

BYAA SOCCER RULES

Official soccer rules are determined and provided by the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA), headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, and these rules govern most national and all international competitions. Sport organizations such as the YMCA of the USA, Soccer Association for Youth, and American Youth Soccer organization have modified FIFA rules to meet the needs of youth soccer players. Check with your local soccer organization for the rules specific to your league. The rules presented below are condensed versions of the FIFA Soccer Laws and are intended to provide you with the basic soccer rules in a simplified format. They are not intended to replace any official rulebook adopted by any national or local organization. Where discrepancies exist, you should refer to the official rulebook of your league or organization and consider it authoritative.

-Law 1: The Soccer Field (Modified By BYAA)

Field size has been modified to utilize space available.

-Law 2: The Soccer Ball (Modified by BYAA)

U6 Micro - size # 3, U8, U10, and U13 size # 4

-Law 3: Number of Soccer Players (Modified By BYAA)

Will vary based on participation. All leagues will be required to match player for player. U6 will play 5 Vs 5 with no goalie. U8, U10, and U13 will play 5 vs 5 (Goal Keeper & One Fullback must stay within the defensive 1/2 of the field.)

-Law 4: Player's Equipment

Players should wear clothes that are safe and consistent within a team. The usual equipment consists of a jersey, shorts, shin guards, knee-length socks, and shoes. Shoes are the most important piece of equipment for safety. Shoes that have metal studs, front cleats, or sharp cleats cannot be used. Shin Guards are required for all players. Goalkeepers must wear clothes different in color from those of the field players on his or her team. Goalkeepers often wear long-sleeved shirts, gloves, kneepads, and elbow pads to protect themselves. No jewelry, watches, or any other items that the referee may deem hazardous. (Modification for BYAA : Micro leagues will have no goalie.)

-Law 5: The Referees

Referees will be used in leagues U10 and U13 only. Coaches will referee in U6 and U8. The referee is the official in charge of the game. In regulation games, the referee monitors play, keeps official time, stops play, allows substitutions, interprets and enforces all rules. The referee is in complete control of the game and all decisions made by the referee are final. Contesting of calls are not allowed on the field. Parents and coaches alike should be setting positive examples for all players.

-Law 6: Duration of Soccer Games (Modified by BYAA)

U6 – 4 each 6 min. quarters

U8- 4 each 8 min. quarters

U10 – 2 each 22 min. halves

U13 – 2 each 25 min. halves

U6 and U8 will recognize a 2-minute rest period between 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th quarters, with all leagues observing a 5-minute rest period at Half Time.

Each team in the U10 and U13 leagues will be given 1, 60 second timeout per half.

Law 7: Start of Play

Before play begins, a representative of each team participates in the coin toss to determine which team kicks off and on which end of the field it will play. The team that wins the toss can choose either the end of the field or the kickoff. Teams alternate field sides and kickoff after halftime. At kickoff and all other kicks, the ball is in play after it has traveled its circumference. (Modification for BYAA) At the quarter breaks, play will resume where the referee stopped play. Kickoffs will be used to start the Halves.

Law 8: Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is always in play as long as it is within the touchlines and goal lines or is touching the lines. The ball is out of play only when it completely crosses playing field boundaries. Because the position of the ball determines in and out of play, players can stand outside the field and touch the ball inside the field.

Law 9: Scoring Goals

Goals are scored by legally passing the ball across the goal line within the goalposts. If neither team has scored a goal or has scored the same number of goals at the end of a game, a draw or tie is declared. (Modification by BYAA) in U6 Only, no goal may be scored from a Goal Kick or a kickoff.

Law 10: Offside

In U12 only, at least two defensive players must be between an offensive player and the goal at the time the ball is played toward the goal. One of the defensive players can be the goalkeeper. This rule prevents offensive players from standing in front of the goal waiting for the ball. If an offensive player is offside the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick. Players cannot be declared offside if they are dribbling the ball or receiving a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, or dropped ball. In addition, a player will only be called offside if he or she is seeking to gain an advantage by his or her position in the opponents' end of the field. (Modification by BYAA)

Law 11: Fouls and Misconduct

Direct Free Kick

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- jumps at an opponent
- charges an opponent
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- pushes an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following four offenses:

- tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- holds an opponent
- spits at an opponent
- handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

A direct free kick is taken from where the offense occurred.

Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offenses is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

Indirect Free Kick

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following five offenses:

- touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player
- touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
- touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate
- wastes time

An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee:

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- commits any other offense, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

The indirect free kick is taken from where the offense occurred.

Law 12: Free Kicks

Free kicks are when players are allowed to kick the ball with defenders at least 10 yd away from the ball. Indirect free kicks must be touched by another player before crossing the goal line into the goal and cannot be kicked directly into the goal. Direct free kicks can be kicked directly into the goal without touching another player. (Modification by BYAA) In U6 the distance from the ball is reduced to 5 Yd.

Law 13: Penalty Kicks

If a player commits a foul that leads to a direct free kick (see Law 12) inside the penalty area, then the opposing team is awarded a penalty kick from the penalty spot (12 yd directly in front of the goal). During a penalty kick, the offensive player shoots for goal with one touch and only the goalkeeper can attempt to save the ball. The goalkeeper must stand on the goal line. (Modification by BYAA) U6 have no Goalie, and all Defending players may occupy the Goal Line Area until the ball is kicked.

Law 14: The Throw In

A team that last touched a ball that goes out of play along the side of the field loses possession to the opposing team. The opposing team must restart play from the spot the ball went out of bounds by throwing in the ball. Players must hold the ball with both hands and throw the ball over the head while keeping both feet on the ground. Incorrect throw-ins result in the ball being awarded to the opposing team.

Law 15: Goal Kicks Balls

Balls that go out of bounds beyond the goal line and are last touched by the offensive or attacking team are restarted by the defensive team. The defensive team restarts play with an indirect free kick from within the goal area called a goal kick. The ball must travel outside of the goal area before players from either team can touch the ball. (Modification by BYAA) The ball

must clear the penalty box area before being touched by a player from either side. If this occurs the goal kick will be replayed. Also refer to Law 13.

Law 16: Corner Kicks Balls

Balls that go out of bounds beyond the goal line and are last touched by the defensive team are restarted by the offensive team. The offensive team restarts play with a corner kick from within the corner arc on the side from which the ball went out of play. The corner kick is similar to a direct free kick, so defensive players must remain at least 10 yd from the ball until it is touched and travels its circumference. The player taking the corner kick cannot touch the ball a second time unless another player has touched it. (Modification by BYAA) in U6 distance from the ball is reduced to 5 Yd.

Law 17: Kicking the ball back to the Goalie

When you kick the ball back to the GOAL KEEPER they have to handle it with their feet first, then they can use their hands. Applies to U13 only.

Law 18: Slide Tackling

Slide tackling will not be allowed in any league play, the penalty is an indirect kick taken from the point of the foul. This will be considered a "dangerous play offense" and will not be allowed.

Law 19: Headers

Heading the ball will not be allowed in any league play, the penalty is an indirect kick taken from the point of the foul. This will be considered a "dangerous play offense" and will not be allowed.