**8U Division Rules**

1. The ball is a size three (3).

2. Duration of game is four (4) ten (10) minute quarters.

**3. Number of players on the field is four (4) with a minimum of three (3) players.**

4. Goalkeeper rules – this division is played **WITHOUT** the goalkeeper position. This reinforces the law that the field players are not permitted to handle the ball. This includes not standing in the goal area.

5. Substitutions are permitted at four different times during the course of the game – at the end of each quarter (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 permittedto 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.**

**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. There will be no issuing of yellow or red cards in this division for penal fouls.

9. Free kicks in this division will only be direct free kicks, with the opponents six yards away, which will be awarded to the opposing team for offenses committed by their opponents. Ball is to be moved outside penalty area for offenses committed by the defending team inside that area.

10. Sliding tackles are prohibited in this division. If a player makes a tackle, the referee shall award a direct free kick to the opposing team and shall caution (explain) the foul to the offending player.

11. Heading is **NOT** allowed. Violations in this regional rule will result in a temporary stop in play to inform the player who has headed the ball that this action is not permitted in this age division. The restart of the game will be an indirect free kick for the opposing team.

12. Offside in this division will **NOT** be enforced nor instructed but players should not be positioned in the opposing team’s goal area (**no cherry picking**).

15. Throw-ins in this division will vary from the laws as follows – players making an improper throw-in will be instructed of the miscue and allowed a second attempt. A second violation of the throw-in will result in a turn over to the opposing team.

16. When the whole ball passes over the goal line and touches a player from the attacking team last (not into the goal), it should be kicked into play from where it crossed the line by a player of the defending team. (Goal Kick). **Opposing players must stand at least 5 yards before the ball is kicked back into play.**

**17.** When the whole ball passes over the goal line and touches a player from the defending team last (not into the goal), it should be kicked into play from the corner arc by a player of the attacking team. (Corner Kick)**Opposing players must stand back at least 5 yards before the ball is kicked back into play.**

**18. Referees are required for this age group, if there is not a referee for your game a coach from each team must be on the field at all times to help keep the game moving smoothly. Coaches can be the acting referees if they have completed the online 8U Referee course.**

**19. No Jewelry of any kind is permitted to be worn while participating in a game/practice.**

20. **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.)