



9v9 Standards



Player Development Philosophy

- Coaches should have the age appropriate license issued by U.S. Soccer
- The training-to-game ratio should be 2-3 training sessions per game played
- Rosters should include no more than 16 players
- Players should participate in no more than 30 games per calendar year and in no more than one game per day
- Every player should play a minimum of 50% of the time in each game



Player Development Philosophy

- Results and standings should not be recorded
- Players should have a minimum of 2 rest days per week during the season along with planned breaks from organized soccer during the calendar year
- Any travel should be limited to day trips with limited allowances for overnight stays
- Events (ex: tournaments, showcases, festivals, etc.) should provide a predetermined number of games with no advancement, placement games or champions



Concussion Initiative

- Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed
- If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment
- The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player
- Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game

Concussion Initiative

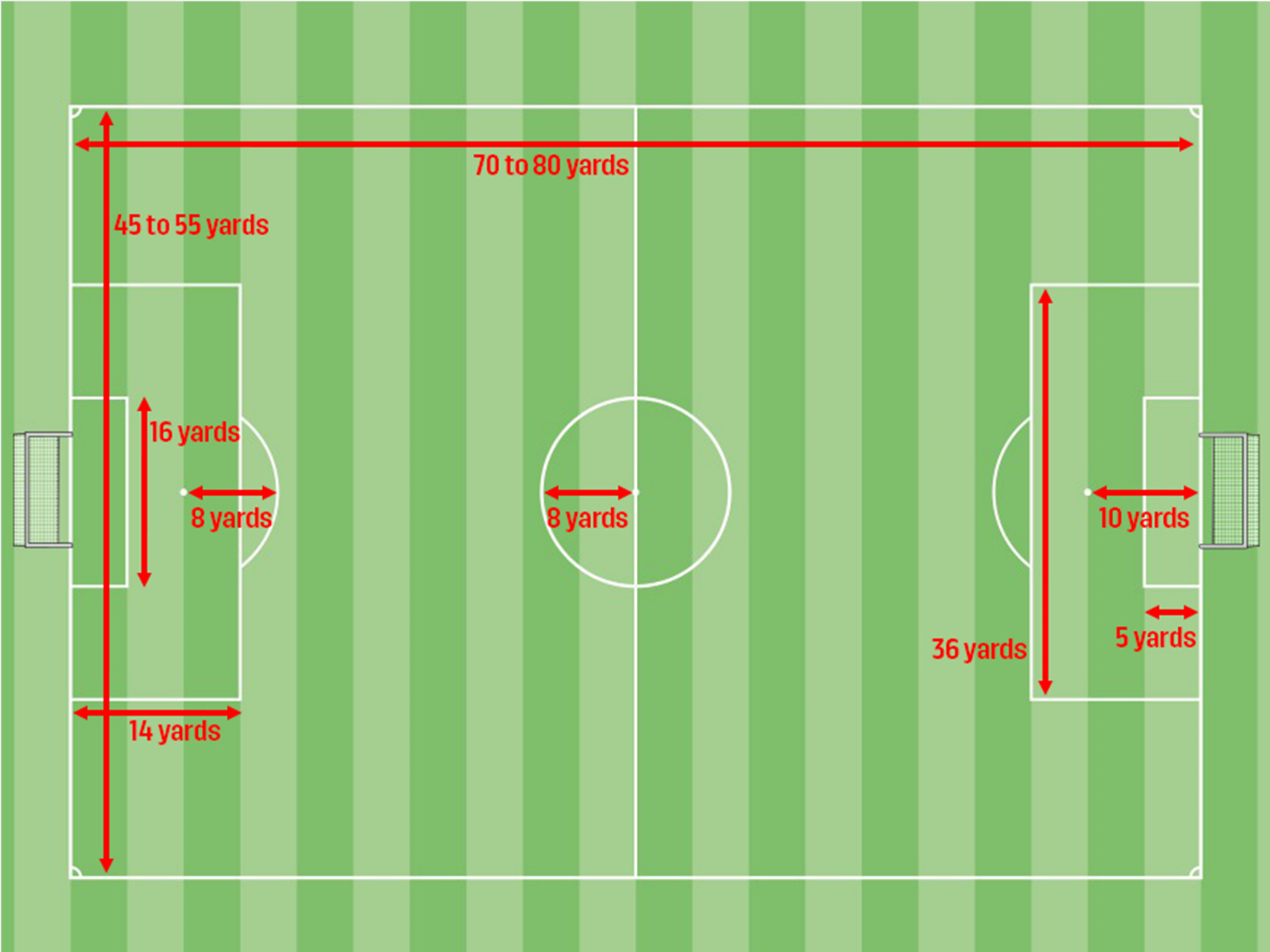
- Heading is not allowed in 9v9 games in U11 play
- If a player heads the ball in U11 play, whether deliberately or accidentally, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense
- If a header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred
- In a controlled and individual environment (where heading is an isolated skill being taught away from any form of opposition or other aspects of the game), the use of lightweight balls (foam, balloon, etc.) would be acceptable for teaching heading technique



Modified Laws of the Game

- Law 1 – Field of Play
 - 70-80 yards (length)
 - 45-55 yards (width)
 - Goals should be no larger than 7 feet (height) x 21 feet (width)
 - A 6.5 feet (height) x 18.5 feet (width) goal is recommended based on the age and ability of the players
 - Diagram contains recommended field markings and dimensions

9v9 Standards of Play





Modified Laws of the Game

- Law 2 – Ball
 - Size 4
- Law 3 – Number of Players
 - 9v9 (8 field players and 1 goalkeeper)
 - Game may not start or continue if there are less than 6 players on a team
 - Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage



Modified Laws of the Game

- Law 5 – Referee
 - Minimum certification as a U.S. Soccer Grade 9 Referee
- Law 6 – Other Match Officials
 - Used at the discretion of the competition authority



Modified Laws of the Game

- Law 7 – Duration of the Match
 - 2 halves
 - 30 minutes halves
 - 10 minute halftime
 - No added time



Standard Laws of the Game

Law 4 – Players' Equipment

Law 5 – The Referee

Law 8 – Start and Restart of Play

Law 9 – Ball In and Out of Play

Law 10 – Method of Scoring

Law 11 – Offside

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct*

Law 13 – Free kicks

Law 14 – Penalty Kick

Law 15 – Throw-in

Law 16 – Goal kick

Law 17 – Corner kick

*With the exception of deliberate heading in U11 games