

Quabbin Regional Developmental Soccer Guide For U8 Coaches and Parents

Here are some proposed questions and answers to clarify how U8 games should be played in this league. Please, please always think of the children first. If you make them feel good about their play and about their opponents...they will be very happy and have a successful learning season. The main mission is to keep the children coming back every season.

QYS is under the MYSA (Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association), which has established guidelines for all of the different age groups. QYS had adopted these guidelines several years ago, and had agreed to conform to them (as possible – i.e. 5v5 for U8 due to personnel issues). These guide lines can be found on line on MYSA's web site.

Based on these guidelines and our towns limitations the following are the highlights of the rules we follow.

Game size :

Agreed to 5 v 5, to allow kids more playing time, and due to the limitation of coaching. This can be determined at game time, as long as the two team's coaches agree before the game starts.

Game Time:

The MYSA calls for four (4) twelve minute quarters, but again due to some limitations (not enough kids) this should be agreed upon by the two team coaches before the game starts. MYSA states "There should not be a minimum number of players for U8 players; Administrators, coaches and referees should be encouraged to allow players from the team with sufficient numbers to 'loan' a player or two to the team that is short players and then PLAY."

Size of Ball:

The MYSA says the U8 should be using a size 3 ball.

Procedure for subbing:

The U08 games are very informal, and subbing can be done at any stoppage time or even on the fly (where as for the older players there are set rules). This too should be agreed upon by the two team coaches before the game starts.

Throw Ins & How Many allowed per time:

The MYSA suggests that one 'do-over' per thrower should be the normal response if the throw-in is incorrect. This is again for the players to learn how to do Throw Ins properly. Please use good judgment.

The different kicks (goal, corner, penalty, free):

The MYSA suggests that U08 allow goal kicks and corner kicks but discourages penalty kicks. There are no referees for U08 just one coach from each team. Our philosophy has been to call goal kicks, corner kicks and if blatantly obvious fowl, free kicks. This again should be discussed and agreed upon by the two team coaches before the game starts.

Size of Field:

MYSA suggests the field size for U08 be 20~30 Yards by 35~35 Yards (see attached, U08 4v4.pdf).

Size of Goals:

MYSA suggests a 6 x 18 foot Goal or smaller. Due to Petershams limitation of one field for all age groups, Petersham will be using 6 foot pug-nets. Other towns may have their own limitations.

The main thing is that the two team coaches discuss the issues, and work together to ensure ALL the players have fun. Because it is not important "if you win", "if you lose", or "how many goal you scored" but that these young players have fun while learning to play soccer.