



- **Law 1 – The Field of Play**
  - **No coaches, parents, substitutes, or spectators may stand along the goal lines.**
  - Only coaches and players will be on the side designated for coaches and players.
  - Spectators should be at least 1 yard off the touch lines
  - The smaller goals will be placed behind the larger goal.
  - Corner flags will be used to mark the four corners of the field.
  - 1 or 2 referees will be schedule for the game
    - If there are no referees for the game. 1 coach from each team will act as the referee.
  - On a goal kick the opposing team will start on their own half of the field until the ball is in play.
    - Definition of ball in play is clear movement of the ball. This movement does not need to be forward motion.
- **Law 2 – The Ball**
  - Games are played with a size four (4) ball.
  - The home team will present the game ball to the referee team prior to check ins. The referee team will not know who the home team is.
- **Law 3 – Number of Players**
  - A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than five players and a goalkeeper.
  - A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than four players and a goalkeeper.
    - If a team does not meet the minimum number of players, that team has 10 minutes to reach the minimum number of players before the match is called.
  - **Substitutions:** Occur at the quarters.
  - **Equal Playing Time:** equal playing time is expected.
  - **Player Position:** each player must play at least 1 quarter at offense (forward, midfield) and 1 quarter at defense (midfield, back / goalie) each game.
    - The referees are NOT responsible for enforcing the playing time or position rules.
- **Law 4 – Players' Equipment**
  - Players should wear this season's team uniform. If a player does not have their official uniform, use a practice jersey or similar color shirt is permissible with the agreement of the coaches and referee.



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- A goalkeeper is required to wear a different color jersey (top) from both teams and referees.
- It is encouraged to wear the issued socks but not required.
- Metal cleats, baseball cleats, or football cleats with a center front stud are not permitted.
- Shin guards **MUST** be worn and **COVERED COMPLETELY** with the sock.
- Players may not play with a hard cast or brace unless it is covered with bubble wrap and secured with tape. Have the referee inspect the cast or brace before player check-in.
- **Jewelry of ANY KIND is NOT ALLOWED.**
  - In 1st grade and 2nd grade leagues **ONLY**. Newly pierced earring can be covered with tape and have a cotton around the post. The referee will not supply the supplies to cover and must be checked by the referee before player check-in.
  - The goal is to keep every player safe during the game.
- **Law 5 –The Referee**
  - CDC referee(s) will be schedule for the game
  - All infringements will be briefly explained to the offending player.
  - Referees under the age of 18 have the option to wear a U18 band.
  - Referees' decisions are final. Players, coaches, parents, or other spectators found to have engaged in inappropriate conduct towards any referee could be asked to leave the property.
    - Referees will follow ASK-TELL-DISMISS
- **Law 6 –Assistant Referee**
  - Not applicable
- **Law 7 –Duration of the Match**
  - The match will be divided into 4 quarters. 10 minutes each quarter.
  - There shall be a quarter-time or half-time interval of no more than three (3) minutes.
  - Clock in Running. No stoppage time.
  - Water breaks are allowed if the temperature is over 85 degrees and a coach requests it at the beginning of the game. It will occur around mid-quarter at a natural stoppage of play.
- **Law 8 –Start and Restart of Play**
  - Conform to FIFA
  - Exception is when the restart is a goal kick. The opposing team will start on their own half of the field until the ball is in play.
  - A coin toss will determine which team takes the opening kickoff.
    - The away team will call the coin. If the 'coin toss' is correct, the away team will choose which end of the field to start on. The other team will get



a kickoff. If the 'coin toss' is incorrect the away team will have kick off and the home team will choose which end of the field to start on.

- Referees also have the option a picking a number

- **Law 9 –Ball In and Out of Play**

- Conform to FIFA.

- **Law 10 –Method of Scoring**

- Conform to FIFA.
- Exception is when a team is up by 4 goals. A goal will only count if it is taken outside of the penalty box.
  - Players may enter the penalty box
- There are no overtime periods or shootouts to resolve ties.
- Coaches and parents are the key role models to teach the players how to win and lose with grace and respect.

- **Law 11 –Offside**

- Conform to FIFA.
- A player can be in an offside position and not be offside. It is dependent on if the player is involved in active play
- At the level, players are not excepted to understand the deliberate play component of the offside law.

- **Law 12 –Fouls and Misconduct**

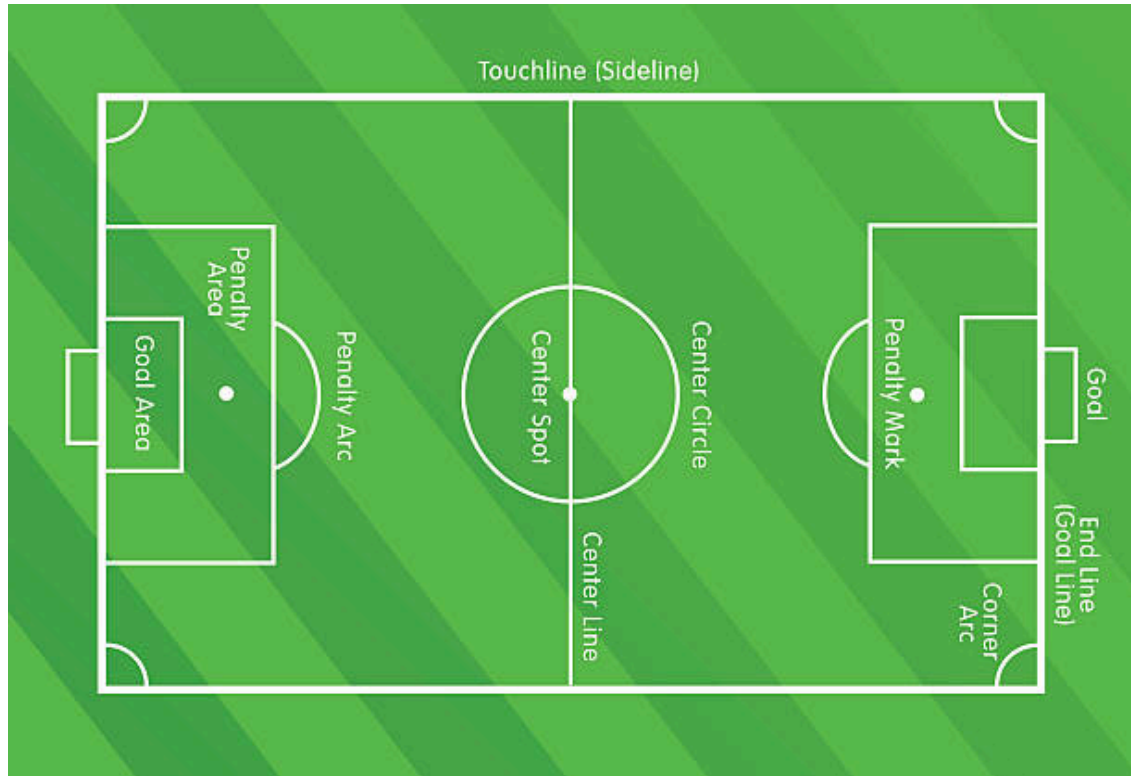
- Conform to FIFA
- NO slide tackles
  - If a player slide tackle or attempts to slide tackle, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick.
- NO intentional headers.
  - If a player heads the ball intentionally, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick.
- Any handball or foul that occurs by the defending team inside their own penalty area will result in an indirect free kick
  - The ball is placed on the closet spot on the penalty box lines
- On any indirect free kick, the ball must strike a second player after it is kicked before a goal is scored.
- A handball occurs when a player touches the ball with their hand or arm either with intent or with their arm in an unnatural playing position. If a ball strikes a hand or arm inadvertently and the arm is in a natural position, no violation has occurred.
- If a player demonstrates poor sportsmanship or persistent dangerous fouling, the referee will follow the ASK-TELL-DISMISS with the player.
  - Coaches will be asked to talk to the player
- Yellow Cards



- The player must leave the field of play and may return at the next dead ball at referee's discretion. The team may substitute a player if they have one.
- **Law 13 –Free Kicks**
  - Conform to FIFA
  - Exception is that all restarts are indirect free kicks.
- **Law 14 –Penalty Kick**
  - None.
- **Law 15 –Throw-In**
  - When the ball COMPLETELY leaves the field across the sideline, the team that did not touch it last will resume play via a throw-in.
  - The ball must be thrown in with two hands over the head, and both feet must remain on the ground. Both hands must be on the sides of the ball.
  - If an illegal throw-in occurs, the infringing player may have one chance to try the throw-in again, during the first two games of the season.
  - On any throw-in, no defending player may stand within 2 yards of the thrower.
- **Law 16 –Goal Kick**
  - When the ball leaves the field across the endline and is last touched by the attacking team, play will resume via a Goal Kick.
  - The ball may be kicked in from anywhere in or on the small goal box.
  - The ball does not need to leave the penalty box before being touched.
  - The opposing team must be on their own half of the field.
- **Law 17 –Corner Kicks**
  - When the ball leaves the field across the endline and is last touched by the defending team, play will resume via a Corner Kick.
  - All players from the defending team must be at least 8 yards away from the ball.



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### Additional Recommendations

- Parents/coaches, non-participating players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the players from both teams.
- Parents/coaches need to refrain from directing play or undermining the authority of the referee. The game official has the final decision on any and all situations.
- Player skills, not high scoring one sided wins are the objective at this league.
- Coaches are allowed to enter the field of play to assist an injured player when the referee has stopped play for injury. If the coach and referee determine the injury requires more assistance than can be provided on the field then the player's parent(s) and/or medical help can be asked to enter the field also.
- Your referees are younger and are continuing to learn the Laws of the Game. Asking a question to clarify a rule during player check in or during a quarter-time break is encouraged.
- Continuously suggesting a call for the referee or discussing/arguing the rules before, during or after the game is not allowed by parents, coaches, players, and spectators.
- At the end of the game please clear the fields in a timely manner as there might be a game afterwards.



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- [Carmel Dads' Club Code of Conduct](#)
- [Referee Sharing Their Experiences](#)
  - What comes from players, coaches, and spectators is the #1 reason referees drop out.