

OVERVIEW OF FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME

Revised 9-7-2017

- ❖ Reasons for the Laws – SAFETY, EQUALITY, ENJOYMENT and FAIRNESS
- ❖ Use Common Sense when applying the Laws
- ❖ **WSYA MODIFCATIONS**

LAW 1 – THE FIELD

- **U6 60 x 45 feet** BOYS: 3 v 3 no goalie GIRLS: 3 v 3 no goalie
- **U8 90 x 60 feet** BOYS: 5 v 5 (goalie) GIRLS: 5 v 5 (goalie)
- **U10 150 x 105 feet** BOYS: 7 v 7 (goalie) GIRLS: 6 v 6 (goalie)
- **U12 225 x 150 feet** BOYS: 8 v 8 (goalie) GIRLS: 8 v 8 (goalie)
- **U14 225 x 150 feet** BOYS: 8 v 8 (goalie) GIRLS: 8 v 8 (goalie)

LAW 2 – THE BALL

- The ball must be spherical in shape and not pose any hazards
- Only the referee can change the ball
- Ball Pressure – Thumb Test (see manufacturer’s label)
- **U6/U8 Boys & Girls: Select United (Size 3)**
- **U10/U12 Boys: Select Numero 10 Pro Turf (Size 4)**
- **U10/U12 Girls: Select Cure II (Size 4)**
- **U14 Boys & Girls: NFHS Select Numero 10 (Size 5)**

LAW 3 – THE PLAYERS

- Substitution Procedure
 - Referee must be informed before any substitution is made
 - The substitute may only enter the field after receiving a signal from the referee
 - The substitute enters the field of play at the halfway line during a stoppage in the match
 - All substitutes are subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee
- **All players must play at least 50% or team risks forfeiture**
- **In the event a team arrives short players or becomes short players during the course of play, the opposing team must remove up to 1 player from the field as competitive balance.**
- **U10-U14 Teams may NOT substitute with under 2 minutes left in either half unless the substitution is for an injured player**
- **Teams may substitute on their throw in or either teams' goal kick.** If the team awarded the throw in substitutes, then the other team may also substitute players.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

- A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry)
- Basic equipment – jersey, shorts, shin-guards, socks, cleats
- The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and also from the referee and assistant referees
- **Goal Keepers will be provided with a black pinnie, or they may wear colors that distinguish him/her from the opposing team.**

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LAW 5 – THE REFEREES

- Each match is controlled by Dual-Diagonal Referees who have full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game and their decisions regarding the facts connected with play; all decisions are final.
- A referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect, or at the advice of the other referee. Referees may stop play to ensure correct calls and procedures are followed.

LAW 6 – OTHER OFFICIALS

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

- If a penalty kick has to be taken or retaken, the duration of either half is extended until the penalty kick is completed
- **Times:**

Level	Format	Time	Breaks
U6	Quarters	8 min.	Quarter: 2 min; Half: 5 min
U8	Quarters	12 min.	Quarter: 2 min; Half: 5 min
U10	Halves	25 min.	Half: 5 min.
U12	Halves	25 min.	Half: 5 min.
U14	Halves	25 min.	Half: 5 min.

LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

- Coin-toss Procedure – The visiting team chooses heads or tails and the team that wins the coin toss chooses the side it will defend in the first half; the other team takes the kick-off to start the match. In the second half of the match (or extra time) the teams change ends of the field
- A kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play: at the start of the match, after a goal has been scored, at the start of the second half of the match, at the start of each period of extra time
 - After a team scores a goal, the kick-off is taken by the other team
 - All players must be in their own half of the field of play and must be outside of the center circle until the ball is in play
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward
 - **A goal may NOT be scored from the kick-off at any age level. If the ball went directly into the goal without another player touching the ball, a goal kick shall be awarded to the defending team.**
- 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 (example: for an injury)
 - The referee drops the ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped
 - The ball is in play when it touches the ground, if a player touches the ball early, redrop

LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- 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, or when play has been stopped by the referee
 - The entirety of the ball must cross over the line to be out
- The ball is in play at all other times, including when it rebounds from a goalpost, crossbar or corner flagpost and remains in the field of play, or it rebounds from either referee when they are on the field of play

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- **U14: Goalies cannot punt or drop-kick.**

LAW 10–THE METHOD OF SCORING

- 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
- **U6/U8 Pinnie Rule: Upon scoring, a player will wear a pinnie and cannot score again until a teammate has scored, or the opposing team has scored. Pinnie is removed at the beginning of a new quarter.**
- **MERCY RULE (All Levels): Anytime the goal differential is 4, the losing team may add a field player. If unable to do so, the ref will instruct the winning coach to remove a field player until the score differential returns to 3.**

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE (Levels U10-U14)

- A player is in an offside position if he/she is nearer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second to last defender
- Illegal Offense: An attacker who is in an offside position becomes involved in the play by:
 - Interfering with play (example: ball passed to player, running to the ball)
 - Interfering with an opponent (getting in the way of opponent, including goalkeeper)
 - Gaining an advantage by being in an offside position (example: receiving a ball that rebounds off goalpost or crossbar; deflected by goalkeeper or another defender)
- Result of an offside offense: Indirect Free Kick to opposing team from the position of the offside player
- There is no offside offense if a player receives the ball directly from a goal kick, a throw-in or a corner kick

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- DIRECT FREE KICK – awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following SEVEN (7) offenses in a manner considered by the referee to be:
CARELESS (Foul), RECKLESS (Yellow Card) or USING EXCESSIVE FORCE (Red Card)
 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 (Hits) or attempts to strike (hit) an opponent
 6. Pushes an opponent
 7. Tackles an opponent before making contact with the ball or from behind
- DIRECT FREE KICK – awarded to opposing team for any of the following THREE (3) offenses:
 8. Holds an opponent
 9. Spits at an opponent
 10. Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper in his/her own penalty area)
 - Arm in an un-natural position (stretched away from the body)
- **U8 ONLY - all penalties will result in an INDIRECT free kick (including hand balls). If the penalty occurred inside the goal box, the ball will be placed outside of the goal box and an indirect kick will be taken**

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- PENALTY KICK – awarded if any of the above TEN (10) offenses is committed by a player inside his/her own penalty area

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LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (Continued)

- **INDIRECT FREE KICK** – awarded to opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his/her own penalty area, commits any of the following **FOUR (4)** offenses:
 - Holds the ball for more than six (6) seconds
 - Handling the ball a 2nd time before the ball has been played by a 2nd player
 - Handling the ball after it is deliberately kicked to him/her by a teammate
 - Handling the ball directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate
- **INDIRECT FREE KICK** – awarded to the opposing team if, in the opinion of the referee, a player:
 - Plays in a dangerous manner
 - Impedes the progress of an opponent
 - Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his/her hands
 - Commits any offense for misconduct without a foul to caution or send off a player
- **U8 ONLY - all penalties will result in an INDIRECT free kick (including hand balls). If the penalty occurred inside the goal box, the ball will be placed outside of the goal box and an indirect kick will be taken**
- **Slide tackling is not allowed at any age level and will be awarded as an INDIRECT free kick**

DISCIPLINE for MISCONDUCT

- **YELLOW CARD** – used to communicate that a player, substitute or substituted player has been **CAUTIONED**; a player is cautioned if he/she commits any of the following **SEVEN (7)** offenses:
 - Unsporting behavior
 - Dissent by word or action
 - Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
 - Delaying the restart of play
 - Not yielding 10 yards from the ball at a restart (corner kick, free kick or throw-in)
 - Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
 - Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- **RED CARD** – used to communicate that a player, substitute or substituted player has been **SENT OFF**; a player is cautioned if he/she commits any of the following **SEVEN (7)** offenses:
 - Serious foul play
 - Violent conduct
 - Spitting at an opponent or any other person
 - Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (not applying to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
 - 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
 - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and or gestures
 - Receiving a 2nd CAUTION in the same match

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LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

- DIRECT FREE KICK – if a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponent’s goal, a goal is awarded; if a direct free kick is kicked directly into the team’s own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team
 - A direct free kick is signaled by the referee pointing his/her arm in the direction of the team that has been awarded the direct free kick
- INDIRECT FREE KICK – 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
 - The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising his/her arm above his/her head. The arm is maintained in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play
- For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. All opponents must be at least 10 yards from the ball.
 - EXCEPTION: an indirect free kick inside the opponents’ penalty area, less than 10 yards from the goal. The defenders are allowed to stand on the goal line between the goal posts

LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK

- A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits one of the TEN (10) offenses for which a DIRECT FREE KICK is awarded, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play
 - A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick
 - Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of periods of extra time
- The ball is placed on the penalty mark; the player taking the penalty must be properly identified; the defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line until the ball has been kicked; the other players other than the kicker must be located outside the penalty area, behind the penalty mark, at least 10 yards from the penalty mark
- The referee must signal the beginning of the penalty kick by blowing his/her whistle
 - The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward; he/she must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward (the other players may enter the penalty area and play the ball if the PK is saved but there is a rebound off the goalkeeper, goalposts or crossbar)
 - The goalie is only permitted to move laterally along the line until the ball is touched by the kicker
- A goal is awarded if, before wholly passing over the goal line between the goalposts and under the crossbar, the ball touches either or both of the goalposts and/or the crossbar and/or the goalkeeper
- The referee decides when a penalty kick has been completed

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LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK (Continued)

INFRINGEMENTS, SANCTIONS and RESULTS

Result of the Kick	No Infringement	By Kicking Team	By Defending Team	By Both Teams
Enters the Goal:	Goal Awarded, Kick Off follows	Goal Disallowed, PK Retaken	Goal Awarded, Kick Off follows	Goal Disallowed, PK Retaken
Goes Directly Out of Play:	No Goal, Goal Kick follows	Indirect Free Kick	Penalty Retaken	Penalty Retaken
Rebounds into Play from Goalposts/GK:	Play Continues	Indirect Free Kick	Penalty Retaken	Penalty Retaken
Saved and Held by Goalkeeper:	Play Continues	Indirect Free Kick	Penalty Retaken	Penalty Retaken
Deflected Out of Play by GK:	No Goal, Corner Kick follows	Indirect Free Kick	Penalty Retaken	Penalty Retaken

LAW 15 – THE THROW-IN

- **U6/U8: If a violation occurs during the throw-in, the ref will provide instructions and allow 1 redo; play continues regardless after redo without loss of possession.**
- A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball crosses the touch line, either on the ground or in the air
 - A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in
 - There is no infringement for offside resulting from a throw-in
- Defenders must yield a distance of 2 yards from the offensive player and must not interfere with the throw-in; The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player
- The thrower must face the field of play; must have part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touchline; must hold the ball with both hands and deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head
 - Must take place from the point where the ball left the field of play

LAW 16 – THE GOAL KICK

- **U6/U8: If a violation occurs during the goal kick, the ref will provide instructions and allow 1 redo; play continues regardless after redo without loss of possession.**
- 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 9
- A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team
- Procedure
 - The ball may be placed anywhere inside the Goal Area, is kicked by a player of the defending team
 - Opponents must remain outside the Penalty Area until the ball is in play
 - The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
- If the ball is not kicked directly out of the Penalty Area, the kick is retaken
- Substitutions for both teams are allowed after the ball passes over the goal line, before the GK is taken

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LAW 17 – THE CORNER KICK

- **U6/U8: If a violation occurs during the corner kick, the ref will provide instructions and allow 1 redo; play continues regardless after redo without loss of possession.**
- 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 been touched by a player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored in accordance with LAW 9
- A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team
- Procedure
 - The ball must be placed inside the corner arc nearest to the point where the ball crossed the goal line
 - The corner flagpost must not be moved
 - Opponents must remain at least 10 yards from the corner arc until the ball is in play
 - The ball must be kicked by a player of the attacking team
 - The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
 - The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player