



9V9 Laws of Soccer Made Easy



We encourage players, parents, and coaches to become familiar with soccer rules (called "laws") to enjoy the game better. This brief summary is no substitute for reading the laws of soccer to get a fuller explanation of what they all mean but should help you get familiar with the laws most commonly applied.

of Players

Each team will consist of (8) field players and a (1) goalkeeper.

- The Roster of a team is final upon completion. There is **NO pool play** or guest play allowed in the Rec division. A player may only play for **one team** and be on **one roster**.

Goal Size

21' w x 7' h

Field Size

45 yds x 70 yds

Duration

(2) 30 Min. Halves

Law I - Goal

A score occurs if the ball passes under the crossbar, between the goalposts, and all of the ball passes completely over the outside edge of the goal line.

Law II - Throw-in

If all of the ball passes completely over the outside edge of the touchline (sideline), the restart is a throw-in. The throw-in is taken by the team that did not last touch the ball. An improper throw-in or a throw-in taken from the wrong spot results in a throw-in for the opposing team.

Law III - Goal Kick

If all of the ball passes over the end line, it is last touched by an attacking player, and a valid goal was not scored, the restart is a goal kick. The ball is placed in the goal area and kicked by a member of the defending team. All attacking players must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is first touched by defending team. A goal may be scored directly from a goal-kick. The ball is not in play until the first touch is established. The ball does not have to leave penalty area to be considered in play.

Law IV - Corner Kick

If all of the ball passes over the end line, it is last touched by a defensive player, and a valid goal was not scored, the restart is a corner kick. The ball is placed in the corner arc and kicked by an attacking player. A goal may be scored directly from a corner-kick. If all of the balls are kicked over the goal line from the corner kick, a goal kick is awarded to the defending team.

Law V - Drop Ball

When the game is stopped while the ball is in play, for a reason other than an infraction of the laws, the game is restarted with a drop ball.



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Law VI - Direct Free Kick Foul (foul resulting in a direct or penalty kick)

A direct free kick is the sanction awarded at the point of infraction for any one of the ten direct free kick fouls. For the complete wording and understanding of these infractions you must read the actual laws of the game. There are four conditions that must occur for a foul to be awarded.

1. By a player 2. Against an opponent 3. During play 4. On the field of play. This is an overview of the infractions that result in a direct kick.

- A. Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent.
- B. Tripping or attempting to trip an opponent.
- C. Jumping at an opponent
- D. Charging an opponent
- E. Striking or attempting to strike an opponent.
- F. Pushing an opponent
- G. Making contact with an opponent before contacting the ball when making a tackle
- H. Holding an opponent
- I. Spitting at an opponent
- J. Deliberately handling the ball (except by goalkeeper in his or her own penalty area)

Law VII - Penalty Kick

If one of the ten direct free kick fouls is committed by the defense in its own penalty area, the sanction awarded to the attacking team is a penalty kick. The ball is placed on the penalty mark, the kicker is identified, the goalkeeper is positioned on the goal-line and may not move forward until the ball is kicked. All other players must remain outside the penalty area and penalty arc and not closer to the goal-line than the penalty mark until the ball has been kicked. Time is extended for a penalty kick taken at the end of half-time, full-time, or over-time.

Law VIII - Indirect Free Kick Foul

An indirect free kick is the sanction awarded at the point of infraction for any indirect free kick foul. Again, this is an overview. The law book must be consulted for a complete wording and understanding.

- A. Goalkeeper takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession.
- B. Goalkeeper touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not been touched by any other player.
- C. Goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately passes to him by a teammate.
- D. Goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands after he has received if directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate.
- E. Dangerous play
- F. Impeding the progress of an opponent by interposing oneself between the opponent and the ball not within playing distance of the ball.
- G. Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands.
- H. Commits any other offense, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

Law IX - Free Kicks

- A. **Direct Free Kick** - On a direct free kick, a valid goal is scored if the ball is kicked directly into the opponent's goal.



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Indirect Free Kick - On an indirect free kick, the ball must touch another player in addition to the kicker prior to a goal being scored. The referee signals an indirect free kick by holding an arm in the air until the ball is played or touched by another player or goes out of bounds.

Law X - Advantage

The referee applies the advantage clause to allow play to continue if, in his or her opinion, it would be more advantageous to the fouled team to continue play than to be awarded a free kick. If the referee applies the advantage clause and the advantage that was anticipated does not develop within a few seconds, the referee shall penalize the original offense. If, in the opinion of the referee, the foul was egregious enough to warrant a caution or send off, the referee must do so at the next stoppage of play.

Law XI - Off-side

A player is in an off-side position if he or she is nearer to the opponents' goal-line than the ball, unless the player is behind the midfield line of his/her defending half of the field, or there are at least two opponents between the attacker and the goal-line. It is not an offense in itself to be in an off-side position. A player shall only be penalized for being in an off-side position if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate, he or she is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in the play by:

- A. interfering with play
- B. interfering with an opponent
- C. gaining an advantage by being in that position

A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee merely because of being in an off-side position or if the ball is received directly from a goal kick, a corner kick, or a throw-in. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award an indirect free kick, which shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the offense is committed by a player in the opponents' goal area, in which case the free kick shall be taken from any point within the goal area.

Law XII – Guest Players

- A. **GUEST PLAYERS** No guest players will be allowed in the league, however recreational players are permitted to guest play in the premier league.
- B. **AGE DIVISIONS** - All recreational teams within SSA will play at the school grade of the oldest player on the roster. Proof of-birth shall be provided upon request.
- C. **PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS** - Players may only play on 1 team in our recreational league. Also note, players who are rostered on a premier team may not play in our recreational league.
- D. **PLAYER TRANSFERS** - Players registered to a team are bound to that team for the entire season unless he/she requests and is granted a transfer/release. All additions and deletions of registered players to the official State roster at any time during the year will be deemed as transfers. A team may add an unregistered player to their roster at any time.

Law XIII - Misconduct Resulting in a Caution and a Showing of the Yellow Card

- A. Dissent with the referee's decision
- B. Unsporting behavior
- C. Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
- D. Delaying the restart of play



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- E. Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or a throw-in.
- F. Entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- G. Leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

Law XIV - Misconduct Resulting a Showing of the Red Card (team plays down a player)

- A. Violent conduct
- B. Serious foul play
- C. Spitting at an opponent or any other person
- D. Denying the opponents, a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball
- E. Denying the opponents, a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by committing a foul that would be punishable by a free kick or penalty kick.
- F. Offensive, insulting, or abusive language
- G. A player committing a second infarctional offense after having already received a caution.

Law XV - Common Misconceptions

Two of the most misunderstood laws are handling the ball and off-side. As spectators and coaches, please refrain from "helping" the referee by hollering HANDS! or OFFSIDE! It will help the referees if we let them call the game on the field, and then if we have serious concerns, please call the office for assistance.

Law XVI - Zero Tolerance toward Referee Abuse

The TSC *Tolerance Policy* prohibits any person from addressing the referee during the game except to point out an emergency situation. A person who in the opinion of the referee violates the Zero Tolerance Policy will be warned, Coach could be issued a Red Card and asked to leave the vicinity of the field of play, and the team may face further sanctions. Many referees are young people just learning to referee or adults essentially volunteering their time. Please show them the common courtesy you would expect to be shown to your child or to yourself.

Law XVII – No Heading

In an effort to prevent possible injury to players and the opportunities for concussion to occur heading is disallowed. If an intentional head ball occurs the play will be stopped, and an indirect kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the point where the heading contact occurred. If an incidental head ball occurs play will continue. This will be at the referee's discretion to determine when a head ball is intentional or accidental.

Example of Offside

