

**PWSI MODIFICATIONS TO
FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME
U5 - U12
FALL 2007 SEASON**

Soccer's [Laws of the Game](#) (LOTG) are established maintained by The Fédération Internationale de Football Association, or [FIFA](#). Additional guidance on the application of the LOTG may be found on the [Laws of the Game](#) page at the [U.S. Soccer Federation](#).

Because the Laws are written for adult, or senior, matches, they may be modified by local clubs in their application for players under 16 years of age, for women, for people over 35 years of age, and for players with disabilities.

PWSI will adhere to all FIFA Laws of the Game except for those modifications listed in the narrative below (organized by the Laws of the Game) and summarized in the attachment entitled, "Summary Table of PWSI Modified Rules for the House Program, U5-U12."

The Field of Play (Law I)

General: Smoking is not permitted in the proximity of any Prince William County Park Authority (PWCPA) Soccer Fields. No dogs or other animals are permitted on PWCPA fields at any time. The following field sizes will be employed by age group:

U5/U6	20x30
U7	30x40
U8	45x60
U9	45x60
U10	45x60
U12	55x75

For U7-U10: Coaches and players of opposing teams must occupy opposite sides of the field unless otherwise determined and approved by the House Commissioner (please see the special rules for the Jim Claffey Field (**U12**) below). The home team has the choice of field side. Parents are required to occupy the side with their child's team. If they have another child playing on a nearby field, they may watch from the opposing side, provided they do nothing more than watch the match.

During the match, coaches, substitutes and spectators shall not be closer than three yards from the touchline. On smaller fields where this is not possible coaches, substitutes and spectators should be no closer than one yard from the touchline.

Coaches, substitutes and spectators shall also remain between the tops of the penalty areas. No one should be between the top of the penalty area and the goal line and behind the goals and goal line during a match.

Jim Claffey Field Rules of Use

These rules are for the Jim Claffey Field (JCF) at Howison Park.

- ❑ Only turf shoes, sneakers, or molded cleats are allowed on the turf field.
- ❑ No food or drink other than water is allowed on the FieldTurf surface. In particular, no chewing gum or sunflower seeds are allowed. Food and drink other than water has the potential to block the drainage system and reduce the life of the turf.
- ❑ All spectators shall remain a minimum of 3 yards from the boundaries of the playing field. Only chairs with blunt leg tips or protective “feet” (no pointed ends) are allowed on the turf surface. Under no circumstances shall chairs or other object which can damage the turf be placed on the playing field.
- ❑ No littering – please pick up all trash after games or practice and place in a trash receptacle for disposal. This is, of course, true for all fields and not just JCF.
- ❑ For small sided matches on JCF, teams and their coaches (only) occupy the same touchline on the interior of the full size field, i.e., along the temporary painted/chalked line. All spectators can view the match from the opposite touchline, i.e., along the permanent sewn-in goal line of the full-size field.

The Ball (Law II)

The team designated as “Home” is responsible for providing the game ball. This includes ensuring the ball is properly inflated and free of defects (e.g., nicks, cuts, tears, etc.) that could present a hazard to players.

Number of Players (Law III)

For U8 – U12: Rosters must be supplied to the referee. A roster must at least contain the players’ names & uniform numbers and the team officials’ names.

The minimum number of players (including goaltenders) to begin and continue a game and the maximum number of players on the field at any time are shown in the following table:

LEAGUE	U8	U9	U10	U12
Minimum	4	5	6	7
Maximum	4*	6*	7*	8*

* A team trailing by five or more may add one player beyond the maximum. A team trailing by six or more may add a second player beyond the maximum. Once the deficit is cut below these amounts, the extra player(s) must come off the field.

If a team does not have the minimum number of players, teams are welcomed to scrimmage during the scheduled game time and players can be loaned to the team not meeting the minimum number of players. When a team is deficient in players the match is technically abandoned and the referee is released from his assignment. However, referees are strongly encouraged to referee scrimmages.

When a team has less than the maximum number of players on the field, a player may enter the field of play during any stoppage, or during the course of play with the referee's permission. This is not a substitution.

Substitutions:

Substitutes must stand off of the field at the midfield stripe so they can be recognized as such by the Referee. When substitutions are made players must come off of the field first, then the substitutes can come on the field when signaled by the Referee. Coaches may use varying techniques to ensure this procedure is followed such as substitutes handing pennies to the players they are replacing as they come off the field.

The opportunity to substitute players during the match will be as follows¹:

- Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession. If the team in possession requests a substitution, then both teams can sub if they are ready at the midfield line.
- Prior to a goal kick by either team
- After a goal by either team
- At half-time or quarter break by either team
- After a player has been cautioned²; or
- After an injury³.

¹ For U5-U6 substitutions may be made at any stoppage in play.

² A youth player who is cautioned (yellow card) shall be substituted during the stoppage in play. At this point, the opposing team may also substitute for one player. The cautioned player may reenter the match at the next substitution opportunity for his/her team. No substitutions by either team will be allowed if a player is ejected (red card or second yellow card).

³ If the referee stops play for an injury, the injured player must leave the field regardless if they are able to continue to play. However, the injured player does not need to be replaced but can return to the match after play has been restarted with the referee's permission. The opposing team may also make one substitution.

Player's Equipment (Law IV)

Shin guards are required for all players and must be worn **under** the socks.

No metal or alloy studs shall be allowed in any games. Only turf shoes, sneakers, or molded cleats are allowed on the Jim Claffey Field turf field.

In addition to the regular uniform, players are permitted to wear clothing which is appropriate to weather conditions, provided that:

- Pants are worn over uniform shorts;
- Warmer shirts are worn under the uniform jersey;
- The colors of these clothes do not lead to confusion with the uniforms worn by other players in the game; and

The LOTG explain that a player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). Further examples of such items are wooden, plastic, and metal hair ornaments; piercings; and any other items a Referee deems unsafe. Bracelets documenting a player's medical condition is permissible at younger ages if the bracelet is kept under a sweatband or taped down and does not present a danger to other players.

Referees (Law V)

PWSI does not use referees at the U5-U7 level. The U8-U10 levels have one solo Referee.

Referees are to do all they can to ensure games are kept on schedule so as not to affect other games later in the day.

The Center Referee must complete a game report for each match through the [Arbiter](#). The report must include all cautions, ejections, players sitting out, and any other pertinent game information such as game suspensions and terminations.

Duration of the Game (Law VII)

For leagues that play quarters, the Referee, using where possible a normal stoppage, (e.g. goal-kick, throw-in, etc.) will stop play as close to the quarter mark as possible. This is completely under the control of the Referee.

NOTE: Play shall begin as close to the termination of the break period as possible to maintain the days match schedules.

No overtime or other tie-breaking procedure shall be used in regular league games.

The duration of games shall be as follows:

LEAGUE	NUMBER OF PERIODS	PERIOD TYPE	PERIOD DURATION (minutes)	HALF-TIME BREAK (minutes)	QUARTER BREAK (minutes)
U5-U6	FOUR	QUARTERS	8	5	2
U7-U8	FOUR	QUARTERS	12	5	2
U9-U10	TWO	HALVES	25	5	-
U12	TWO	HALVES	30	5	-
U14	TWO	HALVES	35	5	-
U16	TWO	HALVES	40	5	-
U19	TWO	HALVES	45	5	-

The Start of Play (Law VIII)

For U5-U6 and U7-U8 levels: In the second or fourth quarter, the game shall restart according to how the first or third quarter ended with a normal stoppage in play, be it a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, etc. In other words, this will not be a kickoff unless play was stopped after a goal was scored. If the game was halted in the course of its flow, the game shall restart by a dropped ball where the ball was when the play ended.

Offside (Law XI)

The offside rule shall not be enforced for U5-U10 levels. However, a coach who deliberately places a player in an obvious offside position can be sanctioned for unsporting behavior (caution/yellow card). At the U5-U7 levels, coaches should report this behavior to the League Director for clarification and resolution.

Fouls and Misconduct (Law XII)

For U5 through U7: A player who commits a foul should be taken aside by his or her coach to discuss why this is not appropriate behavior. The coaches involved in the game may use this as a learning opportunity for all of the kids on the field and explain why this behavior is not permitted. If a player commits persistent infractions, then it may be appropriate to substitute for that player to provide a coach or parent the opportunity to discuss the player's behavior before allowing him/her to reenter the game.

For U5 through U8: For safety reasons, slide tackling is not permitted in the U5-U8 age groups. Slide tackling is an attempt by a defender to take the ball away from a ball carrier by sliding on the ground feet-first into the ball. In these instances a coach or referee on the field should explain what slide tackling is and why it is not permitted. When slide tackling attempts occur, an indirect kick for the opposing team should be taken from the point of the infraction.

For U8 through U12: A player who is cautioned (yellow card) shall be substituted immediately so the coach can discuss the infraction with the player. At this point, the opposing team may also substitute. The cautioned player may re-enter the game at the next substitution opportunity. At the U08 level, referees are instructed *not* to display cards to players. If a player commits an act which would otherwise result in a caution, the referee may instruct the coach to remove the player and discuss why this is not appropriate behavior.

Players: A player that is sent off (red card) may remain on the sideline with their team to watch the remainder of the match unless, in the referee's opinion, doing so is disruptive to the game.

Coaches and Spectators: A coach or spectator who is ejected must leave the vicinity of the playing fields immediately. If the person refuses to leave the field, the referee may terminate the match and a loss will be recorded for the offending team.

Free Kick (Law XIII)

For leagues playing on fields smaller than a full-sized field, the distance the opponent must be from the ball prior to a free-kick, or any other such circumstances as defined in the LOTG, may be less than ten (10) yards. The referee may use the radius of the circle at mid-field as a guideline.

For U5-U8: All free kicks shall be indirect, **including the Kick-off**. For free kicks awarded to the attacking team within the penalty area, play shall restart with an indirect free kick at a point on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Penalty Kick (Law XIV)

For U5-U8: There shall be no penalty kicks. Instead of a penalty kick, play shall restart with an indirect free kick at a point on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Throw-in (Law XV)

For U5-U6: Kick-ins are taken for this age group. Coaches may have their players retake the kick-ins if performed improperly (e.g. the ball does not come into play or the player kicking the ball in touches the ball before another player does in the field). Defenders should maintain a reasonable distance from the player performing the kick-in.

For U7: Use of throw-ins or kick-ins is at the coaches' discretion as many U7 players are prepared to perform throw-ins at this level. Coaches will discuss the use of throw-ins prior to game start and determine which method will be used. Coaches are encouraged to have players retake improper throw-ins until they are performed properly.

For U8: If a player improperly performs a throw-in (i.e., free-kick, goal-kick, corner-kick, etc.), coaches and referees are encouraged to explain why it was improper. The team shall be permitted to retake the throw-in or kick restart until it is performed properly. Defenders shall maintain a four yard distance from the player performing the throw-in.

For U9-U12: If a player improperly performs a throw-in, the referee will award the throw-in to the opposing team. Defenders shall maintain a four yard distance from the player performing the throw-in.

Goal Kick (Law XVI)

For U5-U7: The ball shall be kicked into play from any point within the goal area (the goal area is the interior box closest to the goal). Opponents must be outside the penalty area (the larger box that includes the goal area) and five (5) yards from the ball prior to it being kicked. Teammates may remain in the penalty area, but cannot touch the ball once kicked until it clears the penalty area. The ball must leave the penalty area to be considered in-play. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

If a player improperly performs a goal kick, coaches and referees are encouraged to explain why it was improper. The team shall be permitted to retake the goal kick until it is performed properly.

For U8-U12: The ball shall be kicked into play from any point within the goal area (the goal area is the interior box closest to the goal). Opponents must be outside the penalty area (the larger box that includes the goal area). Teammates may remain in the penalty area, but cannot touch the ball once kicked until it clears the penalty area. The ball must leave the penalty area to be considered in play. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

Corner Kick (Law XVII)

For U5-U7: Players can score directly from a Corner Kick. If the ball does not come into play during corner kicks, players should be provided an opportunity to a kick restart. Defending players should provide at least a reasonable distance from the kicker during the corner kick.

For U8: Players can score directly from a Corner Kick. Defending players should provide at least a five yard distance from the kicker.

For U9-U12: In determining the proper distance for defenders from the kicker, the referee may use the radius of the circle at mid-field as a guideline.

**Summary of PWSI Modified Rules for
The House Program, U5-U12**

The current FIFA “Laws of the Game” will be applied during all PWSI games except as noted below.

LAW I – The Field #	U5/U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U12
A. Field Size (yds):	20x25	30X35	30X35	40X50	40x60	50x70
C. Goals (ft):	3x6	4x6	4x9	12x6	18x6	18x6
LAW II – The Ball	Size 3	Size 3	Size 3	Size 4	Size 4	Size 4
LAW III – No. Players						
A. On field	4	4	4	6	7	8
B. Substitutions (must enter at center field)	Any Stoppage	SYE **	SYE **	SYE **	SYE **	SYE **
C. Goalkeeper	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
D. Roster size	8	8	8	10	10	12
LAW IV – Players Equipment						
A. Shoes	Cleats *** Tennis shoes allowed	Cleats *** Tennis shoes allowed	Cleats *** Tennis shoes allowed	Cleats *** Tennis shoes allowed	Cleats *** Tennis shoes allowed	Cleats *** Tennis shoes allowed
B. Home Uniform Jersey/socks	Multi-colored	Red/Red	Red/Red	Red/Red	Red/Red	Red/Red
C. Away Uniform	Same	White/ Black	White/ Black	White/ Black	White/ Black	White/ Black
LAW VII – Game Duration	4x8	4x12	4x12	2x25	2x25	2x30

	U5/U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U12
LAW XI – Offside	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
LAW XII – Slide Tackling	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
LAW XIV – PK’s	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
LAW XV – Throw-in	Kick-in	Kick-in ****	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

LAW I – The Field. All dimensions are approximate and may be adjusted to accommodate the specific facilities (goals, fields) that are available to PWSI.

* A trailing team that is down by 5 or more goals may at the discretion of the coach add an additional player. Coaches should inform referees and opposing coaches that they are adding additional players.

** SYE (Standard Youth Exceptions)

1. Prior to a throw-in by the team in possession. If the team in possession requests a substitution, then both teams can sub if they are ready at the midfield line
2. Prior to a goal kick by either team
3. After a goal by either team
4. At half-time or quarter break by either team
5. After a player has been cautioned; or
6. After an injury

*** Metal cleats are not permitted. Baseball or multi-purpose shoes will not be worn unless they are modified by removing the toe cleat. Please refer to Modified Rules narrative for rules applicable to Jim Claffey Field.

**** The use of throw-ins at the U7 level is at the coaches’ discretion. Coaches should determine prior to game start as to whether they will employ kick-ins or throw-ins.