

**OREGON RUSH SOCCER CLUB**  
**CENTRAL OREGON SOCCER LEAGUE LAWS FOR U8**  
**(BASED ON BUT INDEPENDENT OF U.S. YOUTH SOCCER OFFICIAL LAWS)**

FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PLAY BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS AND COED TEAMS – UNDER 8

LAW I - THE FIELD

A. Suggested Dimensions:

The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 60 yards nor less than 40 yards and its width not more than 30 yards nor less than 50 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

B. Markings:

1. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide.
2. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
3. A center circle with a suggested radius of six (6) yards.
4. Four corner arcs with a suggested radius of two (2) feet.
5. OPTIONAL - A goal area beginning three-six (3-6) yards from each goal post and three-six (3-6) yards into the field of play, joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.
6. A penalty area between eight (8) to twelve (12) yards from the goal post and ten (10) to twelve (12) yards perpendicular to the goal line.
7. OPTIONAL - A penalty mark six (6) to eight (8) yards parallel to the goal line centered between the goal posts.

**C. Goals on small 6v6 fields should ideally be four (4) feet high and six (6) feet wide, but may vary slightly.**

LAW II - THE BALL

**Size four (4) balls must be used for all matches.**

LAW III - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is five (5), **none of whom is a goalkeeper.**

B. Maximum number of players on the roster shall never exceed twelve (12) for any match.

C. Substitutions

1. Prior to any throw-in.
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
3. After a goal by either team.
4. After an injury, of any player, when the referee stops play.
5. At half-time.

**D. Each currently healthy (not injured nor ill) player in good standing with coach and club shall receive playing time in every match their team plays.**

**E. BOYS teams may be coed and there is no gender mix requirement or nor quota among the six players on the field at any team for either team. Girls teams must be all girls unless approved ahead of time by the COSL Director.**

LAW IV - PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

The basic equipment of a player consists of the following:

A. A specific team jersey or shirt and shorts. **Should team uniforms conflict, practice 'pinnies' may be placed over one team's uniforms to avoid a color conflict.**

B. Shin guards are MANDATORY.

C. Footwear must be soft-cleated or 'flat' soccer shoes or tennis shoes.

LAW V – REFEREE AND LINESMEN

A. A center referee shall be appointed to supervise each game. **No assistant referees are assigned.**

B. The center referee is in charge of all game activity.

C. The referee will not be shown any visible or verbal dissent during or after the game.

- D. The referee is empowered to cause the removal of any coach, player, spectator who is disruptive or who has displayed behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and/or the rules of play.
- E. **All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player whenever possible.**
- F. **It is acceptable at the small-sided U8 level to let a minor infraction of the rules take place without a stoppage in play to encourage the continuity of play and spirit of the game. In this case, the referee should take the next available opportunity to explain the infraction (not called) to the player.**

#### LAW VI - DURATION OF THE GAME

- A. **The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (20) minutes each.**
- B. **Half-time break of five (5) minutes.**

#### LAW VII - START OF PLAY

- A. **At the start of each game, field ends and kick-off shall be determined by the referee without bias.**
- B. No player captains shall be required for any teams during any matches.
- C. Opponent must be six (6) yards from the center mark while ball is kicked.
- D. The ball may not be touched again by the same player until it has been touched by another player.

#### LAW VIII - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball is out of play during the following circumstances:

- A. When it has completely crossed a boundary line (on the ground or in the air).
- B. When the game has been halted by an official for any reason.

#### LAW IX - METHOD OF SCORING

- A. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line.
- B. The ball must cross the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar.

#### LAW X – OFFSIDE

- A. A player is considered offside if he/she is nearer to the opponent's goal line than the ball at the time the ball is kicked except in the following cases:
  - a. The player is in his own half of the field.
  - b. The player is not nearer to his opponent's goal line than at least two of his opponents.
- B. A player is only penalized for being offside if the ball is played or touched by one of his team and he is involved in active play in one of the following ways:
  - i. Interfering with play.
  - b. Interfering with an opponent.
  - c. Gaining an advantage by being in an offside position.
- C. **It is acceptable at the small-sided U8 level to let an offside infraction of a small distance take place without a stoppage in play to encourage the continuity of play and spirit of the game.**

#### LAW XI - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- A. Opponents must make an immediate effort to be six (6) yards away from a free kick or corner.
- B. **The referee should briefly explain infraction to the offending player before restarting play whenever possible.**
- C. Any player who commits one of the following fouls shall be penalized by the opposing team being awarded a direct free-kick.
  1. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
  2. Trips or attempts to trip an opponent.
  3. Jumps at an opponent.
  4. Charges an opponent (except when the charge is shoulder to shoulder and when the player is playing the ball or attempting to play the ball).
  5. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent.
  6. Pushes an opponent.

7. Tackles an opponent, but touches opponent before the ball.
8. Holds an opponent.
9. Spits at an opponent.

**10. Handles the ball DELIBERATELY.**

**11. A glancing touch of the ball by an arm or hand or one that is clearly unintentional should not be enforced at the U8 level.**

**D. Slide tackling is allowed, but if a sliding challenge is deemed reckless or mistimed, the officials may award a direct free kick (see XI-C-1 and XI-C-2 above).**

**E. Instead of issuing yellow and red cards during matches, when warranted the center referee may issue a verbal warning to a player of coach following an infraction that warrants special concern.** Should a player or coach persist with the same infractions following a warning, a center referee may dismiss a player or coach from a match (by verbal means only).

**F. Shall a player, coach or parent be dismissed from a match, he/she must leave the direct proximity of the field for the remainder of the match and may NOT return to the field during or even after the match for any reason.**

G. A center ref who dismisses any player, coach or parent must report the dismissal to the COSL Director, including an explanation of the incident. **The COSL Director then has the right to suspend the person in question for additional games. If a suspension is levied, the suspended party will be informed by the COSL Director personally.**

#### LAW XII - FREE KICKS

All free kicks at the U8 level in COSL are direct free kicks

- A. Direct kick –A goal can be scored directly against the offending team.
- B. Opponents must make an immediate effort to be six (6) yards away from the kick.
- C. There are no penalty kicks awarded in U8 COSL games. A foul inside the penalty area is simply a direct kick.

#### LAW XIII - THROW-IN

A. A throw-in is awarded to the defending team when the attacking team causes the ball to leave the field of play by crossing completely over the sideline.

B. The player making the throw-in must have both hands on the ball and has both feet on the ground at the time of the throw. The ball must be thrown from a starting point directly behind the head.

**C. Should a player make an improper throw-in, the center referee should first inform the player of his or her incorrect attempt and then allow for a second throw-in by the same player.**

C. When a ball passes over a touchline, it will be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line.

#### LAW XIV - GOAL KICK

A. A goal kick is taken by a member of the defending team when the ball crosses the goal line outside of the goal when the ball is last touched by a member of the attacking team.

B. The kick is taken from any point within the goal box area (or within 3 yards of the touchline/endline and inside the penalty box).

C. The ball must leave the penalty area before it can be played/touched by a player of either team. **Should this rule be violated, the referee should instruct for the goal kick to be taken again.**

#### LAW XV - CORNER KICK

A. The attacking team is awarded a corner kick when the ball passes completely over the goal line outside of the goal area after last being played by a member of the defending team.

B. The kick is taken from within the corner arc on the side of the field that the ball left the field of play.

C. No defending player may be within six (6) yards of the ball.

#### **Additional Oregon Rush Central Oregon Soccer League and/or US Youth Soccer Recommendations**

- **Players and coaches for each team should shake hands after each match. All players and coaches should shake the hands of the officials following the completion of each match.**
- **No alcoholic beverages should be consumed or allowed near the playing field.**