



Are you across the rule changes for goalkeepers in the ‘MiniRoos’ age groups?

In the U8 through U11 age groups, after a goalkeeper gathers the ball in his/her hands in the goal area, he/she must release the ball, within six seconds, by either throwing or rolling it from the hands or placing it on the ground and kicking it. **The goalkeeper is NOT allowed to kick or drop-kick the ball directly from his/her hands.** The game leader (referee) is asked to assist the game by moving opposition players away from the goalkeeper to help him/her with releasing the ball. Within the release period, when a keeper places the ball on the ground to kick it, the opposition aren't allowed to come and try to take it off the keeper.

In the U10 through U13 age groups, the procedure for a goal kick has changed. In these age groups there exists a Clearance Zone which is a rectangular area bounded by the touchlines, the Goal-line and an imaginary line parallel to the Goal-line at a distance of 25 metres. The following procedure applies for a goal kick:

- The ball is kicked from any point in the goal area by the goalkeeper
- The ball is in play after it leaves the penalty area and has been touched by a teammate of the goalkeeper.
- The ball cannot be kicked directly beyond the Clearance Zone, it must be first touched by a team mate of the goalkeeper.
- Opponents remain outside the Clearance Zone until the ball is in play
- The goalkeeper must not play the ball again until it has touched another player.
- Infringement of any of the above results in the goal kick being retaken.

Whenever there are rule changes, you can be sure that not everyone knows about them or understands them, so you can help by taking a leadership role and politely checking with opposition teams before a game to see if they know and understand the new rules applying to keepers. You can also help by explaining the new rules to other parents within your team.

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