



Youth Soccer U-9 Division Rules

GAME FORMAT

- 6 v 6 format
- #4 ball is utilized
- Game consists of four 10-minute quarters with one 5-minute half.
- Maximum number on the field: 6
- To start and finish match: 5 minimum

THE CLOCK

The clock will not stop except during halftime and quarter breaks. However, time may be added for deliberate time wasting (delay of game) or stoppages due to injury. The referee is the official timekeeper and is the sole judge of how much time, if any, may be added.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions shall be unlimited except where specified otherwise in the Rules & Regulations. All players shall play half of each half unless injury limits a player's ability to participate. An injured player or player who cannot continue due to illness may be substituted for only when the referee has sent the player off the field.

- Substitutions may be made **with the consent of the referee** at the following times:
 - Prior to a throw 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
 - Substitutions shall not be limited to only the injured player or his team
 - At halftime
 - After a caution, by either team

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- All players must wear the jersey provided by The Family Y.
 - In the event of a conflict of team colors, the home team shall be required to wear pennies provided by The Family Y. Playing in "skins" shall **not** be allowed.
- Only molded cleats will be allowed.
- Players shall not play with a cast. A brace preventing not correcting injury may be allowed at the referee's discretion.
- All players must wear shin guards covered completely with socks.
- Players will not be allowed to participate with improper equipment.

REFEREES

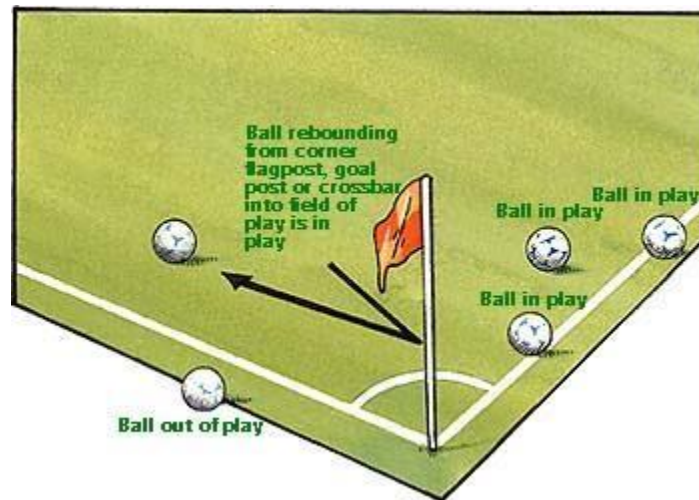
- **The Family Y will provide 1 referee per U9 match.**
 - In the event a referee is not present at a league match, the coach of each participating team shall each referee one-half of the game. The halves to be selected by mutual consent or by a third person agreed upon by both coaches.
- In the U9 Division, the referees are encouraged to be instructional while applying the laws of the game. Expect the referees to apply the rules with caring and concern for the development and safety of the participants.

GAME PLAY

- A coin flip determines which team will begin the game with a kickoff. The visiting team calls heads or tails.
- Teams switch halves of the field at half time.
- Play is restarted at the beginning of each half and following a goal by means of a kickoff taken at midfield.
 - All players must be on their own half of the field.
 - Players on the non-kicking team must be outside of the circle before kickoff.
 - The ball is stationary on the center mark until the referee gives a signal.
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.
 - The kicking player cannot touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player (of either team).
 - All kickoffs at the U9 level shall be indirect kicks, meaning that a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is touched by another player of either team before it goes in the goal. If the ball enters the non-kicking team's goal before being touched by another player, a goal kick is awarded to the non-kicking team.
 - If an infringement occurs during a kickoff at the U9 level, retake the kick and coach the players on the correct procedure.
- All games must begin on time. **A team not prepared to begin play within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time shall forfeit the game. A game that starts late will be shortened unless the delay is caused by the tardiness of the referees.**
- A drop ball is used to restart play after a temporary stoppage for any reason not otherwise mentioned in these rules.
 - The referee will drop the ball to team who gains possession after stoppage
 - Determination of possession is made by the referee
 - Players may not kick the ball until it touches the ground.

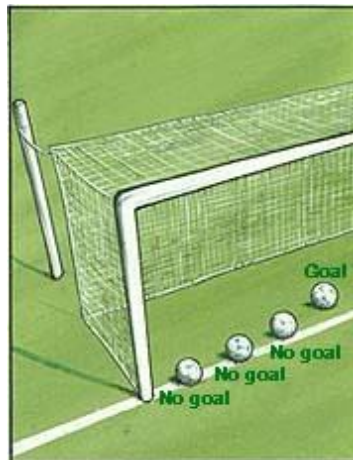
BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- The ball is out of play when the whole ball has crossed the goal line (end line) or touch line (sideline) on the ground or in the air; or when play has been stopped by the referee.
- The ball is in play at all other times, including when it rebounds from a goalpost, crossbar, corner flag post or coach and remains in the field of play.



METHOD OF SCORING

- A goal is scored when the whole ball passes over the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the rules was committed by the team scoring the goal.



OFFSIDES

- Offsides penalties are **not** called at the U9 level. However, offensive players may not enter the goal box until the ball passes mid field.

HEADERS:

- Due to new rules in the US Youth Soccer Rules, there will be **NO** intentional heading of the ball during practices or games. No exceptions! If a player deliberately heads the ball, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect kick where the penalty occurred.

FREE KICKS

- Free kicks are awarded to the non-offending team at the spot of an infraction.
- Some infractions will result in **direct kicks**, while others will result in **indirect kicks**.
 - The following are infractions that result in a **direct kick** for the opposing team:
 - Tackling from behind
 - Grabbing and holding another player's shirt
 - Intentional tripping, pushing or shoving
 - Intentional handling
 - The following are infractions that result in an **indirect kick** for the opposing team:
 - Impeding the goalkeeper
 - Goalkeeper violating the 5 second rule
 - Goalkeeper handling
 - Incidental handling
 - Offside (in applicable leagues)
 - "Handling" is defined as follows:
 - When a player contacts the ball using any part of the hand or arm from the side of the shoulder to the tips of the fingers.
 - If the ball accidentally touches a player's arm or hand, it is generally not considered a foul unless the arm is in an unnatural position.
- The ball must be stationary prior to the kick, and the non-kicking team must yield a reasonable distance (8 yards, if possible) from the kicker.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves one full revolution.
- No free kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within six (6) yards of the defender's goal.
- The kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

PENALTY KICK

- A penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits one of the offenses in which a direct free kick is awarded while inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.
- The kick shall be taken from the penalty mark.
- A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

GOALKEEPER

- Each team will provide one goalkeeper dressed in a contrasting goalkeeper jersey provided by the Family Y.
- Once the goalkeeper is ruled to have possession of the ball all players of the opposing team must move away from and out of the penalty area and not attempt to impede the goalkeeper from releasing the ball back into play.
 - Possession is interpreted by the referee but is generally described as any part of the goalkeeper's hand on the ball to gain possession or control of the ball.
- The keeper may punt, place kick or throw the ball into play.
- The goalkeeper may take unlimited number of steps in the penalty box but must put the ball in play within 5 seconds of gaining possession of the ball. Will be called liberally.
 - Violation of the 5 second rule will result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team to be taken from a spot just outside the penalty box closest to the spot of the violation.
 - The 5 second rule does not apply to a goalkeeper who gains possession of the ball by his/her feet and never handles the ball. In this scenario the goalkeeper is considered a field player until such time he/she legally handles the ball.
- The goalkeeper may not touch a ball that is passed or thrown to them by a member of his/her own team. If ball is touched by keeper, then "ball handling" will be called, which will result in an in direct kick from the opposing team 6 yards outside of goal box closest from the infraction.

THROW-IN

- A throw-in is a method of restarting play and is awarded:
 - When the whole ball crosses the touch line (sideline) in the air or on the ground
 - From the point where the ball crossed the touch line
 - To the opponents of the player who last touched the ball
- A proper throw-in is one in which:
 - The player faces the field of play
 - Has part of each foot either on the touch line (sideline) or on the ground outside the touch line
 - Uses both hands
 - Delivers the ball from behind and over his head
- The thrower may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
- The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in. If the ball enters the non-throwing team's goal before being touched by another player, a goal kick is awarded to the non-throwing team. If the ball enters the throwing team's goal before it is touched by another player, a corner kick is awarded to the non-throwing team.
- **If an infringement occurs on a throw-in at the U9 level, coach the players on the proper technique and retake the throw-in. One time per player. Second infraction will result in opposing team receiving the throw-in.**

GOAL KICK

A goal kick is a method of restarting play and is awarded when the whole ball, having touched a player of the attacking team, crosses the goal line on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored.

- Procedure:
 - The ball is kicked from any point on the box line, goal area by a member of the defending team.
 - Opposing players must remain out of the penalty box until the ball is kicked.
 - The goalie can pass to a teammate within the penalty box, but ball becomes live.
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked out of the penalty box or touched by the goalie's teammate. If the goalie is unsuccessful in kicking ball out of penalty box, they can re- kick.
 - The kicking player cannot touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- All goal kicks at the U9 level shall be indirect kicks, meaning that a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is touched by another player of either team before it goes into the goal. If the ball enters the non-kicking team's goal before being touched by another player, a goal kick is awarded to the non-kicking team. If the ball enters the kicking team's goal before it is touched by another player, a corner kick is awarded to the non-kicking team.

CORNER KICK

A corner kick is a method of restarting play and is awarded when the whole ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, crosses the goal line on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored.

- Procedure:
 - The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearer corner flag post.
 - The flag post cannot be removed from the ground for the kick.
 - Opposing players must remain 6 yards away from the ball until it is kicked.
 - The ball is kicked by a member of the attacking team.
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
 - The kicking player cannot touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- All corner kicks at the U9 level shall be indirect kicks, meaning that a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is touched by another player of either team before it goes into the goal. If the ball enters the non-kicking team's goal before being touched by another player, a goal kick is awarded to the non-kicking team.

FIVE SECOND RULE

- The ball must be put into play within five seconds of all restarts including throw-ins, free kicks, etc. This will be liberally called in the U9 division.
 - Violations of the five-second rule may result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team, taken from the half line.

SLIDE TACKLING

- There is no slide tackling allowed.
 - Violation of this rule will result in a direct kick by the opposing team at the spot of the foul unless the foul occurred in the penalty box. If the violation occurred in the penalty box, the violation will result in a penalty kick. Repeated violation may result in caution or send off. A player does not have to contact an opponent to be judged as in violation of this rule. The referee is the sole judge of a sliding tackle violation. At this age, players should be taught the finer points of defending while on their feet.

PROTESTS

- The referee's judgment is final. Only where a team is suspected of using an ineligible player(s) can a protest be filed. Teams found guilty of ineligible participation must forfeit each game where ineligible players are involved. Coaches found guilty of using ineligible players shall be removed from The Family Y Youth Sports Program.
 - Ineligible player is defined as a player not registered for a play on a Family Y team and or not listed on a team's official roster as maintained in The Family Y Youth Sports office. Teams are expressly prohibited from allowing an ineligible player to play or practice with a registered Family Y Youth Sports team on or off The Family Y facilities

CONDUCT

- Mutual understanding and respect are a must for all players, coaches, officials, parents, and staff.
- Any questions, comments or remarks should wait for the appropriate time (at half-time and end of game). Never during the game, except for an injury time out, will the coach enter the playing area. Only after a time out has been called, or during half time, may the coach enter the playing area. Any discussion with the official will be at the official's discretion.
- The field supervisor or The Family Y Youth Sports Director will resolve any disputes or disagreements.
- Coaches and spectators must remain off the playing surface during play.
- Coaches and spectators are restricted from the area directly behind the goal lines.

COACHES BOX AND TEAM AREA

Only players, a coach, an assistant coach or team mom will be permitted in the team area. All others must be on the spectator's side of the field. Maximum of two coaches. One coach can be standing but other coach must be sitting and controlling the bench.

POLICY

The Family Y Youth Sports Complex is a non-smoking, alcohol and drug free facility. We need everybody's help to maintain a safe and wholesome environment for our participants. For the safety of all participants, nonparticipating children should not be left unattended at any time.

GAME RESCHEDULES/RAINOUTS/INCLEMENT WEATHER

Only the referee or The Family Y Youth Sports staff may cancel, postpone or reschedule a scheduled game. Should a game's progress be terminated due to weather conditions after one half has been completed, the game will be considered official. If the match is terminated or postponed before the end of the first half and cannot continue, the game shall be

rescheduled. Rescheduled games must be coordinated through and approved by The Family Y Youth Sports staff only. The incomplete game will be rescheduled and posted on www.wilson.ygametime.com within 48 hours.