WHIDBEY ISLAND SOCCER LEAGUE

 Basic FIFA laws of the game apply with the following modifications to conform to the Washington State Youth Soccer Association and appropriate age brackets.

As always, good judgment, sportsmanship and fair play should govern the decisions and actions of all of the coaches, referees and spectators.

Referee abuse (verbal or physical) will NOT be tolerated. Report all instances of abuse to the referee assignor and/or to the league director or club president.

**1)   Player’s Equipment (all age brackets)**

a)   ALL PLAYERS SHALL WEAR SHINGUARDS. Socks must be worn up and over the shinguards.

b)   Standard approved soccer shoes or gym shoes shall be worn by all players. A player may not play in their bare feet.

c)    A player shall not wear anything that may be dangerous to other players or to themselves. This includes any type of jewelry. (Of note: taping or placing a bandage over ear rings does not provide a sufficient enough safety margin. Do not permit players to wear ear rings at any time.)

d)   All or any member(s) of a team may wear extra protective clothing against the cold including gloves without dangerous, protruding or hard objects, provided that:

i)   The proper team uniform is worn outermost; and

ii)  Any hat should be without peak, bill or dangling or protruding object of any kind; however, the goalkeeper may wear a soft-billed hat; and

iii) Referee discretion may be used to determine if an item of protective clothing is considered to go beyond the purpose of providing a means of retaining body heat.

**2)      Substitutions** -— (all age brackets) Each team has an unlimited number of substitutions and they may be made, with consent of the referee, at any stoppage in play.

**3)      U-8**

a)      4 players on the field including the goalkeeper. All games shall be played with an equal number of players. 3 field players are the minimum required.

b)      Two 20 minute halves (5 minute half-time)

c)      Size 3 ball

d)     The offside rule does not apply. However the spirit of the rule shall apply. Positioning a player in front of the opponent’s goal irrespective of the location of the ball on the field is not permitted. The referee shall award an indirect free kick to the other team and instruct the player and coaches on the intent of this rule.

e)      No player may make physical contact with the goalkeeper or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. Note that control of the ball includes if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or bath hands.

f)       For safety, there are NO direct kicks at goal awarded (hence no penalty kicks awarded).

g)      Slide tackling is NOT allowed.

h)      Several re-throws will be allowed for the players to learn proper throw-in technique.

**4)      U-10**

a)    6 players on the field including the goalkeeper.

b)      Two 25 minute halves (5 minute half-time)

c)      Size 4 ball

d)     The offside rule does apply.

e)      No player may make physical contact with the goalkeeper or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. Note that control of the ball includes if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

f)       Direct kicks shall be awarded for appropriate offenses. However NO penalty kicks are awarded. Therefore, for fouls that would normally result in a Penalty kick, place the ball on the Penalty Area line closest to the spot of the foul.

g)      Slide tackling is NOT allowed.

**5)      U-12 & U-14 & U-15**

a)      6 – 11 players on the field including the goalkeeper

b)      Two equal halves (5 minute half-time) U-12 = 30 min, U-14 = 35 min, U-15 = 40 min

c)      Size 4 ball U-12; size 5 ball U-14 & U-15

d)     The offside rule does apply.

e)      No player may make physical contact with the goalkeeper within the GOAL AREA or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree what so ever.  Note that control of the ball includes if the goalkeeper holds the ball on the ground with one or both hands.

f)       Direct kicks shall be awarded for appropriate offenses, including penalty kicks.

g)      Currently slide tackling is allowed, consistent with FIFA laws of the game.  The League is evaluating whether or not to continue to allow slide tackling.  This is a recreational league and player safety is your primary concern so watch how aggressively the players attack the ball – at all times but especially when they use this tactic.

 [LAWS OF THE GAME 2012](https://nwhidbeysoccer.org/files/2012/06/LAWS-OF-THE-GAME-2012.doc)

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Laws-of-the-Game.aspx>