



Summerville Soccer Club

Developmental Laws of the Game

MATCH GUIDELINES (Based on United States Soccer Federation Standards)

	U4	U5	U6	U8
Match Length	4 x 8 minutes	4 x 8 minutes	4 x 8 minutes	3 x 12 minutes
Ball Size	3	3	3	3
Format	4 v 4	4 v 4	4 v 4	4 v 4
Goalkeeper	No	No	No	No
Throw-Ins	No	No	Yes	Yes
Referee	No	No	No	No
Penalty Kicks	No	No	No	No
Kick Offs	No	No	Yes	Yes
Corner Kicks	No	No	Yes	Yes
Heading	No	No	No	No
Offsides	No	No	No	No
Goal Size	4'x6'	4'x6'	4'x6'	4'x6'
Max Field Size	30 x 20	30 x 20	30 x 20	30 x 20

PLAYERS AND COACHES

All players must be registered with SCYSA for a sanctioned game. All coaches must have received a minimum "F" license through the United States Soccer Federation. All coaches must complete a required background check.

PARENTS

All parents must remain on the opposite side of the field as player benches. All parents must have read and signed the SSC parent pledge prior to games. One (1) parent may remain on the bench as a player manager. Any parent remaining with the team must complete a required background check.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions may be made as follows:

- Prior to a restart in your favor OR when the opposing team is subbing.
- Prior to ANY goal kick.
- After any goal.
- At half time and quarters.
- Following an injury (opposing team may also sub on a one-for-one basis)
*** SSC and SCYSA require that all Developmental players participate in at least one half of the match. If a player is present, but benched due to disciplinary reasons, the Director must be notified prior to the start of the game ***

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- NO Slide Tackling.
- NO Heading.
- The league and SSC have a zero tolerance policy with the use of foul language by ALL participants (players, coaches, and spectators). Directors may eject players, coaches, and spectators who use foul language or behave in an unsporting behavior.

RESTARTS

U4/U5 – NEW BALL. Each coach on the field will have a ball in their possession. The coach closest to where the ball goes out of play will stop play, then say “new ball”. They then place another ball (Do NOT throw balls in the air) in proximity to where the ball went out of play. This process should not give an advantage to EITHER team. Encourage speed of play.

U6 – FIFA Rules with exceptions. A ball that goes out of bounds (sideline) will be awarded to the opposite team for a throw in. The emphasis is on players throwing the ball properly over their head. If an illegal throw occurs DO NOT STOP PLAY. Allow play to continue and use this as a coachable moment with the player.

Goal kicks should be taken from the end line NEAR the goal. Corner kicks follow FIFA Laws of the Game.

U7/U8 – FIFA Rules apply with exceptions.

During goal kicks (taken from the end line near where the ball went out) the opposing team MUST be behind the midfield line until the ball is touched by team taking the kick. ENCOURAGE teams to build from the back line.

During a throw in, the emphasis is on players throwing the ball properly over their head. If an illegal throw occurs DO NOT STOP PLAY.

GRACE PERIODS

Teams will be allowed ten (10) minutes after their scheduled match time to field a minimum number of players. If the minimum number of players is present the match must start on time. PLEASE REMEMBER – This is Developmental Soccer, and the players will always be more important than a score. In the spirit of the game, make an effort to play a game, even if you have to provide players from your team to an opposing team.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the coaches shall, upon arrival at the fields, wait thirty (30) minutes from the scheduled match time before determining whether or not the fields and conditions are suitable for play. To prevent field damage, an SSC representative may declare the fields unplayable AT ANY TIME. Everyone should sign up for field closure alerts at www.summervillesoccerclub.com.

MATCH RESCHEDULING / FORFEITURES

Determined by SSC Directors. If a game is cancelled due to weather, both coaches must agree and submit a makeup date. If approved, the game will be scheduled. Open dates should be built into your game schedule for make-up dates.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

Protests of circumstances allegedly affecting the outcome of a Developmental Game will NOT be heard UNLESS ineligible or non-SSC players have been used or rules have been violated.

REFEREES

Referees will NOT be used for U4 to U8 age games conducted within our Developmental Program. Out of Bounds decisions and fouls/goals should be determined by both coaches. Unless a foul is completely intentional (providing a coachable moment), allow the players to play uninterrupted. Remember, we are one club, one team, with one vision. The focus of these youth games is to instill a love for the game and to have fun while demonstrating their individual development. Your examples of sportsmanship will be reflected in your players.

THE LAWS OF FIFA SHALL GOVERN ALL SSC MATCHES EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN.