Bucyrus Area Youth Soccer
Under 9 Guidelines

-Field size 60 x 40 yards

-Goal size is 6ft x 18ft

-Ball size is a #4

-Duration of match: Two - 25-minute halves (no overtimes) Games will end in a draw if score is tied. (Kept by referee)

-Players on the field- The number of players on the field should be 7 per side. However, this number can be flexible. Ranging from 6 to 9 depending on the team's player attendance that day. The number should be agreed upon by both coaches. The number includes the goal keeper.

-Minimum number of players is 5 or game is forfeited.

-Playing at Advantage: A team is not to play more than one player up on the other team. Coaches have good sportsmanship in mind for the sake of the players when deciding this.

-There is a goalkeeper and the goalkeeper must wear a different colored jersey or practice vest than the rest of his/her team so the referee can readily recognize that team's goalkeeper. The jersey should be a different color than the opposing team as well.

-**Build-Out Line**

- The spirit of this rule is to encourage the U9 and U10 teams to learn how to play the ball forward from the first third. Traditionally keepers have been able to just punt the ball across the midway line which was a detriment to the players learning how to progress the ball forward from defense to mid field to the attackers.

- When the goalkeeper has the ball in his/her hands during play, the opposing team must move behind the build-out line until the ball is released from the goalkeeper's possession.

- Once the opposing team is behind the build-out line, the goalkeeper can release the ball by passing (NOT dribbling), throwing, or rolling the ball to a teammate who is on his/her side of the build-out line or beyond the build-out line.

- Section 1R has clarified that the goalkeeper may roll (not bounce) the ball and then pass the ball to a teammate on their side of the build out line.
- PUNTS and DROP KICKS are not allowed from the keeper.

- After the ball is released from the goalkeeper's possession, the opposing team may cross the build-out line and play resumes as normal.

- The goalkeeper releasing the ball from possession or the player taking the goal kick does not have to wait for the opposing players to move behind the build-out line.

- The play from the goalkeeper or from the goal kick can be played to a teammate beyond the build-out line.

-**Offsides**

- The build-out line shall be used as the line to determine offside. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build-out line.

- Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build-out line and goal line.

-**Indirect Free Kicks**

- A goal cannot be scored unless the ball touches another player from either team before entering the goal
- Opposing players must stay at least 8 yards away from the ball until it is in play**, unless they are standing on their own goal line between the goalposts**

-**Back-Pass Rule**

- A goalkeeper cannot use their hands or arms to touch the ball if a teammate **intentionally** kicks it to them.
- **Intent Matters**: Accidental deflections, mishit clearances, or passes that are not intentional do not count as a back-pass violation.
- The **indirect** free kick is taken from the exact spot where the goalkeeper touched the ball with their hands.
- If the offense happens inside the team's own six-yard box, the referee moves the indirect free kick to the nearest point on the six-yard line that runs parallel to the goal line. The defensive players are allowed to stand between their own goalposts to defend the **indirect** kick.

-**Heading the ball.**

- Consistent with the US Soccer (USSF) mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for the U9 age divisions and below in both practices and games.
- An indirect free kick (IFK) will be awarded to the opposing team if a player, age 10 or younger, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a match**.**
- The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the player deliberately touched the ball with his / her head.

- An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area, must be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the player deliberately touched the ball with his / her head.

-PENALTY KICKS can be awarded but only in cases that prevented an obvious goal scoring opportunity.

-Corner kicks and Goal Kicks are standard.

-Subs are controlled at the discretion of the referee.

-NO yellow or red cards. If the referee feels a player is playing out of control, he may ask the coach to sit the player. For a minimum of 5 minutes; but the player should have an understanding of what he or she is doing wrong before they re-enter the match.

-Coaches will be sent off for misconduct. In this event an assistant coach will need to be present to coach the team or the game will be forfeited.

-Coaches and Assistants should remain by their bench and not enter field of play during the match and fans should remain on the fan side of the field of play (opposite side of the player/coach area). No one should be in the area of the goal lines.

-There should be one coach giving verbal instruction at a time. Please be constructive and positive.
-Team will lose possession for a foul throw-in.

-There is a blowout rule max positive goal diff +5 so there is no incentive to run up score for standing (if you win 10 to 2 you only get a positive of 5 that goes toward your teams' standings/points-for example the actual score would be recorded as 7 to 2).

-A mercy rule goes into effect when one team is 5 points ahead of its opponent. The leading team is then required to shoot outside of the 18-yard box. If a shot on goal is scored inside the 18-yard box in this situation a goal kick will be awarded to the defending team with no score.
-Score and league standings will be kept. The referee will report the final score of each match to the concession stand.

-Halftime is 5 minutes

-A maximum of 11 players are allowed on the field at any given time, however the number of players on the field will be agreed upon by coaches and the official.

-Remember above all, that our main objective is for the kids to have fun and play to the best of their ability.

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