

**Lake View Athletics**  
**Laws of the Game**  
**Association Amendments**

**Fall 2017 Edition**



## **A Note Regarding Our New Direction:**

Lake View Athletics will once again be utilizing the FIFA Laws of the Game for the 2016 / 2017 season. However, in lieu of our usual custom rulebook, we have decided to provide you with the key amendments / modifications that pertain to our league. Only the laws listed here as being amended have been modified from the 2016 / 2017 FIFA Laws of the Game. All other laws will follow the 2016 / 2017 FIFA Laws of the Game as written without any modification. This will reduce printing costs, save money, and streamline our program with the other leading soccer programs in the country. In turn, your child / children will be exposed to the game as it is supposed to be played at this young stage in their lives. This will create a positive environment that will allow everyone to grow in the game and hopefully create a lifelong passion for it.

As a coach or parent, you will be expected to know, at a minimum, the amendments that pertain to our league AND the Laws of the Game as presented in the USSF publication “Laws of the Game Made Easy” *thoroughly* when the season opens. It is highly recommended that each coach utilize the “Laws of the Game Made Easy” publication to understand the laws as they are presented in the FIFA publication 2016 / 2017 FIFA Laws of the Game. It will be the responsibility of the game officials to know, understand, and be able to interpret and apply the Laws of the Game as they are presented in the FIFA publication.

**Finally, Lake View Athletics will adopt the official position taken by US Soccer, which includes the United States Soccer Federation (USFF), US Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), US Club Soccer (USCS), and California’s Youth Soccer Association regarding the youth player and heading the ball. Starting in the Fall 2017 season, players in the Instructional, Squirt, Rookie, or Midget divisions, or any player age 10 or younger, will no longer be permitted to head the ball in practice or during matches. In the Instructional and Squirt Divisions, coaches have full responsible for their safety of their players and enforcing this rule during practice and mini-game sessions. In the Rookie and Midget divisions, the referee will enforce this rule with the nationally accepted penalty of an indirect free kick to the opposing team. Any coach in any of these divisions found not assisting with enforcing this rule, especially in practice scrimmages, mini-games, or in scrimmages scheduled between other teams that are not scheduled by Lake View Athletics, or reported by parents as having promoted, endorsed, encouraged, or coached heading the ball during practice time scrimmages will be subject to disciplinary action.**

All previously mentioned publications will be available free of charge for download from our website [www.lakeviewathletics.org](http://www.lakeviewathletics.org). We wish everyone a wonderful season.

Lake View Athletics

## Procedural Amendments

- The referee will submit the full match report to Lake View Athletics using the designated reporting system. The report will include final score, card(s) issued, and any player sent off or coach dismissed from the match. Each **team's coaching staff** will be responsible for verifying the score posted at the conclusion of the match. Should a correction need to be made, the division director should be notified of the error.
- **In the Midget division and younger, players are not permitted to head the ball. In Rookie and Midget division matches, any direct heading of the ball will result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team.**
- Coaches DO NOT RECEIVE CARDS. If a coach/coaches cause trouble for a referee, the referee will address the situation as warranted. Referees have been instructed to use the "Ask, Tell, Dismiss" model in game control when dealing with problematic team officials or spectators. It is to be noted that the referee has the liberty to use all, some, or none of the intermediate steps before dismissing a problematic coach from a match.
- There will be a **maximum of three (3) coaches** permitted to coach a team during a match. If all coaches are dismissed, that team will forfeit the match. Another registered coach **CANNOT** fill the void after all three coaches have been dismissed. However, should a director be present and willing to coach, the director may coach for the remainder of the game. Lake View Athletics does not desire to punish players for coaches' actions.
- Coaches are to assume full responsibility for the behavior and conduct of their team's spectators. Coaches are responsible for removing problematic spectators from the field and its immediate vicinity should the referee request the spectator(s) be removed.
- All coaches in all competitive divisions **EXCEPT ROOKIE & MIDGETS** are to **remain inside their respective technical area by their team bench during a match. Stepping onto the field or standing on the boundary lines is absolutely prohibited unless signaled to enter the field of play by the referee to assist an injured player.**
- **One coach from each team in the Rookie & Midget division will be permitted to give instruction from the side diagonally opposite their respective technical area. This coach MUST stay on the half of the field diagonally across from their respective technical area/bench regardless of team side changes after halves. Coaches do not have to do this, and may remain by their bench and coach from the coach's side if they so choose.**
- Parents must remain on the spectator side of the field when watching a match. **NO SPECTATORS are to be behind the goalkeepers' nets** or on the team side of the field.
- Slide tackling will not be permitted in any age division. Repetitive infringements will result in the offending player being cautioned and shown the yellow card.
- The instructional and squirt divisions are non-competitive. No scores or records of the game will be kept. The goal of the instructional and squirt divisions is to teach proper soccer technique **and game play** while helping players develop in the game.
- Standings will be kept according to the policies set forth by the board of directors for the current season. This information will be made available once the details are set.
- Drafting of players will only occur in the competitive divisions. The Instructional and Squirt Division Directors will distribute the players into teams for this group.

- A League Director or designated official may suspend play in the event of inclement weather. No game can be rescheduled or cancelled without the approval of the **Division Director AND the league scheduler.**
- Call-ups of players registered in and playing in lower divisions, as well as players playing in multiple divisions, **ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR ANY REASON!**

## **Player Leveling in the Competitive Divisions**

- A team must have a minimum of seven (7) players to field a team (6 field players and a goalkeeper)
- If a team does not have 7 players by ten (10) minutes after the scheduled kick off time, that team will forfeit the match.
- If a team has less than a full team, but has seven or more players, the opposing team must level down to the number of fielded players to be up by **NO MORE THAN TWO (2) PLAYERS DURING PLAY.** A coach may, in an act of good sportsmanship, level down to the number of players the opposing team is capable of fielding. However, being up by no more than two players is all that is required.

**EX:** MAJOR DIVISION – Team “A” only has 9 players show up to a match, while Team “B” has all rostered players show up. Team “A” decides to field 8 players (7 and a goalkeeper). Since Team “A” is fielding 8 players, Team “B” may field no more than 10 players (9 and a keeper) and must utilize substitutions to rotate the rest in. Let’s assume team “B” decides to do this. If Team “A” decided to field the extra player, or another player for Team “A” comes late to the game, each team may field the players in a 1-for-1 method during a substitution opportunity. This continues until the teams reach the maximum number of players they are allowed to field.

## **Drafting of Players**

- Players will participate in a ratings combine to be rated by persons familiar with the sport, skill, and program.
- Each player who participates will receive a numerical ranking based on subjective AND objective criteria. Subjective criteria will be evaluated by persons well-versed in the skill they are evaluating.
- The players will then be compiled and be separated by age and sex. A player’s playing age is determined based on their year of birth.
- Coaches will be selected for each division by the division directors and approved by the Lake View Athletics Board of Directors. The coach’s child/children are removed from the list and automatically placed on their team(s).
- Each coach can choose up to two assistant coaches. The children of these assistant coaches cannot exceed the head coach’s allotment of 4 freezes. If the number of children for the assistant coaches exceeds the 4 freezes, the assistant coach will not be able to be with that team.

- The assistant coach's child/children are removed from the list and placed on their respective team.
- The remaining players on the list will be divided equally according to rank, with most requests being honored as long as the rankings equate.
- If requests for certain children lead to a stacked team, the coach will be given the option as to which child / children he wants to fill the number of spots available. The rest will be released back to the draft list for others to request.
- Any child or children not requested by a certain coach or not requesting a coach who has a roster spot available will be separated equally by rank. Siblings / immediate relatives will be placed together.

## **Amendments to the Laws:**

### **Law 1: Field Sizes**

- Instructional (U-5) and Squirt (U-6) teams will participate in their sessions on one of the mini fields located at the Burke Road Athletic Complex. These fields will be 25 yards by 20 yards each.
- Rookie & Midget (U-8 & U-10) teams will play their games on one of the youth sized fields at the Burke Road Athletic Complex. The general dimensions for the fields are approximately 60 yards X 40 yards each.
- Minor (U-12) and Major (U-16) teams will play their games at the Nike Base Athletic Complex soccer fields. The fields will be established and communicated to all teams and participants once LVA is assigned fields. The general dimensions are:
  - U-12: Approximately 80 yards X 50 yards
  - U-16: Approximately 100 yards X 80 yards

### **Law 2: The Ball**

- Spherical (**Round**)
- Made of leather or other suitable material
- **Instructional and Squirts** will use a properly inflated **size 3** ball
- **Rookie, Midget, and Minor Divisions** will use a properly inflated **size 4** ball
- The **Major Division** will use a properly inflated **size 5** ball

### **Law 3: The Number of Players**

- Instructional & Squirt – Goalkeeper and 5 field players (decided by coaches)
- Rookie (U-8) – Goalkeeper and 6 field players.
- Midget (U-10) – Goalkeeper and 6 field players.
- Minor (U-12) – Goalkeeper and 8 field players.
- Major (U-17) – Goalkeeper and 10 field players.

## Law 4: Substitutions

An unrestricted number of substitutions may be used in all divisions.

- In the Instructional and Squirt Divisions, there will be substitutions for injured players and after each mini session (10-15 minutes in length each).
- In the Rookie & Midget Divisions, all players on the bench **MUST BE SUBSTITUTED AT THE SAME TIME** unless a player is sick or injured, at which point that player will not be forced onto the field of play.
- **There is a “Minimum Playing Time Rule” of four (4) minutes per player per quarter for all players unless a player is sick or injured.**

**This will be strictly enforced. If any coach is found to be in violation of the “Minimum Playing Time Rule”, the referee shall report the coach to the board through use of the game report. If the board finds the coach has been in violation of the rule on several occasions, all referees will be informed that there is a need for the \*6-Minute Rule during matches in which that coach’s team is participating.**

**\*6-Minute Rule** – The referee will stop play every 6 minutes to force a substitution to take place. The coach must follow the substitution procedure regardless of the imposed rule. Players must be ready to enter every 6-minutes.

\*The 6-Minute Rule will be utilized automatically in the Rookie Division. Referees should stop the game **at the next stoppage of play as close to 6 minutes as possible** and call for the mandatory substitution from both teams. There is an understanding that this may not be exactly at 6 minutes, but within 1 minute of 6 minutes into play (between minute 5 and 7).

\*\*A substitution **may** (not “will”) take place at ANY stoppage in play provided the substitution procedures are strictly adhered to AND the referee **verbally and audibly acknowledged that he is permitting the team to substitute**. Referees will permit substitutions at **their discretion**, not at the coach’s immediate will and desire! It is a right to sub, but a privilege of when to do so.

## Law 4: Player Rotation

### Player Rotation for the Instructional & Squirt Divisions

- Each coach should attempt to ensure equal game time for all players
- No player should sit two mini sessions in a row unless they are injured or sick
- No player should play every mini session unless the team is short players
- **Coaches should encourage player rotation and position experimentation**

### Player Rotation for the Rookie & Midget Divisions

- Each coach should attempt to ensure equal game time for all players
- No player should sit two quarters in a row unless they are injured or sick

- No player should play every quarter without subbing out unless the team is short players or every other player has played three quarters
- Coaches **SHOULD** encourage player rotation and position experimentation
- Coaches must use a minimum of two (2) different goalkeepers in each game
- Neither goalkeeper should play **MORE THAN** half the game. If an injury occurs, another goalkeeper **MUST** be used.
- If a player will be playing half the game as goalkeeper, they must be in consecutive quarters.
- All players on the bench **MUST BE** substituted at the same time. Coaches **MUST** have ALL players at the halfway line ready for the substitution.
- **A player may not play three consecutive shifts, until all players have played at least one**

## Law 5: The Duration of the Game

### Periods of Play

- **Instructional & Squirt:**
  - The first part of the session will be dedicated to teaching the game of soccer and skill work involved in playing the game
  - Teams will then play mini sessions of ten to fifteen minutes. Teams are permitted to play as many of these sessions as they desire and can fit into the seventy-minute session of the Lake View Athletics game period.
  - Teams are free to decide on the break time between mini sessions. Both teams must agree before the instructional period begins.
- **Rookie (U-8) Division – four (4) 12-minute quarters** with a 2-minute break after the first and third quarter (enough to change a line-up & get a drink) and a 5-minute half time after the second quarter. Quarters will be shortened to allow for the match to be played in sunlight when necessary.
- **Midgets (U-10) and Older – two (2) 30-minute halves** with a 5-minute half time break. Halves will be shorted to allow for the match to be played in sunlight when necessary.

## Law 6: The Start and Restart of Play

### Rookie Division:

- All offensive players must retreat to their defensive half of the field on goal kicks. Players shall remain there until the kick is taken and the ball clears the penalty area boundary. If an offensive player commits an infraction, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the defending team at the halfway line. The ball shall be placed anywhere on the halfway line that is within the perpendicular boundaries of the goal area (i.e. if you were to continue the lines forming the width of the goal area to the halfway line, the ball is to be placed anywhere on the halfway line between those two lines).

- All free kicks awarded will be indirect free kicks, **INCLUDING THE KICKOFF**
- If a foul is committed inside the Penalty Area, **the ball will be moved to the nearest spot outside the Penalty Area (not placed on the penalty area line, but just behind the plane of the line)** and an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team

#### **Midget Division:**

- All free kicks will be indirect free kicks **EXCEPT THE KICKOFF AND ANY FOUL IN THE PENALTY AREA DEEMED TO BE A DIRECT FREE KICK OFFENSE.**
- If a foul is committed inside the Penalty Area, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the offended team if it is an indirect free kick offense, and a direct free kick will be awarded if it is a direct free kick offense. If it is a direct free kick offense against the offensive team, a Penalty Kick will be awarded and will follow the Laws of the Game Procedures.

## **Law 7: Fouls and Misconduct**

Any coach who receives multiple write-ups and/or game expulsions, or any player that receives multiple yellow cards or a red card (or multiple red cards) during the season may be subject to a suspension or expulsion from Lake View Athletics. This will be pending a review by the Board of Directors at the board's earliest convenience. It will include the game official, both coaches, and if a player, the offending player and the player's parent(s). After reviewing the incident, the Board will meet alone to warrant a decision. The Board's decision will be final.

## **Law 8: The Throw-In**

**Rookie and Midget teams only** will be given until Labor Day to retake throw-ins that infringe on the guidelines of Law 8. **After Labor Day, retakes will no longer be permitted**, and the possession of the ball will change as per Law 8.

**Minor and Major teams only** will be expected to do throw-ins per the guidelines of Law 8. There will not be any retaking of throw-ins in any of the older age divisions.

## **The Technical Area**

The technical area is an area designated for players and coaches. Players not waiting for a substitution are to remain inside the technical area unless away from the field of play. Coaches **MUST** remain in their technical area (except midgets). **Coaches will not be permitted to stand at the touch line, halfway line, or on the field of play in the competitive age divisions!**



## Defined

- The technical area extends 1 m (1 yd) **on either side** of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 1 m (1 yd) **from the touch line to the bench**
- The coach, his assistants, and all players not on the field of play must remain inside the technical area **unless called out onto the field of play by the referee(s) for an injured player**
- The coach, his assistants, and all players inside the technical area must behave in a responsible manner. When a match concludes, all teams should make sure that their technical area and its surroundings is free of garbage and equipment.