

## **RULES OF PLAY FOR MINI SOCCER**

- The following playing rules have been adapted by the members of the GBYSL for clubs participating in the mini soccer league (i.e. Chatsworth, Bognor, Flesherton, Markdale, Thornbury and Dundalk).
- All games will be played non-competitively, the emphasis being on learning the game and having fun.
- Players should shake hands, clean and dry, at the end of each game.
- The league expects all clubs and coaches to respect the referee's decisions and understand that mistakes can be made.

### **RULE 1 - THE FIELD OF PLAY**

Field size will vary slightly between Clubs, but as much as possible, the goal area should be a semi-circle, 6 metres from the centre of the goal. Clubs using a rectangle should use the same measurement. Size of goals should be 12 feet long by 6 feet high and whenever possible, goals nets should be used.

### **RULE 2 - THE BALL**

U7 - size 3

U9 - size 4

### **RULE 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

- Both U7 and U9 teams field seven players, including the goalie, with any number of substitute players allowed.
- The referee should not abandon the game due to one team having insufficient players. Member clubs have agreed that if one team is short of players, then the opposing team may either play the same number of players, or the two teams will share players so that the game can still be played.
- Substitution will be at the referee's discretion and will be allowed on throw-ins, goal kicks and goals. Substitutions will NOT be allowed on corner kicks or free kicks.
- Coaches are to notify the ref of a substitution, before making any substitutions.
- The referee will tell coaches if they are allowed to proceed with the substitution.
- Teams are to try and substitute at the same time.

### **RULE 4 - PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT**

- A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery or hair band/clips).
- Proper footwear, shinguards and stockings covering the shinguards are mandatory.
- Goalkeepers should wear colours that are distinguishable from the other players. The goalkeeper may wear gloves, kneepads, elbow pads, track pants and a hat.

## **RULE 5 - REFEREES**

- Coaches are not allowed to yell at or criticize a referee.
- If the referee calls an infringement on a player, it should be briefly explained to the player involved.  
N.B. It has been agreed that slide tackles are no longer allowed. If a player uses a slide tackle, the opposition will be awarded an indirect free kick. Coaches are responsible for players who might constitute a danger to other players.

## **RULE 6 - LINESMEN**

Not mandatory at mini soccer level. GBYSL has agreed that each coach will ask a parent or older sibling to run the line.

## **RULE 7 - DURATION OF THE GAME**

- U7 - Two twenty-five minute halves with a five minute half time break.
- U9 - Two thirty minute halves with a five minute half time break.
- There is no need for quarter time breaks unless lack of substitutes make a two minute water break necessary for the players.
- There is no need to change ends at half time unless weather conditions (bright sun, strong wind, etc.) produce an unfair advantage for one team.

## **RULE 8 - START OF PLAY**

The coin toss will be for the kick-off.

There will be a kick-off at the start of the game, at half time, and after goals.

The player taking the kick-off cannot kick again until another player has touched the ball.

The ball cannot be kicked directly into the net on kick-off.

For an infringement of these rules, the kicker will be given a second chance to kick-off with an explanation by the referee.  
To restart play with a drop ball, be aware that young children find this difficult, and it is recommended that the two players leave a suitable distance between them and the referee rolls that ball rather than drop it.

### **RULE 9 - BALL OUT OF PLAY**

The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed the goal line or touch line whether in the ground or in the air, or when the play has been stopped by the referee.

### **RULE 10 - METHOD OF SCORING**

No goal will be allowed from within the goal crease.  
Once the keeper touches the ball it is considered a dead ball. Opposing players will be allowed to take the ball out of the goal area providing the keeper has not been in contact with the ball.

### **RULE 11 - OFFSIDE**

There is no offside in mini soccer.

### **RULE 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

All fouls will result in an indirect free kick.  
If a keeper picks up the ball outside the goal area, the referee must give a warning and an explanation to the keeper for the first offense and then next time award a free kick to the opposing team.  
For swearing or unsportsmanlike play, the referee may send a player off to "cool down" after giving a warning. Return to play will be at the coach's discretion.  
Coaches must control their players.

### **RULE 13 - FREE KICKS**

All fouls produce an indirect free kick, where the ball must be passed to or touched by another player before a shot on net.  
Opposition players must be 5 yards away from the location of the free kick.  
Please note that there are no direct free kicks in mini soccer.

### **RULE 14 - PENALTY KICKS**

There are no penalty kicks in mini soccer.

### **RULE 15 - THROW-IN**

When the ball passes completely over the touch line (sideline of the field), a player from the opposing team to the player who last touched the ball will be awarded a throw-in.

U7 - will be given a second chance if done incorrectly, and then play on no matter what.

U9 - will be given a second chance if done incorrectly, and if still a foul throw, the ball will be given to the opposing team.

Opposition players must be 5 yards away from the thrower.

Referees are encouraged to help the players learn the correct way to throw the ball.

### **RULE 16 - GOAL KICK**

When the opposition kicks the ball out of bounds behind the net or goal line, the defending team brings the ball out to kick from the edge of the crease. The goalie must put the ball down for a goal kick. All opposing players must be 5 yards away from the edge of the goal area where the kick is being taken.

U7 - Keepers who have difficulty with the correct method of putting the ball back into play, are allowed to put the ball down for a kick after saving it.

U9 - Keepers should use the correct method of putting the ball back into play, by kicking or throwing the ball from their hands. Referees can explain this rule.

### **RULE 17 - CORNER KICKS**

When the defending team kicks the ball out of bounds behind the net or goal line, the opposition is awarded a corner kick from the corner nearest to the point of exit.

Opponents must be 5 yards away from the ball prior to the kick being taken.