



# 12U Youth Soccer Manual

## Wellington Recreation modifications to the IFAB Laws of the Game.

IFAB Laws of the Game link: <https://www.theifab.com/>

### Purpose

Friendly competition and clean sportsmanship will be emphasized. The main goal is for ALL participants to have FUN while building athletic, team, and social skills.

### Law I: The Field:

- Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, it's length not more than 80 yards and no less than 70 yards; its width no more than 50 yards and no less than 40 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.
- Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius. Penalty area: Ten (10) yards from each goal post and ten (10) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. Goal Area: Six (6) yards onto the field and three (3) yards from each goal post.
- Goals: 11 feet wide x 6.5 feet tall.
- Spectators must be on the opposite side from coaches and players.

**Law II:** The ball: Size four (4). Game ball should be provided by the home team, but each team will need to have game balls at every game.

### Law III: Number of Players

- Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight (8). Exception: see Law III.E.
- Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed fifteen (15).
- One goalkeeper will be used per team. No player shall spend more than one half as the goalkeeper.
- Substitutions: Allowed anytime ball is out of play with the permission of the referee or game official.
- Playing time: Each player who has regularly attended all practices shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- Teams and games may be coed.
- If a team has less than eight (8) players, they may use players from the opposing team if any are available.

**Law IV:** Players Equipment - follows IFAB save the following exceptions.

- Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- Shin-guards are mandatory.
- Each player should bring a water bottle with water to each game.
- Reversible blue/white jersey must be worn on outside of clothing for game play. Home team is white. Away team is blue.
- NO jewelry is allowed.



**Law V:** The Referee: Wellington Recreation will provide The Referee. The Referee may be a volunteer.

**Law VI:** Assistant Referee: Each team should provide one Assistant Referee at the request of the Referee.

**Law VII:** Duration of the game

- The game shall be divided into two equal halves of 30 minutes each.
- Half time will be a five (5) minute break between the two halves.

**Law VIII:** The Start of Play – Same as IFAB Laws of the Game.

**Law IX:** Ball in and out of Play – Whole of the ball must cross the whole of the line.

**Law X:** Determining the Outcome of the Match: Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game. Ball must completely cross the whole of the line between the goal posts and below the cross bar.

**Law XI:** Offside: Follow IFAB Laws of the Game.

**Law XII:** Fouls and Misconduct - Follows IFAB Laws of the Game with the following exceptions:

- Slide tackling is illegal and shall result in a free kick at the point of the foul.

**Law XIII:** Free Kicks – Follow IFAB Law of the Game with the following exceptions:

- Opponents must be eight (8) yards away.
- No players may head the ball. Any contact of the ball to the head shall result in a indirect free kick.

**Law XIV:** Penalty Kick. Same as IFAB Laws the of the Game.

- Opponents must be eight (8) yards away.

**Law XV:** Throw In – Follow IFAB Laws of the Game.

**Law XVI:** Goal Kick – Follow IFAB Laws of the Game.

- Players must fall behind the build out line until the ball is put in play. See Law XIV: Build Out Line.

**Law XVII:** Corner Kick – Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game with the following exception.

- All opponents must be eight (8) yards away.

**Law XVII:** Goalkeeper: Conform to IFAB Laws of the Game with the following exceptions.

- Once the goalkeeper has possession of the ball, all players must go behind the build out line.

**Law XIV:** The Build Out Line.

- If the goalkeeper has gained possession of the ball during play (from the opponent) or if there is a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line. They must remain behind the line until the ball is in play.
- Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, roll, or throw the ball into play.
- After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.



- If players do not fall back or wait for the ball to be played, the referee stops play and returns possession to the goal or the goal kick is retaken.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- Parents and spectators are encouraged to retrieve balls that go out of play in order to restart game quickly.
- All players have a right to play every game and an equal amount of time if they have attended regular practices.
- Playing Conditions: Field Supervisor will determine if games will or will not be played. Game will be called when there is a safety concern.
- Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- The Recreation Staff will make every effort to reschedule missed games. Make up games may not be played at the same time or days as regularly scheduled games.
- Participation awards, when given, shall be given to ALL players.
- Parents, coaches, non-playing players, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- All coaches and officials are volunteers and as such are not employees of the Town of Wellington.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be allowed or used in the parks during games or practices.
- Foul language will not be tolerated by fans, participants, or coaches. All adults need to remember they are role models and need to be positive in their words and actions.
- A parent or fan that is loud, obnoxious, or disrupts the event will be asked to leave the premises and will be expected to comply immediately.
- Elastic Clause: The League Director shall have complete charge of the Youth Sports League. Any and all situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the League Director and all actions by the League Director are final.
- The League Director reserves the right to change or amend any of the rules or regulations contained in this manual. Any questions concerning Youth Sports should be directed to:

Wellington Recreation  
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