FredCo Juniors 2012 Soccer League Rules

***modified from US Youth Soccer**

Field of Play: dimensions are smaller to accommodate the six versus-six game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of eight- and nine-year-old children. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful.

Field Markings: each park field may be different but all fields are appropriately sized for U10 play

Goals: the goal, 6 x 18 feet, is the same for the U10 and U12 age groups. By using the same size goal for both age groups clubs will have to buy fewer goals. If portable – pop-up goals are used; no goalie will be allowed for either team.

Ball: must be a size four for game play. The smaller ball is lighter and more easily kicked, received, dribbled and passed.

Number of Players: coaches should strive for 4v4 game play. However, if this is not possible 3v3 can be played. The smaller number of field players will provide the opportunity for the children to further develop their physical and technical abilities. These are valuable traits for all soccer players to develop. With fewer players on the field each child has an increased number of contacts with the ball and has more actual playing time. Additionally the players will be required to make more decisions and experience repeating game situations more frequently. The work rate and involvement of players will be more consistent. While learning both offense and defense, players will become well rounded and will understand more readily the roles and importance of teammates. The need for the players to make the mental and physical transition from offense to defense and vice-versa will be enhanced in this playing environment.
The minimum number of players to begin a match for 9+ shall be 4 on the field. There should not be a minimum for the 7-8 yr age group. Administrators, coaches and referees should be encouraged to allow players from the team with sufficient numbers to 'loan' a player or two to the team that is short players and then PLAY.

The Referee: this league will be using Coach/Ref. Both coaches can be on the field during game play and mutually call the game. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Parent Assistants: parents can be used to assist officiating and as linesmen

Duration of the Match: 20 minute halves with running clock for both

The Start and Restart of Play: per FIFA. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle.

Goal Scored: shall conform to FIFA and the sections concerning Winning Team and Competition Rules shall conform to US Youth Soccer Guidelines.

Offside: there shall be no offside called during these games.

Goalkeeper: Only used where/when permanent goals are used**.** The rule on the goalkeeper's distribution still allows for the ball to be punted the entire length of the field, it just can not go directly into the opponents' penalty area

Free Kicks: per FIFA. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle.

Penalty Kick: conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is eight yards from the center of the goal line and those players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight yards from the penalty mark. The distance of eight yards conforms to the radius of the center circle. The distance of eight yards from the center of the goalmouth for the penalty mark fits within the reduced dimensions of the penalty area and is a reasonable distance for the kick.

Corner Kick: per FIFA. The distance the defending players must be away from the ball until it is kicked is the same as the radius of the center circle.

Roster Size: Recommended minimum – 7 players / maximum – 10 players

Playing Time: A minimum of at least 50% playing time is required.

Scores / Standings: Scores will be recorded but not posted. Only standings will be kept. – this a recreational, beginner/instructional league.

ADVANTAGES OF PLAYING SMALL SIDED GAMES

_More time with the coach
_Energetic workouts due to playing both offense and defense
_More efficient use of field space
_Matches can be played simultaneously across a full size field
_Children are physically more efficient in smaller space
_Children are actively involved for a longer period of time
_It takes less time to score a goal or advance to goal
_Greater success rate for the players

US Youth Soccer Recommendations

- Opposing coaches, players and parents should shake hands after each match.
- Parent/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Spectator and team benches should be on opposite sides of the field.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be consumed or allowed near the playing area. Opposing parent/coaches and players should shake hands after each match.
- No slide tackles to be allowed in this age group.