



## Dover Sherborn – U8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) Soccer - Rules of the Game

All rules of the game are governed by FIFA the officiating body for soccer. Please see below alterations that have been tailored for the Dover Sherborn soccer 2<sup>nd</sup> grade program.

**Size of team: 5v5 – NO GOALKEEPERS for weeks 1-6. Week 6 onwards play 6v6 including a Goalkeeper.**

**Length of game: Two – 25 minute halves**

**Size of ball: Size 3**

**Law 1- The Field of Play-** Fields will be marked and measured to DSSC specifications. Referees will check the field for SAFETY issues and correct placement of goals before each match. TEAMS must stay on their own half of the sideline, and spectators must be on the sideline opposite the teams. No one, teams or spectators, shall be allowed along the goal line or behind the goals. Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. If no penalty box is marked, cones should be used.

**Law 2- The Ball-** U8 will use a size 3 ball.

**Law 3- Number of Players-** U8 will play 5v5 with **NO GOALKEEPERS** for weeks 1-6 of the season. After week 6, games will progress to 6v6 with A GOALKEEPER. SUBSTITUTIONS for U8 may be made at any stoppage. Substitutions are made with the referee's permission and must enter at midfield. The referee should allow substitutions for injuries and other situations when a player wants/needs to leave the field.

**Law 4- Player Equipment-** All players must wear shinguards and may not wear jewelry. No exceptions other than for medical alert or religious items which must be taped to the body. NO HARD HAIR CLIPS, CASTS, WATCHES, BRACELETS OR EARRINGS. Footwear must be safe, NO TOE CLEATS, tied securely and have no sharp or rough edges. Players will be provided with a DSSC jersey which should be worn for all games.

**Law 8- Start and Restart of Play-** Starting the match- The start of the match is decided by a coin toss conducted by the referee. The winning team shall have kick off, the other team shall start the second half. All restarts are throw-ins except for goal kicks, corner kicks and kick-offs.

**Law 10 – Method of scoring –** NO goals can be scored **OUTSIDE** the penalty box when playing with NO GOALKEEPERS. If this occurs, an indirect freekick shall be





awarded to the other team from the penalty box.

After week 6 when Goalkeepers are introduced, players can score outside the penalty box.

**Law 11- Offside-** There is no offside for U8.

**Law 12- Fouls and Misconduct-** Fouls shall be called when observed to keep the game safe and fair. Referees will not use yellow or red cards for misconduct or serious foul play. If referees feel a player presents a danger to themselves or other, the referee should work with the coach to resolve the issue, including having the coach give the player a break off the field to discuss.

**Law 13- Free Kicks-** U8- all kicks are INDIRECT.

**Law 14- The Penalty Kick-** Fouls committed in the box, including handballs shall result in a penalty kick. This shall be taken from the edge of the box/or the 8 yard line – this is at the referees discretion. The penalty kick is taken with NO goalkeeper.

**Law 15- The Throw-In-** U8 Illegal throw-ins must be called by the referee and the reason for it being illegal explained. Players are allowed to retake the throw-in as many times as necessary to do it correctly. It is very important to be teaching the players about correct throw ins.

**Law 16- The Goal Kick-** Defending players must retreat to behind the half way line for the goal kick to be taken. The kick must be taken from the edge of the box. **NO PUNTING allowed from the goalkeeper when distributing the ball. If the goalkeeper punts, the referee will instruct the goalkeeper to retake.**

**Law 17- The Corner Kick-** Follow standard FIFA Law.

**Law 18- COMMON SENSE-** This isn't in the FIFA Laws, but all officials need to use their best judgment to keep DSSC matches SAFE- FAIR- FUN. The players are young children who are still learning the game and part of your responsibility is to help them learn. Use your whistle and hand signals, and use your voice to explain, direct and instruct. Be patient, and have fun!

