Condensed Critical Rule Updates Fall 2016

Law 1 The Field

A. U12 and younger = Smaller Field and goal sizes
B. Build-Out Line 1 for U10 and younger games (Goal Kicks)
C. Build-Out Line 2 for U10 and younger games (Goalkeeper Possession)

Law 3 The Players

A. U8 = 4v4 no GKs; U10 = 7v7 including GKs; U12 = 9v9 including GKs
B. If a team official, substitute, substituted player or sent off player, interferes with play, the restart is a direct free kick or penalty kick (if the offence is inside their own penalty area)
C. A player sent-off before the kick off to start a game may be replaced on the field (the team does not necessarily need to play 'short.') The referee should not show a red card.
D. The team captain has no special status or privileges but, has a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of the team.

Law 5 The Referee

A. Decisions will be made to the best of the referee`s ability according to the Laws of the Game and the 'spirit of the game' and will be based on the opinion of the referee who has the discretion to take appropriate action within the framework of the Laws of the Game.
B. In addition to the current 'two armed' signal for an advantage, a similar 'one arm' signal is now permitted as it is not always easy for referees to run with both arms extended

Law 7 The Duration of the Match

A. U8 = 4 x 10 minute periods
B. Half time periods will remain approximately 5 minutes
C. Referees are to add time for stoppages for drinks or other medical reasons permitted by competition rules

Law 8 The Start and Restart of Play

A. Kickoff is in play when the ball is "Kicked and Clearly Moves" which means that it can go in any direction including backward

Law 11 Offside

A. Offside will not be enforced at U10 and younger games
B. A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save by any opponent) is not considered to have gained an advantage.
C. Indirect Free Kick restart for offside offense is taken from where the offside player became involved in active play. (No longer where the offside player was at the 'freeze frame moment.'

Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct

A. Two Direct Free Kick Foul Updates:
    a. tackles or challenges an opponent (updated from "tackles an opponent")
    b. impedes an opponent with contact (new foul)
B. If an offence involves contact it is penalised by a direct free kick or penalty kick.
C. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an Indirect Free Kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team (U11 or younger games)
D. No goalkeeper punts are permitted at U10 and younger games (IFK)
E. Caution for "entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission." This combines two previously separate cautionable offenses.
F. If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player taking part in the match (see Law 3C above); the referee will report this and any other misconduct
G. Restarts for fouls or misconduct committed against a team-mate, substitute, substituted player, team official or a match official are a direct free kick or penalty kick

Law 13 Free Kicks

A. Fouls in the run of play but, off field are still fouls. The restart is free kick at the nearest boundary, this could be a penalty kick
B. All free kicks are in play when the ball is "kicked and clearly moves" with two exceptions:
    a. Defensive free kicks within the defensive penalty area must also clear the penalty area
    b. Penalty kicks must be "kicked and clearly move forward"
C. An opponent who deliberately prevents a free kick from being taken quickly must be cautioned for delaying the restart of play

Law 15 The Throw-In

A. Impeding an opponent's throw-in is cautionable offence (Unsporting Behavior) and, if the throw-in has been taken, the restart is an IFK

Law 16 The Goal Kick

A. Build-Out Line 1 for U10 and younger games

Law 17 The Corner Kick

B. The ball is in play when the ball is "kicked and clearly moves"

Links to further details are available at www.masru.org under "Resources"