

## **SCCYSC U8 Rules (Club-Modified Rules For Under 8)**

Licensed Referees are assigned to U-8 GAMES.

**PREPARATION:** Teams should arrive at least 20 minutes before game time. The referee will check equipment for safety. Shoes should be soccer cleats, turf shoes, or tennis shoes. No baseball shoes. No earrings or hard hair barrettes. Socks are outside shin guards, not inside and pulled over the shin guards, shirts are tucked in, and shoelaces are double tied. Home team provides the ball. Visitors call coin toss. Winner chooses the goal they will attack. **START GAME PROMPTLY**

### **THE GAME:**

- 6 players per side (5 + Goalie)
- Ball size: # 3
- Goal size: 6 feet high x 12 feet wide (Pending)
- Game duration: two 20 minute halves. 5 minute halftime.
- **New in 2016: On kick off the ball can go in any direction (even backwards)**
- **New in 2016: NO INTENTIONAL HEADERS, if in the opinion of the referee the player intentionally headed the ball an Indirect free kick will be awarded at the spot of the foul**
- Do not call offside.
- Unintentional handballs play on.
- Allow re-throws for bad throw-ins. Remind players how to do it properly.
- No slide tackling, pushing, or tripping. Stop play, explain the foul, and award free kick where the foul occurred, but no closer than the goal box line.
- All free kicks are INDIRECT (ball must touch any second player before a goal counts).
- Goal kick: can be taken from anywhere in the goal box.
- Corner kick: any offensive player from anywhere inside the corner arc. At any kick, the players must be at least 6 yards away.
- Stop play for injuries with the clock running. Substituted players may return at the sub breaks. Restart play with a drop ball (a ball dropped from waist high; it must touch the ground before players can kick it!) from where the ball was when the whistle blew.
- Coaches and players should, at all times, be on the opposite side of the field as the parents and spectators.
- Coaches, parents and spectators are not permitted near the goals.
- Parents and Coaches should stay 3 feet back from the side line. Encourage coaches to observe from midline.

### **COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Remember that this is a Recreational Division and NOT a Competition Division.
- **Play all eligible players equally and require that parents maintain a pleasant atmosphere.**
- Create a positive experience of team sports for non-athletic players and families - "Participation" not "Wins".

### **END OF GAME:**

- Help players maintain good sportsmanship--win or lose.
- Watch for gloating or other unkind comments between players after the game.
- Please THANK THE REFEREES and the other team for their time and encourage your players and parents to do the same.
- PACK TRASH OUT--EVEN ORGANIC TRASH (orange peels)!