

Manitoba
Soccer
Association



***Small Sided Soccer
U9 & U10 Competitions
Laws of the Game
Book***

2022

Small Sided U9 & U10 Competitions (6 v 6)

Modifications

Provided the principles of FIFA's Laws of the Game and LTPD are maintained, information and items contained within this booklet may be modified in their application for matches played in local areas.

Any or all of the following modifications are permissible:

- Size of the field of play
- Size, weight and material of the ball
- Number of bench personnel
- Duration of the periods of play
- Provisions for stopped time

Further modifications are only allowed with the consent of the Manitoba Soccer Association.

Male and Female

References to the male gender in this booklet in respect to referees, players and team officials is for simplification and applies to both genders.

Age Category	Game Duration & Format	Ball Size	Field Size Min/Max Width	Field Size Min/Max Length	Goal Size (H) X (W)
U9 Recreational	two 25 min halves	4	30-36 metres (32-39 yards)	40-55 metres (43-60 yards)	6 ft X 16 ft*
U10 Recreational	two 25 min halves	4	30-36 metres (32-39 yards)	40-55 metres (43-60 yards)	6 ft X 16 ft*
U9 Developmental	two 25 min halves	4	30-36 metres (32-39 yards)	40-55 metres (43-60 yards)	6 ft X 16 ft*
U10 Developmental	two 25 min halves	4	30-36 metres (32-39 yards)	40-55 metres (43-60 yards)	6 ft X 16 ft*

*Typical size of standard manufactured portable goals is 6.5 ft X 12 ft

Important Contact Information

During your first year of refereeing, you will have many questions. Make sure you have contact information of the people who will be able to answer your questions.

Contact	Name	Phone	E-Mail Address
MSA Referee Department Coordinator	Felipe Ferreira	204-594-5813	referee@manitobasoccer.ca
MSA Referee Assignor	Tim Kozakewich	W: 204-594-5813 C: 204-479-6021	msaassignor@manitobasoccer.ca

Game Appointments

In order to know whether or not you can accept a game, you need to be aware of any other commitments that you may have. Make sure you keep a calendar for all your activities and keep it close by the phone and computer. Don't forget to record the details of the game in the calendar and print out a copy if accepting assignments via an online system:

- Date
- Time
- Field
- Teams
- Age Group
- Length of Halves

Arriving at the Field

Make sure you arrive at the field early looking the part of a referee and with all the required equipment to do your job:

What to Wear:

- Referee Shirt
- Black Shorts
- Black Referee Socks
- Black Soccer Shoes

What to Bring:

- Whistle
- Wristwatch or Stopwatch
- Notebook
- Pens / Pencils
- Coin
- Water Bottle
- Sunscreen

Pre-Game Responsibilities:

- Meet Coaches
- Confirm Teams
- Check the Field – Make sure it's safe
- Check the Nets
- Check the Ball
- Ensure Parents & Spectators won't interfere with players
- Get Team Sheets
- Appoint Touchline Help (optional Assistant Referees)
- Check Players Equipment (shirt, shorts, socks, shin-guards, shoes)
- Check Players for Unsafe Items (jewellery, watches, knee braces, casts)

Post-Game Responsibilities:

- Handshakes
- Complete Game Reports

Starts and Restarts	When is it required?	Where are the Opponents	Who takes it?	When is ball in play?	Can a goal be scored directly?
Kick-off	Start of game/2 nd half/After goal	In own half, opponents 5 metres away	Anyone on attacking team	Kicked and clearly moves	Yes
Goal Kick	Over goal line by attacking team, not resulting in a goal	Opponents behind the Retreat Line	Anyone on defending team	Kicked and clearly moves	Yes
Corner Kick	Over goal line by defensive team, not resulting in a goal	Opponents 5 m away	Anyone on attacking team	Kicked and clearly moves	Yes
Throw In	Over touchline by either team	Opponents 2 m away	Anyone on opposing team	Enters field of play	No
Drop Ball	Referee stops play for any reason not covered above	4m away from the ball until it is in play	Referee restarts play	When touches the ground	No
Direct Free Kick	Penal offence	Opponents 5m away	Anyone on opposing team	Kicked and clearly moves	Yes
Indirect Free Kick	Non penal offences, other offences committed by the goalkeeper	Opponents 5m away	Anyone on opposing team	Kicked and clearly moves	No
Penalty Kick	Penal offence inside the penalty area	All 5m away & behind penalty mark Penalty Mark 8m from Goal	Anyone on opposing team	Kicked and moves forward	Yes

LAW 1 – THE FIELD OF PLAY

WARNING

- Not all the fields will be the same
- They may not be very well marked
- They may be setup across the width of a full-sized field
- They may have portable nets (These must be secured)

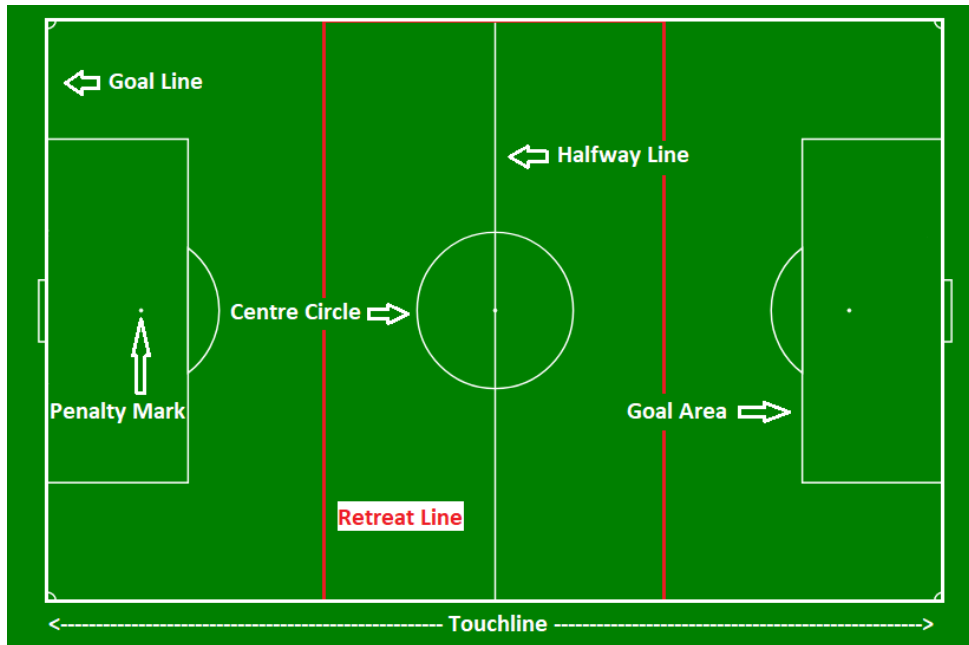


Field Inspection:



- Responsible for creating a safe playing space.
- Look for dangerous items on the field (broken glass; a pen; etc.)
- Check for nets, corner flags and markings
- Check for pot holes on the pitch
- Doing a proper field inspection takes time, referees should arrive at their game at least 30 minutes early to inspect the field.

Field Markings:



- Penalty Mark = 8 meters from the Goal Line

LAW 2 – THE BALL

- A size 4 soccer ball shall be used

LAW 3 – THE PLAYERS



- 6 players per team - 1 must be a goalkeeper
- Minimum number of players 4
- Unlimited substitution at a stoppage in play with the referee's permission
- Teams can make up to 6 substitutions at a time
- Check Competition Rules to confirm number of players permitted
- Player leaves by the nearest point on the boundary line.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT



Basic compulsory equipment shall consist of:

- A jersey or shirt with sleeves with number
- Shorts
- Socks
- Shin guards
 - Must be completely covered by the socks
 - Are to be made of rubber, plastic, or a similar suitable material
 - Must provide a reasonable degree of protection
- Appropriate footwear
- Goalkeepers may wear gloves and tracksuit-type pants

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE

- As per the current FIFA Laws of the Game.

LAW 6 – THE OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS

- Typically, there shall be no assistant referees on Small Sided games
- If used, club assistant referees (volunteers) shall help with determining if the ball is out of play - As per the current FIFA Laws of the Game

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH



- Check Competition Rules for length of halves
- Two equal halves
 - Typically U9 & U10 Recreational matches - two 25 minute halves
 - Typically U9 & U10 Developmental matches – two 25 minute halves
- Half time break must be 5 minutes long

LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

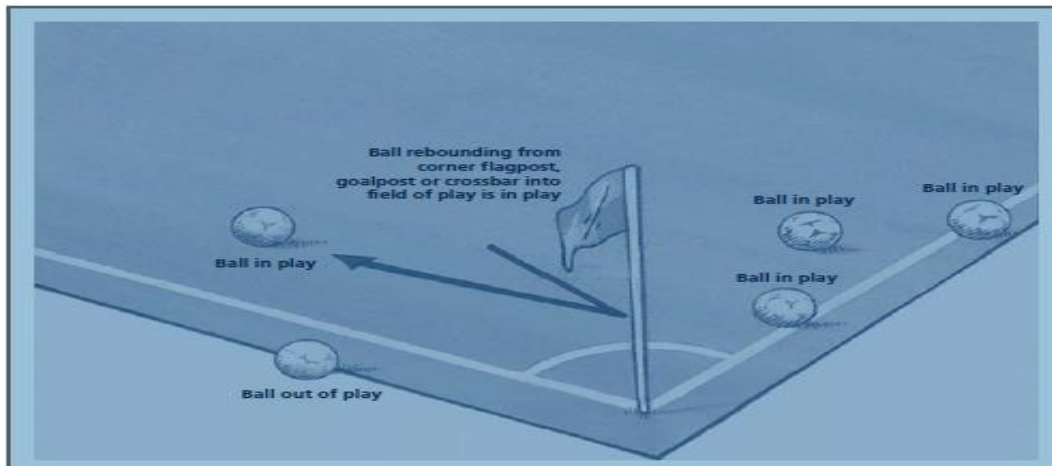
Start of Play:

- A coin is tossed before the game - winner of the toss gets to choose if they would like to start with the ball or pick starting side, the opposing team get the other option.
- Procedure at the kick-off:
 - Players are on their own side
 - Defending team must be 5 metres from the ball
 - Blow the whistle to start (Loud, strong & confident whistle)
 - Ball must be kicked and clearly moves in any direction
 - Player kicking can't touch the ball again until someone else touches it
 - After a goal is scored, the opposing team does the kick-off after the goal.

Dropped Ball:

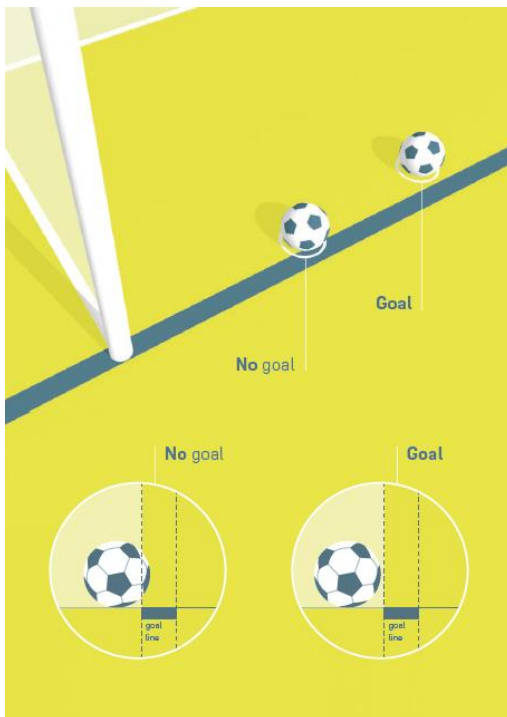
- Ball is in play when it touches the ground
- Ball is dropped to defending team goalkeeper, if when players was stopped, the ball was in the penalty area or last touch was in the penalty area.
- In all other cases, the referee drops the ball to one player of the team that last touched the ball, when the referee stopped the game.
- All other players from both teams, must be at least 4m from ball until it is in play

LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY



- If the ball touches a match official, remains on the field, and it starts a promising attack, goes directly into goal or team possession changes. Referee stops game and restarts with a drop ball.

LAW 10 – DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH



There is no Winner or Loser in Small Sided Soccer Goal Scored

- A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no offence has been committed by the team scoring the goal.
- If the goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded.
- If a referee signals a goal before the ball has passed wholly over the goal line, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

- **The Offside Rule will not be enforced in U9 & U10 Competition**

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS

- The following conditions must be met in order for a foul to have been committed:
 - Must be committed by a player
 - It must occur on the field on play
 - It must occur while the ball is in play
- A Direct Free Kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless, or using excessive force:
 - charges
 - jumps at
 - kicks or attempts to kick
 - pushes
 - strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
 - tackles or challenges
 - trips or attempts to trip
- If an offence involves contact it is penalised by a direct free kick or penalty kick.
- Careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed
- Reckless is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned
- Using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off
- A direct free kick is also awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:
 - handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)
 - holds an opponent
 - impedes an opponent with contact
 - bites or spits at an opponent
 - throws an object at the ball, opponent or match official or, makes contact with the ball with a held object

- An indirect free kick is awarded if a player:
 - plays in a dangerous manner
 - impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
 - prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or
 - attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
 - commits any other offence, not mentioned in the Laws, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player
- An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, commits any of the following offences:
 - controls the ball with the hands for more than six seconds before releasing it
 - touches the ball with the hands after:
 - releasing it and before it has touched another player
 - touches the ball with hand/arm, unless goalkeeper clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after
 - it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate
 - receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

Cautionable Offences:

A player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game (no specific number or pattern of infringements constitutes "persistent")
- unsporting behaviour

A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- unsporting behaviour

Sending Off Offences:

A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:

- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opponents' goal by an offence punishable by a free kick (unless as outlined below)
- serious foul play
- biting or spitting at someone
- violent conduct
- using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures
- receiving a second caution in the same match

A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

Team Officials:

- Disciplinary sanctions apply as per the laws of the game
- Depending on the severity of the offence, Team Officials may be:
 - Warned
 - Cautioned (Yellow Card)
 - Dismissed (Red Card)
- Team Officials who have been disciplined (Yellow/Red Card) in the game must be reported in the match report

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

Types of Free Kicks:

Direct and indirect free kicks are awarded to the opposing team of a player guilty of an offence or infringement.

Indirect free kick signal:

- The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising the arm above the head; this signal is maintained until the kick has been taken and the ball touches another player or goes out of play.

An indirect free kick must be retaken if the referee fails to signal that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal.

Ball enters the goal:

- if a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded
- if an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded
- if a direct or indirect free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded

Procedure:

All free kicks are taken from the place where the infringement occurred, except:

- indirect free kicks to the attacking team for an offence inside the opponents' goal area are taken from the nearest point on the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line
- free kicks to the defending team in their goal area may be taken from anywhere in that area
- free kicks for offences involving a player entering, re-entering or leaving the field of play without permission are taken from the position of the ball when play was stopped. However, if a player leaves the field of play as part of play and commits an offence against another player, play is restarted with a free kick taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offence occurred; for direct free kick offences a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender's penalty area
- the Law designates another position

The ball:

- must be stationary and the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player
- is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

Until the ball is in play all opponents must remain:

- at least 5 m (5.5 yds) from the ball, unless they are on their own goal line between the goalposts
- where three or more defending players form a wall, all attacking players must remain at least 1m from the wall until the ball is in play
- outside the penalty area for free kicks inside the opponents' penalty area

LAW 14 –PENALTY KICK

For any infringements of this Law after the whistle to take the penalty kick:

Infringement	Outcome of the kick	
	Goal	No Goal
Encroachment by Attacking Player	Penalty is retaken	Indirect free kick
Encroachment by Defending Player	Goal	Penalty is retaken
Encroachment by Defending Player & Attacking Player	Penalty is retaken	Penalty is retaken
Offence by goalkeeper	Goal	<i>Not Saved:</i> Penalty is retaken (unless kicker is clearly impacted) <i>Saved:</i> Penalty is retaken and warning for goalkeeper; caution for any further offences
Goalkeeper and Kicker offend at the same time	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
Illegal feinting	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker

LAW 15 –THROW IN

A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, on the ground or in the air.

- *A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in:*
 - If the ball enters the opponents' goal – a goal kick is awarded
 - If the ball enters the thrower's goal – a corner kick is awarded

Procedure:

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must:

- face the field of play
- have part of each foot on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
- throw the ball with both hands from behind and over the head from the point where it left the field of play
- All opponents must stand at least 2 m (2 yds) from the point on the touchline where the throw-in is to be taken.
- The ball is in play when it enters the field of play. If the ball touches the ground before entering, the throw-in is retaken by the same team from the same position. If the throw-in is not taken correctly it is retaken by the opposing team.
- If a player, while correctly taking a throw-in, intentionally throws the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but neither in a careless nor a reckless manner nor using excessive force, the referee allows play to continue.
- The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

LAW 16 –Goal Kick

A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored.

- A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal a corner kick is awarded to the opponents if the ball left the penalty area.

Procedure:

- The ball must be stationary and is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves
- Opponents must be behind the retreat line until the ball is in play

U9/U10 – RETREAT LINE – GOAL KICK

The Retreat Line shall be marked a third (1/3) of the way from the goal line on each U9 and U10 Developmental League field. The Retreat Line will be used when the ball goes out of play for a goal kick.

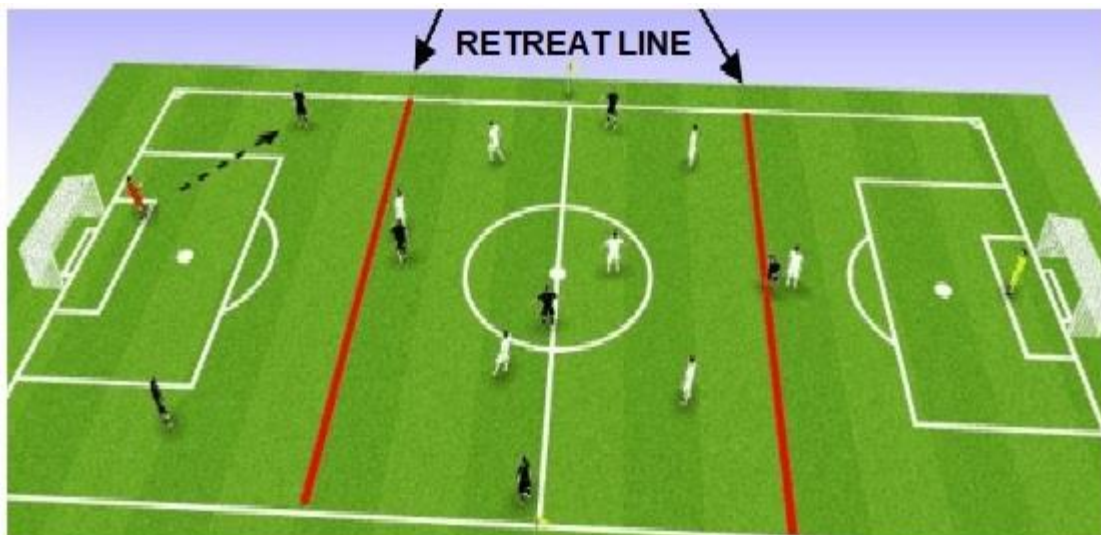
When this happens, the attacking players must back up to the Retreat Line. The players of the team taking the goal kick can position themselves anywhere on the pitch and any player may take the goal kick. The opposing team retreats to the middle third of the field and may not cross the Retreat Line until:

- The ball is touched by the player receiving the goal kick; or
- The ball leaves the field of play; or
- The ball is played directly into the middle third of the field.

If the attacking team encroaches across the retreat line before a teammate receives a pass, play will be stopped, and the goal kick will be retaken.

If the attacking team repeatedly encroaches the retreat line, then an indirect free kick shall be awarded from the place where the offence occurred for not respecting the restart of play.

However, if a team wants to play quickly, they can, and, if the goal kick is played before the opposing team players have moved.



LAW 17 – CORNER KICK

A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored.

- A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

Procedure:

- The ball must be placed in the corner area nearest to the point where the ball passed over the goal line
- The ball must be stationary and is kicked by a player of the attacking team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not need to leave the corner area
- The corner flagpost must not be moved
- Opponents must remain at least 5 m (5.5 yds) from the corner arc until the ball is in play