






Guideline (GUI)

U9 Competitive Guidelines

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Errors or Omissions

Big Country Soccer Association has provided this manual to the membership as a guide for the parents of players who are registered with Big Country Soccer Association. Any errors or omissions contained herein shall not supersede the by-laws, policies, procedures, or guidelines of the Association. Any changes to the manual shall be included in the next edition. The by-laws of the association supersede any guideline or policy should a conflict occur.

Document Revision History

Rev	Date	Description	Originator	Checker	Approver
0	6-Dec-2024	This is the published version of this Guideline document.	Duncan Hawkins	Ivo Toellner	Cody Craig
A	3-Dec-2024	This is the initial DRAFT of this Guideline document.	Duncan Hawkins	Ivo Toellner	Cody Craig

Current Revision Description

Section	Description



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1 Purpose

Big Country Soccer Association (BCSA) believes that part of the growth of the sport and players, providing a safe age-appropriate competitive environment is part of the development of the youth soccer players. This Guideline document provides directions to Registered Members on the requirements to participate in the U9 competitive division within BCSA.

2 Scope

This document is intended to provide the rules and regulations for U9 competitive soccer within BCSA. This level of competitive is only available to Registered Members that have players that are wanting to travel and meet other U9 teams for games and have been assembled through a pre-season evaluation process to ensure the players are at a safe level of development to expand their soccer development through competitive games.

Note:

- a) *This level of play is still defined by BCSA as “Grassroots” and therefore will ensure all safe sport requirements and BCSA Standards for Quality Soccer (SQS) requirements are adhered as a condition of Registered Members being able to offer this level of soccer within their communities.*
- b) *BCSA supports the Registered Members and their soccer programs to include house U9 teams that compete only within the community. This Guideline is intended to provide the structure to Registered Members if they have both house teams and those teams wishing to participate in a competitive division within BCSA.*
- c) *Rules will be a combination of the FIFA Laws, ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game, and this Guideline.*

3 References

The following referenced documents are to be considered the latest edition and indispensable for the application of this document.

Table 1 – References

Document Number	Title
	FIFA Law of the Game
	Canada Soccer Association
ASA U11 8-A-Side	Alberta Soccer Association
www.bigcountrysa.com	Big Country Soccer Association Website



Document Number	Title
BCSA-POL-001	Big Country Soccer Association Policy
BCSA-POL-014	Rule of Two Policy
BCSA-POL-023	Long-Term Player Development (LTPD) Policy
BCSA-GUI-004	Soccer Equipment Management
BCSA-GUI-006	Coaching Guidelines
BCSA-GUI-012	Player Evaluation Guidelines
BCSA-GUI-015	U9 Coaching Program Curriculum
BCSA-GUI-0016	U11 Coaching Program Curriculum
BCSA-GUI-021	8v8 Formation Guide Options
BCSA-FORM-014	Player Evaluation Form

4 Acronyms and Defined Terms

For this document, the following acronyms and terms apply.

4.1 Acronyms

Table 2 – Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ASA	Alberta Soccer Association
BCSA	Big Country Soccer Association
CSA	Canada Soccer Association
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
SQS	Standards for Quality Soccer

4.2 Definitions

Table 3 – Definitions

Term	Definition
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association (the international organization that controls the sport of football (soccer)).



Term	Definition
Registered Member	This is the community that is registered with BCSA to register their players to compete in the Association with other registered teams. These communities will have their players registered with Alberta Soccer Association.

5 Responsibilities

- 5.1** The following list of responsibilities are not all encompassing. Additional responsibilities may be assigned out, as required, when there are tasks and/ or actions required to represent Big Country Soccer Association, its players, parents, coaches, and the governing soccer associations that Big Country Soccer Association is required to adhere to.
- 5.2** BCSA is responsible for the following in relation to this guideline:
- a) Ensure this guideline follows SQS requirements.
 - b) Ensure Registered Members have been provided the requirements for supporting a U9 competitive team to represent their community.
 - c) Ensure all U9 competitive teams have been adequately evaluated by the Registered Member.
 - d) Enforce SQS requirements to the Registered Members.
 - e) Organize the U9 competitive divisions within BCSA, including but not limited to an end of season District Finals for the U9 competitive divisions.
- 5.3** Registered Members are responsible for the following in relation to this guideline:
- a) Ensure Registered Members are supporting the SQS requirements for soccer by having the proper facilities and equipment available to adequately host U9 competitive games.
 - b) Ensure all players that are registered to compete in the U9 competitive division have been evaluated to confirm they are at a stage of development to support participating in competitive play, as per the BCSA Player Evaluation criteria.
 - c) Follow BCSA registration requirements.
 - d) Ensure coaches assigned to coach a U9 competitive team have the required coach training and certification, as directed by Canada Soccer Association (CSA) and Alberta Soccer Association (ASA).



5.4 Coaches are responsible for the following in relation to this guideline:

- a) Ensuring Big Country Soccer Association policies and requirements are being adhered to for providing a safe sport for youth soccer players. This includes ensuring the coaching that is being provided meets the requirements of CSA, ASA, and the coaching curriculums as provided by BCSA.

5.5 Parents and spectators are responsible for the following in relation to this guideline:

- a) Adherence to the Big Country Soccer Association policies that are in place to ensure a safe environment for youth soccer players, coaches, and spectators at U9 competitive games.

6 Field of Play and Equipment

6.1 Each field set-up will meet the following dimensions:

Table 4 –U9 Competitive Field Size

Age Group	Field Size	Goal Size	Ball Size
U9	Width: 30 – 36 meters Length: 40 – 55 meters	1.8 meters (H) x 4.9 meters (W) to 1.8 meters (H) x 5.5 meters (W)	Size 3 or Size 4

* The field and goal sizes are approximate

Note:

- a) *The intent is to use the existing U11 fields within the community, so long as the fields meet the dimensional requirements as noted above.*
 - b) *If the fields and goals do not meet the requirements, the Registered Member must send the dimensions into BCSA. BCSA will then determine if the field and/ or goals will be acceptable or if the Registered Member must adjust within the community to bring the field up to the requirements of this Guideline document.*
 - c) *Consult “Soccer Equipment Management” (Ref. BCSA-GUI-004) for more information on fields and equipment.*
- 6.2 Portable goals are permitted by the Registered Member, but the goals must be securely anchored to the ground in support of safe sport requirements.

6.3 The field layout will be as follows with two nets per side as displayed below:

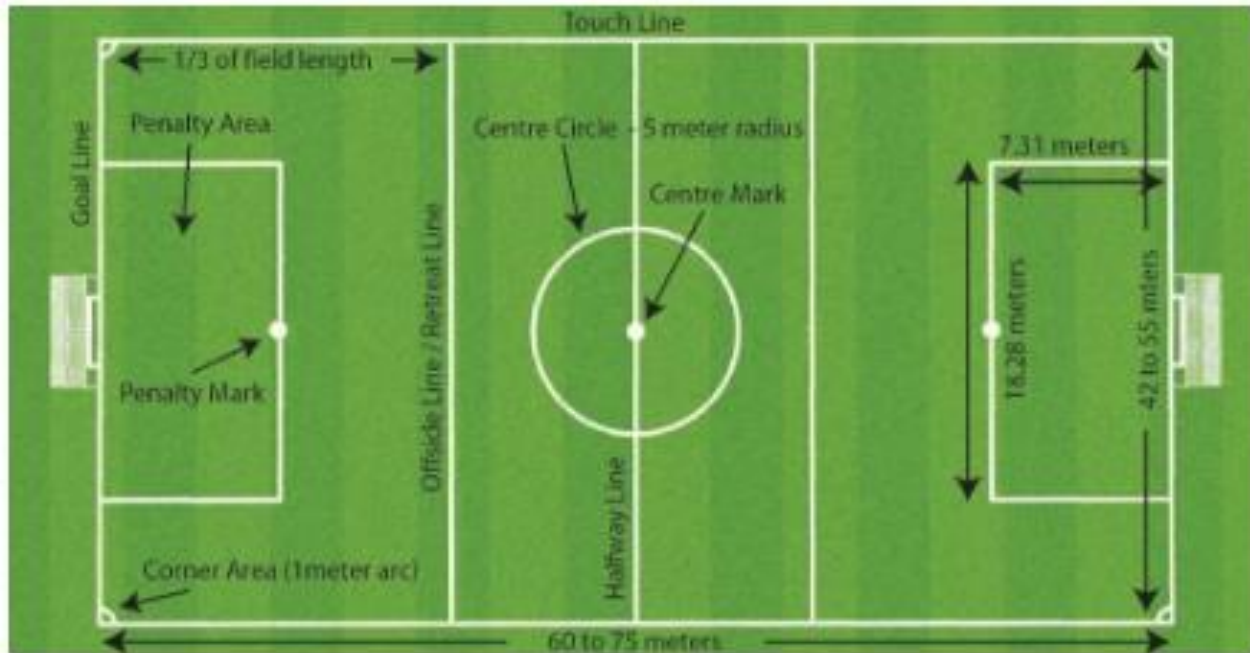


Figure 1 – Field Dimensions and Lay-Out

Note:

- a) On the edge of each penalty area, a penalty mark is made 7.31 meters (8-yards) from the midpoint between the goalposts.

7 Rules

Players

- 7.1 To be eligible for the U9 competitive division, players must currently be registered as a player in the outdoor season with a Registered Member in good standing of Big Country Soccer Association.
- 7.2 All players that have registered for U9 competitive must have been evaluated by the Registered Member to ensure the player is at a stage in their soccer development that would support the player being able to be introduced to a competitive environment.

Note:

- a) Registered Members are to follow the BCSA “Player Evaluation Guidelines” (Ref. BCSA-GUI-012) or equivalent. For those Registered Members that are wanting to use their own player evaluation tool, they must first send a copy to the BCSA for review and acceptance.



7.3 Players that are registered for U9 competitive division are not permitted to play for a U9 house team. However, a U9 competitive division player is permitted to play up to a U11 team for the same Registered Member.

Note:

- a) *Any player transfers of a registered U9 player in the competitive division will be handled through the BCSA Transfer process.*

Number of Players

7.3 The maximum number of players on the field of play is eight (8), one of whom will be the goalkeeper. Players are permitted to only register and play for one (1) U9 competitive team.

7.4 Teams must dress a minimum of six (6) players and a maximum of fourteen (14) players.

Note:

- a) *For more information, consult the requirements for U11 teams in the “Coaching Guidelines” (Ref. BCSA-GUI-006)*

Coaches

7.5 Two (2) is the maximum number of coaches that can accompany a team on the sidelines during a match. Coaches may not cross beyond the midline and shall remain in close proximity to the team’s sideline area.

Note:

- a) *If the team is co-ed, then a team must have a parent representative on the side of the coaches in support of the “Rule of Two” policy (Ref. BCSA-POL-014).*

Substitutions

7.6 ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game will be used (Law 3).

Gender

7.7 The teams are not gender-specific and can be mixed (co-ed). Big Country Soccer Association supports diversity, equality, and inclusion in the sport of soccer.

Note:

- a) *All girls and all boys team division may be scheduled by BCSA should there be enough to support an all-girls division. This may change from season to season based on the player registrations by the Registered Members.*



Player Equipment

7.8 ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game will be used (Law 4).

Note:

- a) *FIFA laws are followed for jewelry (all jewelry such as rings, necklaces, wrist bands, earrings, hairclips, etc. must be removed before each game. Medical bracelets and/ or casts must be securely and made from a soft material.*

Duration of Games

7.9 Each game will consist of two (2) twenty-five (25) minute halves. Games will be schedule on Thursdays, unless otherwise notified by BCSA.

Game Play

7.10 Standard FIFA Laws are in play and the ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game will be used. Note the additional following specific rules of play:

- No slide tackling is permitted in small-sided games.
- Heading is discouraged from play from U7 – U11 (meeting Grassroots requirements).
- If the ball goes out of the field of play, the ball will be put into play from a throw-in as per ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game (Law 15).

Retreat Line

7.11 Retreat line is in play as per ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game (Law 8).

Offside

7.12 Offside rule is in play as per ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game (Law 11).

Fouls and Misconduct

7.13 Fouls and misconduct will be called by the Match Official as per the FIFA Laws of the Game and as per ASA U11 8-A-Side Soccer – Laws of the Game (Law 12).

8 Match Official

8.1 To complete in the U9 competitive division, Registered Members must have certified Match Officials/ Referees. A minimum of one (1) is required to officiate a U9 competitive game.

8.2 Linesperson are permitted to be parent volunteers (one (1) per team).



- 8.3** Match Officials will not start a match if the following is present:
- a) The home team has not completed an Emergency Action Plan and has provided it to the visiting team in support of BCSA SQS requirements.
 - b) There is less than the minimum required players available for an official match.
 - c) The “Rule of Two” policy (*Ref. BCSA-POL-014*) is not being complied with.
- 8.4** Match Officials will not permit a player to play in a match if the following is present:
- a) Players do not have the proper equipment to play i.e. shin guards with socks covering the shin guards.
 - b) Jewelry is present.
 - c) Player is not wearing soccer attire that matches the team.

9 District Finals

- 9.1** BCSA will schedule District finals for the U9 competitive division for the end of the outdoor season. The top two (2) teams from each region (west and east) will represent their communities at the finals.
- 9.2** A Registered Member can host U9 competitive District finals if the Registered Member has a field that meets the field dimension as noted in Section 6 of this guideline.