US Youth Soccer Official Under 12 Playing Rules
Modified 8v8

Small Sided Games 2003
This past August, US Youth Soccer's State Associations approved changes to the Policy on Players and Playing Rules that will affect the game for players under age twelve. Current US Youth Soccer policies require that teams under 10 and younger play games with not more than eight players per side. Effective September 1st, 2003 this rule will detail age group specific playing numbers.

Rule 303. LENGTH OF GAMES, NUMBER OF PLAYERS, OVERTIME PERIODS, AND BALL SPECIFICATIONS

Section 1. (a) Except as provided by USYSA or a State Association, the length of games, overtime periods, ball size, ball circumference, ball weight, and number of players for each age group is as follows:

Age Group	Game Length	Overtime Periods	Size	Circumference	Weight	Number of Players
(Under 13- Under 19 are unaffected by rule change)						
Under 12	Two 30' halves	Two 10' halves golden goal	#4	25–26 in	11–13 ozs	No more than 11, 8 strongly recommended
Under 11	Two 30' halves	Two 10' halves golden goal	#4	25–26 in	11–13 ozs	No more than 11, 8 strongly recommended
Under 10	Two 25' halves	NONE	#4	25–26 in	11–13 ozs	No more than 7, 6 strongly recommended
Under 8	4 12' quarters	NONE	#3	23-24 in	11–12 ozs	No more than 5, 4 strongly recommended
Under 6	4 8' quarters	NONE	#3	23-24 in	11–12 ozs	No more than 4, 3 strongly recommended

US Youth Soccer recommended modifications to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

FIFA Laws of The Game can be found at www.fifa.com

Law I-The Field: Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 90 yards nor less than 70 yards and its width not more than 50 yards nor less than 40 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width. *U S Youth Soccer Recommendation: 8v8 Length: 80 yards Width: 45 yards*

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with a eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a three (3) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.

Goals: Six (6) feet high and eighteen feet wide up to Seven (7) feet high and twenty-one (21) feet wide.

Law II-The Ball: Size four (4)

Law III-Number of Players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is: 8v8:eight (8) including the goalkeeper.

Substitutions: Prior to throw-in, in your favor. Prior to a goal, kick, by either team. After a goal, by either team. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops the play. At half-time.

Law IV-Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA .

Law V-The Referee: Currently certified referee.

Law VI-Assistant Referee- Use of "club" linesmen permitted.

Law VII-Duration of the Game: The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be eight(8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

Law XI-Off-Side: Conform to FIFA

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.