



EVSC Laws of the Game for Grade 3-5

REMINDER: You are required to be at your game 30 minutes before the game STARTS, check the safety of the goals and field surface, meet with the coaches, and explain and agree on the points below (PRINT and reference it until you get to know it).

Make sure the area where substitutes should enter the field is marked out with cones and is well back from the sideline. Coaches **MUST** stay off the pitch and in their own half and out of the substitute area. The only time they can come on the pitch is if you tell them they can.

While refereeing, **EXPLAIN** the decision you have made to the players. Example. "Indirect free kick to Blue—Red No 7 committed handling. The players, many coaches, and spectators are learning the game, so if they may not agree with the decision, they will at least understand **WHY** you have given it.

Please note that for EVSC for Grades 3-5, we will be applying the following:

- 25 minutes each half, with 5 minutes for half-time.
- **Teams will be 7 vs. 7 players.** When stating numbers on each side, it includes the Goalkeeper.
- Inspection of equipment should **ENSURE**:
 - No jewelry, i.e., piercing jewelry, earrings, necklaces, etc
 - If glasses are re being worn, they should be secured around the head
 - If Socks are worn over the shin guards, and the shin guards are fully covered
 - No hoodies...they are a safety risk. They **CAN** be tucked in under the shirt.
 - Throw-ins: **EXPLAIN** how to do a throw-in. From the **NECK**, **BOTH** feet on the ground. 2 attempts allowed, before a throw given to the other side.
- Ensure that if there are no markings on the pitch, the **Build Out Lines** are indicated with cones.
- Explain the law concerning the Build Out lines. **HERE'S A LINK TO A 2-MINUTE VIDEO EXPLAINING THE RULE:** <https://bit.ly/4sC9LEN>
- **No Direct Free Kicks are given (therefore NO Penalties).**
- **NO OFFSIDE** at this level.
- **NO HEADING** at this level.
- **NO SLIDE tackling** allowed.
- Players are required to retreat 7 yards from any free kick or corner kick.
- Any stoppage due to injury should be restarted with a drop ball from where the ball was when the stoppage occurred, and dropped for the team that had possession.
- Substitutes can be made on any stoppage where the ball goes across a sideline or goal line (Re-starts would be: Throw-ins, Corner Kicks, Goal Kicks, Kick Off).
- Substitutes **CAN** be made only when the Ref indicates it's OK.
- Substitutions **MUST** be made in and out of the halfway line within the coned area.



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- Coaches can be ejected for continual Official abuse. **Carding IS in effect for Coaches, so a red card is an ejection.**
- **At the end of the game, check with the Coaches you agree the final score.**
- **All players should demonstrate Good Sportsmanship with fist pumping/hand shaking in a line at the center of the field at the end of the game. They should also thank you to you - the Official.**
- **ENTER THE RESULT INTO THE ASSIGNR APP WHILE YOU ARE ON THE PITCH BEFORE LEAVING.**

EVSC COACH + REFEREE REFERENCE

Buildout Line Rules

Shortened for readability, while keeping the same practical guidance from your existing chart.



RETREAT

On a goalkeeper save/release and on a goal kick, opponents must move behind the buildout line.

BACK IN PLAY

Save/release: the ball is live once the goalkeeper releases it by throw or roll. Goal kick: the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not need to leave the penalty area.

PUNTING

Not allowed. Restart with an indirect free kick at the spot of the offense, or on the goal-area line if the offense occurs inside the goal area.

8-SECOND RULE

The goalkeeper may control the ball with the hands/arms for up to 8 seconds. The referee visually counts the final 5 seconds. If the count is exceeded, restart with a corner kick to the opponents.

HEADING

Not allowed. Restart with an indirect free kick at the spot of the offense, or on the goal-area line if the offense occurs inside the goal area.

Coach reminder: the team in possession may restart early; once the ball is put back into play, players may cross the buildout line.



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QUICK REFERENCE

Laws of the Game by Grade Level

A clearer side-by-side view of which match rules apply in each EVSC age band.

Use this as a quick coach and referee reference alongside your full season guidance.

LAW	GRADE LEVEL	
	3-5	6-9
Offside	—	✓
Direct Free Kicks	—	✓
Penalties	—	✓
Cautions	—	✓
Heading	—	✓
Build-Out Lines	✓	—
Slide Tackle	—	—

✓ applies — not used Build-out lines apply only to the younger age band shown here.