



Burbank AYSO Region 254

To: Under- 8 Division Coaches
From: Jose A. Perez, Regional Commissioner, Region 254
Subject: U-8 Rules for 2008 - 2009 Season

Welcome to the 2008/2009 season for the Under-8 Division. This is a non-competitive learning division. At all times, coaches and parents are expected to be encouraging and supportive of all players. The following are the applicable rules and information for the U08 Division.

1) FIELD

- a) The recommended dimensions for the Under-8 division are 50 yards long and 25 yards wide maximum. Our fields will vary in size depending on location.
- b) Markings - Distinctive lines recommended
- c) Halfway line the width of the field, marked equidistant between the goal lines.
- d) Center circle with a six-yard radius in the center of the field. Remember the receiving team must be 8 yards from the point of the kick.
- e) Corner arcs with a one-yard radius at each corner of the field.
- f) Goal area in front of each goal measuring 6 yards by 12 yards.
- g) Goals - six feet high and 18 feet wide.

2) THE BALL - Size 3

3) NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a) Maximum number of players on the field at any time: seven, including a goalkeeper.
- b) Maximum number of players on a roster: nine
- c) Substitutions occur between periods and at halftime.
- d) **NO PLAYER MAY PLAY FOUR PERIODS UNTIL EVERYONE HAS PLAYED THREE PERIODS.** If all team members are present on game day (9 players), no player may play four periods until everyone has played three periods.
- e) NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT.
- f) No Co-ed teams.
- g) If a team is short 2 or more players for the game (one team has 7 players ready on the field and the other team only has 5 total players), the coaches should have the players that would normally be substitutes, play on the opposing team. Just have them turn their shirts inside out or give them practice vests if they are available. The point of this division is to have fun and to let the children play

4) Player Equipment

- a) Footwear: Tennis shoes or rubber-cleated soccer shoes
- b) Shinguards: MANDATORY for all practices and games.

5) REFEREE- should be a

- a) certified adult referee
- b) certified youth referee
- c) coach

Each team will be required to referee 1/2 of each game. THERE IS NO COACHING PERMITTED WHILE ON THE FIELD AS A REFEREE. COACHES ARE THERE TO INSTRUCT **ALL PLAYERS** ON RULES. In the case where a youth referee or adult referee is refereeing the game, be sure your sidelines encourage them.

- d) Referees shall emphasize
 - i) Fun
 - ii) Fairness
 - iii) Safety
 - iv) Learning
- e) Referee decisions are final and must not be questioned by coaches.
- f) Certified U8 referees from your team should be encouraged to referee the touchline. They need only indicate when the ball has left the field of play and the direction it should return.

6) DURATION OF GAME – Games start ‘on the hour’ and are stopped at 10 minutes til the next hour. If your game starts late for any reason, it must still end at 10 til the hour.

- a) Four 10 - minute periods (Two 20-minute halves) THE CLOCK DOES NOT STOP FOR SUBSTITUTIONS AT THE QUARTER BREAK.
- b) If the Field monitor requests that the game be stopped because of time, do so immediately.
- c) Halftime break: 5 minutes.
- d) The Field Monitor or Regional official will stop the game if it is running behind schedule.

7) START OF PLAY No change from regular play except that opponents must be eight yards from the center mark while kick off is in progress.

8) BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

No change from regular play.

9) METHOD OF SCORING

No change from regular play

10) OFF-SIDE

Off-side may be called as an instructional measure. **Coaches are requested not to leave players in an offside position in front of an opponent’s goal.** This practice may also lead to ill will between teams and parents; therefore coaches are instructed to have their players play in an **onside** position. (An attacking player may not be any closer to an opponent's goal than the 2nd to last defender, except on a throw -in, corner kick or goal kick.) In other words, **NO "CHERRY PICKING"!!!**

11) FREE KICKS

- a) All free kicks will be DIRECT FREE KICKS.
- b) Opponents must retreat 8 yards from the ball during opponents' free kicks.
- c) Free kicks awarded the attacking team inside the defending team’s goal area should be taken from the nearest point on the goal area line in front of the goal. Defending team may stand on the goal line.

12) PENALTY KICKS

NO PENALTY KICKS. (See above; fouls in the goal area treated as indirect kicks)

13) THROW IN, GOAL KICK, AND CORNER KICK

No change from regular play.

14) GOAL KICK

No change from regular play.

15) CORNER KICK

No change from regular play except that opponents must be 8 yards from the ball.

16) CONDUCT OF COACHES AND SPECTATORS

- a) **Coaches are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their players and their spectators.**
- b) **Parents are to encourage players but may *not* coach or instruct players during the game.** If requested to stop by a field monitor or Regional official, parents must comply.
- c) Coaches are to encourage players and should minimize their instruction of players on the field during games. This should be their focus during practice times.
- d) **Spectators are NOT allowed behind either goal or within three yards outside the touchline. Spectators may not be behind the goal or behind the goal line.**
- e) IN THE EVENT OF AN INJURY ON THE FIELD, PARENTS **MAY NOT** ENTER THE FIELD OF PLAY UNLESS REQUESTED TO BY A COACH OR REFEREE.

As in all AYSO activities and activities that take place on Burbank Unified School District and City of Burbank Park property, no consumption of alcohol or tobacco products is allowed at practices or games. Tobacco consumption is ONLY permitted in park parking lots away from AYSO activities. Tobacco or alcohol consumption is not permitted on any Burbank Unified School District property.

General Instructions - Game Day

- 1) First teams scheduled for play on game days are responsible for setting up the goals. **Coaches should request that parents be on hand 45 minutes prior to the game to assist in setting up the goals.**
- 2) ***Game time WILL begin at the designated time REGARDLESS IF YOU ARE READY TO PLAY. THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD.*** Games must start and end on time because of the number of games. It is the responsibility of the coach to have the goals set up and the players present on time to start the game.
- 3) The last teams scheduled on a field are responsible for taking down the goals. Goals should be carefully lowered to the ground, NOT DROPPED. The goal nets must be put in their bag. The stakes and hammer must be put in their bag. The goals, net bags and corner flags must be returned to the container. **COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSING PIECES. GOALS ARE NOT TO BE DRAGGED ON THE GROUND. HAMMERS OF ANY TYPE ARE NOT TO BE USED ON GOAL FRAMES AT ANY TIME** It will require 2 or 3 adults to move the goals from the lockup container at Brace Park to the fields and to move the bags to the required locations at the end of the day.
- 4) Players are NOT allowed to assist in setting up goals. The major source of injury or death of players is caused by goal-related accidents.
- 5) Remember this is a non-competitive division – KEEP IT FUN.
- 6) **COACH OR TEAM MANAGER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THEIR MAIL SLOTS EACH WEEK.** This is how we communicate important information to coaches and teams. If you or your team misses out on something, it was probably because you did not check your mail slot. Division

Managers will be asking for e-mail addresses for all teams, as this is the most efficient way to communicate general information.

7) Although no official score is kept, if a team is leading by four (4) goals, coaches will need to make some changes. Some suggestions are to pull back your more skilled players or to work on passing skills and ball movement. The goal is to teach the basic skills.

8) This is a teaching division. If a player does a throw-in incorrectly, let them do it again. The point is for them to learn the fundamentals of soccer and to have fun. We are here as coaches and parents to make sure it is a positive and safe environment.

These rules are provided to clarify U-8 division specific rules for Region 254. All other rules pertaining to match play not covered in this document are covered by the Laws of The Game and the appropriate AYSO modifications and clarifications of those Laws, AYSO National Rules and Regulations, Standard Regional Guidelines, and the Region 254 Handbook.

Again, thank you for your time and effort. Let's make this season a positive one for everyone - players and volunteers.