

# Central Pennsylvania Youth Soccer League

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## Modifications to the Laws of the Game (LOTG) for 8v8 Travel Matches (U9 – U12)

Note: Unless otherwise noted the LOTG published by USSF apply.

### Law 1 – The Field of Play

	Dimensions:	
	Minimum Length	Maximum Length
Touch lines	70 yards	80 yards
Goal lines	45 yards	55 yards

**The Goal Area:** A Goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, six (6) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of six (6) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

**The Penalty Area:** A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. Within each penalty area a penalty mark 9 inches in diameter is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from the center of each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty areas.

**Center Circle:** The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

**Goals:** The recommended goal size for these age groups is 7 yards wide measured between the posts by 7 feet high measured from the ground to the bottom of the crossbar. Clubs may use existing goals of other sizes, e.g. 6 yards by 6 feet or full size goals (8 yards by 8 feet); however, it is strongly recommended that when next purchasing goals for these fields that the 7 by 7 goals be purchased.

Goals must be secured with anchors and/or sand bags to prevent tipping. The match will not be started if the goals are not properly secured to the satisfaction of the referee.

Note: Regardless of the size of the goals being used, the Goal Areas and Penalty Areas are measured from the Goalposts.

### Law 2 – The Ball

The home team is expected to supply the game ball(s). For all matches U9 through U12, a size 4 ball must be used. The ball must be properly inflated according to the manufacturer's instructions. The ball may not be changed during the match without the permission of the referee.

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## Law 3 – Number of Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eight players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start or continue if either team consists of fewer than five (5) players.

The maximum number of players on the official team roster is fourteen (14). Only players listed on the team roster (primary or secondary player) may participate in the match. No “Guest” players may be used.

Substitutions: An unlimited number of substitutions may be made during the match and a player may re-enter the match an unlimited number of times. Substitutions “on the fly” are not permitted and may result in both the player leaving and the player entering the field being cautioned.

Substitutions may only occur with the permission of the referee and at the following stoppages:

- Throw-in - by the team taking the throw-in. If the team taking the throw-in has requested a substitution, the other team may also substitute players provided they are prepared to enter so as not to unduly delay the restart of play.
- Goal Kick – either team
- Injury Stoppage – either team
- Half-time – either team
- After a Goal – either team

The player leaving the match may leave the field anywhere. The Substitute must enter at the halfway line.

Substitutes must be prepared to enter the match when beckoned onto the field by the referee or the substitution will not be permitted and the match restarted.

Excessive substitutions which, in the opinion of the Referee, are designed to waste time will result in the addition of stoppage time to the match.

Replacing the Goalkeeper through the substitution process is handled the same as any other substitution. The Keeper entering the match should be properly uniformed and equipped before the substitution is requested so as not to delay the restart of play.

## Law 4 – The Player’s Equipment

No jewelry may be worn by a player during the match with the exception of “Medical Alert” jewelry and it must be securely taped to the player’s body with the emblem visible.

When a jersey color conflict occurs, the Home Team must resolve the difference by changing jerseys, wearing pinnies or by another means suitable to the referee.

In cold weather players will be permitted to wear additional clothing under their uniforms provided that the referee determines that it does not create a safety issue.

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## Law 5 – The Referee

USSF Certified referees are assigned by the League Assignor to the matches. If a referee does not show up the match must be played using a volunteer referee as described in the CPYSL Coaches' Guidance.

## Law 6 – Assistant Referees

Unless USSF Certified referees are assigned as ARs by the league assignor, each team is to provide a volunteer Club Linesperson to assist the Referee. As per the USSF Guideline, Club Linespersons may only signal that the ball has left the field of play. They may not indicate the direction of a throw-in, offside, whether to award a goal kick or a corner kick, fouls or misconduct.

They function under the direction of the Referee and must be of sufficient age to fulfill their duties. Club Linespersons must refrain from coaching the players during the match.

## Law 7 – Duration of the Match

Official time is kept on the field of play by the referee

- U9-U10: Two equal periods of 25 minutes with a 5 minute half-time interval
- U11-U12: Two equal periods of 30 minutes with a 5 minute half-time interval

Allowance may be made by the referee in either period for time lost as per the LOTG.

## Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

The opponents of the team taking the kick-off must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is in play.

## Law 13 – Free Kicks

On both Direct Free Kicks and Indirect Free Kicks, the opponents of the team taking the free kick must be at least 8 yards from the ball until it is in play.

## Law 14 – Penalty Kicks

All players other than the kicker must remain outside the penalty area and at least 8 yards from the ball until it is in play.

## Law 17 – Corner Kicks

The opponents of the team taking the corner kick must be at least 8 yards from the corner arc until the ball is in play.