

# U12

## 9 V 9 OFFICIAL RULES

**Ball Size:** Size four (4)

**Goal Size:** 7' high x 21' wide

### **Players:**

1. Number of Players: The maximum number of players on the field per team at any one time is nine (9). The game is played with one goalkeeper and eight field players per team. Two forwards, three mid fielders, three defenders and a goalie. 8 players can be used with two forwards, two midfielders, and three defenders.
2. Substitutions: With the permission of the referee, substitutions may be made:
  - By the team in possession of the ball, prior to a throw-in. If the team in possession makes a substitution, the opposing team may also make a substitution.
  - By either team prior to a goal kick
  - By either team, after a goal is scored (prior to the kick-off)
  - By either team when the referee has stopped play after an injury
  - By the team of a player who has been cautioned by the referee
3. Playing Time: Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time regardless of skill level, as long as the child arrives prepared to play in the proper uniform, is not under disciplinary suspension and is not physically handicapped due to illness or injury.

### **The Referee:**

1. A DK referee will oversee all games. One or two linesmen may assist the referee, but their presence is not guaranteed.
2. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

### **Duration of the Game:**

1. For U12, the game shall be divided into two (2) thirty (30)-minute halves.
2. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

### **The Start of Play:**

1. Play is started by kick-off at the center of the field. Players of the defending team shall stand on their side of the field, no closer to the ball than the perimeter of the center circle. This circle shall be 20 yards in diameter.
2. Teams shall rotate kick-offs for the beginning of each quarter.

### **Ball In and Out of Play:**

1. Any ball crossing the touch-line will result in a throw-in for the opposing team.
2. Any ball crossing the goal-line will result in a goal kick for the defending team or a corner kick for the attacking team.

### **Free Kicks:**

1. The referee will indicate whether the free kick is a direct (arm pointed at attacking goal) or indirect (arm pointed straight up) free kick.
2. Penalty Kicks shall be awarded as a result of fouls occurring in the penalty area, that would otherwise be a direct free kick.
3. Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from all free kicks.

**Offside Rule:**

The offside rule will be in effect for this age group. However, it will be called at the referee's discretion, for plays in which off-sides is blatant. It is not the intent to stop plays in which an attacking player who participates in the play is technically in an offside position, to a relatively small degree. As the offside rule is subject to the referee's discretion and the referee may not have assistant linesmen at the field, criticism directed to the referee is dissent and will not be tolerated. Please recognize this is the most controversial and disagreed upon rule in the game of soccer at all levels of play. Remember to demonstrate sportsmanship at all times.

**Dangerous Plays:**

Heading the ball is not allowed in U12.

Slide tackling is not allowed in U12.

**Misc. Rules:**

- DK encourages healthy and positive sports competition and puts a priority on the developmental process and the quality of play instead of the game outcome. It is not our desire to instill the "killer instinct" in the player, but rather to foster physical fitness, knowledge of the sport, agility, quick thinking and aggressive offensive and defensive play. Dangerous play and/or abusive language to coaches, players, or referees will not be tolerated.
- Parents/coaches and spectators should be there to enjoy the game, foster a positive sporting environment and to encourage the activity of all the youngsters participating in the game. Please leave the "coaching" to the coaches.
- All coaches are required to stay within their designated coaching area. The coaching area will be a 10 yard area from the edge of the center circle toward the goal line.
- Parents, spectators and coaches should not keep score – leave that to the players. Seek always to build character through soccer by focusing on the long-term developmental process over the short-term result of a game.

**COACH CONDUCT RULES & GUIDELINES**

- The game is to be played for the enjoyment and safety of the PLAYERS. **U12 is recreational and instructional ONLY.**
- It is expected that coaches, parents and players respect every individual at the field.
- It is expected that there be NO yelling at players, referees or coaches. Positive comments only.
- If a team is winning the game by 5 or more goals, it is the responsibility of the winning coach to offer to the opposing team coach to place an extra player on the field or for the winning coach to remove a player from the field. Strategies should be used to avoid a slaughter. Strategies may include those listed above, i.e. remove player from field, add player to field and/or place stronger players in defensive position or in goal, instruct players to pass the ball three times before shooting on the goal.
- Coaches and parents must stay off the field during the game unless a child is injured, then the COACH may enter the field.
- Please report to your coach if you witness an unruly person at a game.
- In the case of inclement weather it is the U12 Commissioner's decision (SAFETY FIRST). The commissioner will alert both coaches and the ref coordinator to notify them of the cancellation. Coaches will alert their players