

**CHAPTER 3.**

**Rules of Competition  
Of the  
Arkansas State Soccer Association  
(Revised 1/17/2006)**

## CHAPTER 3.

### Rules of Competition

#### **RULE 3.1. FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME**

All ASSA sanctioned games shall be played under FIFA Laws of the Game or FIFA Laws of the Game Modified.

**NOTE: FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME ARE SPECIFIC TO 11-ASIDE SOCCER AND ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE ASSA UPON REQUEST BY CONTACTING THE STATE DIRECTOR OF REFEREE INSTRUCTION WHO WILL ALSO HELP WITH ANY INTERPRETATIONS.**

#### **RULE 3.2. MODIFIED**

**THE FOLLOWING LAWS ARE NOT REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY. THEY ARE NOT COMPLETE AND ARE MEANT ONLY AS A GENERAL GUIDE TO MODIFICATIONS. A FULL COPY OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME MODIFIED ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE ASSA OFFICE UPON REQUEST.**

U-6	3 v 3 available from the ASSA Office upon request.
U-7/8	4 v 4 available from the ASSA Office upon request.
U-9/10	6 v 6 available from the ASSA Office upon request.
U-12	8 v 8 available from the ASSA Office upon request.
U-13	11 v 11 available from the ASSA Office upon request.

#### **RULE 3.3. US Youth Soccer Official U-6 Playing Recommendations:**

##### **3.3.1 U-6 Law 1 – The Field of Play:**

**Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length:            minimum 20 yards    maximum 30 yards

Width:            minimum 15 yards    maximum 25 yards

**Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

**The Goal Area:** None.

**The Penalty Area:** None.

**Flag post:** None.

**The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.

**Goals:** Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

**Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.**

**3.3.2 U-6 Law 2 – The Ball:** Size three (3).

**3.3.3 U-6 Law 3 – The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than three players. There are NO goalkeepers.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and games may be coed.

**3.3.4 U-6 Law 4 – The Players Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. All players must wear shinguards and each player shall have a number on the back of the jersey not less than 4” high. No player shall be permitted to wear any equipment that the referee might consider dangerous to the player, his team or the opponents.

**3.3.5 U-6 Law 5 – The Referee:** An OFFICIAL (Game Manager or Coordinator or Parent or Coach or Grade 9 referee) may be used. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**3.3.6 U-6 Law 6 – The Assistant Referees:** None.

**3.3.7 U-6 Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:** The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, eight (8) minute quarters. There shall be two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**3.3.8 U-6 Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.3.9 U-6 Law 9** – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

**3.3.10 U-6 Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

**3.3.11 U-6 Law 11** – Offside: None.

**3.3.12 U-6 Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in an in-direct free kick. The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.

**3.3.13 U-6 Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that all free kicks are in-direct and opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.3.14 U-6 Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: None.

**3.3.15 U-6 Law 15** – The Kick-In: A kick-in is considered as an in-direct free kick with the opponents four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.3.16 U-6 Law 16** – The Goal Kick: The goal kick should be taken within 2-3 yards of the goal line anywhere across the width of the field of play at the nearest point from where the ball was retrieved. Opposing players must be four (4) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

**3.3.17 U-6 Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

### **RULE 3.4 US Youth Soccer Official U-8 Playing Recommendations:**

**3.4.1 U-8 Law 1** – The Field of Play

**Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length:	minimum 25 yards	maximum 35 yards
Width:	minimum 20 yards	maximum 30 yards

**Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

**The Goal Area:** A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

**The Penalty Area:** none.

**Flag post:** none.

**The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.

**Goals:** Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

**Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.**

**3.4.2 U-8 Law 2** – The Ball: Size three (3).

**3.4.3 U-8 Law 3** – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than four players. There are NO goalkeepers.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

**3.4.4 U-8 Law 4** – The Players' Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. All players must wear shinguards and each player shall have a number on the back of the jersey not less than 4" high. No player shall be permitted to wear any equipment that the referee might consider dangerous to the player, his team or the opponents.

**3.4.5 U-8 Law 5** – The Referee: An OFFICIAL (Game Manager or Coordinator or Parent or Coach or Grade 9 referee) may be used. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**3.4.6 U-8 Law 6** – The Assistant Referees: None.

**3.4.7 U-8 Law 7** – The Duration of the Match: The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, twelve (12) minute quarters. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**3.4.8 U-8 Law 8** – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.4.9 U-8 Law 9** – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

**3.4.10 U-8 Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

**3.4.11 U-8 Law 11** – Offside: None.

**3.4.12 U-8 Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls shall result in a direct free kick. The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.

**3.4.13 U-8 Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that all kicks are indirect and all opponents are at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.4.14 U-8 Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: None.

**3.4.15 U-8 Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an improperly performed throw-in can be retaken once.

**3.4.16 U-8 Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents must remain outside the goal area and at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.4.17 U-8 Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least four (4) yards from the ball until it is in play.

### **RULE 3.5 US Youth Soccer Official U-10 Playing Recommendations:**

#### **3.5.1 U-10 Law 1** – The Field of Play

**Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length:            minimum 45 yards    maximum 60 yards

Width:            minimum 35 yards    maximum 45 yards

**Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

**The Goal Area:** Conform to FIFA.

**The Penalty Area:** A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint

between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

**Flag posts:** Not less than five (5) ft high, with a non-pointed top and a flag is placed at each corner.

**The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.

**Goals:** Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

**Safety: Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.**

**3.5.2 U-10 Law 2** – The Ball: Size four (4).

**3.5.3 U-10 Law 3** – The Number of Players: A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than six players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

**3.5.4 U-10 Law 4** – The Players' Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. All players must wear shinguards and each player shall have a number on the back of the jersey not less than 4" high. No player shall be permitted to wear any equipment that the referee might consider dangerous to the player, his team or the opponents.

**3.5.5 U-10 Law 5** – The Referee: Registered referee, especially Grade 9 or parent/coach or assistant coach. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**3.5.6 U-10 Law 6** –The Assistant Referees: Not required. May use club linesmen if desired.

**3.5.7 U-10 Law 7** – The Duration of the Match: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**3.5.8 U-10 Law 8** – The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.5.9 U-10 Law 9** – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

**3.5.10 U-10 Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

**3.5.11 U-10 Law 11** – Offside: Conform to FIFA

**3.5.12 U-10 Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

**3.5.13 U-10 Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

**3.5.14 U-10 Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**3.5.15 U-10 Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

**3.5.16 U-10 Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**3.5.17 U-10 Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

### **RULE 3.6 US Youth Soccer Official U-12 Playing Recommendations:**

#### **3.6.1 U-12 Law 1** – The Field of Play

**Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length:            minimum 60 yards    maximum 80 yards

Width:            minimum 45 yards    maximum 55 yards

**Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

**The Goal area:** Conform to FIFA.

**The Penalty Area:** A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

**Flag post:** Not less than five (5) ft high, with a non-pointed top and a flag is placed at each corner.

**The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.

**Goals:** Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

**Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.**

**3.6.2 U-12 Law 2 – The Ball:** Size four (4).

**3.6.3 U-12 Law 3 – The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eight players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

**3.6.4 U-12 Law 4 – The Players Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. All players must wear shinguards and each player shall have a number on the back of the jersey not less than 4” high. No player shall be permitted to wear any equipment that the referee might consider dangerous to the player, his team or the opponents.

**3.6.5 U-12 Law 5 – The Referee:** Registered referee.

**3.6.6 U-12 Law 6 – The Assistant Referee:** Use U.S.S.F. registered referees or club linesmen. Where needed and approved by the referee an unofficial club or local association lineman may be used. The lineman’s infraction calling authority shall be limited to ball in and out of play, and goal-kick/cornerkick calls. The center referee may instruct the lineman to make other calls if he feels secure in the lineman’s ability to do so. Under no circumstances can the lineman call fouls or become involved in matters of player discipline on the field. The referee is to have sole authority.

**3.6.7 U-12 Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

**3.6.8 U-12 Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**3.6.9 U-12 Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA.

**3.6.10 U-12 Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

**3.6.11 U-12 Law 11** – Offside: Conform to FIFA.

**3.6.12 U-12 Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

**3.6.13 U-12 Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

**3.6.14 U-12 Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark.

**3.6.15 U-12 Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

**3.6.16 U-12 Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**3.6.17 U-12 Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

## **RULE 3.7 FULL-SIDED PLAY (11 v 11)**

### **3.7.1 LAW 1** – The Field of Play

**Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length:	minimum 100 yards	maximum 130 yards
Width:	minimum 50 yards	maximum 100 yards

**Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of ten (10) yards is marked around it.

**The Goal area:** Conform to FIFA.

**The Penalty Area:** A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, eighteen (18) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of eighteen (18) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made twelve (12) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of ten (10) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

**Flag post:** Not less than five (5) ft high, with a non-pointed top and a flag is placed at each corner.

**The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.

**Goals:** Conform to FIFA

**Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.**

**3.7.2 Law 2 – The Ball:** Size five (5).

**3.7.3 Law 3 – The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eleven (11) players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven (7) players.

Substitutions: Conform to FIFA

Playing time (recreational): Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed.

**3.7.4 Law 4 – The Players Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams. All players must wear shinguards and each player shall have a number on the back of the jersey not less than 4” high. No player shall be permitted to wear any equipment that the referee might consider dangerous to the player, his team or the opponents.

**3.7.5 Law 5 – The Referee:** Registered referee.

**3.7.6 Law 6 – The Assistant Referee:** Use U.S.S.F. registered referees or club linesmen. Where needed and approved by the referee an unofficial club or local association lineman may be used. The lineman’s infraction calling authority shall be limited to ball in and out of play, and goal-kick/cornerkick calls. The center referee may instruct the lineman to make other calls if he feels secure in the lineman’s ability to do so. Under no circumstances can the lineman call fouls or become involved in matters of player discipline on the field. The referee is to have sole authority.

**3.7.7 Law 7 – The Duration of the Match:**

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Duration of game</u>
Amateur	Two 45 min. halves
Youth U-19	Two 45 min. halves
Youth U-16	Two 40 min. halves
Youth U-14	Two 35 min. halves

There shall be a half-time interval not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

**3.7.8 Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA

**3.7.9 Law 9** – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

**3.7.10 Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

**3.7.11 Law 11** – Offside: Conform to FIFA.

**3.7.12 Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA.

**3.7.13 Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA

**3.7.14 Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA

**3.7.15 Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

**3.7.16 Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**3.7.17 Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA