



## **FALL 2017 NCSL RULES CHANGES**

Below are a series of significant rules changes that affect play in NCSL. The rules are set forth in their entirety in the NCSL Rules and Procedures Manual (available at [http://www.ncsl-soccer.com/rules-procedures/index\\_E.html](http://www.ncsl-soccer.com/rules-procedures/index_E.html)). They are summarized here.

### **U9 & U10 Build-Out Line**

A new line has been added to the markings on the field for the U9 and U10 age groups. It is called the Build-Out line. It's a line across the pitch midway between the center line and the penalty area. When a goalkeeper has the ball in hand, and also during goal kicks, the attacking team must retreat behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is put back into play. Moreover, an attacking player cannot be in an offside position if they are behind this line.

We expect that most clubs will not physically line their fields with the Build-Out Line. Accordingly, cones, pennies, or other objects may be placed on the sidelines to mark where the Build-Out Lines would be.

### **U9 & U10 Punting/Drop Kick Restrictions**

If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line, parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred.

### **U9, U10, U11 Heading Ban**

Whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. The proper restart depends upon whether the player deliberately played the ball with his or her head. If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

### **U11 & U12 Number of Field Players**

Each team in the U11 and U12 age groups will play with nine (9) players on the field during league games. The maximum roster size for the U11 and U12 age groups is 16 players.

### **Field/Goal Dimensions**

The tables below represent the acceptable US Soccer field and goal dimensions for league games for U9 & U10 and U11 & U12 age groups. The game should be played if the field dimensions meet the NCSL Accepted Range in the table below.

**U9 & U10**

	<b>US Soccer Mandate</b>	<b>NCSL Accepted Measurement/Range</b>
<b>Width</b>	35-45 yards	35-50 yards
<b>Length</b>	55-65 yards	55-75 yards
<b>Penalty Area</b>	12 yards	12-14 yards
<b>Goal Area</b>	4 yards	4-6 yards
<b>Penalty Spot</b>	10 yards	10 yards
<b>Penalty Radius</b>	8 yards	8 yards
<b>Goals</b>	6.5x18.5 max	6.5x18.5 max

**U11 & U12**

	<b>US Soccer Mandate</b>	<b>NCSL Accepted Measurement/Range</b>
<b>Width</b>	45-55 yards	45-60 yards
<b>Length</b>	70-80 yards	70-85 yards
<b>Penalty Area</b>	14 yards	14 yards
<b>Goal Area</b>	5 yards	5-6 yards
<b>Penalty Spot</b>	10 yards	10 yards
<b>Penalty Radius</b>	8 yards	8 yards
<b>Goals</b>	Recommend 6.5x18.5 but 7x21 max	6x18 or 7x21