

NORTH UTAH COUNTY SOCCER

REFEREE RULES

**Law 1 – The Field of Play**

Each age group may have a different size field.

Age Group	Field (approx. yards)	Goal Size	Ball Size	Players	Offside	Time	# of players on teams
U8	40 x 50	6.5 x 12	#3	6v6	No	2X25 min ½'s	9-10 kids
U9	50 X 70-80	7X21 or 8X24	#4	6v6	Yes	2X25 min ½'s	9-10 kids
U10	50X70-80	7X21 or 8X24	#4	8v8	Yes	2X25 min ½'s	11-13 kids
U11	50X80	7X21 or 8X24	#4	8v8	Yes	2X25 min ½'s	11-13 kids
U12/13	55X100	8X24	#5	11v11	Yes	2X25 min ½'s	15 kids
U14/17	55X100	8X24	#5	11v11	Yes	2X25 min ½'s	16 kids

Be sure all goals are safe. On the U8 goals. Make sure there is a ball bag or something on the back of the goal if there is any wind to keep it from blowing over.

Each field has a Center circle.

U8 fields have Arc's instead of penalty areas and Goal Boxes.

The Penalty area is either 14 yards or 18 yards from the goal depending on the age group.

The Goal area box is 6 yards from the goal.

In professional games, and games with older kids, the ball is put on the goal area box for a goal kick. However, because many kids who are U11 and below cannot kick it out of the Penalty Area, starting in Fall 2014, we are going to allow U11 and under teams to do goal kicks from anywhere on the penalty area line. Opposing players must stand back 10 yard from that kick.

There should always be nets. But the game can still be played if there are not nets. \*

Always inspect the field before the game for any unsafe situations

## Law 2 – The Ball

Make sure it's safe

Use the correct size ball for the age group. See the chart in Law 1.

Check the ball before the game to ensure it's not flat or too hard. You should be able to push it in about the width of your pinky.

## Law 3 – Number of Players

The number of players on a team can be different depending on the age group. See The chart in Law 1.

One of the players is a goal-keeper.

The Goalkeeper should have a different color jersey than the field players on both teams.

If a team doesn't have enough players, the other team should adjust by playing with less players.

A player can substitute when the ball is stopped and the referee says it's ok.

Have substitutes stand at the halfway line so that you know they are ready to sub.

## Law 4 – Players Equipment

Players should have:

Shirt, Shorts, socks, shinguards, shoes.

Shoes and shinguards should be safe.

Shoes must be plastic or rubber and cannot have cleats sticking out the front like football cleats.

Shinguards should be under the socks.

A player cannot wear anything that hurt themselves or others. So, no jewelry. Medical alert jewelry may be worn if covered completely by tape.

The player should have a jersey that says “North Utah County Soccer” over the left chest.

## Law 5 – The Referee

The referee:

Enforces the laws of the game

Keeps time of the game

Stops the game if there is an injury

Stops the game if there is a foul or misconduct

Prevents others from coming on the field unless they have the referees permission

Requires a player that’s bleeding to leave until the bleeding is stopped, and must have a player with blood on uniform to not play until clothing is replaced.

Ensures that the field, ball, and player equipment are safe and legal

Suspends or terminates game if needed

A referee can:

Require a coach or team official to leave the field if behavior is not appropriate (make sure this is reported to the person who assigned you to the game)

Decide not to stop play even if there is foul or misconduct if stopping play or misconduct would help the team that committed the foul or misconduct ( this is called “applying the advantage)

Decide not to call any foul or misconduct if the referee decides that the action is not important or doesn't have a serious effect on play.

Decide to let play continue if an injury is not serious

Caution a player or substitute by showing a yellow card. Or speaking to the player if a card is not available.

Make decisions using the advice of assistant referees.

## Law 6 – Assistant Referees

Assistant referees are only used in U15-U18 boys games and a few U15-18 Girls games

They signal:

when the ball has left the field

which team gets the throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick

when an attacker is offside

When a foul or misconduct has happened but the referee could not see it.

## Law 7 – Duration of the match

See chart in Law 1

Most games are 2X25 minute halves.

Games will have a 25 minute half, followed by a 5 minute half-time, followed by a 25 minute half.

The referee is responsible to ensure the games start and end on time. If your game is started late, you must shorten each half so that they are equal and finish 55 minutes before they began. If your game needs to be shortened because the previous game before went to long, tell each coach the change in time so that they know before the game. Also, remind them when you start the second half.

## Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

A coin toss determines which side of the field a team will start the game on. The team that wins the toss chooses the end of the field they will attack. The other team kicks off first.

At the beginning of the second half, the teams switch sides and the team that didn't kick off to start the first half now kicks off to start the second half.

A kick off is used to start the game at each half, and to restart the game after a goal is scored

The kick off is from the center mark, each team on it's half, players from the other team must be outside the circle.

The ball is in play and the game started when the ball is kicked and moves forward.

The player who kicked off cannot touch it again until somebody else has touched it. The touching it again is an indirect free kick.

A goal can be scored from a kick off

A dropped ball is used to restart the game if it was stopped for any reason not covered in the laws. Examples are: Having stopped the game because someone was injured. Having stopped the game because a dog was on the field.

A dropped ball is in play after it touches the ground and is touched by a player.

A dropped ball may not be done inside either teams arc(u8) or goal area.

## Law 9 – The ball in and Out of Play

The ball is always in play until: It COMPLETELY crosses the line or the referee stops play.

The ball is still in play if it hits a flagpost, a goal post, a crossbar or the referee.

## Law 10 – The method of scoring

A goal is scored when the ball COMPLETELY crosses the goal line between goal posts.

## Law 11 – Offside

Offside is not called for U8 games.

An attacker is in an offside position if when a teammate has the ball and passes it, the attacker is:

- Closer to the other teams goal than the ball and
- Closer to the other teams goal than the second to last defender and
- In the other teams half of the field

It is not illegal to be in an offside position, only to receive the ball when in an offside position or is involved in the play, interfering with play or gaining an advantage.

The penalty for offside is an indirect free kick from the location where the offside player was.

A player is NOT offside from:

- A throw in
- A goal kick
- A corner kick

Because most of our challenger referees are not certified with US Soccer, only call offside, (which is an indirect kick) if players from the attacking team are deliberately and flagrantly offside. Do not worry about catching someone a few feet or yards offside. Even the pros can't catch all of those.

## Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct

### Fouls

To be a foul, it must be:

- Done by a player
- While the ball is in play
- On the field of play and
- Against a play on the other team

### Misconduct

Misconduct can occur in many situations:

- On or off the field
- By a player or a substitute
- With the ball in play or not in play
- By itself or along with a foul

In professional and more competitive youth games, the following 6 fouls result in a Direct free kick if the referee decides it was done carelessly, recklessly, or using too much force:

- Kicking or attempting to kick
- Tripping or attempting to trip
- Striking or attempting to strike
- Jumping at an opponent
- Charging an opponent
- Pushing an opponent

However, in our NUCS challenger league, we do not use direct kicks. So, if you stop the game for any one of these reasons, you will restart the game with an In-direct free kick.

The other 4 fouls resulting in a Direct free kick in professional or more competitive youth games are:

- Tackling for the ball and making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- Holding an opponent
- Spitting at an opponent
- Deliberately handling the ball

However, in our NUCS challenger league, we do not use direct kicks. So, if you stop the game for any one of these reasons, you will restart the game with an In-direct free kick.

An indirect free kick is used when:

- The goalkeeper holds the ball for more than 6 seconds
- Handles the ball when it has been KICKED to him by a teammate
- Handles the ball a second time before the ball has been played by anyone else
- A player plays dangerously against himself or another
- Gets in the way of other players when they don't have the ball so that the opponent cannot get to the ball
- Getting in the way of the opposing goalkeeper who is trying to kick the ball

## SLIDE TACKLES

Coaches may ask you if we allow slide tackles. Players may slide to get to or kick the ball. However, if they slide from behind a player and touch the player, that is a foul. If they touch the player before the ball when sliding from the sides or the front, that is also a foul. In that situation, you blow your whistle, and signal an indirect free kick.

## MISCONDUCT

Players who commit misconduct are shown a yellow card ( or if the referee does not have a card, the referee is to tell the player and the coach that they have received a yellow card)

In Challenger we do not give red cards. However, if a player received two yellow cards in one game they will no longer be allowed to play in that game.

A player receives a yellow card for :

- Unsportsmanlike behavior
- Dissent
- Persistent infringement
- Delaying the restart of play
- Failure to respect the required Distance on the other teams corner kick or free kick
- Player leaving or entering the field without permission
- Using bad language\*
- NO SLIDE TACKLE RULE: All slide tackles that take the ball away or attempt to take the ball away from a player are banned. The first attempt by a player will result in the player receiving a yellow card.

If the game is stopped for a foul, the game is started with a free kick at the place of the foul

Indirect free kicks must touch another player before entering the goal. It doesn't matter if it's the goalie, or a player from either team. But it must touch another player before it enters the goal. If it does not touch a player before it goes into the goal. The game is restarted with a goal kick.

## Law 15 – Penalty Kicks

In Challenger we do not do Penalty kicks

## Law 16 – Throw Ins

A throw in is the way to restart the game when the ball leaves the field by completely crossing the line. The team which did not touch the ball last takes the throw-in.

The throw in must take place where the ball went out

Both feet must be on or behind the line when the ball is thrown

The ball is thrown over the head while having both feet remaining on the ground

The thrower cannot touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player

## Law 17 – The Goal Kick

A goal kick is the way to start play when the ball leaves the field across the goal line, last touched by an attacking player.

The ball is placed on the top of the arc in u8 games. It is placed on the penalty line for U9, U10 and U11 games. It is placed anywhere in the goal area for the other age groups.

Opponent must stay outside of the penalty area for the goal kick, and cannot touch the ball until it leaves the penalty area.

The player taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player.

## Law 18 – The Corner Kick

A corner kick is the way to restart play when the ball leaves the field across the goal line, last touched by a defending player.

The ball is in play as soon as it is kicked.

The player who takes the corner kick cannot touch the ball again until another player has touched the ball.

Opponents must stay 10 yards (5 yards for u8) from the corner when the corner kick is taken.

## NUCS

### League specific guidelines

#### **What you should bring as a referee:**

Ref Jersey or yellow shirt

Whistle

Watch or stopwatch

Black shorts

Warm clothes for cool weather games

Your game card with game info and spot to get signatures

## **What you should do:**

Be 10 minutes early to your assigned game. Make sure it starts on time.

Do a light warm up and stretch

Introduce yourself to coach's. Confirm you are at the right field, and the correct age group is playing.

Get your ref card signed. The teams that are playing should be at the bottom of the card.

Tell the coach you want to quickly look at the players uniforms for safety issues.

## **What are you looking for before game:**

Shin guards are required and must be covered by socks

They should have a jersey with the NUCS logo

It's ok if they don't have shorts

NO rings, wristbands or jewelry

Glasses are ok

Make sure they have a different colored shirt for goalies

## **During the game:**

Be confident. Use a loud whistle

Talk to coach's nicely

Explain to players why you called the foul.

If a coach is being rude or obnoxious, calmly let him/her know that they need to quiet down.

If a coach has not responded to 3 or 4 requests, let them know that they need to leave the game. Inform the referee assignor who assigned your game of this situation

Weather

We play If it is raining

We play if it is snowing

We do NOT play if there is lightning

Wait till no lightning for 15 minutes, then restart. If past halftime, just stop the game.

Make sure your game ends on time

Remember, everyone makes mistakes. Learn from yours and move on

Notify your assignor and/or David Josse [President@northutahcountysoccer.com](mailto:President@northutahcountysoccer.com) if you have problems with coach's or spectators