

Playing Rules for OCYSA Under 8 House Recreational Leagues

OCYSA U8 house recreational league games are played in accordance with USYSA guidelines with exceptions as stated below:

Law I: The Field

- Refer to "OCYSA Game Field Dimensions & Markings"
- Coaches, assistant coaches and non-playing players must remain within the technical areas located a minimum of 3 yards away from the touchline and 10 yards on either side of the half way line.
- Spectators must remain along the touchline opposite the teams, at a minimum distance of 3 yards away from the touchline. No one shall be permitted directly behind the goal, or within 4 yards of the goal line.
- No dangerous objects shall be permitted within 3 yards of the boundary lines of the field.

Law II: The Ball

- Size three (3)

Law III: Number of Players

- Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is 5, including the goalkeeper.
- The maximum number of players on the roster is 10. Recommended roster size is 8.
- **Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.**
- Substitutions: At any stoppage of play, by either team. Players must enter and exit field near halfway line.
- Mercy Rule: During a game, if the score differential becomes five (5) goals, the team that is behind may play with an additional player on the field (6 players total including one goalkeeper). Once the goal differential becomes less than 5, the team must remove the additional player.

Law IV: Players Equipment

- **Shin guards are mandatory for all players during all games and all practices.**
- Players may not wear any item of equipment or jewelry that may be dangerous to themselves or others, as determined by the Referee.
- All players on a team must wear the same color jersey or t-shirt during games, with the exception of the goalkeeper.
- Numbers are NOT required on jerseys.
- Players must play and practice in tennis shoes or soft-cleat soccer shoes (recommended).

Law V & Law VI: The Referee & Assistant Referees

- Club Referee, coach or parent can be used. No assistant referees used.

Law VII: Duration of the Game

- 4-12 minute quarters. 2 minute breaks between quarters. 5 minute break at halftime.

Law VIII: The Start of Play

- Opponent must be 5 yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.
- All kick-offs will be direct.
- Teams will alternate kicking-off at start of each quarter.

Law IX: Ball In and Out of Play

- Conform with FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line to be out of play.

Law X: Method of Scoring

- Conform with FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line and between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

Law XI: Off Sides

- There is no off side.

Law XII: Fouls and Misconduct

- All fouls shall result in a direct free kick with opponent 5 yards away. The referee must explain ALL infractions to offending player.

Law XIII: Free Kicks

- All free kicks will be direct. Opponents must be 5 yards away. No free kicks taken within penalty areas. Ball to be placed on penalty area boundary, close to the point of foul.

Law XIV: Penalty Kicks

- No Penalty Kicks. Replace with direct kicks.

Law XV: Throw-in

- Conform with FIFA: Awarded when ball completely crosses sideline.
- Player is given second opportunity for throw-in after initial throw-in mistake.

Law XVI: Goal Kick

- Goal kick may be taken any where within the goal box.
- Opponents must be 5 yards away from the ball.

Law XVII: Corner Kick

- Opponents must be 5 yards away from the ball.
- Corner Kicks are direct Free Kicks.

Sportsmanship

- After appropriate warning and refusal to comply with this warning, the Referee has the right to direct the coach and/or assistant coach to leave the area of play, should they, in the opinion of the Referee, be affecting the game.
- Unsporting behavior, harassment, or any other act directed toward the Referee will be considered as affecting the game. If both coach and assistant coach are asked to leave the field of play after appropriate warning, the game will become a forfeit to the opposing team unless the Referee determines a responsible adult can assume coaching responsibilities.
- Should the spectators become unruly, the game will be stopped, opposing coaches and referees will consult and spectators will be asked to maintain order. If, in the opinion of the referee, order is not restored, the game will be terminated.
- A player or coach ejected from a game for any reason shall be suspended for one (1) additional game. The OCYSA Board of Directors may take further disciplinary action.
- The official referee shall be the sole judge on the field of play, and the referee's decision shall be final. No protest based on a referee's judgement decision shall be allowed. A complaint about an official referee shall be directed in writing to the Referee Commissioner not prior to 24 hours after the conclusion of the game. No verbal complaints will be accepted.

Other Guidelines

- Coaches, Players and Parents must be familiar with and abide by the "Code of Conduct" for all team activities.
- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near practice or game field playing areas.
- No pets are allowed at the OCYSA game complex.