

## **2009 Corcoran Soccer U12&14 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**

**Length:** minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards, Width: minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards

**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, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) 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 ten (10) 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:** Conform to FIFA.

**Goals:** Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

*2007 U12&14 Corcoran Soccer fields will be approximately 40 yards wide x 80 yards long (120' x 240'), slightly narrower than recommended.*

*Field Markings: per FIFA with the exception of the center circle, penalty area, penalty mark and penalty arc.*

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

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

**Law 3 – The Number of Players:** A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than eight \*\* players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than six players.

The eight a side game 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 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 smaller field dimensions and number of players on the field of play will require more concentration on transition, which is a vitally important tactical concept for the players to learn. **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.**

**\*\* For 2009, there are 4 teams with 11 kids per team. Recommendation is that games be played with 7v7, 6v6, or 5v5, including goalkeeper, dependent upon the available number of players and with agreement of both coaches (all players shall have a minimum of 50% playing time). Rather than have separate U12 and U14 teams, players ages 11 – 14 have been grouped together for 2009 due to insufficient numbers. As such, there may be a large range of size/height. To address this possible disparity, some restrictions may be used with the agreement of both coaches.**

**Example: No player is allowed two consecutive goals**

Substitutions: At any stoppage and unlimited.

**Law 4** – The Players Equipment: Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms [**t-shirts**] must still distinguish teams.

**Law 5** – The Referee: Certified referee (state referee committee certified grade 9 or higher).

**Law 6** – The Assistant Referee: 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 that opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

*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.*

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

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

**Law 11** – Offside: Conform to FIFA.

**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.

**Law 13** – Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball.

*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.*

**Law 14** – The Penalty Kick: Conform to FIFA with the exceptions that the penalty mark is at ten yards and that players other than the kicker and defending goalkeeper are at least eight (8) yards from the penalty mark.

**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 away from the ball until it is in play.

## 2009 CSA U12&14 Small-Sided Playing Recommendations

### 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	Initial Release Majority of material obtained from US Youth Soccer Web Site with many modifications to reflect 2007 conditions.	10-July-2007
02	Corrections to 2007 team sizes	30-July-2007
03	Update with 2008 information	30-July-2008
04	Update with 2009 conditions	9-July-2009
05	Modify Law 12 to state we don't use cards. Modify Law 5 to indicate certification level required for referees.	9-August-2009