

Gwinnett Soccer Academy

Small-Sided Soccer Program

8U/9U

(Revised 8/31/18)

RATIONALE

To further enhance the Recreational Program, GSA's teaching philosophy with respect to small-sided soccer in 8U/9U. This philosophy allows the game to be the teacher by maximizing each player's touches on the ball and encourages all the players to develop their skills in all positions. Further, the philosophy discourages intense competition until the older age groups.

MODIFIED LAWS FOR 8U/9U (5 v 5 competition)

LAW I - THE FIELD:

A. Dimensions:

The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 50 yards nor less than 40 yards and its width not more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

RECOMMENDATION:

Length: 50 yards Width: 30 yards

B. Markings:

1. Distinctive lines necessary, sidelines and endlines, 4 yd box, 6yd box for keepers
2. A halfway line, center circle (6yds)

C. Goals:

<u>Inside Width</u>	<u>Inside Height</u>
6 feet (approx)	12 Feet (approx)

LAW II - THE BALL: Size three (3) 8U, Size four (4) 9U. If combined 8U/9U use size four (4)..

Circumference:	23-24
Weight:	11-12 oz.

LAW III - NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

- A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: Four (4) plus goalkeeper
- B. Minimum number of players on the field in order to play: Three (3) plus goalkeeper
- C. Maximum number of available players on the bench should not exceed four (4/5).
- D. Substitutions:
 - 1. Injuries.
 - 2. See LAW VII.
- E. Playing time: Each player **SHALL** play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time, unless the player is unwilling or unable. In addition to this state rule, GSA requires that each player play 75% of the total playing time, unless the player is unwilling, unable or you have more too many players making it mathematically impossible.
- F. Teams and games are single gender

LAW IV PLAYERS EQUIPMENT: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- B. Players are not allowed to wear baseball/football cleats (toe cleats).

LAW V - REFEREE:

- A. Each league reserves the right to determine whether to use certified referees, club linesmen, coaches or parents during these games. GSA will use certified small-sided officials whenever possible.
- B. For inter-scheduled games, it is recommended there be a certified referee provided.

LAW VI - LINESMEN: Not necessary.

LAW VII - DURATION OF GAME:

- A. **The game shall be divided into four (4) equal twelve (12) minute quarters.**

- B. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarter one (1) and quarter two (2), and another two minute break between quarters three (3) and four (4). Game shall restart after these breaks at the spot where the ball was last played before the break.
- C. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between quarters two (2) and three (3). Game is restarted by a kick off after this break.
- D. Each team shall kick off at least once, either at the start of the game or at the start of the third (3rd) quarter.

Note: GSA allows 8U/9U teams to perform free substitutions. A coach may substitute during any stoppage of play (i.e. kick-off, goal kick, kick-off, throw-in, penalty, etc.) Coaches need to be aware that they are still responsible for each player playing the required amount of time as outlined in LAW III, part E.

LAW VIII - THE START OF PLAY: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Opponents must be six (6) 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: There shall be no off-sides.

LAW XII - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions.

- A. All fouls will result in an INDIRECT FREE KICK with the opponents six (6) yards away.
- B. It is recommended that the game official explain ALL infractions to the offending player.

LAW XIII - FREE KICKS: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Shall be classified under one heading - INDIRECT.
- B. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.
- C. No kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within six (6) yards of the defending team's goal.
- D. **No Punting and No Heading are allowed at any time, Punting or Heading the ball will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the halfway line.**

Goalkeepers

1. When a Goalkeeper is in possession of the ball in their hands, there are two ways we would encourage them to put the ball back in play:
 - A. The ball can be thrown like a throw in, one arm throw or rolled directly from their hands OR
 - B. Goalkeeper can put the ball on the ground and play the ball back into to play with their feet, once the ball is on the ground they cannot pick it back up. If Goalkeeper chooses to play with their feet the opposing team cannot make a play on the ball until the Goalkeeper passes the ball into play or dribbles the ball forward, there will be a 5 second time limit for this action to take place, then the ball is live.

LAW XIV - PENALTY KICKS: No penalty kicks.

LAW XV - THROW-IN:

- A. A second throw-in must be allowed if the player makes an improper throw-in on the initial attempt. The second throw-in takes place after the game official explains the proper method.

LAW XVI - GOAL KICK: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. No Goal Kick may be taken within six (6) yards of the goal.
- B. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

LAW XVII - CORNER KICK: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:

- A. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball.

OTHER

8U/9U Teams are expected to switch ends of the field when taking the field for the start of the second half.

Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.

Under No Circumstances are scores, standings recorded or discussed

Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.