



To	All Clubs
Subject	Mini League Football Rules

Football U7 to U9

Kick-Off Times: to be agreed between match coordinators

Rules for 2023 Season

Each team to have a **MAXIMUM of EIGHT (8) players. (5v5+3)**

1. Every player must be registered for the current season (NO CARD NO PLAY), reason being for Insurance purposes and age cheating.
2. All coaches, managers, and referee's to be SAFA (CT) card carrying members.
3. Both teams to line-up 2 minutes before kick-off to present player card to coaches and to shake opposition's hand.
4. Each team must field one (1) goalkeeper and four (4) field players.
5. Unlimited rolling substitutions may be made at any stage during play. Players may be brought on and off the field multiple times throughout a game.
6. The match will consist of THREE (3) periods of TEN (10). With a TWO (2) minute interval.
7. A different player **MUST** play in goal in each interval, and no player should play in goal for more than one period. The buy-in of coaches is requested, as it is important that a player is not pigeon-holed as a goalkeeper before U10. Referees to check the goalkeeper at the start of each period.
8. Every player must play a minimum of one (1) full period per game.
9. Start the game in the middle of the field and when a goal is scored.
10. Where the ball goes out over the touch line, a **kick-in** will take place. Opposition players **MUST** be three (3) meters away from the kick-in to allow play to restart. The team taking the kick-in may be as close to the kick-in as they like.
 - **No direct shooting permitted from dead ball situations (kick-in, free kick, corner)**, even if the ball is shot at goal and deflects off an opposition player or a teammate, the dead ball situation must be retaken. The ball must be played to a teammate before shooting at goal.
11. A penalty awarded within the goal area shall be taken six (6) meters from the goal line.



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12. Goalkeeper:

- A goalkeeper can only throw / roll the ball back into play from a save or when the ball goes over the goal line (missed shot).
- The goalkeeper can drop the ball and pass the ball, play is active once the ball is on the ground.
- No goal kicks are permitted.
- The goalkeeper **cannot** kick out of hand.
- Opposing players must retreat 3 (three) meters from the goalkeeper to allow play to restart.
- We encourage the referee to allow the goalkeeper space to get the ball back into play.
- The goalkeeper can play as a sweeper as well. He / She is allowed outside the goal box area.
- The goalkeeper **cannot** pick up a back pass, if the goalkeeper picks up a back pass, an indirect free kick is awarded to the non-offending team from the place of the last pass.
 - If the last pass was made inside the box, then an indirect free kick takes place outside the box.

13. No off-side rules in the game, but players must be made aware of the off-side rule to avoid “camping” in the opponent's half. Match officials to always apply and speak to both players and coaches.

14. Full corners – opponents to be three (3) meters away. No goals can be scored directly from any corner.

15. Coaches and managers are NOT ALLOWED on the field of play.

16. Dependant on space, coaches and substitutes may be permitted behind the goal line during play closest to corner flag but **NOT** directly behind or next to the goal posts.

17. Only the referee is allowed on the field of play.

Regulations:

1. Recommended size is 25m X 35m
2. Hockey goals or similar goals to be used Length 2,570m – Height 1.7m – Width 1,125m
3. A Halfway line and penalty area to be lined or marked with cones. A simple penalty box marked with four (4) cones will be suffice. Dimension of the penalty box should be 15 meters x 8 meter and the penalty spot should be 6 meters from goal.
4. No spectators are permitted to stand behind the goal line.
5. Spectators should be TWO (2) meters away from the touch line at all times. To allow the children to kick-in freely. This space may vary from club to club due to space allocation & layout. But no less than ONE (1) meter at all times. Please adhere to the HOME coach and referee's request regarding space to the above.
6. Only **SIZE 3** ball to be used
7. Each club must have a trained First Aider on Match Day.

CTTFA Junior Affairs

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C Jansen (Treasurer), J Asher (General Secretary), Vacant (Head of Competitions),
A Roman (DC Convenor), G Nicholls (Head of Referees)

Kindly address all correspondence to the Secretary of the Association