**NorthWood Soccer Club Youth Soccer League**

RULES FOR U-8 DIVISION

**General**

This is a recreation league, for the enjoyment of the players (playing time should be even). Games will be conducted as a learning experience with the coach of each team acting as referees and controlling the pace of the game. They may halt activity at any point to give instruction or prevent injury. Games will be played without keeping score and no league standings will be maintained.

**Laws**

As specified in FIFA “Laws of the Game”, with the following exceptions:

**Law 1** The field of play shall be 30 yds. x 25 yds. Goals shall be 3 yds wide x 6 ft high.

Spectators will remain at least 3 yds. from the sideline on the spectator side.

No one, including spectators and coaches shall be allowed behind either goal line.

**Law 2** The ball shall be size number 3.

**Law 3** The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 6 players, including a goalkeeper. If a team has fewer than 6 eligible players at the scheduled game time, the players from both teams shall be equally divided and the game played.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

**Law 4**  Players will not wear shoes with metal cleats or with a cleat on the toe.

Players shall not wear jewelry.

No player wearing a cast will be allowed to play.

**Law 7** The game will be four 10-minute quarters, with 2-minute intervals between periods and 5 minutes at the half. (Periods may be shortened to 8 minutes during extreme heat conditions with the agreement of both coaches.) Clock will be stopped only for injury or disqualification or other prolonged delay.

**Law 8** Teams will alternate kicking off at the start of each quarter. Teams will exchange goal lines at the half. For any free kick opposing players will be at least 4 yds from the ball until it is in play.

**Law 12** All fouls will result in a direct free kick. All infringements will be explained to offending player. No cards will be shown for misconduct. (no slide tackles allowed)

**Law 14** No penalty kicks.

**Law 15** The pass in will be usedinstead of throwin and will be a direct free kick.

**Law 16** The goal kick may be taken anywhere within the goal area and ***all opposing players will be in their own half of the field***.

***No Headers:* No headers will be allowed in any of our practices/games. If a player intentionally heads the ball, the whistle will be blown and an indirect kick will be given to the other team.**

**Kickoffs:** The kickoff ***may*** be kicked directly backwards.

**Goalie**: The ball is ‘saved’ when the goalie has one hand on it. To avoid injury, coaches should explain to players that they cannot kick the ball while the goalie is touching the ball. When the ball is saved, all opposing players will move to their half of the field, and the goalie will kick (drop kick or from the ground) to a teammate.