

## **2009 Corcoran Soccer U10 Small-Sided Playing Recommendations**

### **Purpose**

This document provides the Corcoran Soccer recommended modifications to the 17 basic “Laws” of soccer as established by FIFA (*Fédération Internationale de Football Association*). Both coaches and parents should read and understand these modifications.

*FIFA Laws of the Game can be found at their web site [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com).*

Additional recommendations are found in the “Other” section at the end of this document.

### **Law 1 – The Field of Play:**

**Minimum:** 35 yards width, 45 yards length, **Maximum:** 45 yards width, 60 yards length

**Field Markings:** Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

**The Goal Area:** Conform to FIFA.

**The Penalty Area:** A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

**Flagposts:** Conform to FIFA

**The Corner Arc:** Conforms to FIFA.

**Goals:** Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line.

*2009 U10 Corcoran Soccer fields will be approximately 33 yards wide x 63 yards long (100' x 190'). This is slightly narrower and longer than recommended.*

*The Field of Play: dimensions are smaller to accommodate the 6 versus 6 game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of nine and ten year old children. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful.*

*Field Markings: the penalty area is marked, but is smaller than the adult field size penalty area and within the penalty area is the penalty mark which is four yards shorter than the adult size field marking. The center circle is two yards smaller in radius than the adult size field marking. All other markings are per FIFA.*

*Current U10 Corcoran Soccer goals are either 6-½' x 10-½', constructed of white 2" PVC piping, or aluminum 6-1/2' x 12' Kwik goals.*

### **Law 2 – The Ball: Size four (4).**

*The smaller ball is lighter and more easily kicked, received, dribbled and passed.*

### **Law 3 – The Number of Players:**

Each match [game] is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than \*\* six (6) players including the goalkeeper. A game may not start if a team consists of fewer than five (5) players.

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time. Teams and games will be co-ed.

*The Number of Players: the six-a-side game \*\* now includes the goalkeeper. 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.*

**Coaches are encouraged to allow players from a team with sufficient numbers to 'loan' a player or two to a team that is short players and then PLAY.**

**\*\* For 2009, there are 6 teams with 9-10 players per team. Recommendation is that games be played with 6v6, 5v5 or 4v4, including goalkeeper, dependent upon the available number of players and with agreement of both coaches.**

**Law 4 – The Players Equipment:**

Generally conforms to FIFA and comprises the following:

- Jersey or shirt (Team t-shirt will be provided early in the season)
- Shorts
- Well-fitting Shin Guards
- Tall Socks (must completely cover the Shin Guards)
- Soccer shoes; recommended, but not required.

[Baseball cleats are not allowed; they have a cleat at the toe.]

**Law 5 – The Referee:** A registered referee shall be used on game nights. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

**Law 6 – The Assistant Referees:** Not required.

**Law 7 – The Duration of the Game [Match]:** The match shall be divided into two (2) equal eighteen (18) minute halves. There shall be a half-time interval of four (4) minutes. [~40 minutes total]

*The duration will allow two games to be played during Thursday game night. Coaches may make the halves shorter in duration if necessary or switch to quarters.*

**Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play:** Conform to FIFA, with the exception of the opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 9** – The Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 10** – The Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA.

*However, No score or standings should be kept.*

**Law 11** – Offside: there shall be no offside called for this age group.

**Law 12** – Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponents penalty area. The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player. No cards shown for misconduct.

*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.*

*Fouls and Misconduct: no caution or send off shall be issued to players. If a player is being too rambunctious then the supervising parent or coach official will make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play.*

**Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that all opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball. This should keep the game flowing and keep the attention of the kids.

**Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that the penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

**Law 15** – The Throw-In: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 16** – The Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA.

**Law 17** – The Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents remain at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

Misc:

- 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.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be consumed or allowed near the playing area.
- No slide tackles to be allowed in this age group.

Jamboree:

The season-end Jamboree will feature three games with no elimination and no ultimate winner. The Jamboree creates an atmosphere of enjoyment, stemming from the fun of participation in the game and allowing play to be the center of the experience. Coaching during the Jamboree consists of positive comments about the player's efforts and cheering. Fans cheer for the players on both teams.

In the middle of the Jamboree, play will be suspended for a group photo including all players, coaches, and referees.

Advantages of Playing Small-Sided Games:

- More time with the coach/facilitator
- Energetic workouts due to playing both offense and defense
- More efficient use of field space
- 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

<b>Revision History</b>		
<b>Revision</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>Date</b>
01	Preliminary Release Majority of material obtained from US Youth Soccer Web Site	15-June-2007
02	Modified to reflect 2007 conditions	10-July-2007
03	Modified to reflect 2007 team sizes	30-Jul- 2007
04	Updated with 2008 information	30-July-2008
05	Updated with 2009 information	9-July-2009