



Indoor Recreational League – Laws of the Game

Winter 2018/2019 – Final

Participation: All players MUST play a minimum of 50% of each game. The purpose of the league is to help develop the understanding of the game of soccer through play. In some cases due to the number of registered players, it may not be possible to provide every player with 50% of each game if the roster size exceeds the number of players allowed in the game times 2. In these cases the objective should be to make sure that all players get an even amount of playing time over the course of the season or to work with the other coach to add one more player on the playing field.

Referees: For the U8 through U18 divisions there will be one referee per field. The referee will be responsible for determining possessions after an out-of-bounds situations, goals, and fouls. **The referee is the official of the game and should be treated as such.**

- **Law 1 – Field of Play**

- U8 Division

- The field for the U8 division in all respects is a smaller version of a regulation indoor soccer field, consisting of a penalty area, flag posts, corner arcs and a “Restricted Area or No Play Area”. There will be a curtain dividing each field from the adjacent. Any ball striking the any part of the curtain dividing each field will be considered “leaving the field of play”.

- U10 / U12 Divisions

- The field for the U10 and U12 Divisions in all respects is a smaller version of a regulation indoor soccer field, consisting of a penalty area, flag posts and corner arcs. Any ball striking the any part of the curtain dividing each field will be considered “leaving the field of play”.

- **Law 2 – The Ball**

- The ball is:

- Spherical.
- Made of leather or other suitable material specifically designed for “indoor soccer”. Game balls will be provided by the indoor facility and no other ball is to be used.
- Standard FUTSAL ball

- **Law 3 – The Number of Players**

- U8 Division

- **A match is played by two teams utilizing the 4 v 4 format as per US Soccer guidelines; this format shall NOT include a goalkeeper as part of the format.** If a team or both teams are limited on players, teams may play a 3 v 3 format. Changes to the standard 4 v 4 match must be agreed upon by both the referee and the coaches prior beginning of the match.

- U10 / U12 Divisions

- **A match is played by two teams utilizing the 6 v 6 format as per US Soccer guidelines; this format shall include a goalkeeper as part of the format.** If a team or both teams are limited on players, teams may play a 5 v 5 format. Changes to the standard 6 v 6 match must be agreed upon by both the referee and the coaches prior beginning of the match.

- **SPECIAL NOTE: On fields that have established technical areas, all players and coaches will remain in those areas unless players are being substituted or an official has given a player or coach authorization for leave the technical area.**

- Substitution Procedure

- The referee must be informed before a proposed substitution is made.
- The substitution exchange occurs at the halfway line and during stoppage in the match.
- Substitutes must be present in the substitution area PRIOR to stoppage of play in order to be eligible to substitute
- A substitution may only be made after signaled by the referee.
- Substitutions may be made at the following times:
 - Either team may substitute prior to any kick-in.
 - Either team may make substitutions at the following stoppages.
 - Prior to a goal kick by either team.
 - After a goal by either team.
 - After an injury to either team.
 - Prior to a corner kick by any team.
 - On a caution, only the cautioned player may be substituted.

- **Law 4 – The Players Equipment**

- A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry, to include ALL earrings, with the exception of a medical identification badge). Any child required to wear a medical alert bracelet may wear the bracelet as long as it is taped down to the wrist preventing any movement, the medical condition should not be covered.

- Basic equipment

- A jersey or pinney or shirt with sleeves.
 - Home Team jersey color – ORANGE

- o Away Team jersey color – NAVY
 - Shorts.
 - Stockings.
 - Shin guards:
 - o Are covered entirely by the stockings
 - o Made of rubber, plastic or a similar suitable material
 - o Provide a reasonable degree of protection
 - Footwear
 - o No metal studs allowed.
 - o No American Football style allowed.
- **Law 5 – The Referee**
 - o Enforces the Laws of the Game.
 - o Controls the match in corporation with the assistant referees.
 - o Stops, suspends or abandons the match because of outside interference of any kind.
 - o Ensures that any injury is evaluated by the players coach and if any bleeding occurred leaves the field of play. The player may return upon permission of the referee under the following conditions:
 - The bleeding has completely stopped and if needed bandaged.
 - That any part of the uniform that came into contact with blood has been removed and replaced with a replacement.
 - o Takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at his/her discretion, expel them the field of play and its immediate surrounds.
 - **SPECIAL NOTE: It is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure the parents and spectators are behaving in an appropriate manner. Referees should never have to address the spectators' sideline.**
 - o Ensures that no unauthorized persons enter the field of play.
- **Law 6 – The Assistant Referee**
 - o No Assistant Referees are used during indoor matches unless otherwise determined by the Assignor.
- **Law 7 – The Duration of the Match**
 - o The match lasts **two equal periods of 20 minutes**, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the referee and the two teams prior to the match.
 - o Half-time interval will last 2 minutes, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the referee and the coaches' from both teams.
 - o **NO allowances are made in either half for lost time.**
- **Law 8 – The Start and Restart of the Match**
 - o Home Team will have kick-off at the start of the first half; Away Team will have kick-off at the start of the second half.
 - o A kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play.
 - At the start of the match.

- After a goal is scored.
 - At the start of the second half of the match.
 - A goal may be scored directly from a kick-off.
 - o Kick-off procedures
 - All players must be in their own half of the field of play.
 - The ball MUST be stationary on the center mark.
 - The referee MUST signal a start or restart.
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves in any direction.
 - The kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
 - If an infringement occurs during a start or restart then the kick-off is performed again.
 - o A dropped ball
 - A dropped ball is a method of restarting play when, while the ball is still in play, the referee is required to stop play temporarily for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the Laws of the Game.
 - The referee drops the ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped, UNLESS play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball just outside the goal line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.
 - Play restarts when the ball touches the ground.
 - If the ball is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground, the ball is dropped again.
 - A goal cannot be scored directly from a drop ball, if this occurs then a goal kick is awarded.
- **Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play**
 - o The ball is out of play when;
 - It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air.
 - Touches the netting that surrounds the field.
 - o To restart a ball out of play, a player performs a kick-in at the point where the ball leaves the field of play.
- **Law 10 – The Method of Scoring**
 - o A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.
 - o Goals can only be scored from the opposing team’s defensive end.
 - o U8 Division (**Restricted Area in Front of Each Goal**)
 - If the referee determines that a defensive player has improperly touched the ball in the arc, the referee shall award a goal to the offensive team. A goal scored by an offensive player while he/she is in the arc will result in a goal kick for the defending team. Players may run through the arc but cannot touch the ball while in the arc unless instructed by the ref as previously mentioned. The painted line of the arc is considered part of the arc.

- **Law 11 – Offside**
 - There is NO Offside infractions for Indoor Recreational games.

- **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**
 - There is no distinguishing between fouls and misconduct. Accordingly, both offenses will be dealt with similarly; all awards will be an IDFK (Indirect Free Kick).
 - If an offense occurs in a manner that the referee considers to be careless, reckless or using excessive force an Indirect Free Kick will be awarded to the opposing team and the player who committed the offense is substituted immediately. If in the opinion of the referee the actions of the offending player warrant a yellow or red card, a card will be awarded for the offense.
 - Kicks, trips, jump, charges, strikes, pushes, or tackles an opponent.
 - **NO slide tackling is allowed in the ANY Division.**
 - Disciplinary actions in the form of a Red or Yellow card may be issued to coaches. Coaches may be cautioned verbally, and if in the opinion of the referee becomes abusive, the referee may issue a yellow card, but if the abuse becomes excessive a red card may be issued. In the event of a red card or two yellow cards (the second yellow card results in a red card) the coach must be removed from the field. The game will not continue until the offending coach completely leaves the field of play. A report, either verbal or written must be directed to the Director of Referees, explaining the occurrence within 24 hours of the misconduct.
 - **Any aggressive actions occurred by players, in the opinion of the referee, must be reported to the Director of Referees, either in a verbal or written report explaining the occurrence within 24 hours of the misconduct.**
 - NO spectators/parents or coaches will be “hanging out” behind the goal line, specifically behind the goal. Coaches will be asked to remove offending spectators/parents or coaches from the area.
 - No spectators/parents will be allowed in the designated coaches/players area or technical areas. Coaches will be asked to remove offending spectators/parents from the area.
 - Spectators/parents that become offending to players or referees are to be removed by coaches.
 - **DOGSO (Denial of Goal Scoring Opportunity)**
 - DOGSO laws will be enforced for all divisions of play. See law 14 for detailed procedures for executing DOGSO violations.
 - Goalkeepers
 - Goalkeepers are not permitted to throw or punt the ball in the air beyond midfield. The ball must touch the ground before crossing the midfield line. If the ball passes the mid-field line without touching the ground, the ball is placed on the mid-field line at the point of crossing. The defending team is awarded an Indirect-Free Kick. Goalkeepers may use their hands only inside the goal area.

- **Law 13 – Free Kicks**

- o ALL free kicks awarded will be Indirect Free Kicks. Opposing players MUST be a minimum of 3 yards from the ball during the IDFK.
- **Law 14 – The Penalty Kick**
 - o Penalty kicks shall be awarded if, in the referee’s opinion, a scoring chance as been nullified by an obvious goal scoring opportunity from the defending team (i.e. tripping an offensive player from behind on a breakaway). The infraction does not have to automatically result in a red card. A penalty kick is a Direct Free Kick (DFK).
 - o For all teams (U8 – U16), this kick is a direct kick taken from midway inside the attacking half. All players must be behind the mid-field line before the kick is taken.
 - o U8 Division Penalty Kicks
 - This is a “dead-ball” kick, if a goal is scored on the kick, the game restarts with a kick-off. If a goal is not scored on the kick, the defending team restarts the game with a goal kick.
 - o U10 / U12 Divisions Penalty Kicks
 - This is a “live-ball” kick, the penalty kick procedure will proceed as normal FIFA / USSF guidelines. Keepers MUST remain on the goal line and only move forward when the ball is struck.
 - Players must be behind the mid-field line before the kick is taken.
- **Law 15 – The Kick-In**
 - o A kick-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball crosses the touch line or makes contact with the netting surrounding the field, either on the ground or in the air.
 - o A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in.
 - o All opponents must stand no less than 2 m (2 yds) from the point at which the kick-in is taken.
 - o After delivering the ball, the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
 - If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, then the kick is retaken at the original spot.
- **Law 16 – The Goal Kick**
 - o Goal kicks are awarded when the entire ball crosses the goal line and last touched by a member of the attacking team. The ball is placed anywhere inside the penalty area. All opposing players MUST retreat to behind mid-field where they must remain until the ball is kick in a forward manner. The ball may not be touched by either team before exiting the penalty area.
 - If either team touches the ball within the penalty area then the goal kick is retaken.
- **Law 17 – The Corner Kick**
 - o Corner kicks are awarded when the entire ball crosses the goal line and last touched by a member of the defending team. The ball must be placed in the corner arc and a player may not hold or move the corner flag.

- o If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, the corner kick is performed again until the corner kick is performed properly.
- o The opposing team MUST be a minimum of 3 yards from the ball.

“The Delaware Union Way”
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