

# Soccer

---

# Rulebook

Age Groups:

4 year olds

5 year olds

6 year olds

7-8 year olds

9-10 year olds

---

**DELTA TOWNSHIP**  
**4-ON-4 YOUTH SOCCER RULES**

---

## **1** LENGTH OF GAME

---

The game will consist of two twenty-minute periods with a one minute break ten minutes into each period for substitution purposes. There will be a five-minute half time between periods.

## **2** PLAYERS

---

**A. Number of Players**

For all age groups (4, 5, 6, 7-8, 9-10), three field players and one goalie.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR 4 ON 4 PLAY: \*If a 4 on 4 format cannot be achieved because of low numbers of players from either one or both teams, a 3 on 3 format will be used - with mutual agreement from both coaches.

**B. Substitutions** - Either team may substitute a player or players under the following conditions:

1. On a goal kick.
2. On a corner kick.
3. After a goal has been scored.
4. Between periods.
5. In the event of an injury.
6. When a player has been cautioned.
7. When team wishing to substitute is throwing ball in.

## **3** FIELD OF PLAY

---

- A. Touch Lines** - are lines marking the length boundaries of the field. When the whole of the ball passes out of play over either of these lines, a throw-in is taken by a player off the side opposed to that of the player who last touched the ball.

- B. **Goal Lines** - are the lines at each end of the field, joining and at right angles to the touch lines. When the whole of the ball passes over the goal lines (except between the goal posts and under the cross bar), either on the ground or in the air, the ball is out of play and the game is restarted by:
1. **A Goal Kick** - when the ball has last been played or touched by an attacking player.
  2. **A Corner Kick** - when the ball has last been played by or touched by a defending player.

When the whole ball has passed over the goal line between the goal posts, and under the crossbar, a goal has been scored, unless otherwise provided by the laws.

NOTE: Touch lines and goal lines are part of the field of play just as all markings are part of the area which they enclose.

Goal Box Exception: No offensive player will be allowed into the Goal Box for any reason.

Penalty: Goal Kick

## **4** THE HALFWAY LINE

---

Indicates a division of the field into two equal halves for the purpose of a *kickoff* - when all the players must remain in their own half of the field until the place kick has been taken.

## **5** THE TEN YARD CENTER CIRCLE

---

The ten yard center circle and the penalty arc (radius ten feet from the penalty) may provide practical indications of the law that "for all forms of free kick, whether direct or indirect, the players of the **opposing** side shall be at least ten feet from the ball and shall not approach within ten feet until the kick has been taken." The purpose is clearly to prevent interference with place kicks, corner kicks, indirect and direct free kicks.

NOTE: The above rule - ten feet away from the ball - applies to the opposing players standing behind the ball as well as those in front of it.

## **6 THE KICKOFF**

---

- A. Every player must remain in his/her own half of the field until the ball has been played. Players of the team opposing that which is kicking off must be at least 10 feet from the ball until it is kicked off.
- B. The ball must be kicked into the opponent's half of the field (forward).
- C. The kicker must not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or been played by another player.

## **7 SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

---

If play is stopped for an infringement of the laws, the game is restarted by an appropriate free kick. In certain cases play may be suspended for a cause not specifically mentioned in the laws. Provided the ball has not passed out of play immediately prior to the suspension, the referee restarts the game by dropping the ball at the place where it was when play was suspended.

The ball is in play when it touches the ground. If a player touches the ball before it reaches the ground it must be re-dropped. The laws do not stipulate that players should be around the ball when it is dropped. Examples where a game is restarted by dropping the ball:

1. After play has been suspended because of injury to player or officials.
2. When the ball becomes lodged between two players and the situation may cause injury.
3. Interference by spectators causing the game to be stopped.
4. When the ball bursts, etc.

Should the ball have passed out of play immediately prior to suspension, the game is restarted by the appropriate method i.e. goal kick, throw-in, etc. Players and officials should keep the time lost through stoppages to a minimum.

## 8 THE THROW-IN

---

When the ball goes out of play by passing wholly over the touch line, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be "thrown-in" from the point where it crossed the line. **The ball must be thrown in - not kicked.** The following points relate to the throw-in:

- A. The throw-in is taken by an opponent of the player who last played or was touched by the ball before it went out of play.
- B. At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must face the field of play.
- C. At the moment of delivering the ball, part of each foot must be on the ground either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line.
- D. The thrower must use both hands.
- E. The thrower delivers the ball from behind and over his/her head.
- F. The ball is in play immediately as it is thrown and it passes over the touch line.
- G. The thrower must not play the ball until it has been touched or played by another player. If he/she does so, an indirect free kick is taken by an opponent, from the place where the infringement occurred.

## 9 CORNER KICK

---

- A. A corner kick is awarded to the attacking team when the whole of the ball, having last been played by one of the defending teams, passes over the goal line whether on the ground or in the air, except when it passes in to the goal.
- B. The corner kick is taken by a player of the attacking team, within the quarter circle nearest to the place where the ball passed over the line. A goal may be scored direct from the corner kick. Players of the opposing team shall not approach within ten yards of the ball until it is in play.
- C. The player taking the corner kick must not play the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player. Should he do so, an indirect free kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

## 10 FREE KICKS

---

- A. There are two types of free kicks:
1. **Indirect** - From which a goal cannot be scored without the ball touching or being played by another player.
  2. **Direct** - From which a goal can be scored direct against the offending side.
- B. **Free Kick From Inside Own Penalty Area** - All opposing players remain outside the area and must be at least ten yards from the ball while the kick is being taken. The ball is considered to be in play when the ball is kicked beyond the penalty area. The goal keeper must not receive the ball into his hands so that he can kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked direct into play beyond the penalty area, the kick is retaken.
- C. **Free Kick Outside Own Penalty Area** - All opposing players must be at least ten yards from the ball until it is in play. The ball is considered to be in play when it has been kicked and moves. The ball must be stationary when a free kick is taken.
- D. 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 kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the spot where the infringement occurred.

## 11 SCORING A GOAL

---

- A. The whole of the ball must pass over the whole of the goal line between the posts and under the crossbar.
- B. The ball must not be thrown, carried, or propelled by hand or arm of the player of the attacking side except in the case of the goalkeeper from his own penalty area.
- C. If the crossbar has been momentarily displaced, the referee must judge whether the ball has passed the goal line between the posts and below where the crossbar should be, and in such a case allow a goal.
1. In factor (B), only the attacking side is mentioned, thus if a defending player handles the ball, should it pass over the line into the goal, a goal is scored. Should a goal be prevented by a defending player, other than the goal keeper handling the ball, a direct free kick is awarded to the attacking side - or if the offense occurred in the penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded.

2. Although conditions (A) and (B) are fulfilled, a goal cannot be scored from an indirect free kick unless the ball has been kicked or touched by a second player; i.e., attacker or defender other than the kicker, before passing through the goal.
3. If an attacker taking an indirect free kick kicks directly into his opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded to the defending team. If a defender taking an indirect free kick from outside his penalty area kicks into his own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the attacking team. Similarly with a direct freekick, for such kicks can only score directly against the offending side.

## **12** PENALTY KICK

---

- A. The penalty kick can only be awarded for any of the nine offenses intentionally committed by a player of the defending side, within his own penalty area. If necessary, time of play shall be extended at half-time or full-time or in extra time to allow the penalty kick to be properly taken. The penalty kick is taken from the penalty mark, from the goal line, six yards from the end line.
  1. Kicking or trying to kick an opponent.
  2. Tripping an opponent (whether or not contact is made).
  3. Jumping at an opponent (whether or not contact is made).
  4. Charging an opponent violently or dangerously (that is, where either the charging player or the charged player could be hurt).
  5. Charging an opponent from behind. **EXCEPTION:** An opponent who legally obstructs (screens the ball while within playing distance) may be charged fairly from behind (shoulder to shoulder blade) if done safely.
  6. Hitting, trying to hit, or spitting at an opponent.
  7. Holding an opponent.
  8. Pushing an opponent.
  9. Handling the ball, except by a goal keeper in his own penalty area. Hand ball is a foul when the ball touches any part of the hand or arm, (with intention to control the ball).  
NOTE: If a player is not trying to control the ball, or is (instinctively) protecting himself/herself from injury, the referee should not call the ball foul.

- B. When the penalty kick is being taken, all players other than the goal keeper and the player taking the kick must be:
1. On the field of play.
  2. Outside the penalty area.
  3. At least 10 feet from the ball until the kick has been taken.
  4. Behind the penalty mark.

NOTE: Players may stand along the side lines of the penalty area if they wish as long as they are behind the penalty mark. The goalkeeper remains on his goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked. The player taking the kick must kick the ball forward, and shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. The ball is in play once it has been kicked forward. A goal may be scored direct from such a kick.

- C. If the ball touches the goalkeeper before passing between the post even though it is after expiration of half time or full time, the goal counts, but if the goalkeeper carries the ball or it rebounds from the goal posts, time must be signaled immediately.
- D. For any infringement by the defending team of the above laws—if a goal is scored, goal is allowed; if a goal has not been scored, kick is retaken.
- E. For any infringement by the player taking the kick, committed after the ball is in play, e.g., playing the ball a second time without it having touched or been played by another player, an opponent shall take an indirect free kick from the place where the infringement occurred.
- F. For any infringement by the attacking team other than the player taking the kick, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and the kick retaken.

## **13** FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

---

Players do not commence a game with intention to foul an opponent or behave in a manner which can be termed misconduct against the principle of fair play. Nevertheless, the referee must be prepared to deal with infringements. If neglected, fouls may result in retaliation which ultimately spoils the game.

A player shall be sent off the field if he/she is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play, if he/she uses foul or abusive language, or if he/she persists in misconduct after receiving a caution.