

East Cornwall Youth Football League

Laws of the Game and 9-a-side Football

9-a-side is not a new concept and has been played in many leagues for many years. To ensure all teams playing 9-a-side in the East Cornwall Youth Football League have clear guidance on the interpretation of the Laws of the Game, it is important to observe these two main points:

- 1) The ECYFL League Rules are based on the FA SCoR and provide information on the qualification and registration process for players, teams and clubs playing 9-a-side football.
- 2) The FIFA Laws of the Game (1-17) will apply, except for the adjustments detailed below.

Law 1- The Field of Play

Field Markings	Where possible, the pitch should be marked by white lines. If this is not possible, white space-markers or cones are acceptable. Sufficient markers should be used to clearly identify the direction of the line.
Dimensions	The pitch must be rectangular in shape. Please refer to diagram overleaf for recommended pitch dimensions.
Centre circle	A centre circle must be marked out. The dimensions should be 7yds in diameter.
Goal area	The goal area may be marked with flat space markers, although white lines are preferable. It should measure 4 x 14yds.
Penalty area	The penalty area may be marked with flat space markers, although white lines are preferable. It should measure 13 x 32yds.
Penalty spot	A penalty spot should preferably be marked out. If this is not possible, the referee may site the position of the ball prior to the penalty kick. The kick will be taken from a mark or spot measured at 9yds from the goal line.
Goal posts	The goal posts will be of a standard 9-a-side size. Each set will measure 16' x 7'.

Law 2- The Ball

Ball Size	A size 4 ball will be used in U11 and U12 matches.
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Law 3- The Number of Players

Number of Players A team will consist of 9 players, one of which will be a goalkeeper. A match will not start if any team has less than 7 players.

Substitutions There are no limits to the amount of substitutions which may be used from the match day squad.

Law 4- The Assistant Referee

Assistant Referees Each team is expected to provide one person to act as an Assistant Referee. This person will marshal their teams 'defensive half' of the pitch.

Law 7- Duration of the Match

Duration The match last two equal periods of 30 minutes. Any agreement to alter the duration of play must be made prior to the start of the match but must not be less than 20 minutes each way.

Law 11- Offside

Offside *Offside* will be played in accordance with Law 11.

Law 13- Free Kicks

Free Kicks Free kicks will awarded in accordance with Law 13. Opposing players are required to be 10yds away from the ball.

Law 16- Goal Kicks

Goal Kicks The goal keeper can restart play with a goal kick from hands, a throw-out or a place kick in accordance with Law 16.

Law 17- CornerKicks

Corner Kicks All opposing players must be 10yds from the corner arc until the ball is in play.

