

LAWS OF THE GAME



LAW 1 - THE FIELD OF PLAY

1. The lines belong to the areas of which they are boundaries.
2. The minimum size of the pitch is Length -90m(100yds) x Width -45m(50yds)
The maximum size of the pitch is Length -120m(130yds) x Width -90m(100yds)
3. Flags are essential for corners of the pitch and not mandatory for the half way line, however, if used they must be at least 1 metre from the side line and all flags used must be no shorter than 1.5m in height.
4. The size of the goals is 7.32m (8yds) wide and 2.44m (8ft) high.
5. Goals must be secured to the ground. Moveable goals must be checked for movement and secured to avoid movement.

LAW 2 - THE BALL

1. The ball cannot be changed without the Referee's permission.
2. Should a ball become defective during play, play is restarted with a drop ball where it was first noticed. Should it be noticed at a stoppage, the ball is replaced and play restarted with the reason for the original stoppage.

LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. Must have two teams, not more than 11 players per team. One player must be the goalkeeper.
2. The game will not start or continue should one of the teams consist of less than 7 players.
3. All players and substitutes names will be given to the Referee within the stipulated time before starting the game.
4. The maximum number of substitutes that can be used is 3.
5. The Referee must be made aware of any substitutions, at an appropriate stoppage.
6. The substitution cannot enter the field until the player being replaced has crossed the side line at the halfway mark and with the Referee's consent.
7. The Referee must be made aware if the goalkeeper and outfield player intend to change places. The change must occur only during a stoppage in play.
8. If a player is sent off before the start of play he can be replaced by any of the named substitutes.

LAW 4 - PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

1. A player must not use or wear any item or equipment that is deemed dangerous by the referee including any form of jewellery.
2. All players must wear shinguards which will offer suitable protection. The shinguards must be covered by socks, and are to be made of plastic or rubber.
3. Goalkeepers must wear colours that are different to all players of both teams including the opposition goalkeeper and also the Referee.

LAW 5 - THE REFEREE

1. Powers of the Referee
 - * Enforce the Laws and controls the Game in conjunction with the assistant Referees.
 - * Acts as time keeper
 - * Stops, suspends or terminates the match for any Law infringements or for any outside interference
 - * Stops play if the Referee suspects any player to be seriously injured and have him removed from the field for treatment and can only return with the Referee's consent
 - * Allows play to continue for slight injuries
 - * Any player that is bleeding must leave the field of play and can only return after the Referee is satisfied the bleeding has stopped.
 - * Allow for advantage
 - * A referee may change a decision if play has not restarted or the match has terminated.
 - * Caution and send off any player in breach of the Laws
 - * Report to the competition authorities any incident which occurred or relevant in connection to the fixture

LAW 6 - ASSISTANT REFEREES

The assistant Referee assists the Referee to control the match in accordance with the laws of the game.

LAW 7 - DURATION OF THE MATCH

1. The match will last and consist of two equal halves of 45 minutes or as per the competition rules, unless the two teams and the Referee decide to shorten the game. This can only be done prior to starting the game.
2. Players are entitled to a half time interval.
3. Allowance can be made for time lost due to Substitutions, Injury, time wasting and is at the discretion of the Referee.

LAW 8 - START AND RESTART OF PLAY

1. A coin is tossed and the winner of the toss will decide which goal to attack and the other team will take the kick off. The team that wins the toss will take the kick off for the second half.
2. A goal may be scored from the kick off.
3. Kick Off Procedure:
 - * All players are in their own half
 - * Opponents of the team taking the kick off must be 10m from the ball until it is played
 - * The ball must be stationary
 - * The Referee gives a signal
 - * The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward
 - * The kicker does not touch the ball a second time
 - * For any infringement of the kick off, the kick is re-taken except where the kicker plays the ball a second time. This will result in an indirect free kick to the opposition
 - * At a drop ball, the ball must touch the ground before it is in play
 - * A free kick in the goal area to the defending team in it's own goal area can be taken from any point inside the goal area
 - * Any indirect free kick in the goal area to the attacking team must be taken to the line of the goal area, parallel to the goal line

LAW 9 - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

1. The ball is out of play if it crosses the goal line or sideline either on the ground or in the air.
2. The ball is in play if it rebounds from a goalpost, crossbar or corner flag and remains within the field of play.
3. If it rebounds from the Referee or Referee's Assistant when they are on the field at play, it will be deemed to be in play, if it does not cross the goal line or side line.

LAW 10 - METHOD OF SCORING

1. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line between the goal posts and under the cross bar.

LAW 11 - OFFSIDE

1. It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position.
A player is in an offside position if:
 - * he is nearer to his opponents goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent

LAW 11 - OFFSIDE (cont)

2. A player is not in an offside position if:
 - * he is in his own half of the field of play
 - * he is level with the second last opponent
 - * he is level with the last two opponents
3. A player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the Referee, involved in active play by:
 - * interfering with play
 - * interfering with an opponent
 - * gaining an advantage by being in that position
4. There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from
 - * a goal kick
 - * a throw in
 - * a corner kick
 - * a drop ball
5. For any offside offence, the Referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringements occurred.

LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Fouls and misconduct are penalised as follows:

1. Direct Free Kick - a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offences 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 offences:

- * 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 offence occurred.

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

LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (cont)

3. 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 four offences:

- * takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession
- * 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

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 offence, not previously mention in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

An indirect free kick is taken from where the offence occurred.

4. Only a player or substituted player may be shown the red or yellow card. The Referee has the authority to take disciplinary sanctions, as from the moment he enters the field of play, until he leaves the field of play after the final whistle.
5. A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following seven offences:
- * guilty of unsporting behaviour
 - * shows dissent by word or action
 - * persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
 - * delays the restart of play
 - * fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
 - * enters or re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission
 - * deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission
6. A player is sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following seven offences:
- * is guilty of serious foul play
 - * is guilty of violent conduct
 - * spits at an opponent or at any other person
 - * denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
 - * denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent mobbing towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
 - * uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
 - * receives a second caution in the same match.

A player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

LAW 13 - FREE KICKS

1. Free kicks are either direct or indirect. For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker does not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
2. If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal is awarded.
3. If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team
4. The indirect free kick is signalled by the Referee raising his arm above his head. He maintains his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.
5. A goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal
 - * if an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded
 - * if an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team
6. A free kick inside the penalty area, direct or indirect free kick to the defending team:
 - * all opponents are at least 9.15m from the ball
 - * all opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
 - * the ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area
 - * a free kick awarded in the goal area is taken from any point inside that area
7. A free kick inside the penalty area, indirect free kick to the attacking team:
 - * all opponents are at least 9.15m from the ball until it is in play, unless they are on their own goal line between the goalposts
 - * the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
 - * an indirect free kick awarded inside the goal area is taken from that part of the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.
8. A free kick outside the penalty area:
 - * all opponents are at least 9.15m from the ball until it is in play
 - * the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
 - * the free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred
9. If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance, the kick is retaken.
10. If, when a free kick is taken by the defending team from inside its own penalty area, the ball is not kicked directly into play, the kick is retaken.
11. If the free kick is taken by a player other than the goalkeeper, if, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick is to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Law 8 - Special Circumstances)

LAW 13 - FREE KICKS (cont)

12. If the free kick is taken by a player other than the goalkeeper, if, after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player, a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick is to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Law 8 - Special Circumstances)
13. If the free kick is taken by a player other than the goalkeeper, if, after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player, a penalty kick is awarded if the infringement occurred inside the kicker's penalty area.
14. When a free kick is taken by the goalkeeper, if, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper touches the ball a second time (except with his hands), before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.
15. When a free kick is taken by the goalkeeper, if, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball before it has touched the another player, a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred, outside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.
16. When a free kick is taken by the goalkeeper, if, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball before it has touched the another player, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

LAW 14 - THE PENALTY KICK

1. A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits any of the 10 offences, that a direct free kick is awarded for offences outside the penalty area while the ball is in play.
 - * the ball must be placed on the penalty mark
 - * the kick must be identified
 - * the goalkeeper must stay on the line and facing the kicker until the ball is played
 - * apart from the kicker all players must remain outside the penalty area till the ball is kicked
 - * the ball must move forward
 - * the kicker does not play the ball a second time till it is touched by another player

LAW 15 - THROW IN

1. A goal cannot be scored from a throw in.
2. A throw in is awarded when the whole of the ball crosses the side line in the air or on the ground, from the point where it crossed the line

LAW 15 - THROW IN (cont)

3. The 4 essential elements the thrower must do:
 - * face the field of play
 - * has feet on or behind the side line
 - * uses both hands
 - * throws the ball from behind and over his head
4. The ball cannot be played by the thrower until it has touched another player.
5. An opponent must stand 2 metres from the thrower.

LAW 16 - GOAL KICK

1. A goal can be scored from a goal kick against the opposition. If scored against the kicker, play restarts with a corner kick providing the ball has left the penalty area first.
2. Opponents must be outside the penalty area.
3. The kick can be taken from any point within the goal area.
4. The ball is in play when it has left the penalty area. If it does not leave the penalty area the kick must be retaken.

LAW 17 - CORNER KICK

1. A goal may be scored direct from a corner kick.
2. The ball must be placed on or in the lined area at the corners of the field.
3. The corner flag cannot be removed.
4. Opposition must be at least 10 metres from the ball.
5. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
6. The kicker does not play the ball a second time.

LAW 18 - **“COMMON SENSE”**