

# **SOCCER FIRST OUTDOOR LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **Law I. The Ball**

The game ball must be provided by the team listed first on the schedule.

## **Law II. Number of Players**

- A match will be played with a maximum of 11 players for 11v11 leagues and 7 players for 7v7.
- The maximum number of players on the roster is 18.
- Players can be added to the roster up to the start of your fourth game of the season.
- If a coach would like to challenge a roster of the opposing team, it must be done before the end of the game at the front desk. (Halftime would be the best time to do this!)
- A proof of age (D.L., birth cert., etc.) must be available upon request at all times.
- The minimum number of players a team can field for a game to be played is 7 for the 11v11 fields and 4 for the 7v7 fields.
- For the Coed Open and 30+ 11v11 leagues, at least 4 out of the 11 players must be female, excluding the goalkeeper.
- Coed 40+ 7V7 teams must have at least 3 females excluding the goalkeeper.
- Coed Open 7v7 teams must have at least 2 female players, excluding the goalkeeper.
- Unlimited substitutions can be made, but the referee must be informed of the proposed substitution before the change is made, and that the change is made during a stoppage of the game.
- Substitutions must be made from the halfway line.
- A 10-minute grace period, before the game begins, will be allotted for teams with fewer than 7 players. Once the team has 7 players the game must begin.

## **Law III. Player's Equipment**

- The basic equipment shall consist of jersey, shorts, socks, shin guards and footwear.
- **Shin-guards are considered mandatory by Soccer First.** Players without shin guards will be asked to leave the field.
- A player shall not wear anything dangerous to another player.
- The goalkeeper needs to wear colors which will distinguish him from the other players and the referee.

## **Law IV. Duration of the Game**

- A game will be comprised of two halves, which are 40 minutes in length.
- There will be a halftime of 5 minutes or less.
- Time shall be extended to permit a penalty kick being taken at or after the expiration of the normal period in either half.
- The duration of the halftime interval may be altered only with the consent of the referee.

## **Law V. Ball In and Out of Play**

The ball is out of play:

- A) When it has entirely crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air.
- B) When the game has been stopped by the referee.

The ball is in play at all times, including:

- A) If it rebounds from the goalpost, crossbar, or corner flag into the field of play.
- B) If it rebounds off the referee or linesmen when they are in the field of play.

## **Law VI. Offside**

- A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than the ball.

- He is nearer to his opponents' goal line than at least two of his opponents.
- It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position.
- A player shall only be penalized for being in an offside position if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his teammates, he is in the opinion of the referee, involved in active 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 offside by the referee:
  - A) Merely because of his being in an offside position.
  - B) If he receives the ball direct from a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in.

## Law VII. Fouls

**Slide tackling is only permitted in the Men's Open division. The Men's 30+ North division may slide tackle if both team captains agree before the start of the game. If not agreed by both team captains, there will be no slide tackling. Referee has the power to terminate the slide tackle rule if it seems like things are getting out of control.**

A player who commits any of the following ten offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force:

- A) kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- B) trips an opponent
- C) jumps at an opponent
- D) charges an opponent
- E) strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- F) pushes an opponent
- G) when tackling, makes contact with the opponent before contact is made with the ball.
- H) holds an opponent/ spits at an opponent
- I) handles the ball deliberately

Shall be penalized by the award of a direct free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place the offense occurred.

Should a player of the defending team intentionally commit one of the 10 offenses above in the penalty area, he will be penalized by a penalty kick.

A player committing any of the 5 following offenses shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick:

- A) Playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous, e.g. attempting to kick the ball while held by the goalkeeper.
- B) Charging unfairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the other players concerned and they are not trying to play it.
- C) When not playing the ball, impeding the progress of an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent.
- D) Charging the goalkeeper except when he is:
  - 1) Holding the ball
  - 2) Is obstructing an opponent
  - 3) Has gone outside his goal area
- E) When playing as a goalkeeper and within his own penalty area:
  - 1) From the moment he takes control of the ball with his hands, releases the ball after 6 seconds, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again without releasing it into play.
  - 2) Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate.
  - 3) Indulges in tactics, which in the opinion of the referee, are designed to hold-up the game and thus waste time and so give an unfair advantage to his own team.

**A Red Card is an automatic 1 game suspension from playing with the team the player was carded on and the red carded player may not play on any other team for a full week and a day. (i.e. a red card was issued to you on a Friday you are not eligible to play at Soccer First on any team till the ninth day which in this case would be Saturday.) So if you are shown a red card on Friday and you are supposed to have more games that night with other teams, you must sit those games out and will not be able to play until a week from Saturday.**

**The management at Soccer First reserves the right to determine if an infraction warrants a more severe penalty (i.e. a longer suspension, expulsion from the league, banishment from Soccer First)**

#### **LAW VIII. Throw-in**

When the whole ball passes over the touchline, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line. The thrower at the moment of the delivering the ball must face the field of play and part of each foot shall either be on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline. The thrower shall not play the ball until it has been touched by another player. A goal shall not be scored direct from a throw-in.

#### **LAW IX. Goal-kick**

When the whole ball passes over the goal-line excluding between the goalposts, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked directly into play beyond the penalty area by a player of the defending team. If the ball is not kicked beyond the penalty area, directly into play, the kick shall be retaken.

### **Additional instructions regarding the Laws of the Games**

#### **I. Serious foul play and violent conduct**

- A) Serious foul play is when a player infringes the Laws of the Game and uses intentional violence when challenging for the ball against an opponent.
- B) Violent conduct is when a player is guilty of aggression towards an opponent even when they are not challenging for the ball. The ball can be in or out of play. If in play, a direct free kick will be sanctioned from the place where the offense was committed, or a penalty kick if in the penalty box.  
If the ball is out of play, the game will be resumed at the stage where it was interrupted prior to the offense. The same rules apply if the violent conduct is directed towards one of his teammates, the referee, a linesman or a spectator.

#### **II. Tackling**

A tackle from behind, which is violent with little or no attempt to play the ball is prohibited and will be punished by a direct free kick and an ordering off.

#### **III. Offenses against goalkeepers**

It is an offense if a player:

- A) Jumps at a goalkeeper under the pretext of heading the ball.
- B) Dodges about in front of a goalkeeper in order to prevent him from releasing the ball.
- C) Who is standing in front of a goalkeeper when a corner kick is being taken, takes advantage of his position to obstruct the goalkeeper before the kick is taken and before the ball is in play.
- D) Attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it.

#### **IV. Obstruction**

A player who has the ball under control within playing distance is not guilty of obstruction. Any player who intentionally obstructs an opponent by crossing directly in front of him or running between him and the ball or intervening so as to form an obstacle with the aim of delaying his advance must be sanctioned with an indirect free kick in favor of the opposing team.

## V. Jumping at an opponent

A player, who jumps at an opponent under the pretext of heading the ball, shall be penalized by the award of a direct free kick to the opposing team.

## VI. Ungentlemanly conduct

While it is not usual for a player to be cautioned for handling the ball or holding an opponent, there is exceptional circumstance in which, in addition to imposing the customary punishment, the referee must caution a player for ungentlemanly conduct in these offenses.

- A) When a player, in order to prevent an opponent from gaining possession of the ball, and because he is unable to play it in any other way, stops it with one, or both hands, punches or catches it.
- B) When a player holds an opponent in order to prevent him from gaining possession of the ball.
- C) When an attacking player attempts to score by illegal use of the hand.

## VII. Free Kicks

- A) The referee shall indicate an indirect free kick by raising his arm. He shall keep his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has been played or touched by another player or goes out of play.
- B) Any player who deliberately delays a free kick by the opposing team shall be cautioned.
- C) Any player who prematurely rushes forward from a defensive wall before the ball has been kicked shall be cautioned.
- D) Any free kicks taken by a team from within their own penalty area must exit the area before it is touched again.

## VIII. Attitude towards referees

- A) Any player who protests a referee's decision shall be cautioned.
- B) Any player who assaults or insults a referee shall be sent off and **the management at Soccer First reserves the right to determine if an infraction warrants a more severe penalty (i.e. a longer suspension, expulsion from the league, banishment from Soccer First)**
- C) **Soccer First has a zero-tolerance policy on referee abuse.**
- D) The captain of a team, although responsible for his team's behavior, has no special rights.

## IX. Throw-in

- A) A throw-in may be taken from a distance of no more than one meter outside the touchline.
- B) Players are forbidden from standing directly in front of the thrower who is taking the throw-in so as to obstruct him.

## X. Wasting time

Any player who wastes time shall be cautioned for ungentlemanly conduct.

Wasting time occurs whenever:

- A) A player:
  - 1) Feigns injury.
  - 2) Appears to prepare for a throw-in but suddenly leaves it to one of his teammates to throw-in.

- 3) Kicks the ball away or carries it away with the hands after the referee has stopped play for any reason.
  - 4) Stands in front of the ball when a free kick has been awarded to the opposing team in order to give his team time to organize the defensive wall.
- B) A goalkeeper:
- 1) Employs all manners of tactics with the sole intention of gaining time for his team.

## **XI. Forfeits**

- A) A forfeit will be considered unexcused if Soccer First is not notified at least 72 hours in advance.
- B) Any team(s) that drop out of the league after the sign-up deadline will not receive a refund and the deposit is not transferable to another session. League schedules will not be altered as a result of a team dropping out or being suspended. Opposing team will receive a forfeit win of 3-0.

### **ANY TEAM WITH A FORFEIT CANNOT ADVANCE TO THE PLAYOFFS**

**Based upon the definitions above, 1 unexcused or 2 excused no-shows may result in expulsion from the league.**

## **League Standings**

League standings will be decided as follows:

Three (3) points for a win – One (1) point for a draw – Zero points for a loss

If teams are tied on points, the standings are based on:

- a. Most wins
- b. head to head
- c. least goals conceded
- d. goal differential (goals scored – goals conceded = goal differential)

Standings are updated daily and will be posted to the Soccer First website.

Division champions will be determined by a play-off game between the top two teams in each division.

## **XII. Field Assignments**

Daily field assignments can be found on the front window of the Soccer First building.

## **XIII. Rain outs and cancellations**

Game status can be checked by calling ahead to Soccer First and listening to the voice mail.  
Games called due to weather that have reached half time are official games.

## **XIV. Tied Games**

These rules are only to be used during the playoffs. If, at the end of regulation, the score is tied, the referee will immediately direct the teams to the center circle to begin penalty kicks. Five shooters from each team must be selected from the players still on the field at the end of regulation time. The first round will consist of 10 kicks, with the two teams taking turns. If the teams are tied after the first round, another group of kickers will be selected. The second round of spot kicks will proceed in a sudden death format.