

# Soccer Rules U4-U6

## The Ball

- U4 play with size 3 soccer balls.
- U6 play with size 4 soccer balls.

## Number of Players

- U4 & U6-3v3 with goalkeepers
- Substitutions for U4& U6 may be made at any time but should be made during a stoppage in play.
- All players will be given the opportunity to play in each game.

## Player Equipment

- Shin guards worn under the socks are mandatory.
- Cleats are recommended but not required.
- No baseball cleats with a “toe cleat” or metal spikes are allowed.
- No Jewelry is permitted during play. Tape over earrings is not permitted even if the earrings are new and may not be removed. If the jewelry may not be removed the player may not play.

## The Referee

- U4 & U6 games are officiated by coaches or parents.

## Duration of the Match

- U4 & U6 play four 8-minute quarters with a 2-minute break between quarters and a 5-minute half-time break.

## Start and Restart of Play

- The team that wins the coin toss chooses which goal to defend.
- The other team starts play with a kick from the center mark.
- Teams’ alternate kicks from the center mark to start play at the beginning of each quarter or half.
- Players may not touch the ball twice at the start of play.

### Ball In and Out of Play

- The ball is in play until it completely crosses over a touchline or goal line.

### Method of Scoring

- A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses over the goal line, between the goal posts and below the crossbar.
- U6 teams are awarded a kick-in after being scored upon.
- Game scores are not counted for division standings or playoff seeding.

### Offside

- A player is offside when he/she is in the opponent's half of the field, nearer the goal than the second to last defender and/or the ball and involved in play.
- Offside is not called for U4 thru U6 age groups.

### Fouls and Misconduct

- Fouls are classified as either Penal (Contact) or Technical (Non-Contact)
- Penal fouls include tripping, pushing, etc.
- Technical fouls include dangerous play and impeding (obstruction).
- Yellow or red cards are administered for fouls committed carelessly or recklessly.
- Cards are never shown to U4 & U6 players.
- Coaches for younger players deal with inappropriate behavior by removing the players from the game for a "cool down" period.

### Free Kicks

- Free kicks are either direct or indirect.
- A goal can be scored from a direct free kick.
- Indirect kicks must be touched by another player before going in the goal for the score to count.
- All free kicks for U4 thru U6 are indirect free kicks.

### Penalty Kick

- Penalty kicks are awarded when the defense commits a direct free kick foul in the penalty area. No penalty kicks are awarded for U4 & U6 age groups.

### Throw-In

- A throw-in is taken when the ball completely crosses the touchlines (sidelines)

### Goal Kick

- A goal kick is awarded when the offense kicks the ball over the opponents' goal line.
- The ball must leave the goal area to be in play or the kick is retaken.
- U4 & U6 use kick-ins instead of goal kicks.

### Corner Kick

- A corner kick is awarded when the defense kicks the ball over their goal line.