



**Bay Minette Youth Soccer
Revised Fall 2016
Modified Soccer Playing Rules**

Under 6, Under 9, Under 12 & Under 16

The Federation of International Football Associations lays down 17 laws, or rules, for the game of soccer. This booklet contains those laws, modified for Bay Minette Youth Soccer League players, plus an 18th law dealing with coach/parent behavior.

Revised September 12, 2016

Summary of Rules – Fall 2016

Under 6 Boys & Girls

Teams will play 4 v 4 games with no goalkeeper.

Teams will play 4 x 8 minute quarters.

Substitution is allowed at any stoppage of play.

Players will use a size 3 ball.

The offside rule will not be enforced

Coaches & Players will sit in the designated team area in between fields.

Spectators WILL NOT sit in the designated team area.

Teams switch sides at half-time, not between each quarter.

Under 9 Boys & Girls

Teams will play 8 v 8 games with goalkeeper.

Teams will play 2 x 25 minute halves.

Players will use a size 4 ball.

The offside rule WILL NOT be enforced.

Coaches & Players will sit in the designated team area in between fields.

Spectators WILL NOT sit in the designated team area.

Corner Kicks and Goal kicks will be used.

Teams switch sides at half-time, not between each quarter.

Under 12 Boys & Girls

Teams will play 9 v 9 including a goalkeeper.

Teams will play 2 x 25 minute halves.

Players will use a size 4 ball.

The offside rule will be enforced.

Teams and Spectators will sit on opposite sides of the field as designated.

Under 16 Boys & Girls

Teams will 6 v 6 including a goalkeeper.

Teams will play 2 x 25 minute halves.

Players will use a size 5 ball.

The offside rule will NOT be enforced.

Ball cannot advance across mid field in the air.

Teams and Spectators will sit on opposite sides of the field as designated.

Law I: The Field

- A. Dimensions (as marked by Auburn Parks & Recreation)
- B. Goal Area
- C. Goals

League	Field Dimensions	Goal Area	Goal Size
Under 6	50qx 90q	None	4qH x 6qV
Under 9	120qx 200q	9 x 30 ft	6qH x 12qV
Under 13	150qx 200q	8 x 24 ft	6qH x 18qV
Under 16	150qx 200q	15 x 40 ft	8qH x 24qV

Law II: The Ball

The ball should be made of leather or other approved material. Its size will depend on the age of the players but should not exceed 28 inches or weigh more than 16 ounces at the beginning of the game. The ball cannot be changed during a game without the referee's permission.

Under 6 : Size 3 ball

Under 9: Size 4 ball

Under 12 & Under 16: Size 5 ball

LAW III: The Number of Players

- A. Maximum number of players on the field and per team:

League:	Max. # on field:	Max. # per Team:
Under 6	4 players	12 players
Under 9	8 players	14 players
Under 12	9 players	14 players
Under 16	6 players	10 players

No team shall play with more than a one player advantage.

Under 6 : There are NO GOALKEEPERS

B. Substitutions

The Referee must be notified prior to the substitution and the sub must enter the field at the halfway line. Substitutions shall take place prior to a throw-in for your team, prior to a goal kick for either team; after a goal is scored by either team; after an injury by either team; at half-time or between quarters, or at the referees discretion.

Law IV: The Player's Equipment

Shin guards are mandatory! Players shall not wear anything considered dangerous by the referee (i.e., watch, bracelet, jackets with open zippers, rings, earrings, or hair devices that have sharp points). Shoes should be tennis shoes or soft-molded cleats. Goalkeeper shall wear colors which distinguish him from other players and the referee.

Law V: The Referee

Referees will be provided for youth league games. In the event one is not available a parks & recreation employee or a parent/coach shall fill in. The referee acts as timekeeper and scorekeeper; inspects the ball & equipment at the beginning of the game to make sure it meets requirements; administers penalties and cautions/expels players for misconduct; stops the game for injury and restarts when ready; and ends the game because of inclement weather, spectator interference etc. The referee's decisions on points of fact connected to the game are final. However, he is encouraged to explain infractions briefly to the offending player or coach at an appropriate time.

Law VI: The Assistant Referee

Assistant referees will be used in regular season recreation league games for Under 9, Under 12, & Under 16. Assistant referees will not be used in Under 6 Recreational League games.

Law VII: The Duration of the Match

A. Under 6

There shall be 4 equal quarters of 8 minutes each. There shall be a 2 minute break between quarter 1 and 2, and quarter 3 and 4 with a 5 minute half time break between quarters 2 and 3.

B. Under 9

There shall be 2 equal halves of 25 minutes in length with a 5 minute half time break.

C. Under 12

There shall be 2 equal halves of 25 minutes in length with a 5 minute half time break.

D. Under 16

There shall be 2 equal halves of 25 minutes in length with a 5 minute half-time break.

E. Playing Time

Each player SHALL play a minimum of half the designated playing time provided that the player attends regular team practices unless prevented by injury or illness.

Law VIII: The Start and Restart of Play

A kickoff is used to start play at the beginning of the game, after a goal has been scored, and after half-time. The ball is placed on the center spot, and the kicker must send it into the opponent's half of the field, and no opposing player may be within the center circle. The ball is in play after it has traveled the distance of its own circumference (approx. 27 inches). The kicker may not play the ball again until it has been touched by another player. A place kick is an indirect kick (see Law XIII).

The toss of a coin determines which team gets to decide whether to kick off first or to have its choice of ends at the beginning of the game. After a team scores a goal, the other team kicks off. Following half-time, ends are changed and the kickoff is made by the team that did not kick off to start the game.

When restarting play from causes other than those just mentioned or those mentioned elsewhere in the laws, and providing the ball has not passed over the touchline or goal line, the referee drops the ball at the place where it was when play was suspended, and is in play when it touches the ground.

Under 6 : All players need to be at least five yards from the ball at the taking of a place kick.

Law IX: The Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when the entire ball has crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air, and when the game has been stopped by the referee. The ball is in play at all other times, including when it rebounds from the goalposts and off officials who are on the field of play.

Law X: The Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, providing it has not been thrown, carried, or propelled by hand or arm by a player of the attacking side. The team scoring most goals wins. If no goals are scored or if an equal number of goals are scored by each team, penalty kicks will be taken by each team until a winner is determined or both coaches agree to a draw.

Law XI: Offside

A player is offside if he is nearer his opponent's goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless:

- 1) he is in his own half of the field;
- 2) at least 2 opponents (including the goalkeeper) are nearer their own goal line than he is;
- 3) He received the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, or drop-ball situation.

The penalty for being offside is an indirect free kick by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. Even though a player may be technically in an offside position, the penalty is not called unless, in the opinion of the referee, he is interfering with play or with an opponent or is seeking to gain an advantage by being offside.

Under 6 and Under 9: No offside

Law XII: Fouls and Misconduct

A player who commits a foul shall be penalized by awarding an indirect or direct free kick (see Law XIII) to the opposing side from the place where the offense occurred.

Fouls for which a direct free kick is awarded:

- Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
- Tripping an opponent
- Jumping at an opponent
- Charging an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner
- Charging from behind unless the opponent is obstructing
- Striking or attempting to strike an opponent
- Holding an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Carrying, striking, or propelling the ball with the hands or arms (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area).

Should a defending player intentionally commit one of the Direct Free Kick offenses within the penalty area, a penalty kick (see Law XVI) is awarded to the opposing team.

Fouls for which an indirect free kick is awarded:

- Playing in a dangerous manner
- Charging fairly when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are not trying to play it
- When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent
- Charging the goalkeeper except when he is holding the ball, obstructing an opponent or has moved outside his goal area

-When playing as goalkeeper, indulging in tactics designed to delay the game to his team's advantage

A player is cautioned if he:

- Enters, reenters, or leaves the field without the referees' permission
- Persistently infringes the laws
- Shows by word or action dissent from a decision made by the referee
- Is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.

A player is sent off the field if he:

- Is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play
 - Uses foul or abusive language
 - Persists in misconduct after receiving a caution.
- If play is stopped when a player is ordered off the field, the game is resumed by an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred.

Referees should explain the offense to the player and to the coach at an appropriate time.

REMEMBER !!!: The Goalkeeper is not allowed to use his hands on a ball that is deliberately kicked (by the foot of a teammate) or thrown (by a teammate) to him. Punishment for this foul is an indirect free kick taken from the spot where the goalkeeper touches the ball unless it is in the goal area in which case the kick shall be taken from the six yard line.

Law XIII: Free Kicks

There are two types of free kicks: direct (from which a goal can be scored) and indirect (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player in addition to the kicker before it passes through the goal). When a player is taking a free kick inside his own penalty area, all opposing players must remain outside the area and at least 10 yards from the ball. When he is taking a free kick outside his own penalty area, all opposing players must be at least 10 yards from the ball unless they are standing on their own goal line between the goalposts. On free kicks the ball is in play once it has traveled the distance of its own circumference, and the ball cannot be played again by the kicker until it has been touched by another player.

Under 6 : Indirect free kicks shall be taken for all offenses and opposing players need to be at least five yards from the ball.

Law XIV: The Penalty Kick

If a defending player is within his own team's penalty area when he intentionally commits any one of the nine offenses that result in the awarding of a direct free kick, the opposing team is granted a penalty kick. The penalty kick is taken from the penalty spot, and all players (except the defending goalkeeper) must stay outside of the penalty area

and at least 10 yards away from the ball. The defending goalkeeper must remain on his goal line between the goalposts until the kick is taken. The goalkeeper may move side to side along the line before the kick is taken, but not forward off the line. The person taking the kick must propel the ball forward and cannot play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

Under 6: No penalty kicks shall be taken. Indirect free kicks will be used for penalty kick offenses.

Law XV: The Throw-In / Kick-In

To restart play after the whole of the ball has passed over a touchline, the ball is thrown in from the point where it crossed the line by a player of the team opposing that of the person who last touched the ball. The thrower must use both hands and deliver the ball from over his head, while keeping part of each foot either on or outside the touchline. He cannot again play the ball until it has been touched by another player. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in. Opposing players are not allowed to dance about or try to impede the thrower.

Under 6: No throw-ins will be used. Kick-ins will be used to restart the play and will be considered an indirect free kick with opposing players at least 5 yds. away. Goal kicks and corner kicks will be used.

Law XVI: The Goal Kick

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line (excluding that portion of the line between the goalposts and under the crossbar) and it was last played by a member of the attacking team, it is kicked into play by a member of the defending team from a point within the goal area. The ball must be kicked beyond the penalty area, and players of the opposing team must remain outside the area while the kick is being taken. The kicker cannot play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player, and a goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick. The goal kick may be taken from anywhere in the goal area.

Law XVII: The Corner Kick

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line (excluding that portion of the line between the goalposts) and it was last played by a member of the defending team, the attacking team is allowed a corner kick. The ball is kicked from the quarter circle (corner area) at the nearest corner flag post, which must not be moved. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick. Opposing players must remain at least 10 yards from the ball until it is in play, or has traveled the distance of its own circumference. The kicker may not play the ball

a second time until it has been touched by another player.

Under 6: Players need be only five yards from the ball.

Law XVIII: Coach/ Parent Behavior

A. Coaches are to remain within 15 yards of the halfway line (in their bench area) on their side of the field during the game. A coach may provide assistance that will help the referee keep the game running well but will cease such assistance if the referee feels it is hindering the game. Coaching is not permitted from behind the goal areas. Coaches are not permitted to enter the field of play while the game is going on EXCEPT in Under 6 games. Under 6 coaches are allowed to be on the field of play. In the event of an injury, the referee will waive the coach onto the field. In the event a referee order a coach to leave the vicinity of the field. An assistant coach or parent may then take over.

B. Teams & Spectators will sit on opposite sides of the field as designated for all age groups EXCEPT Under 6. Under 6 spectators WILL NOT sit in the team area as designated for coaches & players.

C. Under 6 parents may sit behind the goal line to watch the game. Spectators are to watch the game at least 2 yards from the touchline and 5 yards or more from the goal line. No additional coaching is allowed from the touchline and no spectators are to be around the goal areas or near the goal line. Comments shall be limited to positive reinforcement of the sport and **no foul or abusive language will be tolerated.**

D. Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.

E. No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances should be consumed or allowed at any Baldwin County Board of Education Facility.