

WFCU Essex County Soccer League

Under 8 (U-8)

Referee – Parent – Coach Quick Reference Rules

Section 1.0: The Laws of the Game

1.1: Game format: 5 vs. 5

1.2: Game Day Roster: Maximum 10 players on the bench. Minimum 4 players to start game

1.3: Game Length: 40 minutes total. Two 20-minute periods.

1.4: Game Sheets: A game sheet must be presented to the festival organizers for each game

1 hour prior to the beginning of the game. A game sheet must be given to the referee at the field for each game.

1.5: Reporting: Complete by both teams within 24 hours of the game.

1.6: Ball Size: 3 or 4

1.7 No Penalty Kicks

Section 2.0: Rules and Regulations

2.1: There will be no scores or standings.

2.2: There will be no offsides.

2.3: If the ball becomes out of play, a "throw-in" will not occur. Instead, it will be substituted by the player passing or dribbling the ball back into play.

2.4: All free kicks will be indirect.

2.5 Player substitutions may be made at any time (on the fly).

2.6 Retreat Line Rule implemented: The Half-Way Line.

When the goalkeeper has the ball in their possession, be it at a goal kick or after making a save, the opposing team members must retreat to the predetermined area of the field.

The predetermined area of the field will be marked with pylons placed both side of the center field.

Implementing the retreat line rule allows the goalkeeper to safely and successfully throw or pass the ball to another teammate. Once the player receiving on the allied team from the goalkeeper touches the ball, the ball becomes back into play and the opposing players may now progress past the retreat line. Game resumes as normal.

The five second rule will also be implemented in the new retreat line rule. This rule indicates that the ball will become in play five seconds after it leaves the goalkeepers hands.

If the goalkeeper chooses not to wait for the opposing players to retreat, and they throw or pass the ball down the field, the ball is instantly in play and does not require a playing from the allied team to touch the ball first.

