all dead ball situations, defending players must stand at least five yards away from the ball. If the defensive player's goal area is closer than five yards, the ball shall be placed five yards from the goal area in line with the place of the penalty.

### **Penalty Kicks**

In the event of a penalty kick, penalty kicks shall be taken 5 yards from the center of the goal.

### **Goalie Area**

Defensive players cannot remain in the goalie area and act as a goalie. Defensive players may defend the goal area from outside the goal area. If a **defensive player** touches the ball inside the goal area, it counts as a goal for the other team. If an **offensive player** touches the ball inside the goal area, it results in a goal kick.

### **Goal Kick**

Goal kicks may be taken from any point in the goal box.

### **Restarts**

All restarts are indirect kicks (the ball must be touched by another team member before shooting into the goal) and opponents must be at least five yards from the ball.

### **The Referee**

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the rules of the game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed. The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final.

### **Coaches**

Coaches are not allowed to coach on the field for this age group. Coaches must stay in the coaching area along the sideline and their players' bench. Coaches are not permitted to coach near or behind the goal.

### **Sportsmanship**

The coaches shall honor the spirit of sportsmanship and not allow the score of the game to exceed a 6 goal lead.