

## RULES OF SOCCER

1. Field of play (differs by age)
2. Ball size (size 3 for U6, 4 for U8, U10 and U12/13, 5 for U15/19)
3. Number of players (varies by age; U6: 3 on a side, U8: 5 on a side, U10: 7 on a side, U12 and up: 11 on a side, unless playing modified field). Player and goalkeeper substitutions allowed with the permission of the referee during any stoppage of play.
4. Equipment. Basic compulsory equipment is shin guards, matching jerseys or shirts, shorts, stockings (worn over shin guards), and footwear. The goalkeeper is required to wear colors that distinguish him/her from other players on the team.
5. The referee has full authority to enforce the laws of the game in connection with the match.
6. Sideline referees assist the referee by calling when the ball has passed out of the field of play. The assistant ref calls which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in. The assistant ref also indicates to the referee when a player is offside (U12 and above), or when misconduct or any other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee. The assistant ref can also call fouls if the ref doesn't see them, but the referee can overrule any call made by the assistant ref.
7. Duration of match. U6 plays 4 7-1/2 minute quarters. U8 plays 2 20- minute halves. U10 plays 2 25-minute halves. U12 plays 2 30-minute halves. U15 plays 2 35-minute halves. U19 plays 2 40- minute halves. Ten-minute rest between halves.
8. Start of game: coin toss with the home team calling the toss. The winning team decides which goal it will attack in the first half. The other team takes the kick-off to start. The team which wins the toss takes the kick-off to start the second half of the match. Kick-offs occur at the start of a match, after a goal has been scored, and at the start of each half or quarter. The ball must move forward before being played by another player.
9. Ball is out of play when it wholly crosses the goal line or touchline, whether in the ground or air. Ball is in play all other times, including when it bounces off the goalpost, crossbar, corner flag, or referee.
10. A goal is scored when a ball wholly crosses the goal line between the two outer standards of the goal, either on the ground or in the air. Team that scores the most points wins. Ties result in a draw (no kick-offs at these age levels).
11. Offside (U12 and above) only. The player is offside if he/she is nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent (the last opponent is usually the goalie). Passing to an offside player results in an indirect free kick to the opposing team taken from the point where the infringement occurred.
12. Fouls and misconduct result in :
  - Direct free kicks awarded to opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offenses in a manner the ref considers careless, reckless or using excessive force (indirect kicks only at the U8):
    - Kicking or attempted kicking of an opponent
    - Tripping or attempted tripping of an opponent
    - Jumping at an opponent
    - Charging an opponent
    - Striking or attempted striking of an opponent
    - Pushing an opponent
  - Direct free kicks are also awarded to opposing team if the player commits any of the following 4 offenses (indirect kicks only at the U8 level):

- Tackling an opponent to gain possession of the ball if contact with opponent is made prior to touching the ball (slide-tackle)
  - Holding an opponent
  - Spitting at an opponent
  - Handles the ball deliberately (except by goalkeeper); exception is girls protecting themselves).
- Penalty kicks are awarded if any of the above occur by the offensive player inside the defensive penalty box (U10 and above).
  - Indirect free kicks are awarded from the point of occurrence for dangerous play, impeding progress of opponent, or for preventing goalkeeper from releasing ball from his hands.
  - Indirect free kicks are also awarded from the point of occurrence to the opposing team when:
    - A goalkeeper inside his own penalty area takes more than 6 seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession.
    - A goalkeeper touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his hands and it hasn't yet been touched by any other player
    - A goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him from a teammate.
    - A goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate.
13. Free kicks are direct (U10 and above only) and indirect. Direct free kick offenses in the penalty area result in a penalty kick (PK). In that case, all players except the kicker remain outside the penalty area and behind the ball until the ball is in play. Opposing players must be at least 10 yards from the place of kick. If less than 10 yards are available, players are allowed to stand on the goal line. A direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, and a goal is scored. An indirect free kick must touch another player prior to entering the goal to score as a goal. Any players may be between the ball and the goal. If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded.
  14. When a penalty kick is awarded the ball is placed on the penalty mark, with all other players outside of the penalty area and behind the ball. The penalty kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
  15. Throw-ins are awarded to the opponent of the team that last touched the ball. Both feet must be on the ground outside the touchline at the point the ball left the field. The player must use both hands and ball is delivered from behind and over the head. The player throwing in the ball may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. (If thrown incorrectly at U8 or U10 level, one more try is awarded, then turned over to the other team; at U12 and above, the ball is automatically turned over to the other team on an incorrect throw-in).
  16. Goal kick restarts play when the ball crosses the goal line and was last touched by the attacking team, and no goal is scored. Any player on the defending team may kick the ball from any point inside the goal box. Opponents must remain outside the penalty box. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it touches another player. The ball is not in play until it passes the penalty box area.
  17. Corner kick restarts play when the ball crosses the goal line and was last touched by the defending team, and no goal is scored. The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest flag post (which is not moved) and the attacking team kicks in the ball. The kicker may not touch the ball again until another player has touched it. Attacking and defending players may be anywhere on the field, except they must be a reasonable distance from the corner arc (this distance would vary by size of field).

\*These are all 17 rules of soccer, quite condensed, and not all-inclusive, but give the most important parts of each rule. A few of the above have been modified from FIFA rules to incorporate WSYSA rules. Modifications may be made to accommodate MOD recreation play.