



U11/U12 Guidelines

As the Delco Soccer League will be offering both 8v8 and 11v11 starting with the fall 2012 season, the following guidelines will assist clubs and teams with understanding how the U12 age group competitions will be administered for the fall 2012 & spring 2013 seasons. **Starting with fall 2013 season, per the league membership vote at the 2012 AGM, the Delco Soccer League will only be offering 8v8 for U12 and below.**

1. For the league's mid-size (8v8) field dimensions, the maximum length and width are increased by five yards to 85 yards (length) and 65 yards (width) starting with the fall 2012 season. Then starting with the fall 2013 season, the mid-size (8v8) field dimension minimums are increased by five yards to 75 yards (length) and 55 yards (width). Clubs will be able to continue to have all 8v8 games played on the same size field as long as the field meets the league field dimension requirements (please review the league's field dimensions guidelines). Starting with the fall 2013 season, for clubs who only have one field for all 8v8 games, the field can be 70-75 yards in length and 50-55 yards in width. Starting with the fall 2013 season, if a club uses a single field for all 8v8 games, that field must be 75 yards in length by 55 yards in width which is an increase in five yards to accommodate the addition of the U12 8v8 competition).
2. **The league membership voted at the 2012 AGM that starting with the fall 2013 season, only 7x21 goals maybe used for U11/U12 games. [Note: For U09/U10 games, either 6x18 or 7x71 goals maybe used but the goals must be the same size.]**
3. The game length for the U12 age group remains the same with 30 minute halves, regardless of whether the competition is 8v8 or 11v11.
4. For the fall 2012 season, the U12 8v8 and U12 11v11 competitions will be treated as though they are separate age group competitions. The league's club pass policy will be in effect for these age groups. However while they will be treated as separate age group competitions, if a club elects to enter teams in both the U12 8v8 and U12 11v11 competitions and the teams are placed in the same numeric division, the league club pass policy is the same. For example, if a club has one team in U12 8v8 second division and one team in U12 11v11 second division, players will not be permitted to play for both teams with the club pass. The club pass policy that guest players are only allowed during the regular season (not during the playoffs) remains the same. For more information about the league's club pass policy, go to the league's Club Pass Policy page located under the League Information section of the Delco web site.
5. **For all small-sided games (8v8), goalkeepers are restricted from punting (including drop kicks) the ball directly in the air into the opposing penalty area. The restart for this foul is an indirect kick by the opposing team from any point within their penalty area by a player of the defending team.**

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6. At the recommendation of the league's referee liaison and at the request of some member clubs, the league policy on referee assignments will call for a full referee crew (three referees) * for all U11/U12 games. Even though these ages have reduced roster sizes (except for the U12 11v11 teams), the league feels this policy is necessary after reviewing the U11 incident reports (with only a single referee) from the past few seasons. The league did consider the cost associated with this guideline, but felt that the value of having the full referee crew covering the U11/U12 games outweighs the added cost per team. Making this change should also provide additional development opportunities for newer referees with the end result of the overall improvement in the availability, experience, and quality of referees.

* For those areas within the league where there is a shortage of referees, the league policy remains the same as in past years that priority should be given to the older ages (U13 and above) for full referee crew coverage. In these areas, it is acceptable for U11/U12 games to only have a single referee assigned, but the referee assignor must notify the club prior to all games that will not have assistant referees. All club delegates and team officials should be familiar with the Delco Soccer League Game Day Procedure Policy on referee no-shows as posted on the league web site.