



MEMO: U5 – U9 Goals & Felt Game Balls

Dear U5 – U9 Community and Zone Coaches,

Please note the following important procedures for all Under-5 to Under-9 game days:

Goal Set-Up & Take-Down

First Game of the Day: Coaches of the first scheduled game are responsible for setting up goals ; this includes those who are following a field format change (i.e.: U5-U7 games following U9 games which requires a change in set-up)

U5–U7 Coaches:

- Collect 4 flags and 4 bases from the nearest flag storage area.
- Set up goals along the boards parallel to the curtains, 10–12 feet apart.
- Ensure field curtains dividing the space into thirds are in place.

U9 Coaches:

- Collect 2 flags and 2 bases from the nearest storage area.
- Place one goal against the curtain splitting the field in half; the other goal is the hole in the wall.

Last Game of the Day: Coaches of the final game are responsible for taking down the goals and returning all equipment.

- Return all flags and felt game balls neatly to the equipment bin.
- Stack bases neatly on the floor.

Felt Game Balls

Please be advised that for all **U5 to U9 games**, the **Home Team coach** is responsible for ensuring a **felt game ball** is available on the field in the appropriate size (U5-U7's use size 3 and U9's use size 4) — either from the ball bin located near the flags and bases or from the previous game.

SYSI is pleased to introduce **FELT GAME BALLS** for all U5–U9 games this season. Rather than requiring community or zone associations to purchase individual balls, SYSI has invested in a shared supply at the facility. This approach helps reduce overall player fees while providing a consistent and safe game experience for all teams.

We ask coaches to please ensure:

- **Felt balls do not get mixed with team equipment.**
- Balls are **left on the field** for the next game or **returned to the bin** if it's the last game of the day.
- Balls are treated with care and returned to the **same bins** where flags and bases are stored.

To avoid a time-consuming sign-out process, SYSI is **entrusting coaches** to manage and return the balls responsibly. The felt ball was chosen for its **lighter, softer touch**, which makes it safer and more appropriate for younger players than traditional low-bounce balls.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping provide a safe, fun, and player-focused environment.

Sincerely,
Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI)