

**The aim is to bring these age groups into a more soccer friendly and non-competition environment. The focus is also on ensuring that all players get to play more football and encourage managers to become more skilful coaches.**

**We also need to educate parents as to how important their behaviour affects children playing/learning. The “Don’t cross the line” roping of all pitches is to be encouraged in all clubs.**

**The game will be played as follows:**

**Under 8 & 9: Play 5 a side (5x5) Team of 10 to make up two games.**

**Play in Regionalised events.**

**League to set fixtures every week.**

**Teams to play across the current small sided pitch – thus enabling 2 games to take place at the same time i.e. if a team arrives with 10 players, then 2 x 5 a side matches can play, if a team arrives with 9 players, then a 5 a side on one pitch with 4 a side on other pitch.**

**Goals to be turned on back – making goal smaller OR use 5- a side goals.**

**Each game to be 3 x 10 mins with 2 mins interval between each session.**

**Referees....if available...to alternate between both games.**

**Non – Competition – there will be no match cards, no results, and no League tables.**

**Play for fun but learning foot-skill at the same time.**

**Clubs must ensure the pitch is roped off so parents etc have to be at least 5 ft away from side-line.**

**Size 3 ball to be used.**

**All players must play.**

**All groups will be renamed to colours rather than grading of A, A1, B etc.**

**Each group will be made up of 8/10 teams...to be confirmed.**

**No playing on Bank Holiday weekends.**

**If teams are missing players they can still travel with 8 or 9 players (play 2 x 4 a side).**

**Pitch dimensions: play across the current SSG pitch (see dimensions for u10 & u11) then two matches can take place at the same time – taking up one time slot. Small cones to be used to separate the two games.**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS U8 & U9**

**As these leagues are non-competitive and the focus is on the player's football, we recommend the following:**

**\*\*\* We will allow a team to have +1 or-1 players. Therefore a team can sign with 9 or 11 players. The ideal number will be 10 players but we wish to be flexible for the clubs in introducing the new changes.**

**\*\*\* In the event that teams arrive with less than 10 players....coaches must ensure that all players receive a minimum of 20 mins of football. This may arise from a team travelling with 9 players due to illness etc. Therefore there will be an extra player on the opposing team.**

**\*\*\* Coaches and managers are encouraged to be practical and to use their initiative to ensure that players receive as much football as possible and that the games run smoothly. If one of the teams is far stronger than the opposing team, coaches are encouraged to switch between their own teams to try and level the standard.**

**\*\*\*We acknowledge that some of the smaller clubs may only have one set of goals. In this event, it will be permitted to use poles...however after the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 mins of play...games can be switched to allow all players to have use of the goals at some stage.**

**\*\*\*Penalty box....both pitches should have the penalty box marked out with small cones. Again, coaches/referees should be flexible in the marking of the penalty boxes as the game is non-competitive and some small sided pitches are slightly bigger than others.**

**\*\*\*Goalkeepers...There will be goalkeepers... we recommend that the goalkeepers are rotated every interval...i.e. max time in goal for one player...ten mins... which will allow all players to play outfield.**

**\*\*\* Goalkeepers...We are recommending that the Goalkeepers throw the ball from kick-outs. This will encourage the players to use and pass the ball more frequently....and prevent the bigger players from kicking straight into the opposing penalty box.**

**\*\*\* Throw-In's....We recommend throw-in's from the hands as opposed to kicking it from the ground. If the player throws it incorrectly, the referee/coach should encourage them to throw it in a second time to educate them at an early stage.**