



SOUTH TEXAS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION PROPOSED RULE CHANGE #10

SECTION I: ADD OR CHANGE A RULE

Is there currently a rule that applies? Yes No

Primary Page No(s): _____ Secondary Page No(s): _____

Rule Location: General Rules of Play

Title of Section: 6.2. **SPECIAL RULES OF PLAY – Under-11 and Under-12 Age Groups –
EXCEPTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO FIFA LAWS**

Rule as it presently reads:

6.2.7. **Field of Play:** The association / club / league which controls the fields shall determine the location of the teams, players, coaches, fans and supporters in relation to the field and each other.

6.2.7.1. Games played with 11 players on the field shall use fields that meet the requirements of Rule 6.1.1.

6.2.7.2. Games played with 8 players on the field shall use fields that meet the requirements shown below:

Effective 9/1/2009 – delete sections 6.2.7.1 and 6.2.7.2. (Added 2.8.09)

Size: 40 to 70 yards wide by 60 to 90 yards long

Proposed Additions and/or Changes:

Change the size of the field dimensions to read:

50 to 70 yards wide by 70 to 90 yards long

SECTION II - JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE:

As the rule currently reads, 12 year olds could potentially be playing on the same size fields as 9 year olds, or as teams that play 6v6 (see rule 6.3.2.7). There is a large difference in athletic ability between the ages of 9 and 12. To put the size in perspective, envision a 3rd or 4th grader playing against a middle school age student. There is not only a difference in ability, but also a difference in physical size. The reduction of players to 8v8 is for the purpose of player development (skills, first touch, ball handling, etc.). The smaller field size makes it extremely difficult to develop field awareness and other strategies that players should be developing at this age in preparation for transitioning to 11v11. Additionally, every mistake on the part of the defense could potentially result in a goal just due to the number of bodies in a relatively small area. Another issue observed this season (as U11's) was the ability of goalies to punt from one end of the field to the other leading to goals that required no skill or strategy, just lucky goals resulting from the bounce. US Youth Soccer recommendations are approximately 55 x 80

yards. As stated in the rules, the intent is to move all U12 to 8v8, we ask that additional rule changes be developed to accommodate children of this age and size appropriately.

Submitted by: Clint Schantz, AAYSA, NEYSO, SA United

Rules Committee Recommendation: Rules Committee recommends as amended:

40 to 70 yards wide (with a minimum of 50 yards recommended) by 60 to 90 yards long (with a minimum of 70 yards recommended)

Executive Committee Recommendation: Recommends against passage
The Executive Committee wants to allow maximum flexibility for the local play groups. However, it should be noted that the US Youth Soccer Official Under-12 Playing Recommendations (Law 1) recommend the following field sizes: 45 to 55 yards wide by 70 to 80 yards long. The Executive Committee encourages adherence with USYS recommendations.