



## U9 and U10 Boys Rules of Play

*(These rules have been adapted from the BC Soccer recommended modifications of the FIFA Laws of the Game)*

### **#1 RULE - HAVE FUN!!!!!!**

**Fields** – play on Boyd White East and Boyd White West - half the field running North-South. On Boyd Red North is half the field running East-West.

**Ball size** – 4

**Players on field** – 7 v 7 (including a goalie keeper, encourage keeper to “rove” and play defence as well)

**Referees** – provided by the Club, each team supplies a linesman. Referee controls the game. We encourage you to lead by example and respect the referees and their calls. The referees at U9 and U10 are typically 12, 13, and 14 year old players from the boys and girls clubs. They have taken the Small-Sided Referee course and passed the written exam and assessment. They are learning too. Please pass this messaging on to your parents as well. One day that might be your child out there refereeing and you wouldn't want them to be verbally abused by a coach or parent on the sideline. If a referee does not show for a game, please let Mike Laing your age group coordinator know.

**Playing time** – equal playing time for all players, minimum 2 goalies per game

**Substitutions** – at stoppage of play only with referee's permission (a loud “subs please” to the referee)

**Equipment** – soccer cleats/turf shoes and shin guards are mandatory

**Game time** – two (2) 25-minute halves with 5 minute half time and change ends

**Scoring** – score from anywhere, no offside. **No need to rack up the score – this is NOT the World Cup and no scores are reported. Encourage passing, team work and sportsmanship.**

**PARITY RULE** (will be implemented by referee): There is no fun or learning from lopsided games. At anytime, except the last 5 minutes of game, when there is a 4 goal differential, the referee will stop the game and approach the “leading” coach. The coach will be asked to switch his line-up, implement a 5 passes before shot (as an example), move forwards to defence, etc... If the lopsided scoring continues, the other team will be able to put on an extra player. If it further continues, play will stop and both teams will be asked to divide their team in two and send one half to the other team. One new team wears pinnies.

**Fouls** – referee calls. Coach to sub player off and instruct if bad foul play.

**Kickoff** – all players in own half, opponents **retreat 8 metres**

**Free kicks** – all indirect. Opponent **retreat 8 metres**.

**Corner kicks** – opponents **retreat 8 metres**

**Penalty kicks** – none

**Goal kicks** – taken from anywhere is penalty box, opponents **retreat 10 metres**, ball must leave the penalty box. A goal cannot be scored directly from a goal kick. **In the Richmond FC, at U9 and U10 we have “retreat line” rule for goal kicks.** Players from the opposition must “retreat” 10 metres to allow the goalkeeper to play the ball out of the box on the ground with a pass to his teammate rather than just punting the ball in the air down field. We are encouraging our players to development their soccer skill and pass. Please follow the goal kick retreat line rule.

**Throw-ins** – retake if foul

**End of game** – 3 cheers and team line “good game” hand shake. Cold and flu season we recommend “high elbows” (instead of high-fives)

Just a note on throw-ins and handballs .... The referees at these age groups are encouraged to keep the flow of the game going. As the players at U9 and U10 are learning, referees will not call every single handball – denial of goal scoring opportunity and obvious handball like putting hand up to bring the ball down from the air – YES .... Dribbling down the field and the ball bounces up and hits hand, probably not. The referees would be blowing the whistle every 30 seconds. On throw-ins, after 2 attempts the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a go regardless if done correctly.