

**HSC: Nashville Youth Soccer Association  
Modified FIFA/IFAB Laws  
Under 15 Division**

**Law I – The Field**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

**Law II – The Ball**

- A. Ball Size: five (5)

**Law III – The Number of Players**

- A. Maximum of 16 players per team
- B. On Field: 10 players and a goalkeeper (11 v. 11)
- C. The coach must remain in the coach's box (from the top of the penalty area to the sideline.) The coach or anyone filling in for a coach must be at least 21 years of age. Only the coach and one assistant coach are permitted on the player's bench side of the field during the game. All other parents and spectators must watch the game from the opposite touch line. No assistant coaches or spectators may sit/stand/coach from behind the goal or along the goal lines.
- D. Coaches should refrain from talking to the referee (including the assistant referees) during the game. If the coach has a question, he/she should wait for half time or the conclusion of the game. The referee will not stop the game or the clock to talk to a coach.
- E. Substitutions
  - 1. Teams have an unlimited number of substitutions;
  - 2. When a player is substituted, he/she may return to the game at a later point;
  - 3. Substitutions may be made at a stoppage that requires a kick-off, throw-in, or goal kick to restart play. (Substitutions may not be made at corner kicks or free kicks.) A team may substitute prior to a throw-in when that team is in possession of the ball, or with the referee's permission, if the opposing team is also substituting. With the referee's permission, either team may substitute before a goal kick or kick-off.
  - 4. Substitutes should stand outside the touch line at the midline and wait for the referee to signal them to come on the field.
  - 5. Changing the goalkeeper: Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper provided that the referee is informed before the change is made and that the change is made during a stoppage in the game when substitutions are permitted.
- F. All players should be given the opportunity to play at least ½ of the game.

**Law IV – Player's Equipment**

- A. Soccer cleats or tennis shoes (cleats are preferred). Baseball or Football cleats (cleats which contain a single cleat at the toe or very front of the shoe) are not allowed.
- B. Shin guards are required to be worn underneath the sock. The sock must completely cover the shin guards at all times. Players are not permitted to take the field without shin guards.
- C. ALL items of jewelry are strictly forbidden and must be removed prior to game time. This includes all necklaces and bracelets (whether string, leather, metal, or plastic), rings, earrings (including nose rings, tongue studs, and other piercings), leather bands, rubber bands etc. Using tape or band-aids to cover jewelry is NOT acceptable - the item must be removed. Furthermore, players must remove from their hair ALL hard clips, beads, or large bows from their hair. Soft "scrunchies" or pony-tail holders are permissible. The referees will inspect teams prior to each game and will ask a player out of compliance in this area to remove the jewelry or hair accessory.  
The player will not be permitted to play unless they are in compliance.

**Law V – The Referee**

- A. Certified Referee.

## **Law VI – The Assistant Referees**

- A. Certified Referee Linesman

## **Law VII – The Duration of the Match**

- A. Length: The game shall be divided into 2 equal halves of 40 minutes each.
- B. Breaks: 5 minute half
- C. Teams shall switch goals at half time.

## **Law VIII – The Start of Play**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law IX – Ball in and out of play**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law X – Method of Scoring**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law XI – Offside**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.
- B. In accordance with FIFA/IFAB rules, yellow cards (warning) and/or red cards (ejection from game) may be issued to a player by the referee. If a player receives two yellow cards or one red card in a single game, the player will be ejected from the game. The team may not replace the ejected player with a substitute; they must play one player short. **If a player is ejected from the game, he/she will also be required to sit out the next game played, and is required to be at the game and support his/her team.**

## **Law XIII- Free Kicks**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law XIV – The Penalty Kick**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law XV – Throw-Ins**

- B. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law XVI – Goal Kick**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Law XVII – Corner Kick**

- A. Conform to FIFA/IFAB Law.

## **Conditional Modified Rules**

- A. The Conditional Modified Rules (CMR) will go in effect when a 6-goal differential occurs in a game.
- B. The Conditional Modified Rules are:
  1. The leading team may only take shots on goal from outside the penalty box area.
  2. If a goal is scored from inside the penalty box area, it will result in a goal kick.
  3. CMR will be in effect for the remainder of the game or until the trailing team ties the game, whichever occurs first.
- C. The referee will keep score during the game. Immediately following the goal that puts the

game at the designated goal differential (6), and before the ball is returned to play, the referee will confer with both coaches at the midfield line on the sideline to share that the CMR is going into effect (briefly explaining the CMR, if necessary). The coaches will also be given the opportunity to quickly call their players to the sideline to remind their players about the change in play.

The International Football Association Board *Laws of the Game* may be downloaded from the USSF web site at: <http://www.ussoccer.com/referees/laws-of-the-game> or from the IFAB web site at: <http://www.theifab.com>.