

## Ames Soccer Club Simplified Rules for the U6 and U8 Game

By and large, we conform to the US Youth Soccer Rules that simplify the game of soccer for our younger players. You will receive a copy of them, and they are available at the ASC web site. This document highlights several points, and points out a few special “ASC EXCEPTION” Rules.

1. The game: ALL PLAYERS GET AT LEAST 50% PLAYING TIME!
  - a. U6: 3 players on a side for U-6 [no goalie]; 8 minute quarters [2 minute break between 1st-2nd and 3rd-4th quarters; 5 minutes at halftime]; size 3 ball
  - b. U7-U8: 4 players on each side [no goalie]; 12 minute quarters [same breaks]; size 3 ball
2. Before the game: The referee will check for proper equipment: shirts, shorts, shoes, socks, and shin guards. No jewelry. Home team wears the primary team color (blue for ASC) if the uniforms are not distinct from one another. The referee chooses a game ball. The referee will have a coin toss and the winner chooses which goal to attack. The other team kicks off. Teams alternate kicking off for the remaining quarters.
3. Parents from both teams should be on one side of the field. Players and coaches from both teams should be on the other side. *No one should stand or sit behind the goals.*
4. Substitutes: Conforming to ISA, substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play, at the discretion of the referee.
5. Violations
  - a. THE OFFSIDES RULE IS NOT USED IN U6 OR U8 GAMES.
  - b. The usual fouls (kicking, tripping, jumping, charging, striking, tackling, pushing, holding, handballs, impeding) should be called. Conforming to ISA, all free kicks at U6 and U8 are DIRECT, i.e., a score may be made on the kick, regardless of how many times the ball has been touched.
  - c. The referee should take a moment to explain all violation calls to the offending player.
  - d. Throw-ins (ASC EXCEPTION). We play with a normal throw-in, as opposed to the kick-in suggested in the US Youth Soccer Rules. The referee should explain a foul throw and allow the thrower a second chance. After a second foul throw, a throw in should be awarded to the other team.
6. The “No Goalie” rule (ASC EXCEPTION): There will be an extra line painted on the field on each side, parallel to the half-way line, so that the field is divided in to quarters. No player may “loiter” in the quarter of the field closest to his/her defensive goal when the ball is in his/her team’s offensive half. The referee should warn the player, and may award an indirect free kick to the other team if the player does not cooperate.
7. The kick-off at the beginning of the half and after a goal is DIRECT.
8. GOAL-KICKS (ASC EXCEPTION). When a goal kick is awarded, the defending team’s players must retreat into their own defensive half and may not move past the half-line until the goal kick is taken. The kicking team *may* take the goal kick before the defending team has retreated completely into their defensive half.
9. At the end of the game, it is tradition to thank the referee and for the players to congratulate and thank one another.