



This is a list of rules used for Danvers Youth Soccer Intown matches that are different from or in addition to the FIFA Laws of the Game. These shall be applied whenever officiating a DYS U7 or U8 match.

Law 1- The Field of Play- Fields will be marked and measured to DYS specifications. Referees will check the field for SAFETY issues and correct placement of goals before each match. TEAMS must stay on their own half of the sideline, and spectators must be on the sideline opposite the teams. No one, teams or spectators, shall be allowed along the goal line or behind the goals. U7 goals are PUGG nets; U8 are 4x8 Bowflex.

Law 2- The Ball- U7 and U8 will use a size 3 ball.

Law 3- Number of Players- **U7 plays 4v4 with no goalie. U8 plays 5v5 including the goalkeeper.** U7 Substitutions will be at the end of the period or with referee's permission on kick-ins or goal kicks if necessary . U8 ***With referee's permission***, substitutions may be made on own throw in, or any throw in if both teams are substituting; on any goal kick; after a goal. Subs should be ready to enter at midfield pending referee's signal. The referee should allow substitutions for injuries and other situations when a player wants/needs to leave the field.

Law 4- Player Equipment- All players must wear shinguards and may not wear jewelry. No exceptions other than for medical alert or religious items which must be taped to the body. NO HARD HAIR CLIPS, CASTS, WATCHES, BRACELETS OR EARRINGS. Footwear must be safe, NO TOE CLEATS, tied securely and have no sharp or rough edges. Players will be allowed to play if they have the correct color uniform shirt even if not an official uniform jersey. Team shorts and socks should match but should never be a reason for a child not to play. Goalkeepers must wear a pinnie or different color jersey. In cold weather, players may wear jackets or sweatshirts UNDER the jersey, and sweatpants OVER the shorts. Soft caps may be worn.

Law 5- The Referee- see the "DYS Advice to Referees" document

Law 6- Assistant Referee- will not be used for U7 or U8 matches.

Law 7- Duration of the Match- U7 will play 2 halves of 4, 5 minute periods each with a 5 minute break at half time. There is no break between periods beyond what is needed for substitutes. U8 will play 2, 25 minute halves with a 5 minute break at half time.

Law 8- Start and Restart of Play- There is no coin flip. Teams will defend on the side they warmed up on for the first half and switch ends for the second half. Blue will kick off first half, White the second half. Retakes on "double touches" are allowed. See Law 15, 16 and 17 for more special restart rules. ALL restarts will be at the signal of the referee whether by whistle, hand signal or voice.

Laws 9 and 10- In and Out of Bounds, and Method of Scoring- Per FIFA Law.

Law 11- Offside- There is no offside for U7 or U8, but no player may enter the goal area before the ball.



Law 12- Fouls and Misconduct- Referees will not use yellow or Red Cards for misconduct or serious foul play. Players should be verbally warned of inappropriate behavior and the coach should be advised to remove a player to “cool off” if their play and behavior compromises the safety of other players or themselves.

Law 13- Free Kicks- U7 and U8- all kicks are INDIRECT.

Law 14- The Penalty Kick- There no PK’s awarded in DYS matches and there is no penalty area.

Law 15- The Throw-In- U7- No Throw-ins, kick-ins from the touchline must be used. **U8** Illegal throw-ins must be called by the referee and the reason for it being illegal explained. Players are allowed to retake the throw-in. Referees should allow play to continue even if the retake is illegal.

Law 16- The Goal Kick- Defending players must be in their defending half of the field. **U7 goal kicks** are taken from the goal line next to the goal. **U8 goal kicks** from the goal area box. On any goal kick, or throw by the keeper, the ball must touch the ground or another player before crossing the midfield line or the other team takes an indirect free kick from the midfield line. Goalies may not punt the ball, it must be thrown or played by feet on the ground.

Law 17- The Corner Kick- Follow standard FIFA Law except that a retake shall be allowed for a double touch.

Law 18- COMMON SENSE- This isn’t in the FIFA Laws, but all officials need to use their best judgment to keep DYS matches **SAFE- FAIR- FUN**. The players are young children who are still learning the game and part of your responsibility is to help them learn. Use your whistle and hand signals, and use your voice to explain, direct and instruct. Be patient, and have fun!