



# South Houston Academy League

## Rules of Play

### General Philosophy

- To provide the most advanced training for both the players and volunteer coaches while maintaining a fun and positive environment for all.
- To provide players, coaches and spectators an opportunity to learn the game of soccer while instilling sportsmanship in all.

### Field of Play:

- Field must be rectangular with minimum dimensions of 35 x 45 yards and maximum dimensions of 45 x 60 yards.
- Goals must be 6'6" x 18'

**Ball:** Size 4

### Number of Players:

- A match is played by two (2) teams, each consisting of no more than eight (8) players, one of whom is a goalkeeper
- SHAL recommends matches be played with a minimum of seven (7), one of whom is a goalkeeper for Pure and Power brackets and eight (8), one of whom is goal keeper for Zero bracket.
- Coach of either team may request match be played with only six (6) players
- Minimum number of players to start each match is five (5)
- SHAL rosters are not frozen, guest players are allowed **IF NEEDED** to play the game.

- Guest players must be from same play group (Zero, Pure, Power) or lower.
- Guest players do not have to be from same region or club.
- **If team is behind by 4+ goals, they may add an additional player.**

#### **Substitutions:**

- At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

#### **Playing time:**

- Each player shall play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.
- Players in the goalkeeper position are limited to half the game in goal. SHAL recommends using a minimum of three (3) different goalkeepers in each game.
- Exception for the End of Season tournament: Teams may use a minimum of two (2) different goalkeepers for tournament games.

#### **Player equipment:**

- Conform to FIFA. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniform must still distinguish teams.

#### **Referee:**

- A registered referee, may be Grade 9 or above. BAYSA will attempt to assign referees for all matches, however if a registered referee is not available then a volunteer must be selected by the teams to call the match. All infringements should be briefly explained to the offending player. Assistant referee is not required, but may be used if desired.

#### **Duration of the Match:**

- Two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

#### **Start and Restart of Play:**

- Conform to FIFA, except opponents of the team taking the kick must be at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

#### **Ball in and out of play:**

- Conform to FIFA.

#### **Method of Scoring:**

- Conform to FIFA.

#### **Offside:**

- SHAL will play with offside for U10
- The offside rule should be reviewed with the referee prior to the start of each game.

**Fouls and Misconduct:**

- Conform to FIFA.

**Free Kicks:**

- Conform to FIFA except opponents must be at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.

**Penalty Kick:**

- Conform to FIFA with the exception that the penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

**Throw in:**

- Conform to FIFA.

**Goal Kick:**

- **Conform to FIFA, except attacking team must drop back to midway between the 18' and midfield and not advance forward until ball is kicked.**

**Corner Kick:**

- Conform to FIFA except opponents must be at least eight (8) yards from the ball until it is in play.