

Danvers Youth Soccer U8 Game Format

The U8 program game format consists of the following:

- 6 v 6 format, with goalkeepers. Small-sided nets are used. (These look like “real” soccer goals but are smaller.)
- A size 3 ball is used.
- The goalkeeper may touch the ball with his hands (and pick it up) inside the 14 yard line. The goalkeeper may punt the ball after picking it up or throw it to a player or even dribble up the field himself. The goalkeeper must wear a jersey that distinguishes him from other players. A pinney will suffice.
- Game time is composed of 2-25 minute halves. 5 minute halftime after 1st half. Substitutions allowed at the referees discretion on throw-ins, goal kicks, and between halves.
- An illegal throw-in will be repeated with no penalty.
- Goal-kicks are performed on opposing balls that go over the endline.
- Corner-kicks are performed when the defensive team kicks the ball over their endline.
- Coaches should stay off the field, and should only enter when invited by the referee, for example if a player is injured.

The 6v6 format is used at this level rather than 7v7 to increase the number of touches on the ball that each player gets while on the field. In the event that either team has a shortage of players, a 5v5 or even a 4v4 format may be used.