

OSPL/COPL/OCL Playing Rules for the Spring 2026 Season **Updated 01/16/26**

Topic/Age Group	U-08	U-08, U-09 & U-10	U-11 & U-12	U-12/U-13/U-14/U-15/U-16+
No. of players on field	5v5	7v7	9v9	11 v 11
Min. Goal size (in feet)	18 x 6	18 x 6	21 x 7	24 x 8
Max. Goal size (in feet)	19 x 7	19 x 7	21 x 7	24 x 8
Min. field size (in yards)	20 x 30	40 x 60	45 x 75	50 x 95
Max. field size (in yards)	35 x 50	40 x 60	50 x 80	70 x 110
Penalty box (in yards)	16 x 8	26 x 10	34 x 14	44 x 18
Goal box (in yards)	10 x 4	16 x 6	18 x 6	20 x 6
Circle & arcs (in yards)	6	6 or 8	8	10
Penalty spot distance (in yards)	6	8	10	12
Team Technical Area				
Distance behind the Touchline	10 Feet	10 Feet	10 Feet	10 Feet
Distance from Half Line	10 Feet	10 Feet	1 Feet	10 Feet
Distance from Goal Line	5 Yards	10 Yards	14 Yards	18Yards
Spectator Area				
Distance behind the Touchline	10 Feet	10 Feet	10 Feet	10 Feet
Distance from Half Line	5 Feet	5 Feet	5 Feet	5 Feet
No Chairs Below Top of	Goal Line	Goal Line	Goal Line	Goal Line
Spectators Opposite Side Same End as Their Team	Not Behind Goal	Not Behind Goal	Not Behind Goal	Not Behind Goal
Length of halves (in minutes)	25	25	30	35 U-12-U-14/40 for U15/U16/45 U17+
Halftime (in minutes)	5	5	5	5
Ball size	4	4	4	5
Goalkeeper Punts/Drop Kicks	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Per FIFA	Per FIFA
Use of "Restraining Line"	Yes, Half Line is Used	Yes	N/A	N/A
Offside Enforcement	No	Yes (Using Restraining Line)	Yes	Yes
Goal Kicks	Top of PA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA	Per FIFA
Heading Restrictions	No Intentional Heading	No Intentional Heading	Intentional Heading U-12	Intentional Heading OK
Keeper Playback Rule Enforced	No	Per FIFA except U-08 *	Per FIFA	Per FIFA
Preferred Method of Control	1 Center	1 Center	Dual System	1 Center & 2 Ars
Acceptable Control if Assigned	1 Center	Dual System	1 Center & 2 ARs	Dual System Recreational Only
Referee Pay	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2
Captain's Meeting	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2
Min. Center Referee pay with 2 club Asst. Ref.	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2
Min. Asst. Ref. pay	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2
Min. Asst. Ref. pay with 1 club Asst. Ref.	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2
Pay with 2 referees using 2-man system of control	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2	See Page 2
Max. Guest Players Permitted	4	5	6	8
Max. Players IF Guest Players	8	10	12	16
Max. Players with no Guests	12	14	18	24

Referee Payment Grid – OSPL/COPL/OCL

Age Group	# Referees	Center or Referee 1	AR1	AR2 or Referee 2	Total Payment	Payment Per Team
U-08 25x2 5v5	1 (Center Only)	\$60	\$0	\$0	\$60	\$30
U-08/U-09/U-10 7v7	1 (Center Only)	\$60	\$0	\$0	\$60	\$30
U-10/U-11/U-12 30x2 9v9	1 (Center Only)	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$50
U-10/U-11/U-12 30x2 9v9	2 (Center + 1 AR)	\$85	\$45	\$0	\$130	\$65
U-10/U-11/U-12 30x2 9v9	2 (2 Referees)	\$65	\$0	\$65	\$130	\$65
U-10/U-11/U-12 30x2 9v9	3 (Center and 2 ARs)	\$70	\$40	\$40	\$150	\$75
U-12/U-13/U-14/U-15 35x2 11v11	1 (Center Only)	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$120	\$60
U-12/U-13/U-14/U-15 35x2 11v11	2 (Center + 1 AR)	\$90	\$60	\$0	\$150	\$75
U-12/U-13/U-14 /U-15 35x211v11	2 (2 Referees)	\$80	\$0	\$80	\$160	\$80
U-12/U-13/U-14/U-15 35x2 11v11	3 (Center and 2 ARs)	\$80	\$50	\$50	\$180	\$90
U-13/U-14/U-15/U-16 40x2 11v11	1 (Center Only)	\$130	\$0	\$0	\$130	\$65
U-13/U-14/U-15/U-16 40x2 11v11	2 (Center + 1 AR)	\$100	\$60	\$0	\$160	\$80
U-13/U-14/U-15/U-16 40x2 11v11	2 (2 Referees)	\$80	\$0	\$80	\$160	\$80
U-13/U-14/U-15/U-16 40x2 11v11	3 (Center and 2 ARs)	\$90	\$60	\$60	\$210	\$105
U-15/U-16/U-17/U-18 45x2 11v11	1 (Center Only)	\$140	\$0	\$0	\$140	\$70
U-15/U-16/U-17/U-18 45x2 11v11	2 (Center + 1 AR)	\$110	\$70	\$0	\$180	\$80
U-15/U-16/U-17/U-18 45x2 11v11	2 (2 Referees)	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$200	\$100
U-15/U-16/U-17/U-18 45x2 11v11	3 (Center and 2 ARs)	\$100	\$70	\$70	\$240	\$120

When a player or coach is issued a Red Card or a player has exhibited signs of a concussion, the Referee is to complete a Match Report for the Red Card, but is NOT to take possession of the player/coach pass.

- **The referee is to text the name of the player/coach to 614-515-9300, 812-493-3013 and 614-381-1170 on the day of the game.**
- All players/coaches receiving a Red Card will be suspended for a minimum of one game.
- It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure compliance to this rule.
- Illegally participation will result in a minimum two game suspension for both the coach and the player.

Home Team wears LIGHT Jerseys and Visiting Team wears DARK Jerseys

We will be implementing the new FIFA Laws of the Game Changes for this season.

Player passes and coach passes will be checked prior to ALL games this season unless further clarified.

If a coach wishes to challenge the eligibility of a particular player, they are to inform the referee BEFORE the game or at HALFTIME. A player pass for the challenged player is to be provided by the team. That challenge is to be documented by the referee on the game card. Use of an illegal player will be grounds for a forfeit as well as other sanctions by the league.

Guest player(s) must be declared prior to the match or at halftime to the referee and the opposing head coach.

Guest players MUST be carded with the Club for whom they are guest playing.

The team scoring a goal is NOT to touch the ball after the goal has been scored. The team taking the kickoff (i.e. the players on the team conceding the goal are the only players to touch the ball prior to the Kickoff (penalty: Caution for player touching the ball for interfering with a restart by the opposing team.))

Electronic Communication Devices may be used by Referees in all league games including tournament games.

Players may be substituted during a game as follows:

At any stoppage in play at the discretion of the referee.

If a player for the opposing team is at the mid-field flag waiting to be a substitute when the team that is awarded a throw-in or corner kick has a substitute to enter the game, the substitute for the opposing team may also enter the game. Generally, if the team that has been awarded a throw-in or corner kick does not have a substitute, then neither team may substitute a player. HOWEVER, if the team taking the throw-in or corner kick does not elect a quick restart on a throw-in or corner kick or if the ball has gone sufficiently far from the field, the referee, at his/her discretion may allow a substitution by the opposing team.

Substitute players must stand at mid-field on the team's sideline and wait for the referee to beckon them onto the field.

A player MUST be replaced if the match is stopped for an injury or if bench personnel come on to the field to tend to an injured player UNLESS the player is the team's goalkeeper or in the event a team has no substitutes available or if the player has been awarded a Penalty Kick and is going to take the Penalty Kick.

It is strongly suggested that the Coaches and Referees meet before the game/match to briefly discuss the FIFA changes to the Laws of the Game (LOTG).

Coaches are to meet with the referee BEFORE all U-08 to U-10 games to discuss PDIs implementation for our league (and any set asides if agreed to by coaches)

Teams can elect to set aside any and all of the PDIs (except for heading) if BOTH coaches agree. Once agreed to by both coaches, the rules shall remain for the entire game/match.

The program will implement the Build-Out Line for all U-08 to U-09 Games per the following guidelines:

Offside is enforced for 7v7 games inside the Build Out Line Only (This has been listed on the first page of the Quick Rules for many years).

Clarifications on "When the Ball is in Play" (and WHEN the defense can pressure beyond the Restraining Line)

- The "Ball is in Play" when the ball is touched by any player after the goalkeeper releases the ball from his/her hands or feet from within the penalty area
 - The ball is NOT in play simply when the goalkeeper releases the ball from his/her hands for the purpose of making a pass while within the penalty area
 - In these cases, the "Ball is in Play" when the ball is touched by any other player
- The "Ball is in Play" when the goalkeeper touches the ball outside the penalty area after releasing the ball from his/her hands or feet
- The "Ball is in Play" when a Goal Kick (or other Free Kick taken from Inside the Penalty Area) is touched by a player inside or outside the penalty area
- The "Ball is in Play" when a Free Kick taken from Behind the Restraining Line, BUT Outside the Penalty Area is touched by a player other than the kicker
- The "Ball is in Play" as soon as the ball crosses the Restraining Line
- **The "Ball is in Play" as soon as the ball STOPS after being released by the Goalkeeper when passed**

Clarification on "Playing Quick" from the Goal Keeper

- The Goal Keeper Can Elect to Hold the Ball Until the Defense Retreats Behind the Restraining Line
- The Defender Team CAN be Cautioned for Unsporting Behavior IF a Player Fails to Retreat Behind the Line
- IF the Goal Keeper Elects to "Play Quickly", he/she does so at HIS OWN RISK
- IF the GK "Plays Quickly" BEFORE the Defense has Retreatted AND the Possession is LOST by the Goal Keeper's Team, PLAY CONTINUES

At the U-08 Level ONLY, a goalkeeper is not to be penalized for using hands on a pass back from a teammate, HOWEVER, if the referee deems this to be a "tactic" the referee is to penalize per FIFA after warning the team involved.

The program will implement the Build-Out line for U-10 Games per the following guidelines:

- **The ball is in play when released from the hands of the GK or when the ball is kicked and moves on all Free Kicks from within the Penalty Area.**

For all games U-10 and under, the 8-second count for GKers is not to start until ALL ATTACKERS are behind the build-out line

Teams are Expected to complete a Game Report after each game. The game report includes the score of the game (even though the actual results will be entered into the GotSport site), a review of the referee(s) and a review of the opposing team. This form will be very brief, but will be used for ongoing referee improvement and to improve the relationships between coaches/spectators and referees.

COACHES are 100% responsible for the conduct of their spectators.

- **In the event a referee has identified a spectator who is acting inappropriately or making inappropriate comments, the referee can either:**
 - **Directly address the parent (NOT Recommended!)**
 - **Approach the coach and have the coach deal with the spectator**
- **The referee may choose to request any of the following:**
 - **Request that the parent be warned by the coach (IF the coach chooses NOT to warn the spectator, the spectator is still considered to have been warned with the next “step” being taken by the referee as they feel is appropriate)**
 - **Request that the spectator be removed from the game and the game area**
 - **When this request is made, it MUST be honored by the Coach regardless of agreement/disagreement with the decision!**
- **In the event a coach refuses to take any action toward the spectators claiming they have no control over their spectators, they are to be issued a Yellow Card..**
- **In the event that the coach still refuses to take any action claiming no responsibility for the spectators’ actions, they are to be issued a Red Card and dismissed from the game.**
- **If a spectator or a coach refuses to leave the area of the field (a minimum of 100 yards from the field of play) in a reasonable time period (1-2 minutes), the game is to be terminated.**
 - **League suspension rules and a Conduct Hearing will be required BEFORE the individual is permitted to return as a spectator and/or coach in our program.**

The expectation of Spectators/Coaches in our program is that they will act in a respectful manner toward referees, opposing spectators, opposing coaches and opposing players at all times.

In order for the players to have an enjoyable experience during games, spectators and coaches are expected to:

- **Avoid criticizing referee decisions – your role is to either coach the members of YOUR team or cheer on YOUR team**
 - **While the program understands that spontaneous comments will be made, any type of constant badgering or complaining by individuals will NOT be tolerated and will result in removal.**
 - **Profanity by spectators and/or coaches is to result in removal from the game (Cards are NOT to be shown to spectators)**
 - **Any statement instructing a player to potentially injure an opposing player (“elbow him back next time”, etc.) will result in removal from the game**
 - **Any consistent badgering (similar to a yellow card for persistent infringement) can result in removal from the game (warnings via a Yellow Card to a Coach or a warning to the Coach to be communicated to the Spectator(s)) MAY be given before removal. NOTE: warnings to spectators in such situations are NOT required).**
 - **If a Spectator confronts, questions or challenges a referee for any reason before, during or after the game, they are to be reported to the league and will be suspended for a minimum of two games.**
- **Avoid communicating in ANY manner with an opposing spectator, player or coach DURING or AFTER the game.**
 - **NOTHING productive ever comes out of these unwanted communications.**
 - **Any such communications by a spectator, coach OR PLAYER to the opposing team CAN result in a warning OR a dismissal depending on the nature of the communication.**
 - **THE MESSAGE SHOULD BE CLEAR: Communicate ONLY with your parents, your players and your coaches.**
 - **If a spectator from one team communicates in a friendly manner with a spectator from the other team, those communications are completely acceptable so long as BOTH PARTIES consider that communication to be taking place in an appropriate manner.**
- **Remain on their own end of the field with the midfield “Buffer” per these Quick Rules.**
 - **If a spectator elects to sit or stand in the area reserved for the opposing team (the half of the field directly across from their team, ANY communication made by that spectator (regardless to whom the comments are directed) can result in that parent being directed to their own half of the field.**
 - **SPECTATORS need to be on their own half of the field as documented here.**

See the Code of Conduct and Suspension Rules for more details.

As a USSoccer-Sanctioned League, we will be following the Referee Abuse Program effective 3/1/25. See: <https://www.ussoccer.com/rap>

