



## U8/U9 Interleague Rules for Ballard, Queen Anne and Woodland Soccer Clubs

Our Fall League uses a unique set of rules and guidelines that are a combination of official SYSA, USSF, US Youth Soccer, and Washington Youth Soccer guidelines. We also have to consider the requirements dictated by field and goal logistics on Seattle playfields. The goals of Fall League Soccer should be paramount no matter what the rules are for any age group:

*“Create a fun, realistic soccer experience that allows for lots of touches on the ball and the freedom to play creatively”*

Similar to the U5-U7 age groups of our in-house leagues, the U8/U9 Fall League is played on smaller-sized fields with fewer players on the field. Our 3-Club Interleague tries to conform to the USSF and SYSA small-sided rules and guidelines whenever possible, and to the standard FIFA Laws Of The Game (LOTG). The chart on the following page summarizes the exceptions to the FIFA LOTG and to any small sided guidelines used by our neighborhood clubs during the fall season.

If a rule is not listed here as an exception, coaches should assume that accepted FIFA Laws of the Game apply.

For lopsided games, coaches are encouraged to consider adjustments to these rules to help level competition. For example:

- At U9, a coach may have their team use the midfield line as a build-out line
- At U8 or U9, a coach may direct their team (and ask the referee to enforce) to remain behind the build-out line until the opposing team touches the ball instead of when the ball is put in play.
- A coach may ask a referee to not allow re-trys for throw-ins or corner kicks
- A coach whose team is routinely defeating opponents in lopsided games may invite the opponent to use an extra player before the margin reaches 5 goals.

## SUMMARY OF INTERLEAGUE “MOD” RULES FOR U8 & U9

Age Group	U8	U9
Players on the Field <sup>1</sup>	5v5	7v7
Field Size (in yards, subj. to availability)	35-45L x 25-35W	55-65L x 35-45W
Goal Size (in feet, subj. to availability)	6x8; 6x12; 5x10	6x12; 6x18
Build Out Line (BOL) <sup>2</sup>	Y - Midfield Line	Y - Halfway between the Penalty Area and the midfield
Ball Size	3	4
Roster Size	9	12
Min. Players for Game	4	5
Goalkeeper	Y	Y
GK Punt	N	N
Game Time	2x20 min.	2x25 min.
Score from a Kick-Off or Goal Kick	N	N
Offsides called	N	Y <sup>3</sup>
Heading <sup>4</sup>	N	N
Yellow and Red Cards	N	N
Slide Tackling	N	N
Direct Free Kicks	N	N
Penalty Kicks	N	N
Re-Try Throw-Ins	Y	Y
Re-Try Corner Kicks	Y	N
Mercy Rule <sup>5</sup>	Y - 5 goals	Y - 5 goal

<sup>1</sup> Including the goalkeeper.

<sup>2</sup> Opposing players must retreat past the BOL for goal kicks and when the goalie is in possession. They may cross the BOL once the ball is put into play.

<sup>3</sup> For U9, a player cannot be offside when between the midfield line and the BOL.

<sup>4</sup> The penalty for a header is an **indirect** free kick from the spot of the foul. If the header occurs in the goal box area, the kick is taken from the goal box line nearest to where the foul occurred.

<sup>5</sup> When one team leads by 5 goals (5-0; 6-1); the opposing team has the right to insert an additional player onto the field. The team must withdraw the extra player if the goal differential drops below 5 (5-1; 6-2). The player can enter the field with the referees permission at a stoppage in play, such as after the fifth goal is scored. A player should be removed immediately after a goal is scored and before the kick-off.