**CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF MINI SOCCER for Season 2024-25**

**LAW 12 FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

• Free kicks are awarded when a foul is committed as in older age football.

• In mini soccer all free kicks are direct, except when a deliberate header has occurred. • A goalkeeper is not allowed to pick the ball up from a back pass or a throw in.

• If this happens a free kick should be given on the penalty area line closest to where the incident occurs.

**• For Under 7s to Under 9s (2024/25 season)** *and for Under 7s to Under 10s (2025/26 season);* Deliberately heading the ball is an offence punishable by an indirect free kick. The indirect free kick is taken at the point where the ball was deliberately headed, except: Where a player deliberately heads the ball within their own penalty area, the referee will stop the game and restart with an indirect free kick to the opposition from the nearest side line of the penalty area where the offence took place. (See page 4 for the diagram)

• As with all other aspects of Development Football the children should be learning the game. Coaches in training, and referees on the day, should try to make sure the children understand all of the above.

**U7-U9 (2024/25) *AND U7-U10 (2025/26)***

**LAW 15 PASS OR DRIBBLE-IN**

• When the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, on the ground or in the air, instead of a throw-in, a pass-in or dribble-in is awarded.

• A kicker taking a pass-in may choose to touch the ball again before it is touched by another player At the moment of delivering the ball:

• The ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch; only the kicker may be off the pitch.

• All opponents must stand at least 5 yards from the point on the touchline where the pass-in or dribble-in is to be taken. A goal cannot be scored directly from a pass-in. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

**U10s only in 2024/25:** Normal throw-ins are allowed.