



U8 -U11 BOARDED Indoor Info & EMSA Rule Modifications

U8 -U11 teams will follow the same rules of Indoor Soccer as the older age groups with a few modifications which are included in the list below.

- **Field Size**

Full size field.

- **Referees**

Yes. Both an on-field referee and a box referee.

- **Ball Size**

U8 CLUB ONLY Size 3. (updated August 24, 2025)

U9-U10-U11 CLUB & COMMUNITY Size 4.

- **Number of Players on Roster**

16 players

- **Number of Players on Field**

U8- 8 vs 8 (updated August 24,2025)

U9,U10, U11- 7 v 7

- **Electronic Game Sheets**

Yes.

- **Game Scores & Standings**

U8 and U9 Community & Club: No

U10 and U11 Community & Club: Yes

- **Mercy Rule U8 and U9 Club & Community**

Teams are required to post the score in the EMSA Portal using the mercy rule (5 goal difference maximum). Standings will not show on the website but EMSA will have internal access for review if

required. No more than a 5 goal spread. For example, if a team wins 12-3 the score will be inputted 8-3 online and on the scoreboard. The referees will indicate the mercy rule score on the game sheets and that is the score that needs to be inputted in the EMSA Portal when the home team scores the game.

- **Mercy Rule U10 and U11 Club & Community**

Game scores and standings will be kept. Mercy Rule will be in effect. No more than a 5 goal spread. For example, if a team wins 12-3 the score will be inputted 8-3 online and on the scoreboard. The referees will indicate the mercy rule score on the game sheets and that is the score that needs to be inputted in the EMSA Portal when the home team scores the game. Mercy Rule is also in effect on the score clock.

For teams that have schedules with seeding rounds, the seeding will be based on the mercy rule game score, not the actual game scores.

- **Game Length**

U8 and U9 Community: Two 20 minute halves. – 10 minutes of practice/warm up before start of game
U8,U9 Club and U10, U11 Community & Club: Two 25 minute halves (no extra time at start of game)

- **Player Cards**

U8/U9 Community & Club: No
U10/U11 Community: No
U10/U11 Club: Yes

- **Team Official Cards (Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager)**

U8/U9 Community & Club: Yes
U10/U11 Community & Club: Yes

- **U8/U9 Player Yellow and Red Cards**

No cards issued or recorded. Referees can ask for player to be substituted for a small amount of time. Player can return to play after. Team does not play short and player does not sit in referee box. No further suspensions are issued. If a serious boarding offence occurs, the player is not to play for the remainder of the game.

- **U10/ U11 Player Yellow and Red Cards**

Cards are issued. Player sits in box for allotted time but then returns to their bench. If a player is yellow carded, they can return to play. If a player is red carded that player cannot play for the rest of the game and must serve the 5 minutes in the penalty box. Once the penalty time is up, they return to their bench for the remainder of the game. The team **does not** play shorthanded. No further suspensions are issued. Cards will be recorded on the player's file and if an accumulating card pattern is noticed, the EMSA Discipline Committee may choose to call a meeting.

If a goalie incurs a time penalty (blue card or yellow) no one serves the penalty. However, if the goalie receives 2 yellows (Red) the goalie, like all players, must be substituted and cannot play the remainder of the game.

After a time penalty the player in the box must wait until a stoppage of play to return to their teams bench.

- **Team Official Yellow and Red Cards**

Team officials can be issued yellow and red cards and also suspended as per EMSA rules

- **Substitutions**

Players can substitute on the fly and goalies can be substituted at any stoppage of play as long as the alternate goalie(s) is ready and time is not wasted. At referees discretion. Referee must be informed of keeper changes.

- **U8-U11 Indoor Retreat Line**

The Retreat Line will come into effect in the following 3 situations:

- a goal kick
- a free kick to the defending team within their own penalty area (goal area in U9 outdoor games)
- the goalkeeper makes a save and has possession of the ball in their hands

At these 3 restarts the opposing team is required to move beyond the Retreat Line, which is the following:

- A line that is one third of the way down from the goal line. If there is no line, cones off the field can be used. For indoor games the closest defensive zone line will be the Retreat Line.

On a goal kick or free kick the ball is in play when the first of the following occurs:

- The ball touches another player from the team taking the restart, apart from the player taking the goal kick or free kick
- The ball stops and has left the penalty area (indoor games and U11 outdoor games)/goal area (U9 outdoor games) from a goal kick or free kick
- The ball crosses the Retreat Line
- The ball goes out of play

On a goalkeeper save the ball is in play when the first of the following occurs:

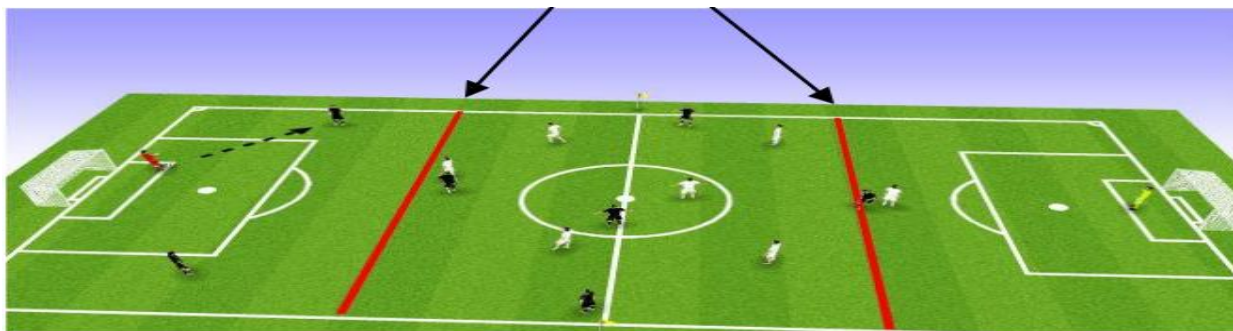
- The goalkeeper, after making a save, kicks or throws the ball beyond the Retreat Line
- The goalkeeper, after making a save, releases the ball and it touches another player from the same team. **If the ball stops it will be in play.**
- The goalkeeper, after making a save, puts the ball on the ground and more than 5 seconds has passed after putting the ball down on the ground
- The goalkeeper, after making a save, puts the ball on the ground and dribbles the ball beyond the penalty area
- The ball goes out of play

If an opposing player comes in from the Retreat Line AND interferes with play, the game will be stopped, and the restart will be a free kick to the opposing team from where the player crossed the Retreat Line.

For any infraction by the team taking the goal kick, free kick or a goalkeeper save when the Retreat Line Rule is in effect, the restart will be a free kick at the center of the closest Retreat Line (for outdoor games) **or the top of the penalty arc for indoor games.**

• **Retreat Line**

At the Edmonton Centers the retreat line is marked on 1/3 of the field.



Restarts for U8/U9

- All restarts are now **indirect** (a goal cannot be scored directly from that restart).

Boarding (U8/U9)

- Any player committing a boarding offence can take no further part in the match.

Penalty Kicks (U8/U9)

- There are no penalty kicks
- Restart would be an indirect free kick at the top of the penalty arc

Time Penalty

U8 - U11- Once the attacking players have retreated beyond the Retreat Line, the goalie has up to 5 seconds to release the ball. If not, there is a time violation which will result in an INDIRECT free kick at the top of the arc.

Pass Back

U8-U11- If a defender intentionally passes the ball back to the goalie and the goalie uses their hands, the pass back will be called. The result will be an INDIRECT free kick at the top of the Arc.

Rational- because of the proximity to the net as well as players continually shooting and hitting players in the face and injuries have occurred an indirect free kick will be awarded in these two instances.

SPECTATORS

Spectators are not allowed to enter the field at anytime. This is a space for the players, coaching staff and referees.

Please read the new spectators' policy and fines associated with infractions