

## **LAWS OF THE GAME**

### **I. THE FIELD OF PLAY**

The size of the field shall be determined by the Board of Directors, using FIFA guidelines, dependent on the division and space available.

The goals, penalty areas, goal areas, etc., shall be relative to the field size.

#### **Common Sense Under Law I**

1. The field of play must be safe for the players. For example, sleeve shirts may be worn under the shirt provided they are the same color as the shirt and contain no hoods, zippers, strings, etc. The goalkeeper must wear a shirt contrasting to the color of both team's shirts. In all Divisions, only uniform shirts will be provided. Shorts or pants will be chosen by the player, must not contain anything, that may be dangerous to another player.
2. No jewelry of any kind will be allowed.

### **II. INJURIES**

Any player sustaining an injury on or off the playing held during the season which requires medical attention, will not be allowed to practice or play until a written doctor's release has been turned into the player's coach or to the league.

### **III. LENGTH OF GAME**

1. The Senior Division will consist of four (4)-15 minute quarters, with two (2) minutes allowed at the quarter and 5 minutes allowed at the half.
2. The Junior Division will consist of four (4)-12 minute quarters, with two (2) minutes allowed at the quarter and 5 minutes allowed at the half.
3. The Pee Wee Division will consist of four (4)-10 minute quarters, with 5 minutes allowed at the half.
4. The Beginner Division will consist of two (2) — 12 minute halves, with 5 minutes allowed at the half.

Each player is required to play at least one-half of each game. Exception to this rule may be taken if the player perpetually misses practice without good reason or in the case of severe disciplinary problems. Either of these situations must be reported to the League President immediately.

### **IV. PROTESTS**

No protests of any kind will be allowed.

### **V. COACHES**

Coaches shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and of good moral character. Parents of players will be given preference whenever possible. The child of a coach will be automatically placed on that coach's team, within the age division. A coach may choose an assistant or co-coach prior to the draft and the child of that assistant or co-coach will be automatically placed on that team, within that division. During the games, only the coach and/or the assistant or co-coach may be on the sidelines

with the players. A coach / assistant coach should always display control, respect professionalism to all involved in soccer, this includes referees, players, coaches and spectators. Coaches will always promote positive attitude, lead by example and demonstrate good sportsmanship. If a coach / assistant coach does not demonstrate good sportsmanship or is acting in an abusive manner the board member of duty reserves the right to eject him/her from the playing fields. If a coach /assistant coach is removed from the game he/she will not be allowed to return to that game and would be suspended from his/her next scheduled game. Disciplinary action against a coach/ assistant coach, which is brought before the Board must be investigated by the Board. Effort must be made to rectify the situation to everyone's satisfaction, but with the best interest of the children being first.

#### **V. a. PARENTS, SPECTATORS AND PLAYERS**

If a parent, spectator or player is displaying abusive behavior the board member on duty reserves the right to remove parent, spectator or player from playing fields for the remainder of game.

#### **VI. DANGEROUS PLAY**

Slide tackling and overhead scissors kicks are not allowed.

#### **VII. START OF PLAY**

1. The start of play at the beginning of each half and after a goal shall proceed with a kick-off.
2. At the beginning of the game, the choice of the ends or kick-off shall be determined by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss shall have the option of the choice of ends or kick-off.
3. After half-time, the ends shall be changed and the kick-off shall be taken by the team opposite from the team that took the kick-off at the beginning of the game.
4. On a kick-off, the ball must be stationary on the ground at the center of the field, must travel the distance of its circumference into the opponent's half of the field before being in play, and may not be played a second time before being touched by another play.
5. Every player on each team must be in its own half of the field and all players of the team opposing the kicker must be at least 10 yards away from the ball when the ball is put into play. If this rule is violated, the kick-off shall be retaken.
6. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-off.
7. After a temporary suspension of play for any reason not mentioned in the Laws of the Game, the referee shall restart the game by a drop-ball at the spot it touches the ground. If this rule is violated, the drop-ball shall be retaken. A goal may be scored directly from a drop-ball.

#### **Common Sense Under Law VII**

No team shall have an unfair advantage at the start of play whether by place kick or drop-ball. For example, play should not be stopped so that a drop-ball results in a penalty area unless absolutely necessary for a serious injury.

### **VIII. GOALS AND MARKINGS**

The goals and markings must be sufficient for the referee to perform the essential duties (goals, outer boundaries, and penalty areas are most important).

### **IX. THE BALL**

Rubber balls are not allowed. Balls must be made of leather or other FIFA approved synthetic material. The League is to arrange for game balls for each game.

The Beginners and Pee Wee Divisions will play with a size 3 ball. All other divisions will play with a size 4 ball.

#### **Common Sense Under Law IX**

The ball must be safe for the players to use. For example, a ball that is too hard or that has a sharp edge is dangerous to players.

### **X. NUMBERS OF PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTES**

1. In the Senior Division, eleven (11) players will be fielded; one (1) of whom shall be goalkeeper. A team will not be allowed to play with less than seven (7) players in this division.
2. In the Junior Division, nine (9) players will be fielded; one (1) of whom shall be goalkeeper. A team will not be allowed to play with less than seven (7) players in this division.
3. In the Pee Wee Division, (8) players will be fielded; one (1) of whom shall be goalkeeper. A team will not be allowed to play with less than six (6) players.
4. In the Beginner Division, six (6) players will be fielded.
5. Substitutions shall be limited. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:
  - a. Prior to a throw-in in your favor.
  - b. Prior to either team's goal kick.
  - c. After a goal, by either team.
  - d. After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
  - e. At each quarter.
6. Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper, with the consent of the referee, provided that the change is made during a stoppage in the game.
7. An ejected player must be replaced.

### **XI. PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT**

1. A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player (for example, casts, metal splints, hard rimmed hats such as baseball caps, visors etc.).
2. Uniforms shall consist of shorts and shirts with numbers on the back six (6) to eight (8) inches high. Knee socks are mandatory and must cover shin guards, which are also mandatory. Soccer or turf shoes are recommended. Spandex or other attire may be worn under the shorts provided they are the same color as the shorts. Sweatshirts or long sleeved shirts may be worn under the shirt.

### **XII. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**



1. The ball is out of play only
  - a. When it has crossed the goal line or touchline in its entirety, whether on the ground or in the air.
  - b. When the game has been stopped by the referee.
2. The ball is in play from the beginning of the game until the end, even if –
  - a. It rebound from a goal post, cross bar, or corner flag- into the field of play.
  - b. It rebounds off the referee or a linesman when he is in the field of play.
  - c. An apparent infraction has occurred but the referee has not stopped the game.

**Common Sense Under Law XII**

The play continues unless the referee stops the game or unless the ball goes entirely outside the field of play.

**XIII. METHOD OF SCORING**

Coaches are required to try and keep from running up scores in unevenly matched situations.

1. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar, providing it was not thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by arm or hand by an attacking player (except the goalkeeper who throws the ball from his own penalty area)
2. If a defending player deflects the ball with his hand or arm and the ball goes in the goal, a goal is scored.
3. Each goal scored counts one point. The team scoring the greater number of goals during the game wins.

**Common Sense Under Law XIII**

A goal is scored only when the ball goes entirely through the goal and has not been propelled illegally by an attacking player.

**XIV. OFFSIDE**

Offside is not called in Beginner or the Pee Wee Division unless in the Referee's opinion the offside player or coach is intentionally playing in an offside position.

1. A player is offside if he is nearer the opposing teams goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless:
  - a. He is in his own half of the field.
  - b. Two opposing players are nearer their goal line than he is, including the opposite goalkeeper.
  - c. The ball is last touched by an opponent.
  - d. He received the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in or drop-ball.
2. A player in an offside position is not offside unless, in the opinion of the referee, he is seeking to gain advantage by being in an offside position.
3. For an offside Fractions the defending team is awarded an indirect free kick from the place where the offside occurred.

**Common Sense Under Law XIV**

1. A player may not gain an advantage by being in an offside position.
2. Offside is judge at the time the ball is played to the player, not at the time the player receives the ball.

## XV. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

1. Fouls and misconduct are penalized by awarding free kicks to the opponent. The quality player may also be cautioned or ejected even if a free kick is not awarded due to application of advantage (XIII).
2. Direct free kicks are awarded only for intentionally
  - a. Kicking or attempting to kick
  - b. Tripping
  - c. Jumping at
  - d. Charging violently
  - e. Charging from behind
  - f. Striking or attempting to strike
  - g. Holding
  - h. Pushing the opposing player
  - i. Handling the ball (except the goalkeeper in the penalty area.)
3. A direct free kick offense committed in the guilty player's penalty area is a penalty kick.
4. Indirect free kicks are awarded for all fouls, misconduct, and offenses other than the nine direct free kick fouls. Other infractions and misconduct include:
  - a. dangerous play
  - b. charging fairly when not within playing distance of the ball
  - c. obstruction
  - d. charging the goalkeeper
  - e. on any occasion when a player deliberately kicks the ball to his own goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is not permitted to touch it with his hands. If, however, the goalkeeper does touch the ball with his hands, he shall be penalized by the award of an indirect opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the overriding conditions of Law XVI— Free Kicks.

### Explanations

1. The word kicks in the foregoing text refers only to circumstances where a player plays the ball with the foot or feet.
2. Similarly, a deflection with the foot or feet is permitted in circumstances where it is not intentional (involuntary deflection or miss-kick from a teammate.)
3. In situations where the ball is deliberately kicked by a teammate away from the goalie (to the side of the goal), but with the intention that the goalie may collect it; the spirit of the law is that this would be regarded as an intentional pass on the goalie. Therefore, if in such situations, the goalie touches the ball with his hands, an indirect free kick must be awarded.

It is no longer legal for the goalie to pick up or touch with his hands a ball intentionally kicked to him by a teammate. This means that any ball intentionally directed by a teammate's foot to a place where the goalie can play it *may* not be touched by the goalie's hands. If the teammate plays the ball with some part of the body or other than the feet, then the goalie, having last been played unintentionally by a teammate's foot, the

goalie may pick the ball up.

Examples:

1. A defender dribbles the ball out of the penalty area and then pushes it with his foot back into the penalty area for the goalie, who moves to the ball and picks it up.
2. The defender dribbles the ball out of the penalty area and leaves it for the goalie, who goes outside the penalty area to the ball, dribbles it back into the area, and picks it up.
  - a. Both of these situations are clear violations of the Spirit of the Game and should be punished through the awarding of an indirect free kick to the attacking team from the spot where the goalie picks up or touches the ball. No trickery must be used to get around the terms of the amendment to Law XVI. A player may pass the ball to his own goalie using his head, chest, knee, etc., however, if in the opinion of the referee, the player used a deliberate trick — such as flicking the ball to his head with his foot and heading it to the goalie or kneeling and deliberately pushing the ball to the goalie with his head or knee — he must be cautioned for ungentlemanly like conduct. It makes no difference whether or not the goalie touches the ball with his hands; the offense is committed by the player who is seeking to circumvent both the Spirit and Letter.
3. A goalkeeper may handle the ball only in his own penalty area, and the goalkeeper may not delay the game or take more than six seconds to release the ball. If however goalkeeper does hold on to the ball longer than six (6) seconds he shall be penalized by the award of an indirect kick by the opposing team from the top of the penalty area.
4. A player shall be cautioned if he
  - a. persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
  - b. dissents from any decision by the referee
  - c. is guilty of ungentleman like conduct, or
  - d. enters the game without the consent of the referee
5. A player shall be ejected from the game if he
  - a. is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play
  - b. uses foul or abusive language, or
  - c. persists in misconduct after being cautioned by the referee
6. An ejected player may be replaced.

#### **Common Sense Under Law XV**

1. Intentional fouls must be penalized unless by doing so the offending team will be given a clear advantage (XIII)
2. The purpose of soccer is enjoyment — players who do not play the game fairly must be cautioned or ejected depending upon the severity and extent of their conduct.
3. The player may not waste playing time during the game. Stalling tactics aiming at wasting time should be penalized.

#### **XVI. FREE KICKS**

1. The two kinds of free kicks are:
  - a. direct free kicks (from which a goal may be scored direct against the offending team)
  - b. indirect free kick (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is

- touched by a player other than the kicker before going into the goal.
2. Direct free kicks are awarded only for the nine direct free kick fouls under **LAW XV**. **ALL OTHER OFFENSES are awarded with an indirect free kick unless specifically stated otherwise in the law describing, the offense.**
  3. A free kick is taken from the place where the offense occurred.
  4. The ball must be stationary on the ground, must travel the distance of its circumference before being in play, and may not be played by the kicker a second time before being touched by another player.
  5. All opposing players must be at least 10 yards away from the ball when the ball is put in play. If this rule is violated, the free kick is retaken.
  6. If the offense occurred less than 10 yards from the opponent's goal line, the opposing players may stand on their own goal line between the goal posts.
  7. On free kicks taken within its penalty area by the defending team, all opposing players must be outside the penalty area and at least 10 yards away from the ball. The ball must travel outside the penalty area before being in play.

#### **Common Sense Under Law XVI**

Free kicks are to be taken without delay and without interference from the opposing players so that the game proceeds as rapidly as possible.

#### **XVII. PENALTY KICK**

Penalty kicks are **not** awarded in Beginner or the Pee Wee Division except under extreme circumstances.

1. A penalty kick is awarded if the defending team commits one of the nine direct free kick fouls within its own penalty area.
2. The penalty kick is taken from the penalty mark, which is centered 12 yards in front of the goal.
3. All players except the kicker and the opposing- goalkeeper must be outside the penalty area and at least 10 yards away from the penalty marker.
4. The goalkeeper must stand with both feet touching the goal line and must not move his feet until the ball is kicked.
5. The ball must be kicked forward, must travel the distance of its circumference before being in play, and may not be played by the kicker a second time before being touched by another player.
6. A goal may be scored directly on a penalty kick.
7. For any violation of this law
  - a. If by the kicker, an indirect free kick is awarded to the defending team.
  - b. If by the attacking team other than the kicker and goal results, the penalty kick must be retaken.
  - c. If by the defending team and a goal does not result, the penalty kick shall be retaken.
8. Time shall be extended to allow a penalty kick to be taken.

#### **Common Sense Under Law XVII**

Because penalty kicks often result in goals being scored, they must be taken precisely in accordance with the procedures of Law XVII so that neither team has an unfair advantage.

### **XVIII. THROW-INS**

1. A throw-in is awarded if the ball passes completely over a touchline (sideline), either on the ground or in the air.
2. The ball is thrown in at the place where it crossed the line by a player of the team opposing to that of the player who last touched it.
3. The thrower must face the field and part of each foot must be on the ground either on the touchline or outside the field of play. The ball must be thrown with both hands and must be delivered from behind and over his head.
4. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.
5. If the throw-in is improper, a throw-in from the same place shall be awarded to the opposing team.
6. The ball is in play immediately upon entering the field of play, but may not be played by the thrower before being touched by another player.