

Summary of FIFA Laws of the Game

The complete "FIFA Laws of the Game" can be found online at www.ussoccer.com.

1. The Field of Play

- a. *Refer to CYSL Rule Book.*

2. The Ball

- a. *Refer to CYSL Rule Book.*

3. The Number of Players

- a. *Refer to CYSL Rule Book*
- b. *Substitutions*
 - i. *Unlimited with the referee's permission during a stoppage.*
 - ii. *The substitute shall enter the field of play at the halfway line.*

4. The Players' Equipment

- a. Safety
 - i. A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including all jewelry).
 1. *Casts, braces and any similar medically necessary item may be worn provided that, at the discretion of the referee, they do not pose a safety concern. Eyeglasses / sunglasses may be worn only if they are prescription type.*
 2. *This includes but is not limited to earrings, bracelets, necklaces, watches, etc. Earrings shall not be permitted to be worn under any circumstances, even if covered by tape. Bracelets of any material are prohibited. This includes rubber, string, or any other type of material. Hair accessories may be worn only as necessary provided they are deemed to be safe by the referee. Hair beads and other such adornments shall not be permitted.*
- b. Basic Equipment
 - i. Jersey / Shirt
 - ii. Shorts
 - iii. Stockings
 - iv. Shin Guards - *Must be worn under and be completely covered by the stockings.*
 - v. Footwear

5. The Referee

- a. The Authority of the Referee
 - i. Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed
- b. Decisions of the Referee
 - i. The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. The referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or, at his discretion, on the advice of an assistant referee or the fourth official, provided that he has not restarted play or terminated the match.

6. The Assistant Referee

- a. Duties
 - i. Two assistant referees may be appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:
 1. When the ball leaves the field of play and subsequent possession.
 2. When a substitution is requested.

3. When a player may be penalized for being in an offside position or any other offense or when misconduct occurs.

ii. The Assistant Referees are assigned to assist the Referee. Ultimately, the decisions of the Referee are final.

7. The Duration of the Match

- a. *Refer to CYSL Rule Book.*
- b. *Coaches are expected to have their players ready and properly equipped prior to the scheduled match time.*

8. The Start and Restart of Play

- a. Kick-off
- b. Dropped ball

9. The Ball in and Out of Play

- a. Ball Out of Play
 - i. The ball is out of play when:
 1. it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air
 2. play has been stopped by the referee

10. The Method of Scoring

- a. Goal Scored
 - i. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

11. Offside

- a. Offside Position
 - i. It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position.
 1. A player is in an offside position if:
 - a. he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second to last opponent
 - b. A player is not in an offside position if:
 - i. he is in his own half of the field of play
 - ii. he is level with the second to last opponent
 - iii. he is level with the last two opponents.
- b. Offense
 - i. A player in an offside position is only penalized 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:
 1. interfering with play
 2. interfering with an opponent
 3. gaining an advantage by being in that position
- c. No Offense
 - i. There is no offside offense if a player receives the ball directly from:
 1. a goal kick
 2. a throw-in
 3. a corner kick

12. Fouls and Misconduct

a. Direct Free Kick

- i. A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
 1. kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
 2. trips or attempts to trip an opponent
 3. jumps at an opponent
 4. charges an opponent
 5. strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
 6. pushes an opponent
 7. tackles an opponent
- ii. A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following three offenses:
 1. holds an opponent
 2. spits at an opponent
 3. handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area).

b. Penalty Kick

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

c. Indirect Free Kick

- i. An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following four offenses:
 1. controls the ball with his hands for more than six seconds before releasing it from his possession
 2. touches the ball again with his hands after he has released it from his possession and before it has touched another player
 3. touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
 4. touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate.
- ii. An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if, in the opinion of the referee, a player:
 1. plays in a dangerous manner
 2. impedes the progress of an opponent
 3. prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
 4. commits any other offense, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player
- iii. Disciplinary Sanctions
 1. The yellow card is used to communicate that a player, substitute or substituted player has been cautioned.
 2. The red card is used to communicate that a player, substitute or substituted player has been sent off.
- iv. Cautionable Offenses
 1. A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following seven offenses:
 - a. unsporting behavior
 - b. dissent by word or action
 - c. persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
 - d. delaying the restart of play

- e. failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
 - f. entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
 - g. deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
 - 2. A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if he commits any of the following three offenses:
 - a. unsporting behavior
 - b. dissent by word or action
 - c. delaying the restart of play.
- v. Sending-Off Offenses
 - 1. A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offenses:
 - a. serious foul play
 - b. violent conduct
 - c. spitting at an opponent or any other person
 - d. denying 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)
 - e. denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
 - f. offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
 - g. receiving a second caution in the same match

13. Free Kicks

- a. Types of Free Kicks
 - i. Free kicks are either direct or indirect

14. The Penalty Kick

- a. A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits one of the ten offenses for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.

15. The Throw-in

- a. A throw-in is a method of restarting play.
- b. Procedure: At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:
 - i. faces the field of play
 - ii. has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line
 - iii. holds the ball with both hands
 - iv. delivers the ball from behind and over his head
 - v. delivers the ball from the point where it left the field of play

16. The Goal Kick

- a. A goal kick is a method of restarting play.
 - i. A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10.

17. The Corner Kick

- a. A corner kick is a method of restarting play.
 - i. A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10.