

U6 Game Guidelines **For Distribution to Coaches, Players and Spectators**

U6 is a fun division to coach, play and watch. You have the “aggressive player”, the “daisy picker player” and the “I don’t want to play player” all playing in the same game. (Sometimes it is the same child at different times during the game).

This is usually the first soccer experience for a lot of coaches as well as players and spectators. The goal of U6 is to give the player a “taste” of the game, some experience in working together as a team, and (most importantly) a positive soccer experience.

In an effort to instill good soccer habits and make the game more enjoyable for all, please refer to the following U6 game guidelines. Coaches are asked to be sure their players/parents receive this information.

Field Location: Brett Field. There will be four fields in the outfield grass of the baseball field where Pine and Sheldon Streets meet. There is a parking lot on the first base and third base sides of the baseball field.

Adults On The Field: Region 92 allows for 1 coach on the field during a U6 game acting as a referee. This coach “monitors” (and remains) on the field, away from the action and permits the kids to play. His/her function is to provide basic direction as to ball placement, ball direction and player distance from the ball (5 yards) during an opponent’s thrown-in or kick and to give support to the kids. Generally, a coach or parent from one team acts as referee during the first half and a parent or coach from the other team acts as referee during the second half.

Game Format:

BALL: Size 3

GAME DURATION: Soccer games are played in two halves...not four quarters. Our U6 divisions play two 10 minute halves with a short substitution break in the middle of each half. There is also a halftime break of 5-10 minutes.

MAXIMUM PLAYERS ON THE FIELD: Region 92 plays 5 v 5, with no goalkeeper.

START OF THE GAME: A free kick in the middle of the field. Coaches should determine which team starts the game. The opposing team should start/kick-off the second half. Players should be 5 yards from the spot of the free kick.

BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

1. When the whole ball passes over the touchline, either on the ground or in the air, it should be thrown in from where it crossed the line, by a player of the opposing team.
2. When the whole ball passes over the goal line (not into the goal), it should be kicked into play from where it crossed the line, by a player from the opposing team.

SUBSTITUTIONS: May take place between each 5 minute break and/or at half time. (If a child comes off the field or does not want to return to the field, a new player may be sent in.) Please note that the clock keeps ticking through the substitution breaks.

TIME ON THE FIELD: Players are to play three out of four quarters if the roster/attendance permits. If the roster does not permit 3/4 play by every player at every game, the coach must record substitutions at every game to maintain and account for an even balance of play for every player throughout the season.

FOULS: • All “fouls” result in direct free kicks, with opponents five (5) yards away. All fouls should be explained to the players.

VARIANCE FROM FIFA LAWS:

- **No goalkeeper, no penalty kicks, no offside.**
- Throw-ins – At this level, we do not call back illegal thrown-ins.
- Players should be 5 yards away from the center mark for an opponent’s kick-off.
 - Players should be 5 yards away from an opponent’s direct, goal or corner kick

Coach, Player and Spectator Responsibilities:

Field Consideration: Our U6 divisions share this field site with the region's U5 division. The U5 is a division that provides the "soccer experience" to our 4 year old players. The game format of this division is different than the U6. While it may appear that they are only practicing, the U5 players take their game time as seriously as our other divisions. Please respect their use of the field and do not walk through their activities. The schedule will inform you if there is a U5 game before or after your own game time.

Coach Responsibilities: The coach's presence is to ensure safety, instill confidence and promote fun. If our 5-year-old players can hear their coach during their play, we do not want them to hear an adult yelling at them for 20 minutes. If the child cannot hear the coach yelling instructions, then why bother. Either way, let the kids play and then use your half time break to provide additional instruction along with encouragement. Coaches should use game time to identify the subject of their next practice.

Team Responsibilities: The coach should line-up players for pre-game inspection (cleats, shin guards, no jewelry or metal hair clips, etc.) At the end of the game, the coach should coordinate players in a short "cheer" for the opposing team and line-up players to shake/"high five" the hands of the opposing team. This instills good sportsmanship as a habit as the player advances to older divisions.

The home team of the first game of the day is responsible for setting up the field.
The home team of the last game of the day is responsible for taking down the field.
(This does not mean that the visitors cannot help)

Questions regarding field set-up or take down may be directed to your division commissioner.

ALL TEAMS are responsible for cleaning up after every game...please pick-up all trash, even if it isn't yours. We do not want to jeopardize having the use of these fields.

Spectator Responsibilities: Coaches should advise spectators on correct seating area. The home team (the first team listed on the schedule) should sit back 3 feet from the touchline on the north or east side of the field. The visiting team (listed last on the schedule) should sit back 3 feet from the touchline on the south or west side of the field. The Coach should make it very clear that **spectators are NOT to sit behind the goal line**. Sitting behind the goal line will distract the players on the field and put the spectators at risk. Spectators should also be reminded to stick to positive cheering and encouragement of their players...**NO SPECTATOR COACHING FROM THE TOUCHLINE!** Spectators should assist the coach with field set-up or take down as noted under team responsibilities.

Pets on the Field: Per the ESUSD, dogs are NOT permitted on school property. This currently applies to all games or practices on school property. If a game or practice takes place on city property, City ordinance does permit a leashed dog on the property. However, the regional board strongly requests that dogs NOT be brought to any field during games or practices. No matter how loving, well-behaved and gentle our pets may be, the soccer field is an environment of a high degree of activity, excitement and noise. There is no way to know what player or spectator may be afraid or allergic to animals. Bringing a pet to the field only increases the risk of injury to the children, the pet and the pet owner. In consideration of others, please leave pets at home so everyone can enjoy the event and give the children their undivided attention.

Unless cited otherwise, our U6 guidelines are taken from the AYSO U6 Coach Manual (provided to every U6 coach upon completion of the U-6 Coach Course), FIFA Laws of the Game and Regional Amendments. Coaches, Parents and Players should also refer to the Region 92 Parent/Player Handbook for additional AYSO/Regional information.

AYSO Region 92 strives to offer a positive soccer experience for coaches, players and spectators. We greatly appreciate the time and effort put in by our volunteers. If you have any additional questions, please contact your Division Commissioner.