



RCL U12 – New Rules Added

10.14.22

TO: Seattle Referee Community
RE: RCL New Rules for U12s

RCL has updated their playing rules for the U12 age group to be included within the US Soccer Player Development Initiatives program.

**** This does not apply to NPSL, Seattle Rec, or WPL** - we expect additional leagues will follow in the coming weeks. AGAIN...this is ONLY for RCL U12 matches and below. U12 Matches played in WPL, NPSL, and Seattle Rec will continue to allow heading and punting of the ball until further guidance is provided.

Please confirm during your roster checks which rules the teams are playing with for all U12 and below games.

As of 10/15/22 the RCL has adopted US Soccer's 9U – 12U Player Development Initiatives including U12 within this group - previously it was only through U11. These changes include the following for U12 group changes that include:

1. No Deliberate Heading.
 - a. If a player heads the ball deliberately regardless of the outcome (own goal, goal, preventing a goal) an in-direct free kick is given, NO card is issued.
2. No punting or drop-kicking by the GK
 - a. an Indirect Free Kick is awarded at the spot of the infraction to the opponent.
3. Offside: Is in effect at the build out line (NOT the halfway line)
4. Build Out Line explained: the opposition retreats to the “build out line” on goal-kicks and when the GK is in possession of the ball during live play
 - a. Goal-Kick: the opposition can enter the build out area as soon as the ball is kicked and clearly moves (it is in play)
 - b. GK in possession of the ball with their hands - opponents can enter the build out area as soon as the goalkeeper puts the ball into play.
 - c. If the GK puts the ball into play quickly (goal kick, throw, roll or set the ball at their feet) the opposition can now challenge immediately, even if they are inside the “build out line” area.

Purpose of the Build Out Line is to promote playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.

The primary reason for this mid-season revision is the result of recent changes to age groups resulting in the need to update protocol and policy for this age group. Again, your best practice is to ask every coach for U12 and under if they are playing the build out lines and no deliberate heading rules.

Seattle Referee Development Team