

The Football Association Laws for Mini-Soccer for Players (both boys and girls over the Age of 6 and under 10)

Please note: Where Leagues operate Under 11 Mini-Soccer events, they must follow these Laws.

Please remember:

Under 8's are not permitted to play in leagues where results are published or winner trophies are presented, this is deemed to be detrimental to the development of the player and the game and will not be sanctioned. However Under 8's results must be recorded on the match results sheet for League purposes only. To play in a KO Cup game or a game where points are awarded, or results collected, a player must have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31st August.

Except where other provision, in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by The Football Association.

Law 1 Playing Area

WARNING - Please ensure that The FA Goalpost safety guidelines are observed (see later section).

UNDER 10s/9s			UNDER 8s	
	Metres	Yards	Metres	Yards
Width	Min. 27.45	Min. 30	Min. 18.30	Min. 20
	Max. 36.60	Max. 40	Max. 27.45	Max. 30
Length	Min. 45.75	Min. 50	Min. 27.45	Min. 30
	Max. 54.90	Max. 60	Max. 45.75	Max. 50

Penalty Area

Length 9.15m – 10 yards; Width 16.47m – 18 yards.

Penalty Mark

The penalty mark is 7.32m (8 yards) from the Goal Line opposite the Centre of the Goal.

Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line.

Goal Size

The distance between the posts is 3.6m (12ft) and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 1.88m (6ft).

Law 2 The Ball

- The ball must be size 4 for U9/U10.
- The ball must be size 3 for Under 8s.
- It must be a MOLTEN football.

Law 3 Number of Players

Under 8s will play 6-a-side matches.

Under 9/10s will play 7-a-side matches.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition rules.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

All games must **commence** with an equal number of players per side. The minimum number of players per age group will be **5** for Under 8s and **6** for Under 9/10s.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. Entry into the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

Law 4 Playing Equipment

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip.

Shin guards must be covered entirely by football socks.

Law 5 Referees

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

Decisions of the Referee:

The decisions of the referee are final.

Law 6 Timekeeper/Scorer/Assistant Referee

Duties

A person may be nominated to assist the referee to:

- a) Record goals scored.
- b) Act as timekeeper and signify to the referee by an agreed signal when the time of each half has expired.
- c) Suspend time on an instruction from the referee for all stoppages and add that time to the end of each half.
- d) Supervise the use of rolling substitutes.
- e) Carry out any other duties as prescribed by the referee.

If an independent timekeeper/scorer is not nominated, these duties are the responsibility of the referee.

Law 7 Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than the stipulated period outlined below.

- Under 8s: 40 minutes.
- Under 9 & Under 10s: 60 minutes.

Each League and Competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted.

Under 8s will play 20 minutes each way, giving a match length of 40 minutes.

Under 9s will play 25 minutes each way, giving a match length of 50 minutes.

Under 10s will play 30 minutes each way, giving a match length of 60 minutes.

The half time interval must not exceed 10 minutes.

Law 8 Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored.

Opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) away from the ball, and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward. In Mini Soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from the start or the restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match, after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area, takes place on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped.

Law 9 Ball In and Out of Play

Ball Out of Play

The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air.
- Play has been stopped by the referee.

Ball In Play

The ball is in play at all other times, including when:

- It rebounds from a goal or post, crossbar or corner flag post and remains in the field of play.
- It rebounds from the referee when they are on the field of play.

Law 10 Method of Scoring

Goal Scored

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

Winning Team

The team scoring the greater number of goals during a match is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals, or if no goals are scored, the match is drawn.

Competition Rules

For matches ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time, or other procedures approved by the International FA Board to determine the winner of a match. Please note this must be included within the maximum participation time.

Law 11 Offside

There is no offside.

Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct

In Mini-Soccer all free kicks are direct, with the exception of a pass-back to the Goalkeeper which will result in an indirect free kick.

Law 13 Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball.

Law 14 Penalty Kicks

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the penalty mark.

The ball must be kicked forward.

Law 15 Throw-in

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

Law 16 Goal Kick

Procedure

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area.

Opponents must remain outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from where the kick is taken until the ball is in play.

Law 17 Corner Kicks

The opposing players must remain at least 4.5m (5yards) from the ball until it is in play.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick is awarded against them.

The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

Goalpost Safety

The Football Association, along with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Health and Safety Executive and the British Standards Institution, would like to draw your attention to the following guidelines for the safe use of goalposts. Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future.

1. For safety reasons goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground
 - Portable goalposts must be secured as per the manufacturer's instructions
 - Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts
 - Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may overturn
 - Regular inspections of goalposts must be carried out to check that they are properly maintained
2. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage
3. Nets must only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts must not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks that cannot be replaced
4. Goalposts which are "home-made" or which have been altered from their original size or construction must not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries
5. There is no BS/CEN or PAS standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. The FA recommends that wooden goals should be replaced when necessary with compliant metal or plastic goalposts.

For reference, you should note that The FA and BSI developed a standard for future purchases of mini-soccer goalposts – BS8462 (2005). Copies of this standard are available from BSI.

The FA together with representatives from the industry, sports governing bodies and Government have prepared guidelines for pitch users and pitch providers together with technical parameters for goalpost manufacturers. It is anticipated that details of these will feature on the FA's website – www.TheFA.com