

Basics of U6 – U10 Recreational Soccer Refereeing

The following is a basic primer for the parent refereeing of U6 – U10 recreational soccer. U6 and U8 soccer is sometimes referred to as Micro Soccer. This summary is divided into sections based upon the official laws of the games.

Law 1 - The Field of Play

The fields will be striped for the games.

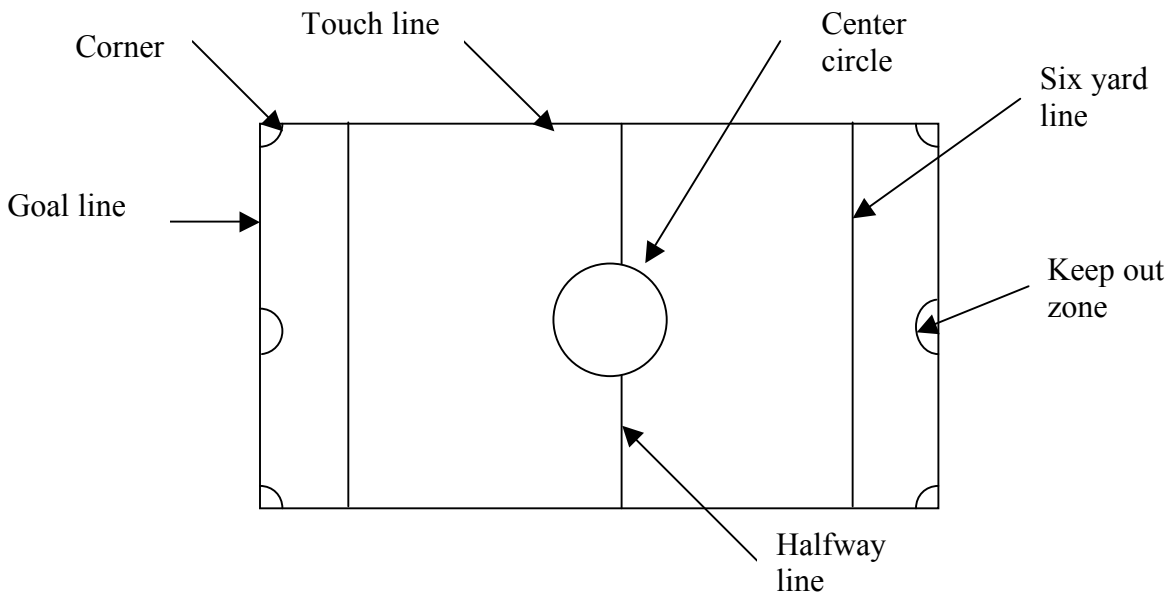
U6

Keep out zone is additional half circle area where no one can touch the ball. Six yard line will be striped for placement of goal kicks. There will be no penalty areas striped.

If a defending player enters their own keep out zone to prevent an obvious goal the goal will be awarded to the offensive team. If not an obvious goal, award a corner kick.

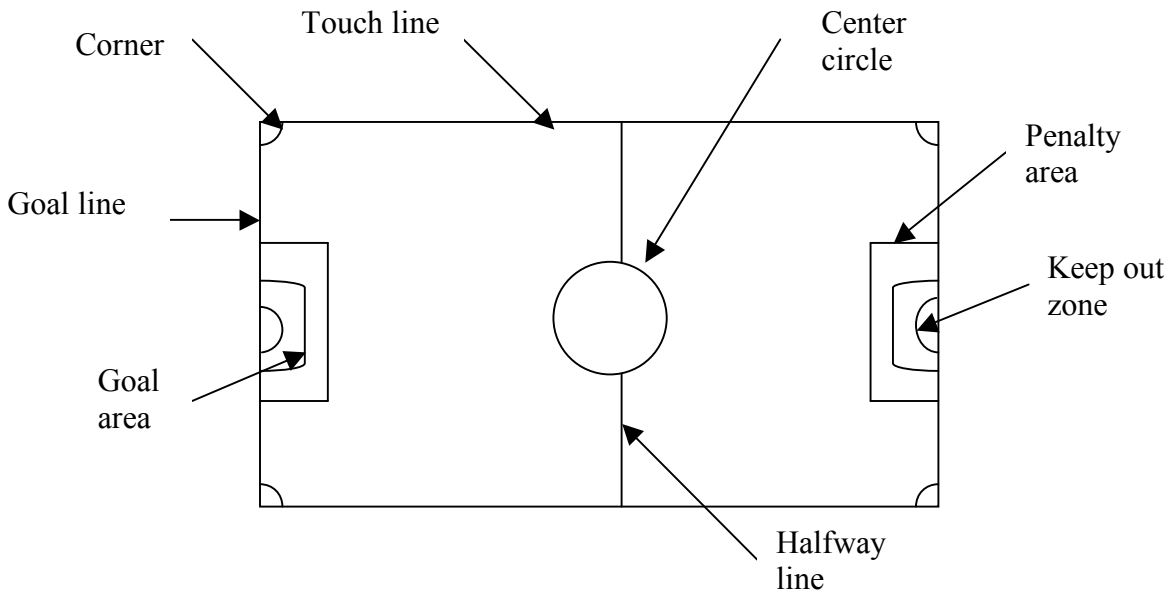
If an offensive player touches the ball in the keep out zone a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team.

If a ball comes to rest in the keep out zone a goal kick should be awarded to the defensive team.



U8

Keep out zone is additional half circle area where only the goalie can touch the ball.
If a defending player other than the goalie enters their keep out zone to prevent an obvious goal the goal will be awarded to the offensive team. If not an obvious goal, award a corner kick.
If an offensive player touches the ball in the keep out zone a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team.
Goal area and penalty area will be striped for placement of goal kicks at goal area.
No one can touch the ball with their hands in the penalty area except the goalie.



U10

There is no keep out zone and goal and penalty areas will be striped.
No one can touch the ball with their hands in the penalty area except the goalie.

Law 2 – The Ball

U6 – Size 3
U8/U10- Size 4

Law 3 – The Number of Players

U6 – 3v3, two games playing at the same time
U8 – 6v6, one of the players must be a goalkeeper (7v7 ok, if both teams agree)
U10 – 8v8, one of the players must be a goalkeeper

Substitutions can occur at any stoppage of play with the referees permission: corner kicks, goal kicks, throw-ins, kick-offs, direct kicks, injury

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

All players must have their uniform, shin guards under socks, and soccer cleats. Baseball cleats are not allowed unless the front cleat has been removed. Jewelry must be removed. Medical alert bracelets should be taped over, still showing the ID of the alert.

Law 5 – The Referee

It is the job of the U6-U10 recreational referee to:

1. Make the game safe,
2. Make the game fun, and
3. Help teach the children the rules of the game.

The referee has the official game clock.

The referee decisions are final and cannot be changed if play has restarted.

U6-U8

Take the time to explain the rules and have the kids try again.

U10

Make the calls as needed.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referee

The AR, when a “club” linesman, is only responsible for determination of ball out of play. We are asking the linesman, if there is one for the game, to assist with the offside call (U10 only). Note that the linesman flag is only an advisement, the referee is the final decision. See offside information later.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

Each game is comprised of two halves with a five minute break between them.

The two halves should be of equal length.

There is no injury time and no stoppage of the clock.

U6 = 2 x 20 minute halves.

U8 = 2 x 20 minute halves.

U10 = 2 x 25 minute halves

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

A coin toss should determine who is on which end of the field at the start of play. The team that wins chooses the end of field they will attack. Switch sides at half time.

Every player must be in their own half of the field, the side with the goal they are protecting.

The defense must be outside the center circle.

The ball must roll forward into the opposing teams half of the field.

The player kicking off may not touch the ball twice before another player touches.

Opposing players cannot move into the circle until the ball has moved.

U6/U8 – A goal CANNOT be scored on the kick off.

U10 – A goal CAN be scored on the kick off.

Drop balls

A drop ball occurs if the stoppage of play is caused by a non-rule violation such as injury or outside interference.

The ball must be kicked after it touches the ground.

U6/U8

Do not do a drop ball. Give the ball to the team who last had possession either in a throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick.

U10

The dropped ball should not occur in the goal area. Take at the goal area line closest to where the play was stopped. Otherwise, the drop ball is at the location where the play stopped.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the entire goal line or touch line, whether in the air or on the ground.

The player may make contact with the ball if out of the field as long as the ball is inside the field.

The ball is in play at all other times, including any rebounds from goal posts, crossbar, or referee or when a possible rule infraction has occurred, unless the referee stops the play.

Law 10– The Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the ball wholly crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar.

If the ball is in the goalie's hands and wholly crosses the line it is a goal.

See exceptions for keep out zones and kick offs.

Law 11– Offside

It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position.

A player is in an offside position if:

- He is nearer to his opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.

A player is not in an offside position if:

- He is in his own half of the field of play or
- He is level with the second last opponent or
- He is level with the last two opponents.
- He is behind the ball

A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:

- Interfering with play or
- Interfering with an opponent or
- Gaining an advantage by being in that position.

There is no offside on a goal kick, corner kick, or throw in.

There is offside on a direct or indirect kick.

Immediately after the corner kick has been taken and touched by another player, offside is now in effect.

U6/U8

No offside.

U10

Offside will be enforced and will result in an indirect free kick from the location of the offside player.

Note that a linesman can be helpful but the linesman's advisement is just that. The referee has to agree to make the call officially.

The FIFA website has an interactive offside tutorial that I suggest you go through. See website below:

<http://www.fifa.com/en/regulations/regulation/>

Law 12– Fouls and Misconduct

This information is included to make aware of the rules. For U6-U10 most of these are not an issue.

Fouls can only be committed by a player against an opponent while they are on the field of play while the ball is in play.

The following fouls result in a direct free kick if done carelessly, recklessly (yellow card), or with excessive force (red card):

1. Kicking, or attempted kick
2. Tripping, or attempted trip
3. Pushing of an opponent
4. Charging an opponent
5. Striking, or attempted strike of an opponent
6. Jumping at an opponent

The other direct kick fouls are:

7. Tackling, making contact with opponent before contacting the ball
8. Holding an opponent
9. Spitting at an opponent
10. Deliberately handling the ball (with the exception of the goalies in the penalty area)

U6

All fouls are indirect free kicks and should be awarded where the foul occurred. If inside the six yard line, award the kick at the six yard line closest to the foul location.

Tackling is not allowed. Instruct players to stay on their feet. After multiple warnings an indirect free kick can be awarded.

Violations of keep out zone should be administered as indicated in that previous section.

U8

The above fouls result in a direct kick where the foul occurred.

Penalty kicks are awarded for a foul inside the penalty area.

Tackling is not allowed. Instruct players to stay on their feet. After multiple warnings an indirect free kick can be awarded.

Violations of keep out zone should be administered as indicated in that previous section.

U10

The above fouls result in a direct kick where the foul occurred.

Penalty kicks are awarded for a foul inside the penalty area.

Tackling is not allowed. Instruct players to stay on their feet.

A specific note about a “hand” ball or what really is “handling of the ball”. The call should only be made if the hand through arm is intentionally, with purpose and intent, to stop, redirect, or otherwise influence the direction of the ball. Just because the ball hit the arm does not make it a “handling of the ball” foul. Ask yourself, “did the ball hit the hand/arm, or did the hand/arm hit the ball”. This will likely be an issue with complaints from the sideline. Please discuss this with your parents so they understand how this rule is to be called as a referee.

The following fouls result in an indirect free kick:

1. Goalie plays the ball from a deliberate pass from his teammate
2. Goalie holds the ball longer than six seconds when returning ball to play (within reason)
3. Goalie plays a throw-in directly to him/her with hands
4. Goalie touches the ball twice by hand
5. Dangerous play (such as high kick or slide tackling)
6. Impeding another player (also known as blocking or interference)
7. Miscellaneous play stoppage
8. A player prevents goal keeper from returning the ball to play

U6

All fouls are indirect free kicks and should be awarded where the foul occurred. If inside the six yard line, award the kick at the six yard line closest to the foul location.

Tackling is not allowed. Instruct players to stay on their feet. After multiple warnings an indirect free kick can be awarded.

Violations of keep out zone should be administered as indicated in that previous section.

U8

The above fouls result in an indirect kick where the foul occurred.

An indirect kick cannot be awarded inside the goal area. Place at edge of goal area. If inside penalty area, the indirect kick is awarded at the location of the foul. This is NOT a penalty kick. Tackling is not allowed. Instruct players to stay on their feet. After multiple warnings an indirect free kick can be awarded.

Violations of keep out zone should be administered as indicated in that previous section.

U10

The above fouls result in an indirect kick where the foul occurred.

An indirect kick cannot be awarded inside the goal area. Place at edge of goal area. If inside penalty area, the indirect kick is awarded at the location of the foul. This is NOT a penalty kick. Tackling is not allowed. Instruct players to stay on their feet. After multiple warnings an indirect free kick can be awarded.

Misconduct

Award an indirect free kick and yellow card for the following actions:

- Persistent infringement of the rules (many fouls)
- Unsporting behavior
- Dissent (to the referee, such as talking back)
- Distance (too close to free kicks after being asked to move)
- Delay (not starting quickly enough or preventing the start of play)
- Leaves the field w/o referee permission
- Enters the field w/o referee permission

Award a direct free kick and red card for the following actions:

- Serious foul play (foul with excessive force)
- Abusive or offensive language
- Violent conduct
- Spits
- Delays obvious scoring opportunity by hand
- Delays obvious scoring opportunity by foul
- Second yellow

General notes on Misconduct fouls for Recreational U6-U10:

Typically these are not an issue at this age. Warn the child and instruct them in the proper behavior. After multiple warnings indicate the next time a free kick will be awarded and then award an indirect free kick.

There are no cards at these levels for recreational soccer. However, a player can be asked to leave the field if, in the opinion of the referee, the play is too dangerous either for the player or others. Be sure to communicate with the coach before an action is taken.

Law 13– Free Kicks

A free kick takes place where the foul or misconduct occurred. See specific notes in previous sections for situational clarifications.

A goal can be scored on a direct kick.

The ball must be stationary before the kick.

The kicker cannot touch the ball again until it is touched by another player on the field.

U6

All U6 free kicks are indirect, meaning the ball must be touched by another player, either offensive or defensive, before going into the goal.

Defending players must be at least five yards from the ball.

U8/U10

Can have direct kicks dependent upon the foul or misconduct.

If the offensive team commits a foul that would result in a direct kick inside the penalty area, award the direct kick at the point of the foul to the defensive team.

If the defensive team commits a foul that would result in a direct kick inside the penalty area, award a penalty kick.

If the defensive team commits a foul that would result in an indirect free kick inside the penalty area, award an indirect free kick where the foul occurred no closer than the goal area line.

Defending players must be at eight yards away from the ball.

Law 14– The Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if the defending team commits a direct free kick foul inside their penalty area.

The ball is placed 12 yards from the goal line in the middle of the goal.

The goalkeeper can't move forward off the goal line until the ball is kicked.

No other players can enter the penalty area or move past the ball until after the ball is kicked.

U6

No penalty kicks

U8/U10

Award based upon foul determination.

Law 15– The Throw In

A throw in is awarded to a team when an opposing player touches the ball before it exits the field of play on either side-line.

The throw in should be taken from the point the ball exited the field of play.

The throw in must be delivered from behind and over the head.

The throw in must be delivered with both hands. A twisting throw is OK.

Both feet must be on or behind the touch line and remain on the ground throughout the throw.

The player taking the throw in can't touch the ball again until after it has been touched by another player.

A goal cannot be scored directly on a throw in.

There is no offside on a throw in.

U6/U8

Teach the proper throw in technique and have the throw in repeated.

U10

A good throw in is expected and if an obvious bad throw, possession should be changed and a throw in awarded to the opposite team.

Law 16– The Goal Kick

A goal kick is awarded when an offensive player touches the ball before it exits the playing surface over the defensive team's goal line.

U6

The ball should be restarted from the six yard line.

The ball can be placed any where along the line, but try to put it to one side or the other of the goal.

Opposing team members must be at least five yards away.

A goal can NOT be scored on a goal kick.

U8/U10

Opposing players must be outside the penalty area.

The ball should be restarted from the goal line.

The ball can be placed any where along the line, but try to put it to one side or the other of the goal.

The ball can't be touched until it goes outside the penalty area. Award the goal kick again.

A goal can be scored against the opposing team (not taking the kick).

Law 17– The Corner Kick

A corner kick is awarded when a defensive player touches the ball before it exits the field at their own goal line, i.e. the one they are protecting.

A corner kick should be taken from the corner of the field where the ball left the playing field.

The ball should be placed within or on the corner arc.

A goal can be scored on a corner kick.

There is no offside on a corner kick.

U6

Defending players must be at least five yards away.

U8/U10

Defending players must be at least eight yards away.

Special note about goalies:

The goalie is to be protected whenever possible.

The goalie is the only player that may touch the ball inside the keep out zone or the penalty area.

The goalie must deliver the ball back in play within six seconds (within reason) in any method they choose.

The goalie cannot touch the ball outside the penalty area. If a touch is made, award an indirect free kick to the offensive team where the touch occurred for a hand ball.

The goalie cannot score on the delivery back into play. The ball must be touched by another player first to be counted as a goal.

Tips

Blow the whistle loudly and crisply.

Bring a watch and keep the game clock.

Speak loudly and instruct the players what the call is and what is to happen.

Try to not allow the players to leave the playing field. You return the ball or ask for assistance from the other parents to retrieve out of play balls.

Keep the ball in play as much as possible.

Try to call the players by name or at least the jersey color and number.

Introduce yourself at the beginning of the game.

Position yourself on the field so you are participating in the action but are not in the way.

Bring appropriate shoes for running. The players do have cleats and you will need to move freely to referee well.

Keep the games on time for start time and half time so the day can stay on schedule.

Bring some water for yourself.

Have Fun!