

LMYA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

House Rules -- August 2008

Below are identified differences between LMYA House Rules and the Laws of the Game (in bold after each item where there is a difference). These generally do not identify those instances where the House Rules merely amplify the Laws, but instead are focused on where the House Rules either conflict with the Laws or where they significantly add to the Laws. This exercise is for the benefit of our referees, coaches, administrators and parents.

General:

All contests played under the jurisdiction of the league shall abide by the laws of the game as published by F.I.F.A. with those modifications established by the CYSA and LMYA. The following rules shall be in effect during all games under LMYA's jurisdiction and shall be known as House Rules. House Rules emphasize and/or supplement the FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME and the rules contained in Section 3:06 (Rules of Play) of the CYSA CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS. If conflict exists in the mind of the referee among these laws and rules, the referee is directed by the League to apply the strictest, safest interpretation. Parentheticals contained in the title of each section are cross-referenced to FIFA Law.

1. Age Groups:

During the 1996 season, a decision was made by the soccer committee to allow younger children in the same school grade to play together. This has necessitated the changing of the U6 to Kindergarten, U8 to First Grade and Second Grade, and U10 to Third Grade and Fourth Grade. Because the number of participants does not allow both cities to change the name of all players groups, the laws contained herein will not be changed but the following interpretations should be made. All teams designated a Kindergarten team will follow all interpretations pertaining to the U6 age group, all First and Second Grade teams will follow those interpretations pertaining to the U8 age group, all Third and Fourth Grade teams will follow those interpretations pertaining to the U10 age group.

This section differs from CYSA bylaws in that a few players in the grade-designated groups will be older than the age groups for CYSA. This means, among other things, that the teams with older children either must disallow the older ones to play in CYSA-sanctioned tournaments, or must forgo the opportunity to participate in CYSA-sanctioned tournaments. This has little practical impact in the younger grades, as they typically do not participate in tournament play. However, some older continuing players in LMYA have in the past been on teams of their peers for which they were too old under CYSA rules, and were not allowed to participate with their teams in such events as the Commissioner's Cup.

2. Player's Equipment (Law IV):

- A. Players wearing hard orthopedic casts, whether covered or not, shall be ineligible to play any game. In addition, belt buckles, rings, earrings, bracelets, external orthodontic retainers, helmets and/or similar items may not be worn. Nothing may

be worn which presents a hard or sharp surface to another player. It is recommended that removable internal orthodontic retainers be removed while playing. No hats or caps with a rigid bill will be allowed (e.g. NO BASEBALL CAPS)

This section differs from the Laws in that the Laws do not specifically disallow orthopedic casts, but rather rely on the judgment of the Referee in determining whether or not a particular orthopedic cast application is safe for the player wearing it and other players. LMYA has adopted a definite standard with respect to casts, and disallows participation of any player wearing a cast. Also, FIFA does not specifically prohibit hats with bills, but LMYA has specifically prohibited them.

- B. No player shall participate wearing hard soled street shoes or without shoes. Screw-on cleats are permissible if they comply with FIFA rules. Stamped rubber cleats that are part of the sole are acceptable, even if smaller than FIFA requirements. **Baseball shoes and other shoes with prominent toe cleats will not be allowed.**

This section differs from the Laws in that FIFA does not require cleats per se, and instead relies on the judgment of the Referee in determining what equipment is necessary and sufficient to provide for safety of players. This is also true of the prohibition on prominent toe cleats. In both cases LMYA has adopted a definite standard in order to provide an additional degree of safety for our recreational players.

- C. Prior to the game the referee shall make sure that each player's equipment is in proper order.
- D. With the exception of the goalkeepers, all players shall wear a standard team uniform only, with a clearly visible number.

This section differs from the Laws in that FIFA does not specifically require numbered uniforms. LMYA has determined that it is administratively desirable to track players by numbered uniform.

- E. All players must wear shin guards. Players without shin guards will not be allowed to play.

3. Substitutions:

- A. Quarter System: Players shall only be substituted at the end of the quarters and at the half. When there is an injury, only the injured player may be substituted. The coach may choose to play short, thereby allowing the injured player to return during the quarter in which he was injured. A cautioned player may be substituted and may not return to the game that same quarter. A "quarter" shall be one-half (1/2) the duration the game's half, plus or minus one minute. The end of the 1st and 3rd quarters shall be a regular stoppage of play (i.e. goal, ball out-of-bounds, or foul) if possible, except that no quarter shall end with a Penalty Foul for which the restart would be a Penalty Kick (See Law XIV.) Play shall be restarted after the 1st and 3rd quarters by the correct restart for the situation that caused the stoppage. (e.g., if the play was

stopped because the ball went over the touchline, the correct restart would be a throw-in.) Play shall be as continuous as possible. Players who are not being substituted shall remain in position on the field prepared for a prompt restart of the play. The referee shall "add times" to accommodate substitutions.

This system of time keeping for a game differs from the Laws in that the Laws specify that a game shall consist of two halves of equal duration.

B. *Free Substitution System*: A coach or player must signal to the referee that a substitution is desired. A substitution can only be done with the approval of the referee. A new player may not enter the field of play without the permission of the referee. Player(s) may only be substituted at one of the following times:

???????prior to a throw-in, in your favor

???????prior to a goal kick, by both teams

???????after a goal, by both teams

???????after an injury, when the referee stops play, by both teams

???????at half time

???????when the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted, prior to the restart of the game

1. The number of substitutes shall be unlimited. Play shall be as continuous as possible.

This rule differs from the Laws, in that FIFA limits the number of substitutions to three per game. However, LMYA considers our league to be subject to the exception explicit in the Laws that allow other mutually agreeable or league-sanctioned substitution policies.

2. The players who have been replaced may subsequently return to the game.

This rule differs from the Laws in that FIFA prohibits return of any substituted player.

C. *Substitution Process*: The quarter system of substitution is to be used for the younger age groups (U6 through U10) while the free substitution system is to be used on all age groups of U12 or older. Under no circumstances may both systems of substitution be used simultaneously

1. The referee shall immediately stop play for an injury when the injured player remains on the ground or appears to be unable to continue playing. **PLAYER SAFETY SHALL AT ALL TIMES BE THE REFEREE'S MAIN CONCERN.** After the referee has stopped play, the referee shall signal permission for such player's coach to enter the field and attend to the injured player. With the referee's permission, the injured player may leave the field and a substitute may enter.
2. No player, substitute or coach may enter or leave that field unless authorized by the referee

4. Number of Players:

- A. Teams may have on the field at any time the following number of players:
- B. U6: 5 or 6 players as determined by flight, no goalkeeper

This rule differs from the Laws in that the Laws require no less than seven players on a side, and requires that one of them be a goalkeeper.

- 2. U8: 7 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper
- 3. U10: 9 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper
- 4. U12 and above: 11 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper
- 5. If a division is short players at the start of the season, the commissioner will have the discretion to direct the teams in that division to play a different number of players than the maximums stated above in order to keep parity within the division

The above rules differ from the Laws in that the Laws allow any team to field up to eleven players, and does not contemplate adjusting the number of players to keep parity between teams (except for "reducing to equalize" in the extraordinary circumstance of penalty kicks to determine the outcome of a game ending in a tie).

- B. If a team does not have the following minimum number of players 15 minutes after the official starting time it must forfeit the game:
- C. U12 and above: 7 players
- D. U10: 6 players
- E. U6 and U8: will play or not based on coaches discretion

The above rules (2) and (3) differ from the Laws in that the Laws specify that no team shall play with less than seven players.

5. Coaching on the Field:

At U6, one coach from each team is allowed on the field. Coaches on the field may not enter the penalty area or be near the penalty area when the ball is in play in that area. Coaches must stay near the sidelines and not interfere with the flow of the game.

This rule differs from the Laws in that coaches are not allowed on the field except in the case of injury, and then only with the permission of the Referee.

At U8 coaches may walk the entire length of the sideline, giving only positive instructional coaching comments. COACHES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE FIELD WHEN THE BALL IS IN PLAY.

This rule differs from the Laws in that coaches and other team officials are generally restricted to the technical area during play.

6. Coaching from the Sidelines:

- A. Positive coaching from the sidelines (i.e., giving encouragement and direction to one's own team on points of strategy and position) is permitted, providing such coaching is done from the team's bench area only and:

- i. no mechanical devices are used
 - ii. the tone of voice is informative and not a harangue
 - iii. no coach, substitute, player or spectator makes derogatory remarks, gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes or spectators.
 - iv. No coach, substitute, player or spectator incites, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind
 - v. No team official, substitute, or player is to be anywhere but at his bench during the game.
 - vi. No team official, substitute or player is to use profanity
- B. Team officials, substitutes or players who fail to comply with the above may be ejected from the game.
- C. No coach, substitute, player or spectator is to be anywhere but at this/her appropriate bench or spectator area during the game. A team's bench area shall be that area one (1) yard outside the touchline extending the (10) yards both ways from the halfway line for a total of twenty (20) yards maximum. If both teams locate their bench area on the same side of the field due to existing adverse conditions, then each bench area shall be limited to an area one (1) yard from the touchline extending ten (10) yards one way from the halfway line only. A team's spectator area shall be that area five (5) yards behind the touchline. No one is permitted in the area that is less than fifteen (15) yards behind the end lines. **COACHING IS PERMITTED ONLY FROM THE BENCH AREA.**

The dimensions and locations of the bench area (presumed to correspond to the technical area described in the Laws) are not specified in the Laws. LMYA has adopted these dimensions as allowed by the Laws.

- D. No one is to be near the goal area or behind the goal.

7. Spectators:

- A. The coach shall be responsible for the conduct (Rule I (c)) of his respective spectators. Spectators shall not make profane or derogatory remarks or gestures, dissent from the referee's decision or incite disruptive behavior.
- B. If a spectator or spectators fail to respond to a team official's request to desist from improper behavior, the referee is empowered to terminate the match. In the above event, a decision as the disposition of the match and disciplinary action will be decided upon by LMYA.
- C. Spectators are encouraged to cheer, but should not "coach" from the sidelines.

This rule (C) has no counterpart in the Laws, except for that section of Law 5 that allows the referee to terminate a match for any outside interference. LMYA has adopted it to promote enjoyment of the game.

8. Variations of CYSA Rules:

- A. Free Kicks (Law XIII): In the U6 and U8 divisions, the nine penal fouls shall be penalized by the awarding of an indirect free kick. There shall be no direct free kicks or penalty kicks. The balance of LAW XIII applies in its entirety.
- B. Throw-In (Law XV) : In the U6 and U8 Divisions (i) if the ball is improperly thrown in, one re-throw shall be allowed (the referee is encouraged to instruct), and (ii) if the thrower plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another

player, one re-throw shall be allowed.

- C. Offside (Law XI): This law shall not be applied to U6 or U8 games, **unless** the player in the offside position is posted within a twenty (20) yard radius of the goal.
- D. Drop Ball (Law VIII d): Each drop ball re-start, occurring after play has been stopped by the referee while the ball is inside the Penalty Area, shall be re-started with a drop ball outside the Penalty Area at the spot nearest the ball's location when play was stopped.
- E. Duration of the Game (Law VII): The duration of the game shall be the defined periods as shown below:
 - 1) U6-Two 10-minute halves with free substitution
 - 2) U8-Four 10-minute quarters with substitution at breaks only
 - 3) U10-Four 12 ½- minute quarters with substitution at breaks only
 - 4) U12-Two 30-minute halves with free substitution
 - 5) U14--Two 35-minute halves with free substitution
 - 6) There shall be a two-minute break at the end of quarter play. Play will be stopped for substitution only and is not to be considered a rest break.
 - 7) The break at half time shall not be less than 5 minutes nor more than 10 minutes
 - 8) Every game shall conclude with each player shaking hands with players of the opposing team.

F Goalkeepers:

During the game, no goalkeeper may play more than two quarters. This applies to all Divisions except for the U14, U16 & U19 Divisions, which may elect to use a single goalkeeper for the entire game.

The above exceptions to CYSA rules are also exceptions to the Laws.

9. Charging the Goalkeeper:

- A. Any contact with an opposing goalkeeper when the goalkeeper is within his/her own penalty area, and which, IN THE OPINION OF THE REFEREE, was intentionally initiated by an opponent and WAS AVOIDABLE, shall be considered as Charging the Goalkeeper. PUNISHMENT: Penal Foul (Violent or Dangerous Charge) or Non-Penal Foul (Charging the Goalkeeper)-depending upon the "severity" of the foul. The referee MAY eject (Red Card) the offending player on the first occurrence (Violent Conduct). Whether or not intended, "severity" shall be judged by the degree of the violence and danger in the offense tempered by the degree to which the offending player attempts to avoid contact. Severity is not to be judged on the basis of whether the goalkeeper is injured. THE REFEREE SHALL ISSUE A WARNING REGARDING THIS RULE AS A REGULAR PART OF THE PRE-GAME INSTRUCTION.

This rule differs from the Laws in that FIFA considers contact with the goalie to be a foul only when it meets the definition of foul play as applied anywhere on the field, as long as the goalie is not in possession of the ball.

- B. No players shall harass or interfere with the goalkeeper while he/she is attempting to put the ball in play.

10 The Field of Play (Law I):

- A. The home team will be responsible for the condition of the grounds, the proper field markings and proper field equipment. Nets and corner flags are required.

This rule differs from the laws in that home team responsibility is not specified in the Laws.

- B. Once the game commences, the referee shall determine if inclement weather or other conditions have rendered a field unplayable and shall suspend the game upon his/her assessment of such conditions.

11. The Ball (Law V):

- A. The size of the ball to be utilized in games is shown below:

Under 6	#3
Under 8	#3
Under 10	#4
Under 12	#4
Under 14	#5
Under 16	#5
Under 19	#5

This rule differs from the Laws of the game in that the only ball allowed by FIFA is one corresponding roughly to the size 5 ball.

- B. The home team shall provide a game ball acceptable to the referee.

This rule differs from the Laws in that there is no specification for a home team to provide match balls in the Laws.

12 Referees (Law V):

- A. The referee shall provide a SAFE environment and an ENJOYABLE atmosphere for the players. The referee is charged to do his/her best according to his/her interpretation of the rules of the game. The referee's decision is final and may not be challenged. During games the referee shall have jurisdiction over all coaches, players and substitutes.
- B. The referee's judgment with regard to the physical condition of the field and its acceptability for play, to the actual happenings and occurrences related to the conduct of the game and to those prerogatives granted to him/her by FIFA Law shall not be challenged.
- C. The referee shall maintain an accurate and complete game record (goals, cautions, ejections, names and times) on the official scorecard, and may, at any time, be called upon by the Referee Coordinator or other proper authority to explain his/her reports.
- D. The referee shall maintain control of the game at all times. The referee may issue warnings (verbal), Cautions (yellow card), and Ejections (red card) to players and coaches in order to maintain control. If a referee loses control of the game and deems that (i) he/she has exhausted the means available to regain control and (ii) to continue play would jeopardize any player's (or his/her own) safety or the players' enjoyment of the game, the referee shall immediately suspend the game and report

such event to the Referee Coordinator. The League shall determine what disciplinary actions are required to insure such an event does not reoccur.

This rule differs from the Laws in that the Laws do not allow the Referee to display the yellow or red cards to coaches or other team officials, but rather require that send-offs be communicated to the coaches or team officials orally and booked as such prior to the restart of play.

- E. No coach shall serve as the referee or as a linesman.
- F. If the referee fails to arrive at the playing field within fifteen (15) minutes after the official game time, the coaches shall agree upon an alternative volunteer and notify the Referee Coordinator at their earliest convenience after the game. It is recommended that the alternate volunteer shall be knowledgeable of FIFA Law and House Rules and be at least fourteen (14) years of age. Unless there are extremely extraordinary circumstances, the absent referee will be dismissed from the program.
- G. If requested by the Referee, each coach shall provide a linesman. Such linesman shall be at least fourteen (14) years old and shall remain neutral at all times.

13. Warnings, Cautions, and Ejections:

- A. A *Warning* to a player shows that the referee is aware of his questionable conduct. The player is thereby placed on notice that further conduct of this nature will result in further action. A warning may be given informally while the game is in progress.
- B. A *Caution* (*yellow card*) is administered at a stoppage of play. It is a formal statement to the player that further misconduct will result in the player being sent off the field. When the play is stopped, the referee informs the player:
 - 1) that he is cautioned;
 - 2) the reason for the caution; and
 - 3) the consequences of further misconduct.

This rule differs from the Laws in that the Laws specify that the yellow card will be shown, and that the caution be booked prior to restart of play.

- C. An *Ejection* (*red card*) occurs at a stoppage of play. It is an order to the player to leave the field of play. When the play is stopped, the referee:
 - 1) records the player's name and number on the game report card, together with the nature of the offense; and
 - 2) informs the player of the nature of the offense and sends him off the field. The ejected player may not be substituted for during the remainder of the game.
- D. Coaches and parents can be cautioned and ejected.
- E. Following an ejection (red card), further disciplinary action shall be taken by the League as follows: *A player ejected (red card) from play shall be suspended from playing in his team's next league game. A coach ejected from the game shall be suspended from coaching, or being in attendance at, his team's next two league games. Such player or coach may be subject to additional sanctions by the league.*

14. Fouls and Misconduct (Law XIII):

Unintentional and reflexive use of the hand(s) or arm(s) by girls to protect the chest area and by boys to protect the groin area may be allowed if, IN THE OPINION OF THE REFEREE, such act is UNINTENTIONAL RATHER THAN ANTICIPATORY. The intentional use of hands or arms as a protective aid in chest trapping or other manner of ball control shall not be permitted and shall be treated as a "hand ball."

This rule differs from the Laws in that the Board decisions regarding the Laws also envision sanction for avoidable handling, even if such handling does not result in ball control.

Slide tackling shall no longer be permitted in any LMYSL youth recreational game at any age level below U16. Any player "slide tackling" an opponent shall be penalized by the award of a DIRECT FREE KICK to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the offense occurred, unless the offense is committed by a player in his opponent's goal area, in which case the free-kick shall be taken from any point within the goal area. Should a player of the defending team "slide tackle" an opponent within the penalty area, he shall be penalized by a penalty kick.

This rule differs from the Laws in that the Laws do not prohibit "slide tackles."