

Beverly Hills AYSO Region 76

Referee Guidelines for U8A

The following guidelines should be followed for games in our U8A division.

Game Structure	Two simultaneous games between the scheduled teams on adjacent fields. Teams use a split squad for each game.
Referee Assignments	There is one CR for each split squad game, therefore two refs for each U8A game on the schedule. On the referee scheduler these are designated CR1 and CR2. Sign up for either one and sort out who does which game at the field.
Team Size	5 v 5, with goalkeepers for each split squad game. If teams are short players it is perfectly fine to share players or to play 4 v 4, as long as everyone plays $\frac{3}{4}$ of the game. Under no circumstances, however, should teams play 6 v 6, even if the "coaches agree".
Game Length	20 Minute half
Substitutions	Coaches may substitute freely during any stoppage in play. There are no substitution breaks.
Must Play Rule	Each player must play at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the game. While this is hard to enforce with free substitutions, try to keep on eye out for kids that seem to be sitting out for extended periods of time.
Restarts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kickoff to begin each half • Direct Free Kicks for fouls • Goal Kicks, Corner Kicks, Throw Ins as usual • There are no Penalty Kicks. For PK situations, restart with a Direct Free Kick about 15 yards away from the goal. • There are no Indirect Free Kicks
Fouls	Call only the obvious fouls. Primary goal is to keep game safe and flowing. Be aware of "careless" slide tackling. U8A players (especially boys) like to start slide tackling at this age and typically not in a "controlled" and safe manner. Warn players and coaches if players are showing any type of careless or reckless behavior. All fouls restart with a Direct Free Kick.
Offside	There is no offside infraction in U8A
Pass Back to Goalkeeper	Allow team to keep possession, but stop play briefly to explain the rule, and even then only if it is an OBVIOUS and DELIBERATE pass back to the keeper who then handles the ball.
Touchline Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches and players stay along the interior touchlines in the area <u>between the two fields</u> on the K-Field. • Parents and spectators stay along the <u>exterior touchlines</u> (along Olympic for the south field and along the building for the north field). No spectators are allowed along the touchlines between the two fields where the coaches and players sit. • Keep spectators a safe distance from the touchlines as this is often an issue in U8. • No parents or coaches are allowed behind the goal lines (unless they are sitting in the bleachers). • Coaches MUST stay off the field during play. • Encourage positive attitudes by coaches and spectators. U8A is often where "unusual" behavior percolates. Do not hesitate to deal directly with coach/spectator behavior or to report it after the game.