

SOCCER RULES

INTRODUCTION

The Gilkson Soccer program shall adhere to the following set of rules, with some changes outlined in the addendum section, to provide safety and a certain amount of lenience in the lower age groups.

Coaches, players and anyone interested in learning the rules of the game, should read this section. Coaches must ensure that their players become familiar with these rules.

These guidelines are used and encouraged by the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA), for the personal development of the children involved in the sport.

PLAYERS

1. The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of 11 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Teams will consist of a maximum of 18 players. All players who are dressed to play shall be under the jurisdiction of the referee.
2. All players must be guaranteed at least half the game with the desired outcome to be balanced playing time for all. Substitutions can be made by either team on goal kicks and goals. Teams can substitute on **THEIR OWN** corner kicks, free kicks and throw ins. In the case of injury, the referee will allow the injured player to be substituted.
3. Should a player re-enter the field of play, other than at a stoppage, without the permission of the referee, that player shall be cautioned. Play will be stopped to administer the caution and a free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
4. A player, who is sent off the field of play due to a foul or misconduct, may not take any further part of the game.
5. Slide tackles are not allowed at any time in this park.
6. If there are not a minimum number of players available to start the game 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, the game will be forfeited. The minimum number of players that constitute a team is: U6 & U8 - Five players, including a goalie; U10 & U11 - Six players, including a goalie; U12 to U17 - Seven players, including a goalie.

PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

1. Players shall not wear anything which endangers themselves or others. These include metal cleats, hats, jewellery, sunglasses, etc.
2. Equipment shall consist of shorts, socks, soccer cleats, shin pads and a numbered shirt. Goalkeepers must wear colors which are distinguishable from those of other players and the referee. Provided that section 1 of the rule is observed, goalkeepers may wear gloves and track-suit pants.
3. League supplied uniform must be worn at all games.

THE REFEREE

1. A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. Their authority shall commence as soon as he/she enters the field of play, and shall extend to offenses committed when the game is in progress or when the game is stopped. Their decision on points of fact connected with play shall be final.
2. The referee shall:
 - a. Enforce the rules of the game and regulation of the competition.
 - b. Refrain from penalizing in cases where the offending team may gain an advantage.
 - c. Keep a record of the game.
 - d. Have discretionary power to stop, suspend, or terminate the game for any infringement of the rules, interference by spectators, inclement weather conditions, player injury, or any other causes.
 - e. Caution any player or team official guilty of misconduct or unsporting behaviour, and if the offender persists, suspend him from further participation in the game.
 - f. Send from the field and its vicinity any player, spectator or team official who, in his opinion, is guilty of violent conduct, or serious foul play, or use of foul or abusive language.

- g. Report in writing to the appropriate authority, any misconduct by players, officials, spectators or other persons, which takes place on the field of play or its vicinity at any time prior to, during or after the game. Reports shall be made in accordance with the regulations of the organizers.
- h. Control who may enter or leave the field.
- i. Stop the game if, in their opinion, a player is injured.
- j. Signal to start the game, and restart it after a stoppage.
- k. Decide if the field of play, the ball, and other equipment is suitable.

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DURATION OF THE GAME

5. The regular season shall consist of the following:

- U6 & U8 - Games will be 2 - 25 minute halves.
- U10 & U11 - Games will be 2 - 30 minute halves.
- U12 to U17 – Games will be 2 –35 minute halves

Games can only be cancelled or changed at the park at the scheduled start time.

6. The interval between periods of play should be not less than 5 minutes and not more than 10 minutes.
7. The game will not go into overtime in case of a tie. Except during play-offs, where overtime will be played, time permitting. If, after the overtime is played the game is still tied, then it will be decided by penalty shots, 5 for each team. If the game is still tied, penalty shots will continue to be taken, until each team has had its turn, and the tie is broken.
8. If for any reason a game is terminated before full time, the competition organizers shall decide the outcome of the game, and may be replayed at a later date if time permits.

START OF PLAY

1. At the beginning of the game, choice of halves shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team which wins the toss shall have the choice of halves.
2. At kick-off, all players shall be in their own half of the field of play. All players opposing the team taking the kick-off shall be not less than 6 meters from the ball, until it is kicked off. The game shall be started by the referee giving a signal. The ball shall be kicked forward into the opponents half of the field. The ball must travel the distance of its own circumference to be in play. For any infringement of this rule, the kick-off will be retaken.
3. Should the player taking the kick-off, play or touch the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
4. After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted by a kick-off from the center of the field, to be taken by a player of the team against which the goal was scored.
5. After the first half of play, the teams shall change halves and the kick-off shall be taken by a player of the team opposing that which started the game.
6. For any stoppage not mentioned elsewhere in these rules, the referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball at the place where it was when the play was stopped, unless play was stopped in the penalty-area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at that point nearest where the ball was when play was stopped.
7. A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-off.

METHOD OF SCORING

1. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has crossed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross-bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm, by a player of the attacking team, except by a goal keeper within his own penalty area.

2. The referee shall be the sole judge as to whether a goal has been scored.
3. During the course of the play, should any outside agent prevent the ball from passing into goal, or assist the ball into goal, play shall be stopped. The referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball.
4. The team scoring the greater number of goals shall be declared the winner. If no goal or an equal number of goals are scored, the result shall be a tie.

FREE-KICK

Shall be classified under two headings: direct (from which a goal can be scored direct against the offending side), and indirect (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal).

When a player is taking a direct or an indirect free-kick inside his own penalty-area, all of the opposing players shall be at least ten yards from the ball and shall remain outside the penalty-area until the ball has been kicked out of the area. The ball shall be in play immediately it has traveled the distance of its own circumference and is beyond the penalty-area. The goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his hands, in order that he thereafter kicks it into play. If the ball is not kicked direct into play, beyond the penalty-area, the kick shall be retaken.

When a player is taking a direct or indirect free-kick outside his own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall be at least ten yards from the ball, until it is in play, unless they are standing on their own goal-line, between the goal posts. The ball shall be in play when it has traveled the distance of its own circumference.

If a player of the opposing side encroaches into the penalty-area, or within ten yards of the ball, as the case may be, before a free-kick is taken, the referee shall delay the taking of the kick, until the Law is complied with.

The ball must be stationary when a free-kick is taken, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time, until it has been touched or played by another player.

Notwithstanding any other references in these Laws to the point from which a free-kick is taken:

1. Any free-kick awarded to defending team, within its own goal-area may be taken from any point within the goal-area.
2. Any indirect free-kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponents goal area, shall be taken from the part of the goal-area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the offence was committed.

Punishment:

If the kicker, after taking the free-kick, plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the spot where the infringement occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents goal-area, in which case the free-kick shall be taken from any point with the goal-area.

PENALTY-KICK

1. A penalty-kick shall be taken from the penalty-mark. All players, with the exception of the defending goalkeeper and the player taking the kick shall be outside the penalty-area but within the field of play, and not less than 6 meters from the ball, until it has been kicked.
2. The goalkeeper shall stand, without moving his feet, on his own goal line and between the goal posts, until the ball has been kicked.
3. The player taking the penalty-kick must kick the ball forward. The ball shall be in play when it has traveled the distance of its own circumference. The player taking the penalty-kick shall not play or touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player.
4. The time of play shall be extended at half-time, or at full-time to allow a penalty-kick to be taken. In the event that time is extended, play shall end when a goal is not scored, or when a goal is scored directly, or when the ball rebounds directly into goal from the goalkeeper, a goal post or the crossbar.

5. For any infringement of this rule:
 - a. By a member of the defending team, the kick shall be re-taken if a goal has not been scored;
 - b. By a member of the attacking team, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and a free-kick awarded to the defending team to be taken from where the infringement occurred;
 - c. By a member of both teams, the kick shall be re-taken whether a goal has been scored or not.
6. If after the kick has been taken, the ball or the goalkeeper is interfered with by an outside agent, the kick shall be re-taken.

FOUL AND MISCONDUCTS

A player who intentionally commits any of the following nine offenses:

- a. Kicks or attempts to injure an opponent;
- b. Trips an opponent, i.e. throwing or attempting to throw him by the use of the legs or by stooping in front of or behind him;
- c. Jumps at an opponent;
- d. Charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner;
- e. Charges an opponent from behind unless the latter is obstructing;
- f. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent, or spits at him;
- g. Holds an opponent;
- h. Pushes an opponent;
- i. Handles the ball, i.e. strikes, carries or propels the ball with hand or arm; (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty-area); shall be penalized by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the offence occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents goal-area, in which case the free-kick shall be taken from any point within the goal-area.

Should a player of the defending team intentionally commit one of the above nine offences within the penalty-area, he shall be penalized by a penalty-kick.

A penalty-kick can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball, if in play, at the time of the offence within the penalty-area is committed.

A player committing any of the five following offences:

1. Playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous, e.g. attempting to kick the ball while held by the goalkeeper;
2. Charging fairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it;
3. When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;
4. Charging the goalkeeper except when he
 - a. is holding the ball;
 - b. is obstructing an opponent;
 - c. has passed outside his goal-area.
5. When playing as a goalkeeper and within his penalty-area;
 - a. from the moment he takes control of the ball with his hands, he takes more than 4 steps in any direction whilst holding, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again, without releasing it into play, or
 - b. having released the ball into play before, during or after the 4 steps, he touches it again with his hands, before it has been touched or played by a player of the opposing team either inside or outside of the penalty-area, or by a player of the same team outside the penalty-area, subject to the overriding conditions of 5(c), or

- c. touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate, or
- d. 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, shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to overriding condition imposed in Law XIII (Free-Kick).
- e. A player shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card if:
 - f. he enters or re-enters the field of play to join or rejoin his team after the game has commenced, or leaves the field of play during the progress of the game (except through accident) without, in either case, first having received a signal from the referee showing him he may do so. If the referee stops the game to administer the caution, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick taken by a player of the opposing team from where the ball was when the referee stopped the game, subject to overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII (Free-Kick).
 - g. If however, the offending player has committed a more serious offence he shall be penalized according to that section of the law he infringed.
 - h. he persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;
 - i. he shows by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the referee;
 - j. he is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct.
 - k. For any of these last 3 offences in addition to the caution, an indirect free-kick shall also be awarded to the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII (Free-Kick), unless a more serious infringement of the Laws of the Game was committed.
- l. A player shall be sent off the field of play and shown the red card, if in the opinion of the referee, he:
 - m. is guilty of violent conduct;
 - n. is guilty of serious foul play;
 - o. uses foul or abusive language;
 - p. is guilty of a second cautionable offence after having received a caution.
 - q. If play is stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field for an offence without a separate breach of the law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, subject to the overriding conditions imposed in Law XIII (Free-Kick).

THROW-IN

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the touch-line, either on the ground or in the air, the ball shall be thrown-in, from the point where it left the field of play, by a member of the team opposing that of the player who last played or touched it.
2. The player taking the throw-in shall face the field of play and part of both feet shall be on the ground, and on or behind the touch-line.

The thrower shall use both hands to deliver the ball from behind and over his head. The ball shall be in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

3. If the player taking the throw-in plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
4. If the ball is improperly thrown in, the throw-in shall be retaken by a player of the opposing team.
6. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in.

GOAL-KICK

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts and under the crossbar, having last been touched by a member of the attacking team, a goal-kick shall be awarded

to the defending team. The ball shall be kicked into play from a point within that half of the penalty area nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line.

2. At the taking of a goal-kick, all opponents shall be outside the penalty-area and not less than 6 meters from the ball, until it has been kicked into play. The ball shall be in play when it has traveled the distance of its own circumference and has left the penalty-area.
3. If the player taking the goal-kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
4. A goal may not be scored directly from a goal-kick.

CORNER-KICK

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts and under the cross bar, having been last touched by a member of the defending team, a corner-kick shall be awarded to the attacking team.
2. The corner-kick shall be taken from within the corner-arc nearest to where the ball crossed the goal-line. All opponents shall be not less than 6 meters from the ball until it has been kicked. The ball must travel the distance of its own circumference to be in play.
3. If the player taking the corner-kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.
4. A goal may be scored directly from a corner-kick.

OFF-SIDE

1. A player is in an off-side position if he is nearer to his opponents goal line than the ball unless:
 - a. He is in his own half of the field of play, or;
 - b. He is not nearer to his opponent's goal line than at least two of his opponents.
2. A player shall only be declared off-side and penalized for being in an off-side position if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by one of his teammates, he is, in the opinion of the referee:
 - a. Interfering with play or with an opponent, or;
 - b. Seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.
3. A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee:
 - a. Merely because of his being in an off-side position, or;
 - b. If he receives the ball directly from a goal-kick, a corner-kick or a throw-in.
4. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award an indirect free-kick, which shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the offense is committed by a player in his opponents goal area, in which case the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offense occurred.

Notes:

1. Off-side shall not be judged at the moment the player in question receives the ball, but at the moment when the ball is passed to him by one of his own side. A player who is not in an off-side position when his colleague passes the ball to him or takes a free-kick, does not therefore become off-side if he goes forward during the flight of the ball.
2. A player who is level with the second last opponent or with the last two opponents is not in an off-side position.

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U-6 & U8 AGE GROUP

No. of Players

1. The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of 8 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Teams will consist of a maximum of 16 players. All players who are dressed to play shall be under the jurisdiction of the referee.
2. Unlimited substitutions are permitted during the game.

Free-Kick

1. At the taking of a free-kick, the ball must be stationary and all opponents shall be not less than 4 meters from the ball, until it has been kicked. The ball shall be in play when it has traveled the distance of its circumference.

Penalty-Kick

1. A penalty-kick for this age group is not required; however, the referee will use the FIFA rules if in his/her discretion there has been a severe infringement of the rules.

Foul and Misconducts

1. The referee will use his/her discretion to maintain control and safety on and around the playing field. The referee will use FIFA rules if in his/her discretion there has been a severe infringement of the rules. Yellow and Red cards are not used at this age level.

Throw-In

1. If the ball is improperly thrown in, the throw-in shall be retaken one other time, with emphasis on explaining and demonstrating the proper way to throw-in the ball; then the play will continue.

Goal-Kick

1. At the taking of a goal-kick, all opponents shall be outside the penalty-area and not less than 10 meters from the ball, until it has been kicked into play.

Corner-Kick

1. The corner-kick shall be taken from with-in the corner-arc nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line. All opponents shall be not less than 4 meters from the ball, until it has been kicked.
2. If the player taking the corner-kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, the corner-kick shall be retaken one other time with emphasis on explaining and demonstrating the proper way to take the corner-kick, then play will continue.

Off-Side

1. The off-side rule does not apply for this age group.

Special Notes:

1. In the U-6 division, balls rebounding into play from the goalkeeper when a save is attempted, becomes a dead ball. Play is resumed with a goal-kick.

However if when the goalkeeper attempts a save and the ball bounces into the net, it shall be considered a goal scored, or if the ball bounces across the end line a corner-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.

1 coach per team is allowed on the field during play for U-6 age group only.

NOTE: For informational purposes ONLY. For an official copy of the Rules please contact a member of the Executive committee or Ken Armes directly at the contact information provided on this site.