

A-Modified Corner Kick for Under-9 & Below

After two years of research and observation ([learn more here](#)), Ontario Soccer has introduced a small rule change regarding modified corner kicks to better support player development, safety, and enjoyment. It is achieved through more ball-in-play time and quicker restarts.

Why Was This Change Made?

- Stops defending players from kicking the ball out on purpose to get an easy goal kick
- Encourages dribbling, decision-making, and greater confidence on the ball
- Faster restarts mean more time playing and less standing around

What is the Rule Change?

When the defending team touches the ball last and it goes over their own goal line (and no goal is scored):

- The attacking team is now awarded a corner restart
- The corner is taken 5 yards up the sideline (not from the traditional corner flag)
- Players can choose to:
 - Dribble the ball into play, or
 - Pass the ball into play (on the ground)
- Defending Players must:
 - Give appropriate space, as with other restarts
 - Remain alert and organized

How Will it Work?

On the Field

- When the ball crosses the goal line off a defender:
 - The referee signals a corner
 - The ball is placed 5 yards up the sideline
- The attacking player chooses to dribble or pass
- Defenders give space, just like other restarts



What Does This Mean for Coaches?

This rule is designed to support the game at grassroots levels by:

- Increasing ball-in-play time
- Creating quicker, more efficient restarts
- Encouraging decision-making and creativity
- Providing more touches and movement for players
- Reducing congestion and physical pressure in the corner area

As a coach, this change supports training objectives already encouraged in player development models: possession, awareness, and purposeful movement.

Coaching Tips

- Prepare your players in training by rehearsing both dribble and pass options
- Encourage players to scan for opportunities before restarting and reinforce calm decision-making under pressure.

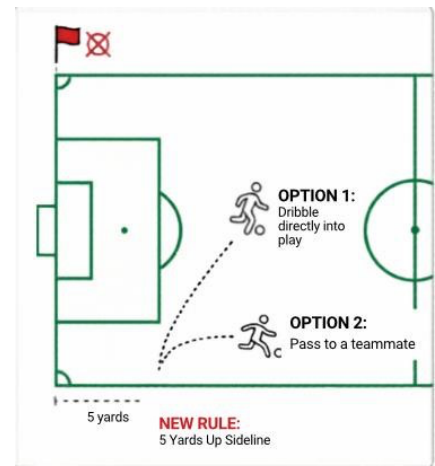
What Does This Mean for Match Officials?

U9 players are learning, and many may forget what restart they get. It's okay to:

- Point to where the ball goes
- Say things like:
 - "Corner kick, right here."
 - "You can dribble or pass."

Help With Re-positioning the ball by:

- Placing the ball on & 5 yards up the touchline from the corner
- Make sure defenders give space



If parents or coaches have questions, please reach out to Chandler McFall, Coordinator, Player Development at cmcfall@ontariosoccer.net. Match Officials can contact matchofficials@ontariosoccer.net for more information.

