

THE OFFICIAL RULES OF INDOOR SOCCER

Youth and Amateur Edition (2004)

Abridged: For Players and Spectators

Slightly Modified for SYSA Soccer at Skyhawks field.



Rule 1 - The Field Of Play

See Official Field Diagram (page 9) and the unabridged edition for standard dimensions for the field, goals and markings.

Rule 2 - The Ball

The ball is size 3 for U6/U7 and size 4 for U8 through U12 .

Rule 3 - The Players

- U-9 and below - 5 plus a goalkeeper (6 vs. 6)).
- U-10 through U12 - 5 plus a goalkeeper (6 vs. 6)

Substitutions: Each team may substitute players freely; provided that players must substitute off the field of play or within the Touch Line in the area of their Team Bench.

Rule 4 - The Players' Equipment

Players wear their team's uniform issued by SYSA, shin guards, and indoor footwear. Jewelry and other accessories are prohibited. The Goalkeeper wears jersey colors distinguished from all other field players and from the Referees.

Rule 5 - The Referee

The decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play and interpretations of the Rules are final.

Rule 6 - The Duration of the Game

A regulation game consists of two Halves 22 minute in duration.. The Game clock will start at scheduled time - No Exceptions!! Games are on a running clock with no stoppage of time. 2 minute half time is given.

Running Clock: Except in the case of an unusual delay, determined by the Referee, the Game Clock counts down continuously through each Half or Overtime Period.

Rule 7 - The Start and Restart of Play

A Kickoff from the Center Mark starts play at the beginning of each Half and after every goal. A player who starts play may not again play the ball until it touches another player.

The Home Team takes the Kickoff for the First Half Kickoff and the Visiting Team takes the Kickoff for the Second Half. The Referee designates the teams' defensive ends, according to "house rules."

Restarts take place by either a Kickoff, Free Kick, Goalkeeper Throw-In, or Dropped Ball. Other than for Kickoffs or as provided below, Restarts occur within three feet (3') from the spot of the ball at the moment of stoppage.

A team receives a Free Kick after stoppages other than when a Dropped Ball or Goalkeeper Throw-In is required. Before the team takes the Free Kick, the ball must be stationary. All opposing players are at least 15 feet from the spot of the Free Kick (or, if within 15 feet of the opponent's Goal, along the Goal Line). The spot of the Free Kick is that provided above, except:

- (a) *Within Own Penalty Arch*: from any spot therein.**
- (b) *Within Opponent's Penalty Arch*: at the Free Kick Mark ("Top of the Arch").**
- (c) *Kick-In*: from the point on the Touch Line nearest where the ball crossed over the Perimeter Wall.**
- (d) *Superstructure Violation*: from the nearer Restart Mark.**

If neither team has clear possession of the ball at a stoppage, the Referee restarts play with a Dropped Ball. Play restarts with a Goalkeeper Throw-in (or punt in U12 divisions and younger) anywhere within the Penalty Arch after an attacking player has last touched the ball before crossing an end perimeter wall.

Rule 8 - The Ball In And Out Of Play

A Superstructure Violation occurs when the ball contacts any part of the building above the field of play.

Rule 9 - The Method of Scoring

A team scores a goal when the whole of the ball legally passes over the Goal Line. A goal may be scored directly from a Kickoff or Restart.

Rule 10 - Fouls and Other Violations

A Foul occurs if a player:

- (a) Holds an opponent;**
- (b) Handles the ball (except by the Goalkeeper within his Penalty Arch);**
- (c) Plays in a dangerous manner;**
- (d) Slide tackles;**
- (e) Impedes the progress of an opponent ("Obstruction"), or**
- (f) Prevents the Goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;**

Fouls also occur when a player commits the following in a manner that the Referee considers careless, serious, reckless, or involving excessive force:

- (a) Kicks an opponent;**
- (b) Trips an opponent;**
- (c) Jumps at an opponent;**
- (d) Charges an opponent;**
- (e) Strikes or elbows an opponent; or**
- (f) Pushes an opponent.**

Unsporting Behavior: A Free Kick results for the following offenses:

- (a) Leverage: Using the body of a teammate or any part of the field to gain an advantage;**
- (b) Encroachment: Entering the protected area of an opposing player taking a Free Kick (after initial Warning);**
- (c) Dissent: (i) Referee Abuse; (ii) Breach of Penalty Area Decorum; (iii) Entering the Referee Crease without permission;**
- (d) Other: Behavior which, in the Referee's discretion, does not warrant another category of penalty (e.g., taunting, foul language.)**

Team Violations: The Referee issues a Team Penalty for the following violations by a team or unidentified person:

- (a) *Leaving Team Bench:* Players leave a Team Bench to join a fracas or confrontation with the opposition or a Game Official;**
- (b) *Bench Dissent:* After an initial "Warning," one or more unidentifiable players verbally abuse the Referee.**
- (c) *Other:* Unsporting Behavior, which, in the Referee's discretion, does not warrant another category of penalty.**

Advantage Rule: The Referee allows play to continue, notwithstanding the commission of an offense, when the team against which it has been committed will benefit from an existing offensive advantage.

Cautionable Offenses: The Referee issues a Yellow Card for reckless Fouls and offenses described directly above, and for the following:

- (a) Unsporting Behavior by any non-player personnel;**
- (b) Provoking Altercation: Making physical contact with an opponent (e.g., pushing or poking), short of fighting, or using the ball in so doing.**

Ejectionable Offenses: A person receives a Red Card for Fouls and offenses described directly above, which the Referee considers violent or use of excessive force, and for:

- (a) Third-Time Penalty;**
- (b) Elbowing: Intentionally elbowing an opponent above the shoulder;**
- (c) Vicious Slide Tackling: A tackle from the side or from behind directly**

into one or both legs of an opponent, seriously endangering him;
(d) Fighting;
(e) Leaving Team Bench or Penalty Area to engage in a fracas or confrontation with the opposition or a Game Official;
(f) Extreme Unsporting Behavior: Committing particularly despicable behavior,
including: (i) Spitting at an opponent or any other person; (ii) Persistent use of extremely abusive language or behavior toward a Game Official; (iii) Bodily contact with a Game Official in dissent.

FIFA rules apply if not modified addressed in the above rules and regulations. Any other situations and or conflicts that arise shall be left to the discretion of the Officials.