

The 17 Basic Rules of Soccer - Modified for Our Club

1. The field of play shall be rectangular. The width should not exceed the length.
2. The ball should be round. The outer casing should be leather or an approved synthetic. If a ball goes flat during a game, the referee will get another one and restart the game with a dropped ball (a player from each side stands by the ref and kicks the ball when dropped)
3. The match will be played by two teams. Each team plays 4 verses 4. **We do not use goalies.** Here is a special rule to help challenge the better players and teams **[if a team is down by two goals, they may add a fifth player, if down by three goals, they may add a sixth].** Substitutions can be made '*on the fly*' and do not need to wait for the ball to cross a goal line or touch line or the game is stopped by the referee. A player enters at the midfield half-way line.
4. The basic equipment of a player consists of the following; a jersey or shirt, shorts, socks, **shin guards**, footwear (sneakers are fine, but soccer cleats are recommended). ***Be careful when wearing jewelry, it could scratch someone or get caught in your hair or an opponent's.***
5. A referee shall be appointed to officiate each game and is in charge while the teams are on the field. The referee keeps the official time and may stop the game for fouls, injuries, when the ball is out of play or there is a melee around the ball (a dropped ball restarts the game). ***The referee might not call an obvious foul, if it would unfairly hinder the team that was fouled.***
6. An assistant referee may be appointed to help the main referee.
7. The length of play and number of periods is decided upon before the game starts (we usually play four periods of 10 minutes for the Lower teams, and 12 ½ minutes for the Upper teams).
8. At the start of the game, choice of field ends and kickoff are determined by flipping a coin or by mutual agreement. The defending team positions itself outside of the center circle (on their half of the field), while the attacking team starts with a player(s) inside the circle by the center spot. The ball may be kicked forward or backwards (**our field is short, so a goal can not be scored from the kick off**).
9. The ball is out of play during the following circumstances; *when it has completely crossed a boundary line* (on ground or airborne), or when the game has been halted by an official.
10. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar. A goal is not scored if the ball was intentionally thrown by hand by a player of the attacking side. An 'own-goal' is scored if a player accidentally knocks the ball into their own net.
11. **We do not play the offside rule** (the other team may leave players near an opponents goal).
12. Any player who commits one of the following fouls shall be penalized. The opposite team will be awarded a direct free kick. The fouls include; kicks or trips an opponent, jumps at or charges an opponent (interferes with another player), strikes or pushes an opponent, tackles an opponent (***for safety reasons, slide tackles are not allowed in this club***), holds onto or spits at an opponent, foul or inappropriate comments and hand gestures, dangerous play (***high kicks are not allowed with other players nearby***), or deliberately handles the ball (*a hand ball is anywhere from the side of the shoulder down to the fingertips*). ***Warning, a player may be ejected from the game if a foul is considered to be an act of physical violence toward another player.*** In other words, show good sportsmanship.
13. Free kicks are one of two types; direct -- goal can be scored directly against the offending team, indirect -- goal cannot be scored unless ball has been touched first by a player other than the kicker. Our referees mainly award direct free kicks, but will award indirect kicks in front of a goal area, this helps minimize injuries and the building of 'player walls'.
14. **We do not use penalty kicks.** We have no goalies, so if a player handles a ball in front of their own net, the other team may be awarded an indirect kick or a goal.
15. When a ball passes over a touch-line (side lines), it will be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line. The team that didn't touch the ball last takes the throw in. The ball is thrown over the head using both hands while the feet remain on the ground and behind the side line.
16. A goal kick is taken by a member of the defending team, when the ball crosses the goal line outside of the goal area and last touched by an opponent. The ball must be touched by another player before the kicker can touch it, no double kicks allowed (**a goal can not be scored from a goal kick**).
17. The attacking team is awarded a corner kick when the ball passes completely over the goal line and was last touched by the defending team. The ball is kicked from the corner of the field and once again, no double kicks allowed.