

**WEST CENTRAL SOCCER ASSOCIATION
RECREATIONAL SOCCER GUIDELINES
Modified Laws of the Game for U-8**

FIFA Laws of the Game apply except as modified.

Recreational League Philosophy

The primary goal of the recreational soccer program of the WCSA is for the players to have **FUN** within a learning/teaching environment. The recreational program is not about winning, it is about teaching, so that children have fun, learn to love the game of soccer, and to become as skilled a soccer player as possible. The single most enjoyable aspect of soccer for the players is kicking the ball.

Players

All players must be registered through the WCSA Registrar and assigned to teams according to WCSA procedures. Any additions or changes to team rosters after draft(s) can only be made through the representative club president and must be approved by the WCSA Registrar.

“Guest” players of any type are not permitted, even those on another WCSA Recreation team. Only those players rostered on the two teams scheduled to play a given game may participate in the game. However, “borrowing” of players from one team by the other (if under-manned) is permitted as described in Sec 6 of the WCSA Recreational Soccer Guidelines.

Playing Time

All registered players in attendance at the start of regular season games or league tournament games must play in at least half of the game, including overtime. A player arriving after the first half of play is completed may be played at the discretion of the coach. Exceptions may be granted for illnesses, injury, and disciplinary reasons. It is the coach’s responsibility to ensure all players play the required amounts in each game. Coaches failing to provide required playing time for all players on their team will be referred to the WCSA Disciplinary Board.

Modified Laws of the Game

Law 1 - Field of Play: Field size is dependent on the space available. Exact field layout and goal size for all fields will be determined by the WCSA club president responsible for those fields.

Recommended dimensions.....	30 x 40 yards
Center Circle.....	5 yard radius
Corner Arcs.....	3 foot radius
Goal size.....	7 x 10 feet
Goal Area.....	6 x 10 yards
Penalty Area	none

Law 2 - Ball: A size 3 ball will be used.

Law 3 - Number of Players: All players shall play a minimum of half of the game if they are present at the beginning of the game. We will have 4 players from each team on each of two fields. One of these four players will be designated as goalkeeper and have a different shirt color from other players. **Goalkeepers will be changed each quarter. No player shall play goalkeeper more than half of each game.** **Referees do not monitor such procedures,**

although referees retain the authority to enforce this provision. Substitution may be done at any stoppage of play with permission of the referee. Maximum roster limit is 15.

Law 4 - The Player's Equipment: No player wearing earrings shall be allowed to participate in practices or games. Shinguards are mandatory for all practices and games and shall be covered by socks. Watches, rings, earrings, other jewelry, or anything the referee deems unacceptable or dangerous to any players will not be worn during WCSA practice or games. In inclement weather, players may wear additional clothing, provided the uniform shirt is on top. Players fitted with any type of cast, air cast, or splint may not participate in league games or practices.

Law 5 - The Referee: WCSA will assign registered USSF referees to U-8 games. In the event that referees are not available then coaches, assistant coaches, or parents may act as referees.

Law 6 - The Assistant Referee: No assistant referees are used in this age group.

Law 7 - Duration of the Match: The game shall consist of four quarters each lasting twelve minutes. There will be a two minute break after the first and third quarters and a five minute halftime break after the second quarter.

Law 8 - Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA.

Law 9 - Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA. The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air.

Law 10 - Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA. No game scores or league standings shall be kept in this age group.

Law 11 - Offside: No offensive player is allowed in the goal area ahead of the ball.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA. We modify this law to allow only direct kicks to be taken.

Law 13 - Free Kicks: **All free kicks shall be direct.** Opponents shall be 5 yards from the ball at the taking of the kick.

Law 14 - Penalty Kicks: No penalty kicks.

Law 15 - Throw-In: Conform to FIFA. If the first attempt is done improperly the thrower shall be instructed as to proper technique and allowed another try. **If the second attempt is improper the game shall be restarted with a kick-in.**

Law 16 - Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA. If the ball goes over the goal line after last being touched by the attacking team, without going into goal, play will be restarted by a goal kick. Goal kicks may be taken from any point inside the goal area. **Opponents must be in their own half of the field until the ball is kicked.** If the ball does not leave the goal area or is played by any player before leaving the goal area the kick shall be retaken.

Law 17 - Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA. If the ball goes over the goal line after last being touched by the defending team, without going into goal, play will be restarted by a corner kick.