

**SYSA Soccer Modified Rules of Competition**  
**Outdoor Recreational Soccer**  
**9 v 9 U13/U14**

*SYSA Mission: "To provide sports activities for all youth where everyone plays, develops skills, is taught good sportsmanship, and learns the value of being a team player."*

All competitions shall be governed by the Rules as stated herein in all cases where they are applicable. All members of SYSA shall be governed by these Rules of Competition. These rules are modified from the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Good judgment, sportsmanship and fair play should govern the decisions and actions of all the players, coaches, referees and spectators.

**Law 1 Field of Play**

Dimensions:

The following specifications are applicable to all 9 v 9 U13/U14 competitions administered by SYSA.

The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

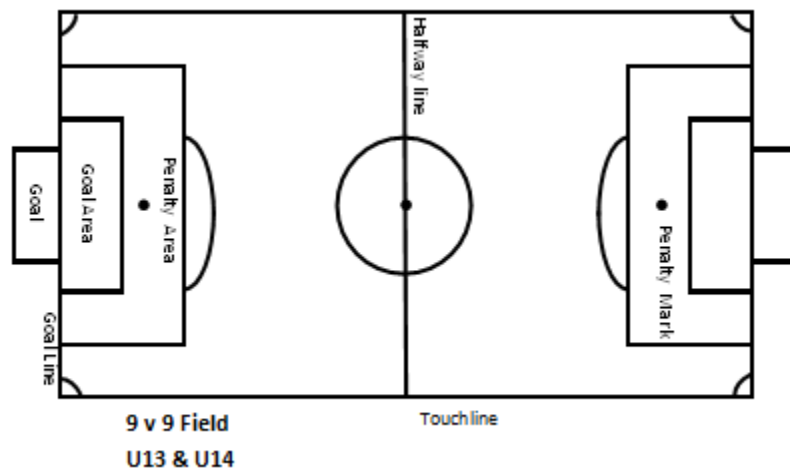
The maximum length is **80** yards and the maximum width is **55** yards.

Interior markings include a halfway line, a center circle (8 yard radius), a goal area (5 yards x 16 yards), a penalty area (14 yards x 36 yards), a center circle (8 yard radius), a penalty mark (10 yards), penalty arc (8 yard radius), and corner arcs (1 yard radius).

Goals: **7 x 21** feet or **8 x 24** feet goals will be placed on the center of each goal line. In case permanent goals are not available, flags or cones may be used to mark the goals (21 or 24 feet wide). If cones are used for goals, the top of the player's hands will determine the "imaginary" height of the crossbar.

Coaches and players will be on one touchline. Parents and spectators will be on the opposite touchline. Players, coaches and spectators should not be along the goal and penalty area touchlines or behind the goal line.

See diagram below.



**Law 2 The Ball**

A size **five (5)** ball will be used for all practices and games.

The home team is responsible for providing the game ball.

**Law 3 The Players**

The match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than **nine (9) players**, one who shall be the goalkeeper.

The official may allow the game to be played 7 v 7 when one team does not have enough players to field a team of 9 on the field.

Maximum team roster is **fifteen (15)**. Each player shall receive 50% of the total playing time. The coach is responsible to enforce this rule. Minimum of six (6) players to start and continue a match.

Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, during any stoppage of play or for an injury.

Substitutions will be allowed in order to give an opportunity for all players to get equal playing time and to balance rather than run up the score.

Players not on the field of play must remain two (2) yards behind the touchline and not along the goal area or behind the goal line.

Printed rosters are not required to be submitted prior to the match but may be requested by the Certified Referee. The referee will have the responsibility of ensuring that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return on receiving a signal from the referee who is satisfied that the bleeding has stopped.

#### **Law 4 Player Equipment**

Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game.

A minimum “official” uniform is the standard SYSA issued jersey with number, black shorts, and socks.

Shin guards are MANDATORY for practices and games. Socks must be worn up and over the shin guards. Safety.

A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry – no earrings, with exception of a medical alert bracelet).

All or any member(s) of a team may wear extra protective clothing against the cold, including gloves without dangerous, protruding or hard objects provided that: (1) The proper team uniform is worn outermost; and (2) Any hat should be without peak, bill or dangling or protruding object of any kind; and (3) Referee discretion may be used to determine if an item of protective clothing is considered to go beyond the purpose of providing a means of retaining body heat.

No player shall be allowed to play in any regularly scheduled practice or game with an injury or a known medical condition, which can be communal or aggravated by playing.

Prosthetic Devices require a physician’s permission before a player may play and it must state the player needs to wear the device in order to play. Even then, such devices must pose no danger to other players on the field. The referee’s judgment shall be the final determining factor.

#### **Law 5 The Referee**

Games will be officiated by a certified official. In the event that a referee is not present, both coaches will mutually agree upon an official. If the coaches cannot agree, a parent/coach from the home team will referee the first half and a parent/coach from the away team will referee the second half. The parent/coach must refrain from coaching while refereeing.

It is the duty of each official to conduct him/herself in a manner becoming a member of the league, encourage fair competition and good sportsmanship at all times and enforces the rules of the league. Any official who does not comply with the ideals of SYSA Soccer shall be subject to removal from league participation. Neither the use of foul language nor the drinking of alcoholic beverages by an official during the competition shall be tolerated.

Misconduct reports: If a player or coach is cautioned or ejected, the referee must complete a misconduct report within 48 hours.

#### **Law 6 Other Officials**

Certified assistant referees will not be assigned to these games.

It is expected that a parent from each team will assist the Certified Referee by identifying when the ball has crossed the touchline or goal line.

#### **Law 7 Duration of the Match**

**Two (2) x thirty five (35) minute halves and a five (5) minute half time break.**

#### **Law 8 Start and Restart of Play**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game, with the exception that the defending team is at least **eight (8)** yards from the ball until it is in play.

Restarting play after temporary delay, there will be a drop ball for the team that last touched the ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead. The opponents shall be 4 yards away.

The ball shall be deemed “in play” when the ball has touched the ground.

#### **Law 9 Ball in and out of play.**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the game.

The ball is out of play when it is wholly crossed the goal line or whole touchline, whether it is on the ground or in the air.

The ball is out of play, when the referee has stopped the game.

### **Law 10 Method of Scoring**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the game.

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has crossed the whole of the goal line on the ground or in the air between the goal posts and under the crossbar.

In the event that cones are used for markers, the height of the crossbar will be determined by the height of the goalkeeper's hands.

There will be no published team standings and game scores will not be recorded.

### **Law 11 Offside**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the game. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the defending team.

### **Law 12 Fouls and Misconducts**

Conforms to the FIFA Laws of the game with the exception that all opponents shall be at least **eight (8)** yards from ball.

Play should be stopped when a player acts in a careless, reckless or dangerous manner.

No heading. An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the offense occurs with the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal line.

Legal "safe" slide tackling "the ball" is allowed.

No contact will be made with the goalkeeper who has possession of the ball. A goalkeeper with one finger on the ball is considered to have possession.

A player or coach who receives an ejection shall not participate in his/her team's next game.

A spectator who has been asked to leave the field of play shall not attend the team's next game.

### **Law 13 Free Kicks**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that all opponents are to be at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is kicked.

Direct and Indirect kicks will be awarded.

A goal cannot be scored from an INDIRECT free kick unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal.

The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

### **Law 14 Penalty Kicks**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that the penalty mark will be **ten (10)** yards from the goal line.

### **Law 15 Throw In**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

The ball is out of play when it is wholly crosses the whole touchline, whether it is on the ground or in the air.

A goal shall not be scored directly from the throw-in.

If an incorrect throw occurs, a throw in shall be awarded to the opposing team.

### **Law 16 Goal Kick**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game.

When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the goal line, excluding the portion between the goal posts and under the crossbar (either in the air or on the ground), having last been played by one of the players on the attacking team, a goal kick will be awarded.

A goal kick may be taken from anywhere inside the goal area by any member of the defending team.

The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

The ball is in play when it is kicked.

### **Law 17 Corner Kick**

Conform to the FIFA Laws of the Game with the exception that all of the opposing players are to be at least **eight (8)** yards from the ball until it is kicked.

When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the goal line excluding that portion between the goal posts and under the crossbar, (either in the air or on the ground), having last been played by one of the defending team, a

player of the attacking team shall have a corner kick.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

### **Miscellaneous Rules**

Players, coaches and spectators shall not be along the goal area touchlines or behind the goal line.

A game may be postponed at the field site if weather conditions are too hazardous for play. Extreme weather includes lightning, snow or ice on the ground. Rain is not a reason to postpone play.

No dogs or pets allowed near the playing field.

### **Team Responsibilities**

All teams are responsible for the cleanup of the fields after each game. Please do not leave garbage on the sidelines. Please help put away the field signs and corner flags.

**Parents and Spectators** should enjoy and encourage the activity of the players and refrain from coaching during the match. Please cheer and acknowledge players that exhibit good sportsmanship.

### **Coach Responsibilities**

The coach or designated adult should attend every practice and every game. All coaches, team managers, and assistants must comply with all Risk Management requirements. There must be an approved adult at all functions. Coaches, their assistants or spectators are not allowed on the field of play during the game unless permission is given by the referee (in case of emergencies or unusual situations).

The coach should have a team and parent meeting at or before the 1<sup>st</sup> practice.

The coach should hand out the team game schedule and announce team practice times and fields.

The coach is responsible for his own behavior as well as that of his players, parents and spectators. Remember this is just for fun.

Every player must play in each game at least 50% of the playing time unless they are not able to play due to illness or injury.

Coaching from the sidelines is permitted but not recommended. Coaching must be done in a civil manner and the tone of voice will be informational and encouraging, not demanding or critical.

It is every coach's obligation and duty to attend coaching meetings in order to acquire information that, in turn, may be passed on to the players.

Make sure that you have a game ball properly inflated before the game starts. Make sure that your players are properly equipped, fit and emotionally ready to play.

In case of injuries during the game, assure that the player is properly attended to. Check his/her condition after the game and follow up with a call to the home in the evening.

In the event an injured player requires medical attention, he/she must have a written release from the doctor before returning to practice or play with the team.

### **Practices**

Only **two (2)** practices per week for sixty (60) minutes is recommended for this age level.