

**EKYS A – Local Rules of Competition**  
**Adopted February 23, 2016 & Modified March 2023**

EKYS A U14 and older games shall abide by FIFA Laws of the game with the below exceptions for EKYS A Local Rules of Competition

EKYS A U10 and U12 games will follow FIFA Laws of the game (<http://www.ussoccer.com/referees/laws-of-the-game>) as modified by US Youth Soccer (<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/file.aspx?DocumentId=3656>) (<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/coaches/RulesSmallGames>), US Soccer Federation Player Development initiative ([https://static.ussdcc.com/users/148963/897090\\_eng-october2017pdi.pdf](https://static.ussdcc.com/users/148963/897090_eng-october2017pdi.pdf)), and these Local Rules of Competition.

**Law 1 – The Field**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p>Conform to US Youth Soccer Official Playing Recommendations</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Goals <b>must</b> be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.</p>	<p><b>Conform to US Youth Soccer Official Playing Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Goals <b>must</b> be anchored securely to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.</p>

**Law 2 – The Ball**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Size 4	<b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Size 4

**Law 3 – Number of Players**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<b>US Youth Soccer:</b> 7 players one of whom is the goal keeper. The maximum roster size for a U10 team is 14 players.	<b>US Youth Soccer:</b> 9 players one of whom is the goal keeper. The maximum roster size for a U12 team is 18 players.

- **Substitutions**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<b>US Youth Soccer:</b> At any stoppage and unlimited.	<b>US Youth Soccer:</b> At any stoppage and unlimited.

- **Playing Time –**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> - Each player <b>must</b> play at least half of the game.</p> <p><b>EKYSA:</b> Coaches are reminded that US Youth Soccer recommends that U10 teams should not have set keepers (e.g. multiple players should play keeper) and that players should not be limited to single positions.</p> <p>“Players must be exposed to playing all positions on the team through the U-14 age group. Versatility is a crucially important piece of player development. When players are pigeon holed into set positions too soon in playing soccer, the opportunity for well-rounded development is lost.” From US Youth Soccer Player Development Model curriculum – February 2012.</p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Each player <b>must</b> play at least half of the game.</p> <p><b>EKYSA:</b> Coaches are reminded that US Youth Soccer recommends that U12 teams should not have set keepers (e.g. multiple players should play keeper) and that players should not be limited to single positions.</p> <p>“Players must be exposed to playing all positions on the team through the U-14 age group. Versatility is a crucially important piece of player development. When players are pigeon holed into set positions too soon in playing soccer, the opportunity for well-rounded development is lost.” From US Youth Soccer Player Development Model curriculum – February 2012.</p>

**Law IV – Players’ Equipment**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams, <b>and</b></p> <p><b>EKYSA:</b> Shin guards, worn under the socks, are mandatory and molded round rubber cleats are <u>recommended</u> for most conditions.</p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams, <b>and</b></p> <p><b>EKYSA:</b> Shin guards, worn under the socks, are mandatory and molded round rubber cleats are <u>recommended</u> for most conditions.</p>

**Law V – The Referee**

U10	U12
<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Registered referee, especially Grade 9 or parent/coach or assistant coach. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player, and</p> <p><b>EKYS A:</b> In cases where no assigned referee shows up for a match, coaches will attempt to obtain a neutral party to act as referee. If no neutral party can be obtained for the entire match, coaches, assistants, or spectators from each team can alternate officiating the halves. Under no circumstances will any match have more than one center referee on the field at a time. If requested by the referee, each team shall provide a club linesman, usually a parent. Certified referees will notify the center referee if their children are in the match or they otherwise have a conflict of interest. Unless otherwise instructed by the center referee, they shall act as club linesmen and not as Assistant Referees for that match <b>(From EKYS A Match Protocol Spring 2004), and:</b></p> <p>Misconduct of spectators or coaches that affects the game should be handled early. EKYS A official personnel witnessing such misconduct or unruly behavior should actively support referees and others. Where it is safe to do so, they should tactfully approach the offender before the situation gets out of hand. Serious misconduct shall be reported to the Board. Should a spectator(s) become unruly, abusive, or unsporting to the extent that it affects the match, the referee may stop the match and confer with opposing coaches. If deemed necessary by the referee, the coaches will ask the offending spectator(s) to leave the field. If the offender fails to leave, the referee will terminate the match. Sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or other unsporting</p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Registered referee, and</p> <p><b>EKYS A:</b> In cases where no assigned referee shows up for a match, coaches will attempt to obtain a neutral party to act as referee. If no neutral party can be obtained for the entire match, coaches, assistants, or spectators from each team can alternate officiating the halves. Under no circumstances will any match have more than one center referee on the field at a time. If requested by the referee, each team shall provide a club linesman, usually a parent. Certified referees will notify the center referee if their children are in the match or they otherwise have a conflict of interest. Unless otherwise instructed by the center referee, they shall act as club linesmen and not as Assistant Referees for that match <b>(From EKYS A Match Protocol Spring 2004), and:</b></p> <p>Misconduct of spectators or coaches that affects the game should be handled early. EKYS A official personnel witnessing such misconduct or unruly behavior should actively support referees and others. Where it is safe to do so, they should tactfully approach the offender before the situation gets out of hand. Serious misconduct shall be reported to the Board. Should a spectator(s) become unruly, abusive, or unsporting to the extent that it affects the match, the referee may stop the match and confer with opposing coaches. If deemed necessary by the referee, the coaches will ask the offending spectator(s) to leave the field. If the offender fails to leave, the referee will terminate the match. Sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or other unsporting</p>

behavior directed at the referee by coaches or players may result in the referee asking the offending person(s) to leave the field. If no responsible adult can assume coaching responsibilities, the referee shall suspend the match. At the referee's discretion, coaches may politely and constructively ask at halftime or after the match for an explanation of a ruling. Negative criticism of a youth referee expressed publicly by coaches, referees, or other league officials will not be tolerated. In addition to counseling the offender, EKYSA official personnel witnessing such conduct shall report it to the EKYSA board in a timely manner.

**And**

- After appropriate warning and refusal to comply with this warning, the Referee has the right to direct the coach and/or assistant coach to leave the area of play, should they, in the opinion of the Referee, be affecting the game.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, harassment, or any other act directed toward the Referee will be considered as affecting the game: If both coach and Assistant coach(es) are asked to leave the field of play after appropriate warning, the
- Referee shall suspend the game unless a responsible adult can assume coaching responsibilities.
- Should the spectators become unruly, the game will be stopped, opposing coaches and referees will consult and spectators will be asked to maintain order. If, in the opinion of the referee, order is not restored, the game will be terminated.
- A player or coach ejected from a game for any reason shall be suspended for one (1) additional game. The appropriate administrative body may take further disciplinary action.

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- A player or coach ejected from a game for any reason shall be suspended for one (1) additional game. The appropriate administrative body may take further disciplinary action.

**Law VI – Assistant Referee/Linesman**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Assistant Referees are not required. May use club linesmen if desired.</p> <p><b>EKYS A</b> Club linesmen shall ONLY call in and out and signal the direction of the throw-in. Club linesmen may cheer their team but should do no coaching. <b>(From EKYS A Match Protocol Spring 2004)</b></p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Use U.S.S.F. registered referees or club linesmen/women.</p> <p><b>EKYS A</b> Club linesmen shall ONLY call in and out and signal the direction of the throw-in. Club linesmen may cheer their team but should do no coaching. <b>(From EKYS A Match Protocol Spring 2004)</b></p>

**Law VII – Duration of the Game**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p>Two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.</p> <p><b>EKYS A:</b> On hot days and/or if a team has limited subs, coaches can agree to play quarters with short water break between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.</p>	<p>Two (2) halves of thirty (30) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.</p> <p><b>EKYS A:</b> On hot days and/or if a team has limited subs, coaches can agree to play quarters with short water break between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.</p>

**Law VIII – Start and Restart of Play**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play. Note: As per FIFA, kick off are direct.</p> <p><b>EKYS A:</b> Teams are allowed one “do over” per kick off. If a player taking the kick-off touches the ball again before it has touched another player</p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play. Note: As per FIFA, kick off are direct.</p>

<p>(an infringement that normally results in an indirect free to the opposing team), the referee should stop play, explain the one touch rule and allow a “do over.” Teams are allowed one do over per kickoff. Note: Per FIFA’s laws of the game, any other infringement of the kickoff procedure (e.g. ball does not move forward when kicked, the ball is kicked before the whistle, players on the wrong half of field, etc.) results in the kickoff being retaken. Therefore, these situations should not be considered a “do over” and therefore aren’t limited to one “do over” per kickoff.</p>	
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**Law IX – Ball In and Out of Play**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
Conform to FIFA.	Conform to FIFA.

**Law X – Method of Scoring**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
Conform to FIFA.	Conform to FIFA.

**Law XI– Offside**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<b>US Youth Soccer:</b> None	Conform to FIFA.

**Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct.**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p>Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:</p> <p><b>Kentucky Youth Soccer Heading Policy and Player Development Initiative</b>                      Players are prohibited from deliberately heading the ball during completion (and training). If a player deliberately heads the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the infringement. If infringement occurs within the goal area, indirect kick should be taken from the goal area line closest to the spot of infringement.</p> <p>Goalkeepers are prohibited from punting the ball. If the goalkeeper punts the ball an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team and should be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.</p> <p><b>EKYSA –</b>                      Slide tackling is <b>not</b> allowed at U10 and referees shall, as a minimum, apply the Law 12 criteria for playing in a dangerous manner. Law 12 otherwise applies and certain factors may dictate a more severe penalty. (From EKYSA Match Protocol Spring 2004)</p> <p>All free kicks awarded due to fouls or misconduct shall be indirect.</p> <p>No penalty kicks, instead an indirect free kick shall be awarded. If the foul occurs inside the goal area, the ball shall be placed on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred</p>	<p>Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions:</p> <p><b>Kentucky Youth Soccer Heading Policy and Player Development Initiative</b>                      Players are prohibited from deliberately heading the ball during completion (and training). If a player deliberately heads the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the infringement. If infringement occurs within the goal area, indirect kick should be taken from the goal area line closest to the spot of infringement.</p> <p><b>EKYSA –</b>                      Slide tackling is <b>not</b> allowed at U12 and referees shall, as a minimum, apply the Law 12 criteria for playing in a dangerous manner. Law 12 otherwise applies and certain factors may dictate a more severe penalty. (From EKYSA Match Protocol Spring 2004)</p> <p>A goalkeeper is not allowed to score directly on punt or drop kick. If the ball enters the opponents goal directly (i.e. is not touched by another player from either team) from the punt or drop kick, the ball shall be returned to the keeper for a “do over.”</p>

<p>Yellow and red cards will not be issued for misconduct. Referees and coaches will work together to correct any misconduct. In the event of violent or serious misconduct (e.g. fighting, profanity laced verbal rant, serious foul play that injured or could have injured a player) referees have the right to remove a player from the game.</p>	
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**Law XIII – Free Kicks**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball, <b>and</b></p> <p><b>EKYSA</b> All free kicks awarded due to foul or misconduct shall be indirect.</p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.</p>

**Law XI – Penalty Kicks**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p><b>EKYSA:</b> No penalty kicks, instead an indirect free kick shall be awarded. If the foul occurs inside the goal area, the ball shall be placed on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred</p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten (10) yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark.</p>



**Law XV – Throw-in**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
Conform to FIFA.  <b>EKYS A:</b> Players are given 1 “do over” if they commit an incorrect throw-in (e.g. not over the head).	Conform to FIFA.

**Law XVI – Goal Kick**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<b>EKYS A:</b> Conform to FIFA except that teams shall be given one “do over” per goal kick. If the player taking the goal kick touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player (commonly called a “double touch”), the referee should explain the proper goal kick procedure and allow a “do over.” Teams are allowed one do over per goal kick. <b>NOTE:</b> FIFA laws stipulate that a goal kick is not in play until the ball leaves the penalty area. Therefore, if a ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area (e.g. the ball stops before leaving the area, or the ball is touched by another player from either team prior to leaving the penalty area), the kick is retaken. Thus, these situations should not be considered a “do over” and therefore are not limited to one “do over” per goal kick.	Conform to FIFA.

**Law XVII – Corner Kick**

<b>U10</b>	<b>U12</b>
<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play, <b>and</b></p> <p><b>EKYS:</b> Teams shall be given one “do over” per corner kick. If the player taking the corner kick touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player (commonly called a “double touch”), the referee should explain the proper corner kick procedure and allow a “do over.” Teams are allowed one do over per corner kick. <b>NOTE:</b> FIFA laws stipulate that all other infringements of corner kick procedure (e.g. ball not in corner arc, corner flag is moved) result in the corner kick being retaken. Thus, these situations should not be considered a “do over” and therefore are not limited to one “do over” per corner kick.</p>	<p><b>US Youth Soccer:</b> Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards away from the ball until it is in play.</p>

**Table Summary of EKYSA  
Soccer Regulations**

	<b>U19</b>	<b>U14</b>	<b>U12</b>	<b>U10</b>	<b>U8</b>
Range Field Length	100-120 yd	100-120 yd	70-80 yd	55-65yd	25-35 yd
Field Width Range	55-80 yd	55-80 yd	45-55 yd	35-45 yd	15-25 yd
Recommended Goal Size	8x24'	8x24'	7x21'	6.5x18.5'	4x6'
Ball Size	5	5	4	4	3
Time	45 min x2	35 min x2	30 min x2	25 min x2	8-10 min x4
Break Time	10 min	10 min	5 min	5 min	5 min
# Players	11	11	9	7	5
Roster Size	22	22	18	14	10
Borrowed Players*	Full +2	Full +2	Full +2	Full +2	Full +2
Offsides	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Deliberate Heading**	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Goal Kick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	General area
GK Punting/Drop Kick	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Safe Slide Tackling	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Penalty Kick	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Substitutions	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Do overs***	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Build Out Line	No	No	No	TBD	TBD

\* Can Borrow age appropriate players (same age group or playing up temporarily) from other teams up to the number needed to play + 2 bench players. Playing priority should be given to primary members of the team. If a player plays up an age group on a regular basis, other than to fill a team that is short on players temporarily, they cannot play back down during the season. Players can only play up one level above their age appropriate group. U14 age players cannot play up to U19 team.

\*\* Only U14 and up will be allowed to deliberately head in a game. U12 and below should not deliberately head in a game or practice/training. In a controlled and individual environment (where heading is an isolated skill being taught away from any form of opposition or other aspects of the game), the use of lightweight balls (foam, balloon, etc.) would be acceptable for teaching heading technique

\*\*\* U10 and below are allowed one do over with instructions on improper throw ins, as well as for kick offs, corner kicks and goal kicks that are double touched by the player or done incorrectly.