



U8 Referee Guidelines (v2017)

Game time:

Two halves of 20 minutes each. The clock stays running. At the 9:30 minute mark of both halves take a one-minute break for subs and water. Half time will be 5 minutes.

Total game time: 45 minutes

If game starts late adjust both halves for even playing time and to finish on schedule.

All games must finish on time.

Before the game:

Home team sits on North or West side of field. No exceptions.

Parents may not sit on or near the endline. Photos may be taken from a silent taker.

- 1) Introduce yourself to both coaches. Parents and spectators need to be at least 3 feet off the touchline.
- 2) Equipment Check of both teams:
 - a) Check cleats, shin guards, and uniforms (shirts tucked in)
 - b) No jewelry. Med alert bracelets need to have soft covering (sweatband)
- 3) Check field lining and goals. Adjust net as needed. Check stakes are firmly in the ground
- 4) Coin toss. Winner chooses side. Other team kicks off. Teams will switch at half.
- 5) Count players on the field (6 per side)
- 6) Make eye contact with coaches. Start your watch.
- 7) Blow the whistle to start the game.

Game Play:

All starts of game (beginning of game and beginning of 2nd half) start with a kick-off in the center circle. After all goals there will be a kick-off.

Quarter breaks are taken at a stoppage in play (throw-in, Indirect Free Kick, after a goal is scored). Play resumes at the same restart as if the game were uninterrupted.

Fouls:

All fouls are restarted with an **Indirect Kick** (ball must touch another player before a goal can be scored).

- There are no Direct Kicks and we do not want free kick shots taken directly on goal with the defensive team building a wall.
- We simply want the game to restart with a short pass to a teammate.
- At this age, the majority of calls are dangerous play (this can include pushing, tripping, sliding on the ground).
- Opposing team needs to be 8 yards away from the ball.
- Indirect kicks awarded for the attacking team in their opponent's penalty area will be given outside of the penalty area far enough away that the game can be restarted with a simple pass. (Normally this would result in a penalty kick. There are no goalkeepers; therefore, penalty kicks would be silly.)

Throw-ins

In our REGION 177 there are no Throw-ins in 8U.

Kick-ins/Dribble-ins

Kick-ins/Dribble-ins are awarded when the ball crosses the touchline completely. Only blow your whistle if the players are continuing to play after the ball is clearly out of play. Use your arm to indicate the direction of the kick-in. The player may either Dribble in or kick-in. If the player's kick-in does not go into the field of play, you may restart the game with another kick for the same player. Walk over and explain what needs to be corrected. After this kick-in, play will continue. (At this point any advantage gained by the poor kick-in will be nullified by the fact that the defending team has had to set up in a defensive position)

Goal kick:

The ball is placed anywhere inside the goal box including on the line.

Every player on the defending team needs to back up behind the halfway line until the ball is kicked. (like the build out line)

Corner kick:

Defending team must give 8 yards space. Short kicks are allowed.

Offside:

Not called. Feel free to notify coaches that "**Cherry picking**" is not allowed. Players should not be intentionally in an offside position waiting for the ball. Encourage players and their coaches to stay engaged in the play and move up and back as the ball moves up and down the field.

Referee should stop play for repeated infractions and award the other team a free kick

Goalkeepers:

There are no "goalies" in AYSO U8 soccer. No **pseudo "goalies" or GOAL TENDING** Allowed. No stationed defender on the penalty box. Last defender should move up to at least his/her half of the center circle when the ball is down at the opposing end. Coaches and Referees should promote this. **Referees feel Free to move players up the field.**

Scoring:

No official score is kept

Main points of focus:

- Safe and FUN experience for all players and parents.
- You are teaching both teams.
- Expect players to respect you.
- Coaches set the tone.
- There are no cautions with cards, but players can be verbally cautioned for repeated dangerous plays.
- Communicate clearly with coaches before the game and at breaks in the game.