

# ADDENDUM

## *MODIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GAME FOR U6*

**Law 1 The Field of Play:** the dimensions are smaller to accommodate the three-versus-three game and are appropriate for the movement capabilities of four and five year old children. These adjusted dimensions provide more practical space allowing players to be successful. Field Markings: the center circle gives the players a concrete marking on where to be for the kick-off. Kids this young **will not execute corner kicks nor throws in**, instead coaches will play the ball back into the field. However, the center circle and the corner arc for U6 Small Sided Games are not mandatory field markings.

**Law 2 The Ball:** **must be a size three**. The smaller ball is lighter and more easily kicked, received, dribbled and passed.

**Law 3 The Number of Players:** there are no goalkeepers in the U6 age group so that all of the players may chase the ball around the field. **There will be 3 field players per team each quarter**. The kids want to be where the action is and at this age it is around the ball. This will provide the opportunity for the children to further develop their running, jumping and kicking coordination. These are valuable traits for all soccer players to develop. The smaller number of players takes into account the egocentrism of this age group and therefore allows each child more opportunities for kicking and dribbling the ball. 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.

**Law 5 The Referee:** a referee is not really needed for this age group. Instead a parent or a coach should supervise the game for safety sake. All rule infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player. 'Do-overs' should be a regular occurrence allowed by the adult(s) supervising the U6 game. It is strongly recommended that the adult officiating the U6 game attend the Grade 9 referee course. **Parent referees must be out of the field. Recommended both coaches help with the game.**

**Moreover, coaches need to put the ball back in play, thus the players get as much playing time as possible.**

**Law 6** The Assistant Referees: none are needed.

**Law 7** The Duration of the Match: the game is divided into **eight** quarters. **Each quarter lasts 5 minutes. The game lasts 40 minutes in total.** Quarters are played in the U6 age group to accommodate the attention span and physical limitations of the children.

**Law 10** Goal Scored: shall conform to FIFA.

**Law 11** Offside: there shall be no offside called during these games.

**Law 12** Fouls and Misconduct: no caution or send off shall be issued to players. If a child is being too rambunctious then the game official will ask the coach to make a substitution of that player to give the child a chance to calm down before returning to play.

**Law 13** Free Kicks: no free kick. This should keep the game flowing and keep the attention of the kids.

**Law 14** The Penalty Kick: for this age group there will not be any penalty kicks called.

**Law 15** Throw-in: most U6 players do not yet have the eye-hand coordination to execute a throw-in to the letter of the law. This leads to endless retakes from one team to the other. Additionally with a pass-in the ball is on the ground and stationary so the U6 player has a better chance of striking it correctly. This may lead to some intentional passes. However, this is still unlikely given that whether it is a throw or a kick all of the kids on the field will be yelling for the ball at the same time and the child putting the ball into play will be confused. Therefore, **there are not throws-in. Coaches will play the ball back as soon as the ball leaves the field.**

**Law 16** The goal Kick- **there is no goal kick.** Coaches will put the ball back into play.

**Law 17** The Corner Kick: No corner kicks.

## ***US YOUTH SOCCER***

- ⇒ Roster Size: Under the single field method the recommended minimum roster size is six players and the maximum roster size is seven players. Three field players per quarter.
- ⇒ Playing Time: A minimum of at least 50% playing time is required. The goal of the U6 facilitator is to achieve 100% playing time for each child.
- ⇒ No score or standings should be kept.

### 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
- ❑ 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.
- ❖ No slide tackles to be allowed in this age group.
- ❖ Coaches of U6 teams should attend the U6/U8 Youth Module coaching course and the Grade 9 referee course.