



Laws/Rules of the Game For 8V8

The following guidelines are intended to promote consistency in the rules used during the game of soccer. We ask coaches to share this information with assistant coaches and parents. Revised January, 2012

1. FIELD

- **DIMENSION:**
 - **U9 – U10:** The field of play is rectangular with the length 80 yards and the width 50 yards.
 - **U11 and Older:** The field of play is rectangular with the length being 100 yards and the width being 75 yards.
- **SIZE OF THE GOAL:**
 - **U9 – U10:** 6.5- 7 feet tall by 18- 21 feet wide
 - **U11 and Older:** 8 feet tall by 24 feet wide

2. BALL SIZE

- U9 – U12: Size 4
- U13 and older: Size 5

3. NUMBER OF PLAYERS / SUBSTITUTIONS

- 9 – U10 and U15 and older: The game is played with 8 players on each team. A maximum of 14 players on a roster (Goalkeeper plus 7 field players)
- U11- U14: The game is played with 11 players on each team. A maximum of 18 players on a roster (Goalkeeper plus 10 field players)
- Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time
- For U9 – U10 **INHOUSE** Recreational teams, substitutions are allowed on any stoppage of play. This includes the following:
 - 1. When ball has gone out of play including goal kicks and corner kicks
 - 2. After a goal has been scored and injury time outs
 - 3. Prior to either teams throw-in
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- For U9 **INTERLEAGUE** teams. When playing **at home** on Real Colorado fields, substitutions are allowed on ANY stoppage of play This includes the following:
 - 1. When the ball has gone out of play as caused by either team.
 - 2. Prior to either team's throw-in, or on any goal kick or corner kick
 - 3. After a goal by either team
 - 4. Between periods of play
 - 5. When playing **away** games, you must abide by the home teams substitution rules
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- Option I and U11 and above: See FIFA rules. The intent of this rule is to ensure that coaches have the opportunity to substitute often ensuring that players are not unnecessarily fatigued. This will also prevent players from sitting out too long on the sidelines.
- **It is very important to be liberal with substitutions so all players get equal playing time.**

4. PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

- All players must wear shin guards and the club uniforms
- No metal cleats may be worn. Tennis shoes are acceptable to wear
- Home teams are listed first on the schedule and wear red, away team is listed second and wear white
- Socks **MUST** cover the shin guards completely



Laws/Rules of the Game For 8V8

- Goalkeepers must wear colors that distinguish him from the other players
- Players may not wear any kind of metal or plastic hair restraint, hair beads, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, or other jewelry during practices or games
- The following items are **CONDITIONALLY** permitted:
 1. Religious medals or medical tags which are taped to the body
 2. Splints, casts, braces or other joint support devices that, on both coaches' opinion are not dangerous and/or are padded with pliable materials to eliminate the dangerous condition.

5. REFEREE / LINESMAN

- **U9 - U10 in-house teams:** All teams are to supply a center referee for their home games who are club certified as well as a linesman for all games (home and away) who are also club certified as a linesman.
- **U10 and older Option 1** and U11 and older inter-league teams: Colorado Hawks Soccer Club will provide the center referee for all of the home games and each team will supply a club certified linesman for home and away games.

6. GAME DURATION

- U9 – U10: The game is divided into two 25 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime.
- U11 – U12: The game is divided into two 30 minute halves with a 10 minute halftime.
- U13 – U14: The game is divided into two 35 minute halves with a 10 minute halftime.
- U15 – U16: The game is divided into two 40 minute halves with a 10 minute halftime.
- U17 –U19: The game is divided into two 45 minute halves with a 10 minute halftime.

7. THE START OF PLAY

- Opponents should be outside the center circle while kick-off is in process. Ball must not go backwards.

8. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- The ball is out of play only when it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line, whether it is on the ground or in the air. It is in play at all other times from the start of the match to the finish including if it rebounds from a goal post, cross bar or corner flag into the field of play.

9. SCORING

- **U9 -U10:** The '*Good Sportsmanship Rule*' only applies when you are an in-house non traveling team. If the goal differential is greater than 5 goals the losing team is allowed to bring on a 9th player. In the event that the losing team scores and the goal differential becomes less than four, they must pull off the 9th player. They can only add a 9th player again if they are down by 4 goals.
- In addition to the above rules, Colorado Hawks encourages coaches to implement strategies in the game to continue to challenge the players on the dominant team without running up the score. Such strategies might incorporate accuracy of passes, moving players to less frequently played positions etc. Colorado Hawks coaching staff will be happy to provide specific suggestions.

10. OFF-SIDE

- Please refer to FIFA rules.



Laws/Rules of the Game For 8V8

11. FREE-KICK

- **U9 and older:** There are direct free kicks and indirect free kicks. Goals can be scored from direct free kicks without being touched by another player. Goals cannot be scored from an indirect free kick until first touched by another player from either team. Free kicks are taken from the spot of the foul except for kicks awarded for misconduct off the field of play or fouls inside the goal box. Opposing players will be at least 10 yards (8 yards for U9 and U10) from the ball in all directions unless they are on their own goal line between the goal posts. The ball will be kicked while stationary and will be in play when it moves. A player taking the free kick shall not play the ball twice; it must be touched by another player before the kicker can touch it again.

12. THROW-IN / KICK IN

- **U9 and older:** A throw-in will be awarded to the opponents of the player who last touches the ball before the entire ball passes over a touch line, either on the ground or in the air. Any player on the team may take the throw-in. The ball may be thrown in any direction from the point where it crossed the line. The player will use both hands with equal force and will throw the ball from behind and over the head in one movement while keeping both feet on the ground. A part of each foot shall either be on the touch line or on the ground outside of the touch line. The ball is in play when any part of the ball crosses the exterior plane of the touch line. The player taking the throw-in may not play the ball until it has been touched by another player. A goal shall not be scored direct from a throw-in. An improper throw-in shall result in a restart by a throw-in by the opposing team. Please use common sense here. It is appropriate to give the younger players (U8) a warning and allow another try with verbal help such as "keep your feet down". After second failed attempt, give the throw-in to the opposing team.

13. PENALTY KICK

- Penalty Kicks (U9 and above only): A penalty kick will be awarded against a team whenever a foul is committed which would have resulted in a direct free kick occurs within the defensive team's penalty area.

14. GOAL KICK

- **U9 and older:** A goal kick will be awarded to the defending team when the attacking team last touches the ball and the entire ball passes over the entire goal line of the defending team, whether on the ground or in the air. To restart with a goal kick, the player taking the kick must set the ball on the line of the penalty box. Any player may take the goal kick. The opposing team must stay outside of the penalty area until the ball has crossed the penalty area lines. The team taking the kick may be anywhere in the field including the goal area or penalty area. If the ball does not clear the penalty area or is touched by a player before it clears the penalty area, the kick will be retaken. The player taking the goal kick may not play the ball again until another player from either team has touched the ball. All goal kicks are indirect and a goal may not score from a goal kick.

15. CORNER KICKS

- **U9 and older:** A corner kick will be awarded to the attacking team when the defending team last touches the ball before the entire ball passes over the entire goal line of the defending team, whether on the ground or in the air, and does not result in a goal. To restart with a corner kick, the ball will be placed on or in the corner arc on the corner of the field nearest where the ball went over the goal line and played from the ground. All defending players will be at least 10 yards from the ball until it has been kicked. An attacking player receiving the ball directly from a corner kick cannot be offside. The player taking the kick may not play the ball again until another player from either team has touched the ball. A goal may be scored from a corner kick.

16. FOULS & MISCONDUCT



Laws/Rules of the Game For 8V8

- **All ages:** no player shall kick, strike, trip, jump or knee another player. Players shall not intentionally touch with the intent to control the ball with their hand or arm. Players may make shoulder to shoulder contact (legal charging) while playing the ball. A player without control of the ball may not keep another player from playing the ball, this is obstruction. No player shall kick above the waist or otherwise play dangerously. In the event of an infraction, a free indirect kick will be awarded.

17. FRIENDSHIP LINE

- Opposing coaches and players should meet in the center of the field and shake hands after each game. Coordinators should monitor this event to ensure good sportsmanship prevails.