SOUTH BALDWIN COUNTY LEAGUES

2025 9U Soccer Rules

1. Girls and Boys will play 7v7.

2. Shin guards & cleats (rubber soled only) are to be worn at all times. NO metal, football, softball/baseball cleats allowed.

3. Play two 25 minute halves with a 5 minute half-time.

4. **Kick-off:** Beginning of game, restarts after goal has been scored, and after half will be performed at mid-field.

5. **Corner Kicks.** Players can stand anywhere on the field, including the goal box. A player from the attacking team will take the kick.

6. **Goal kicks.** All players, other than the kicker and the goal keeper, must remain behind the build-out line and will follow build-out line procedures during all goal kicks. The kicker can choose to pass the ball to a teammate behind the build-out line or to the additional player. All other players cannot cross or attack the ball until the defending team has possession of the ball. Goal Kicks may not go across mid-field without being played by a player on the field other than the player kicking the ball- an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot where the ball crosses half-field.

7. **Not Punting**. Goalies are only allowed to roll, throw, or pass the ball. Drop kicks or bounce kicks are still considered punting and are not allowed. Goalies are not allowed to kick or throw the ball across mid-field. The ball must touch a player on the field before crossing mid-field line. If the goalie kicks or throws the ball across mid-field without touching a player on the field, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot where the ball crosses half-field.

8. **The Build Out Line**

   -*In effect for Goal kicks and Keeper/Goalie possession*

   a. **Goal kicks:** (dashed line) will be used to move kids behind the line when goal kick is in effect. The attacking team cannot cross the line, touch or rush the ball regardless of the ball's position until the pass-in touches a teammate of the defending team for a 2nd time. If the opposing/attacking team touches the ball, then the defending team will restart the kick. Further violations will result in an indirect kick being awarded where the violation occurred. A goal-kick is no longer required to leave the penalty area before a teammate touches the ball, meaning the goal keeper or the kicker can pass the ball to a teammate in his/her goal box. In addition, the ball is not live simply because it crosses the line; it must be touched by a 2nd defender before the attacking team can advance.

b. **Keeper has possession of ball:** When the goalkeeper has full possession of the ball during play, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play **(punts and drop kicks are not allowed)**. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal. *The goal keeper does not have to wait for players to be behind the line to put the ball back into play. If the defensive team chooses to play quickly and it is touched twice by the defensive team, then the ball is live.

c. The Build out line will also count as the line to assess where offside offenses occur. Players **cannot be penalized** for an offside offense between halfway line and build out line. Players **can be penalized** for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line.

9. Swap sides of the field at half time.

10. Throw-ins. During the month of September, if an illegal throw-in is performed, the referee will instruct the player on the error and give player another chance to throw the ball in. If a second illegal throw-in is performed, control of the ball will be given to the opposing team. During the month of October, an illegal throw in will result in control of the ball being given to the opposing team without a second opportunity.

11. Opponents must be at least 2 feet from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken.

12. Handballs. If a player intentionally uses hands to gain advantage call the foul. If not intentional, continue with play. Direct kicks are awarded for all intentional hand balls and fouls. A handball will also be awarded if a teammate passes the ball to the goalie and the goalie picks it up. Handballs in the penalty box will result in a penalty kick.

13. Penalty kicks use FIFA Laws/Rules.

a. Goalkeepers may now come slightly closer while defending a penalty, only required to have one foot on the goal line instead of required to stand completely on it.

b. An attacker who required medical treatment may now be allowed to take a penalty once treatment is concluded.

14. Free Kicks:

a. During a free-kick – direct or indirect – the attacking team may NOT have a player within one yard of the wall. If they do, the referee can penalize the attacking team with a free-kick in the other direction.

b. PK- only allowed if foul committed inside of penalty box area.

c. There are no quick free kicks.

15. **Drop Ball:** A drop ball will now be awarded if a ball strikes a referee and falls in possession of the opposition side, or if the ball strikes the referee and ends up in the back of the net. Drop balls can no longer be contested. However, along with that, drop balls can be taken by an attacking team wherever they possessed the ball when play was stopped, meaning an attacking team can continue from the point at which the attack was stopped. Drop balls are only awarded from a referee.

    a. Any play stopped in the penalty area will be returned to the goalkeeper no matter who possessed the ball at the stoppage.

16. **Offside is in effect.** We will continue to utilize a one-two referee system (depends on availability) and the referee will call clear and obvious offside infractions. Very close potential offside situations will be considered onside unless the referee has a good vantage point to make the call.

17. Goals cannot be scored from kick-off.

18. Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal

19. **No headers.** Any purposeful or accidental headers will be considered a foul and will award the opposing team with an indirect kick. All headers will result in an indirect kick outside of the box or where the header occurred. No PK's are awarded. PK's are considered direct kicks and should be reserved for handballs and fouls.

20. No slide tackling.

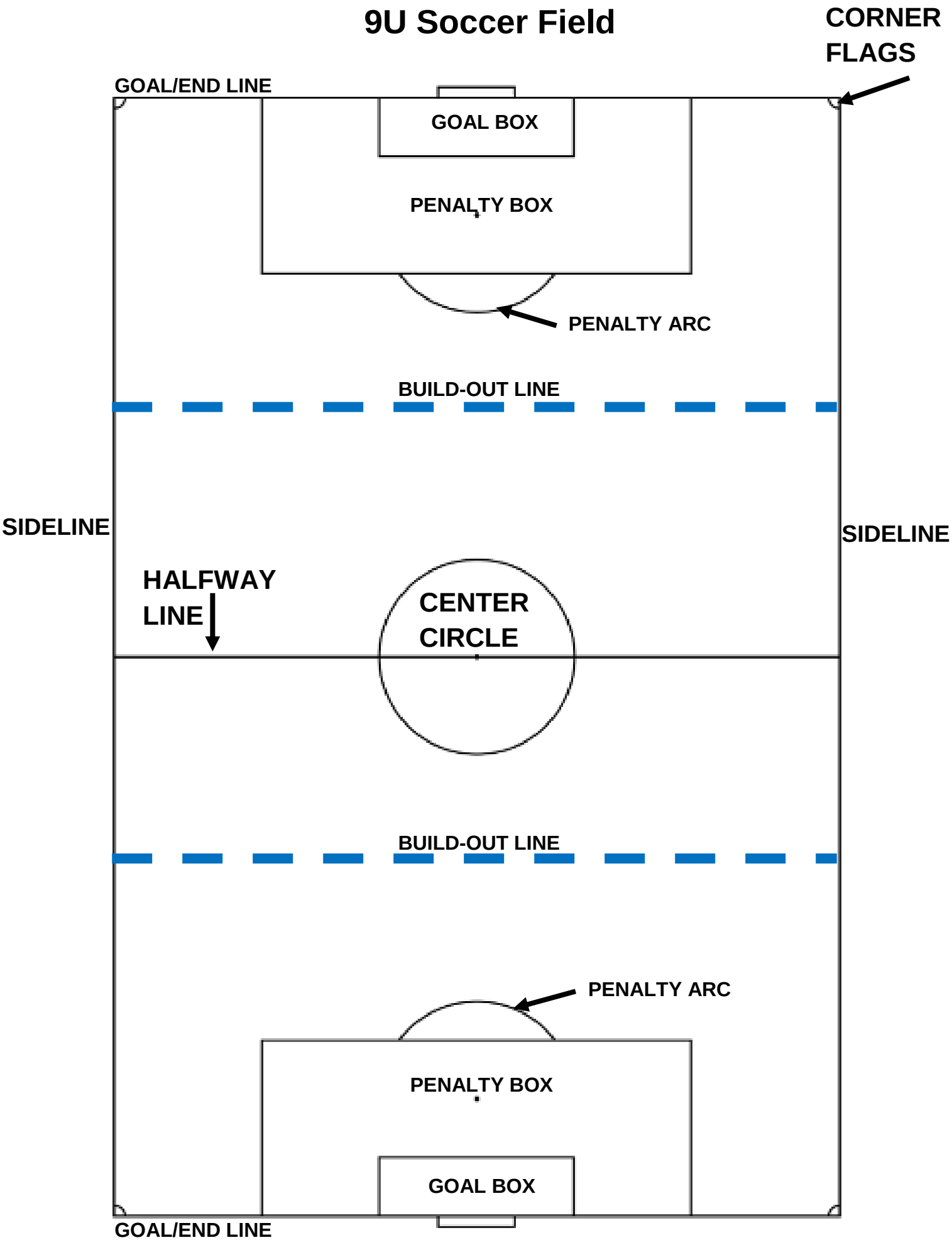
21. Substitute (UNLIMITED) at referee's discretion. Any substitute must leave the field of play at the nearest sideline point, unless the referee determines they can quickly make his way back to the team's designated touchline area.

22. All fouls will be IAW FIFA Laws/Rules.

23. **Mercy Rule:** If a team has a significant lead, the coach is encouraged to substitute players to avoid the mercy rule. If a team is ahead by 10 points or more after the 1st half, a mercy rule will be declared and the game shall end.

24. **Game Forfeiture:** Is declared if a coach or team refuses to start or restart game, and if a team is unable to field two less players than the number indicated to be on the field within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time.

9U Soccer Field



	5U COED	7U COED	9U Boys	9U Girls	11U Boys	11U Girls	14U Boys	14U Girls
# of Players	4 vs 4	5 vs 5	7 vs 7	7 vs 7	9 vs 9	9 vs 9	9 vs 9	7 vs 7
Field Size (yards)	20 X 30	25 X 35	40 X 60	40 X 60	50 X 80	50 X 80	50 X 80	40 X 60
Goal Size	4 X 6	4 X 6 or 5 x 10	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	6 X 18 or 7 x 21	Regulation 8 x 24	Regulation or 7 x 21
Ball Size	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5
Offsides	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Headers	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Punting or Drop Kicks	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Game Time	4 X 8 minutes (3 min half)	4 X 10 minutes (3 min half)	2 X 25 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 25 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)	2 X 30 minutes (5 min half)
Goal Keeper	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Slide Tackling	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Referees	1	2 preferred 1 accepted	2 preferred 1 accepted	2 preferred 1 accepted	2	2	2	2
Build-Out Line	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Penalty/Direct Kicks	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Indirect Kicks	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Handball Violation	Intentional only	Intentional only	Intentional only	Intentional only	YES	YES	YES	YES
Changing Sides at Half	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Coaches on Field	YES 1 only per team	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO