

# **PLAYING RULES**

## **THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

### **GENERAL PREFACE**

1. The definitive laws of the game of soccer are those of FIFA, the “Federation International de Football Association” or, in English, the International Federation of Association Football. These laws apply all over the world and provide a standard that governs international competition.
  - A. The USSF (United States Soccer Federation), the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), and the Federation of State High School Associations all have their own set of laws, or rules, which basically conform to the FIFA laws, but which also have variations unique and appropriate to their Organizations.
  - B. Various youth soccer programs also have made further changes to allow for situations specific to young players.
2. The FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply to SAY play except as may be amended in this book.
3. The interpretations of the Laws of the Game are the responsibility of the Commissioner of SAY and, with the approval of the SAY National Board, are binding upon participants in the SAY program.
4. The SAY Modifications of these Laws are intended to change the nature of the game as little as possible, and are primarily directed toward creating both a safer game for the participants, and a means for all players to participate.
5. The Laws may be modified in their application for children under six and for short-sided team games.
6. All team members and coaches are subject to these Laws, whether on or off the field of play.
7. Additional explanations and interpretations of these laws are included in the book “Refereeing Youth Soccer”, which is published by SAY. The material in that book is binding in the same way as the material in the Rulebook.