

# Middle Alabama Recreation Soccer (MARS) League Modified Laws of the Game

For the purpose of our league the following modifications apply to U9 through U12. Younger modifications will follow US Youth Soccer Small Sided Game or member club modifications. Older ages will follow AYSA league medications.

The smaller numbers of field players will provide the opportunity for the children to further develop their physical and technical abilities. These are valuable traits for all soccer players to develop. With fewer players on the field each child has an increased number of touches on the ball and more playing time. Additionally the players will be required to make more decisions and experience repeating game situations more frequently. The work rate and involvement of players will be more consistent. While learning both offense and defense, players will become well rounded and will understand more readily the roles and importance of teammates. The need for players to make the mental and physical transition from offense to defense and vice-versa will be enhanced in this playing environment.

## Modified Laws of the Game for U9/10

### Law 1

#### The Field of Play:

- **Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

**Length:** minimum 45 yards maximum 60 yards

**Width:** minimum 35 yards maximum 45 yards

- **Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. 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.
- **The Goal Area:** Conform to FIFA.
- **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. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark 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 each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.
- **Flag posts:** Conform to FIFA.

- **The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.
- **Goals:** Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.
- **Safety:** Goals must be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

## **Law 2**

**The Ball:** Size four (4).

## **Law 3**

**The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than six players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than 5 players

**Substitutions:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of unlimited substitution.

**Playing time:** Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and matches may be coed. The six-a-side game now includes the goalkeeper.

## **Law 4**

**The Players' Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

## **Law 5**

**The Referee:** per FIFA. Assignors will use this age group as the training opportunity for the new referee program. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

## **Law 6**

**The Assistant Referees:** Not required. League and Clubs may use club linesmen if desired.

## **Law 7**

**The Duration of the Match:** per FIFA with the exception of 2 equal halves being 25 minutes each. There shall be a half time interval of 5 minutes

## **Law 8**

The Start and Restart of Play: Conform to FIFA with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

### **Law 9**

**The Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA.

### **Law 10**

**The Method of Scoring:** Conform to FIFA.

### **Law 11**

**Offside:** there shall be no offside called during these games.

### **Law 12**

**Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA. Slide Tackling is not recommended at this age and should be discouraged.

### **Law 13**

**Free Kicks:** per FIFA. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle.

### **Law 14**

**The Penalty Kick:** conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is ten yards from the center of the goal line and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight yards from the penalty mark. The distance of eight yards conforms to the radius of the center circle. The distance of ten yards from the center of the goalmouth for the penalty mark fits within the reduced dimensions of the penalty area and is a reasonable distance for the kick.

### **Law 15**

**The Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA.

### **Law 16**

**The Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA.

### **Law 17**

**The Corner Kick:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

## ***US Youth Soccer Under 10 Recommendations.***

- ★ **Roster Size:** MARS will subscribe to USYSA small sided game single field method. Under the single field method the recommended minimum roster size is eight players and the maximum roster size is eleven players.
- ★ **Playing Time:** A minimum of at least 50% playing time is required.

### **Parent and Coaches Responsibilities to the Game**

- ★ Coaches of U10 teams are high encouraged to attend the Youth Module II coaching course.
- ★ Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each match.
- ★ Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- ★ Spectators should not yell directives to the players, allow the coaches to coach. Too many instructions just confuse the players.
- ★ Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.
- ★ No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.

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# Modified Laws of the Game for U11/12

## Law 1

### The Field of Play:

- **Dimensions:** The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.  
  
**Length:** minimum 60 yards maximum 80 yards  
**Width:** minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards
- **Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. 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.
- **The Goal area:** Conform to FIFA.
- **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. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark 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 each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.
- **Flagposts:** Conform to FIFA.
- **The Corner Arc:** Conform to FIFA.
- **Goals:** Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Dimensions are smaller to accommodate the eight-versus-eight game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of ten- and eleven-year-old

children. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful.

#### **Law 2**

**The Ball:** Size four (4).

#### **Law 3**

**The 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 if either team consists of fewer than 7 players.

**Substitutions:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of unlimited substitution. The eight-a-side game includes the goalkeeper.

#### **Law 4**

**The Players Equipment:** Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.

#### **Law 5**

**The Referee:** Registered referee.

#### **Law 6**

**The Assistant Referee:** Use registered assistant referees or club linesmen.

#### **Law 7**

**The Duration of the Match:** Conform to FIFA with the exception of the match being divided into two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

#### **Law 8**

**The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

#### **Law 9**

**The Ball In and Out of Play:** Conform to FIFA.

#### **Law 10**

Conform to FIFA.

#### **Law 11**

**Offside:** Conform to FIFA.

## **Law 12**

**Fouls and Misconduct:** Conform to FIFA.

## **Law 13**

**Free Kicks:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

## **Law 14**

**The Penalty Kick:** Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten yards and those players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark. The distance of eight yards conforms to the radius of the center circle. The distance of ten yards from the center of the goalmouth for the penalty mark fits within the reduced dimensions of the penalty area and is a reasonable distance for the kick.

## **Law 15**

**The Throw-In:** Conform to FIFA.

## **Law 16**

**The Goal Kick:** Conform to FIFA.

## **Law 17**

**The Corner Kick:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.

## ***US Youth Soccer Under 12 Recommendations***

- ★ **Roster Size:** The recommended minimum roster size is ten and the maximum recommended roster size is fourteen.
- ★ **Playing Time:** refer to the Effective Playing Time chart.

### **Parent and Coaches Responsibilities to the Game**

- ★ Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each match.
- ★ Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- ★ Spectators should not yell directives to the players, allow the coaches to coach. Too many instructions just confuse the players.
- ★ Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.
- ★ No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- ★ Coaches of U12 teams should attend the Youth Module 2 coaching course and the Grade 9 referee course.

# Logistics for the Organization:

## SMALL SIDED GAMES CHART

<b>Under 10</b>	<b>6 v 6 / Yes GK / 2 X 25 Min. Halves / Ball Size 4</b> <b>35/45 Yds wide x 45/60 Yds long / No Offsides / 7-11 players</b>
<b>Under 12</b>	<b>8 v 8 / Yes GK / 2 X 30 Min. Halves / Ball Size 4</b> <b>45/55 Yds wide x 60/80 Yds long / Offsides called / 8-14 players</b>
<b>Under 13+</b>	<b>11 vs 11 / Yes GK / 2 X 35-45 Min. Halves / Ball Size 5</b> <b>Field size - FIFA Standards / Offsides called / 18 player maximum</b>