



## **YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE RULES OF THE GAME FOR U8/U9 (8 VS 8)**

This league is for children ages under 8. Score will be recorded and the 1<sup>st</sup> place team will receive awards at the end of the season. The City of Wentzville considers the teaching of good sportsmanship as the most important goal of the program. The proper conduct of the coaches, players, parents and spectators is essential to realizing this goal. The “Laws of the Game” authorized by the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) are the rules adopted by the City of Wentzville. Changes to these rules as adopted by the City of Wentzville are as follows:

- **The Field of Play**
  - Goals shall be modified to size of fields and the field shall be 40 yards long by 60 yards wide
- **The Ball**
  - Ball size to be used is a number 4
- **The Number of Players**
  - There must be no more than 8 players on the field of play for either team
  - One of the players shall be a designated goalkeeper
  - Free substitution during throw-ins, corner kicks, and goal kicks for both teams
- **Players Equipment**
  - Cleats are recommended
  - Shin guards are required
  - No jewelry is to be worn by a player during a game
  - All players must wear their league jersey or a plain shirt of the same color
  - Each coach is responsible to check players’ equipment prior to the game
- **The Referee**
  - Following FIFA guidelines there will be one referee on the field.
- **The Duration of the Game**
  - Game length is two 25-minute halves, with a 5-minute break at half time
- **The Start and Restart of the Game**
  - The home team kicks off to start the first half and the away team kicks off to start the second half
- **Free Kicks**
  - All free kicks shall be considered indirect kicks. No goal can be scored on a free kick unless touched by a second player
- **Throw-in**
  - Second tries on foul throw-ins
- **The Goal Kicks**
  - Goal kicks shall be taken anywhere in the goal area. The goal area is the first box outside the goal
- **Build Out line**
  - Build out line is half field line.
  - On all Goal Kicks the only players inside the Build out line will be the Goalkeeper and one defender (or two defenders if you do not play with a Goalkeeper) All other players must start beyond this Build Out Line. Once the Goal kick is passed and touched by the defender (outside of the box and to the side of the goal), the game will be live once again.

### **Cancellations and Suspension of Games**

- Games may be canceled at the discretion of the league for weather conditions. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Excessive lightning or thunder, wet and/or saturated fields, wind chill of 20 degrees or below
- In the event a game is suspended at the end of the first half, the game is considered complete; a make-up will not be rescheduled.

### **Player's code of ethics**

- Sportsmanship is #1 for players and parents.
- Fighting, hitting, spitting and other unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated
- Players should play fair and safe
- Players should always respect other players and coaches
- Learning is the #1 objective, not winning
- Most importantly- you should always have FUN