

Hotspurs USA Soccer Club

Ref's Call: Law One

First of all I would like to give a big warm welcome to all Hotspurs Families. This section of the newsletter is intended to be a place of discussion on the laws of the game and their application to the youth game. Also I hope to focus on a few questions asked by you.

Each article will try to pinpoint a particular law in more detail so that you will have an understanding to where it fits into the game itself. If you didn't know, there are 17 Laws of the game and each will be discussed in future articles.

For this first edition, I would like to start with a very logical place, Law 1 - The Field of Play.

The field of play may be of natural or of artificial surface. Field markings must be rectangular and marked with lines. These basic markings are for full size fields and are reduced to fit the appropriateness of the age group playing. The field must be longer than wider and can be as long as 130 yards and up to 100 yards in width. Each field shall have lines indicating a goal area, a penalty area, corner flag posts, a corner arc and a goal.

The goal area is 20 yards in width and 6 yards in depth. The goal is placed in the middle on the goal line and must be securely anchored. Goal size varies from 21 feet wide to 28 feet wide, based upon age group and are either 7 feet or 8 feet tall, also based upon age group.

The penalty area is 44 yards in width and 18 yards in depth. At the top of the penalty box in the middle is a half arc of 10 yards where players are to stand behind when there is a penalty kick. In the penalty area 12 yards from the goal line is a penalty mark, 9 inches diameter or a line 9 inches in length.

Corner flags are mandatory and required for the game to be played. Corner arcs are 1 yard from the corner.

There is a halfway line, separating the field into equal halves. In the center of the field is a 10 yard circle where kick offs are taken and players must stand behind except for the attacking players taking the kick off.

Technical areas are not mandatory but are highly recommended. The technical area is 1 yard back from the touchline and extends for youth games, 10 yards either side of the halfway line. All players, coaches and parents must stay 1 yard back from the touchline at all times. If teams are on the same side of the field there is a ten yard separation between teams.