

## 2009 Soccer-RI Festival for U8 & U10 Teams

### Rules of the Festival

#### This is a Patch Tournament.

1. **FIFA Rules.** Except as otherwise provided herein, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply.
2. **Length of Game.**
  - a. U8 games shall consist of four 8 minute quarters with 2 minutes between the quarters and a 5 minute half-time.
  - b. U10 games shall consist of two 20 minute halves with a 5 minute half-time.
  - c. There is no overtime in the event of a tie game.
3. **Size of Ball.** Size 3 for the U8 division. Size 4 for the U10 division.
4. **Game Format.**
  - a. U8 Division
    - Two simultaneous 4x4 games per team (with no keeper) shall be conducted;
    - Offensive players may not enter the goal box until after the ball enters the goal box. Defensive players may not enter the goal box unless the ball is being played into the goal box. The referee shall use good sense in enforcing this rule so as to prevent children from acting as a keeper or from goal hanging. Defending team violations shall result in a free kick being awarded to the non-offending team from the point of the location of the ball at the time of the infraction. Offensive team violations shall result in a goal kick being awarded to non-offending team;
    - There is no offside rule in the U8 division;
    - all free kicks are indirect and defenders must be a minimum of 5 yards from the ball;
    - there are no penalty kicks;
    - goal kicks may be placed anywhere in the goal box, defending teams must retreat to their side of the field and may not enter the offensive half of the field until 15 seconds after the ball has been kicked, or the balls enters their half of the field, whichever occurs first.
  - b. U10 Division.
    - The games shall be conducted in the 6 v. 6 format including goalkeepers;
    - There is no offside rule in the U10 division;
    - This tournament shall use a one referee system—no linesmen.
5. **Substitutions.**
  - a. Substitutions shall be unlimited for all age groups. There is re-entry for all groups. There is a 50% playing rule for both divisions.
  - b. In the U8 division, substitutions can be done at any time during the game with the player being substituted for leaving the field first. Any time play is stopped due to injury, the injured child must be substituted.
  - c. In the U10 substitutions can be made at time, upon the following:
    - prior to a throw-in by either team;
    - prior to a goal kick or after a goal, by either team;
    - after an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play (in such case the injured child must be substituted);
    - at half-time;

- for a cautioned player.

6. **Home Team.**

- a. The first listed team in each game pairing will be the home team.
- b. The home team will provide an appropriate ball for the game.
- c. The home team will be expected to change jerseys in the event the jersey colors of the opposing team are similar or considered so by the referee.

7. **Festival Format.** Each team is to play two games. The SRI Fest is a non-result event.

8. **Forfeits/Non-Appearance.**

- a. In the U8 division, a team shall be deemed to forfeit its game (non-appearance) if it is not able to field a minimum of six players (three per field) within five minutes of the scheduled start time of the game.
- b. In the U10 division, a team shall be deemed to forfeit its game (non-appearance) if it is not able to field a minimum of four players no less than five minutes before the scheduled start time of the game.
- c. The Festival is meant to encourage civility and sportsmanship, and therefore teams that can meet the minimum number of players, but cannot place a full team on the field are permitted to use players from the site (same division or lower) that would allow the team to have a fun and effective match.

9. **Standard of Conduct.**

- a. All parties shall cooperate with one other so that the objective of allowing children to participate in a fair and fun manner prevails over any individual's desire to win.
- b. Coaches and spectators are to exhibit positive and sporting behavior. Dissent directed towards a referee will not be tolerated—the primary objective and goal of this event is to create a positive climate that makes the event a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone. Dissent and negative behavior only serves to rob and deprive others of the experience that they should be enjoying. Please remember that these are children playing a game!
- c. All participants are to observe all rules and directives of the host club. They are generously offering their services and facilities so that all can have a great weekend. Show them the respect that they deserve.

10. **Ejections.**

- a. Players and Coaches ejected from a game shall not be eligible to participate in the game from which he/she is ejected and they shall not be eligible to participate in (play or coach) the next game if they were ejected from the first SRI Fest game.
- b. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the players, parents, and fans of their players. A coach may be warned, cautioned, or ejected on the basis of player or fan conduct.

11. **Protests.** No protests are allowed.

12. **General Powers.**

- a. The SRI's Director of Recreation [and/or his designate(s), or a committee as may be appointed by the Director] is empowered to make such rules or rulings as may be necessary for the operation of 2009 Soccer-RI Festival.