**12U Division Rules**

1. The ball is a size four (4).

2. Duration of game is (2) 30 minute halves with substitutions at the halfway point of each half.

3. Number of players on the field is nine (9) with a minimum of seven (7) players including the goalkeeper.

4. Goalkeeper rules:

a. Permitted to play same player in goal for a maximum of two (2) quarters.

b. Players on the field may change places with the keeper ONLY during a stoppage in play AND providing the referee is informed.

5. Substitutions are permitted at four different times during the course of the game – halfway through the first and second half (approximate three (3) minute break), at half time (half time period is five (5) minute minimum), and for an injured player. An injured player, once substituted, is not permitted to reenter the game until the next quarter.

**6. Every player must play at least half of the game and no player can play four periods until everyone has played three. Players MUST play at least (1)offensive position and (1)defensive\goalkeeper position during the game.**

**7.** Coaches are to fill out an incident form for any injuries that may occur during any game/practice, especially injuries that occur to a players head/neck area. **These are available on our Website, richlandayso.com.**

8. Referees can issue yellow or red cards for penal fouls.

9. Free kicks in this division shall not vary from the laws. Both direct and indirect kicks will be taken with the opponents 10 yards away.

**10. Slide tackles are not permitted.**

**11a. Heading is NOT allowed. The restart of the game will be an indirect free kick.**

**11b. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team’s penalty area, must be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head.**

**12. Goalkeepers ARE permitted to punt or dropkick the ball.**

13. Offside in this division **WILL** be enforced. Restart of the game will be an indirect free kick.

14. Throw-ins in this division will not vary from the laws of the game. If a player makes an improper throw-in, the referee will call the improper throw-in and award the throw-in to the opposing team.

15. Coaches shall remain in the coaching area (within 10 yards of the halfway line on one half of the field). Teams must be on the opposite side of the field from spectators.

16. **Referees will be required for all games. Home team listed on the schedule is responsible for supplying the referee.**  A coach who is a certified referee may serve in the role as the referee but must actively participate as the referee. If no referee is present, the match shall be cancelled.

17. **Every effort should be made to prevent anything more than a 3-4 goal differential in any game.** (Incorporate another level of challenge if your team scores too easily: no one can score unless 3 touches on ball by 3 different people; team goal is to set up individual who has not yet scored, etc. Be creative.)

**SEE Additional Rules When Playing Inter-Regional Games.**