



- **Law 1 – The Field of Play**

- Spectators should be at least 1 yard off the touchlines (sidelines)
- Goals are placed in the center of the goal line (end line).
- Corner flags are not used in these leagues.
- A referee will not schedule for the game
 - 1 coach from each team will act as the referee per field.
 - If another coach is not available, ask a parent to help.
- 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 three (3) ball.
- The team that offers a ball to use will be the home team. The other team will be away and get kick off first

- **Law 3 – Number of Players**

- A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than four (4) players.
- Coach will send four (4) players to each field for the quarter.
- **Substitutions:** Occur at the quarters.
- **Equal Playing Time:** equal playing time is expected.

- **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.
- It is encouraged to wear the issued socks but not required.
- Soccer cleats are 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 soccer sock.
- Players may not play with a hard cast or brace unless it is covered with bubble wrap and secured with tape.
 - If the wrap becomes undone during the game, treat it as an injury and substitute the player until the wrap is secured.
 - Ask the field commissioner if you have questions or want it checked.
- **Jewelry of ANY KIND is NOT ALLOWED.**
 - In Pre-K and Kindergarten leagues **ONLY**. Newly pierced earring can be covered with tape and have a cotton around the post.
 - The goal is to keep every player safe during the game.

- **Law 5 – The Referee**



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- Not applicable
- **Law 6 –Assistant Referee**
 - Not applicable
- **Law 7 –Duration of the Match**
 - The first 15 minutes are used as a practice, where each team uses one of the two fields.
 - The match will be divided into 4 quarters. Each quarter will be eight (8) minutes.
 - There shall be a quarter-time or half-time interval of no more than three (3) minutes.
 - Keep one game clock for both games to prevent uneven games.
 - Clock in Running. No stoppage time.
 - Water breaks are allowed if the temperature is over 85 degrees. It will occur around mid-quarter at a natural stoppage of play.
 - Coaches should agree prior to the game starting
- **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.
- **Law 9 –Ball In and Out of Play**
 - Conform to FIFA.
 - When the ball COMPLETELY leaves the field across the sideline or goal line. Lines are a part of the field.
- **Law 10 –Method of Scoring**
 - No score is kept at this age level.
 - Coaches and parents are the key role models to teach the players how to win and lose with grace and respect.
- **Law 11 –Offside**
 - None.
- **Law 12 –Fouls and Misconduct**
 - Conform to FIFA
 - NO slide tackles
 - NO intentional headers.
 - If a player heads the ball intentionally, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick.
 - 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, talk to the player about sportsmanship or dangerous play.

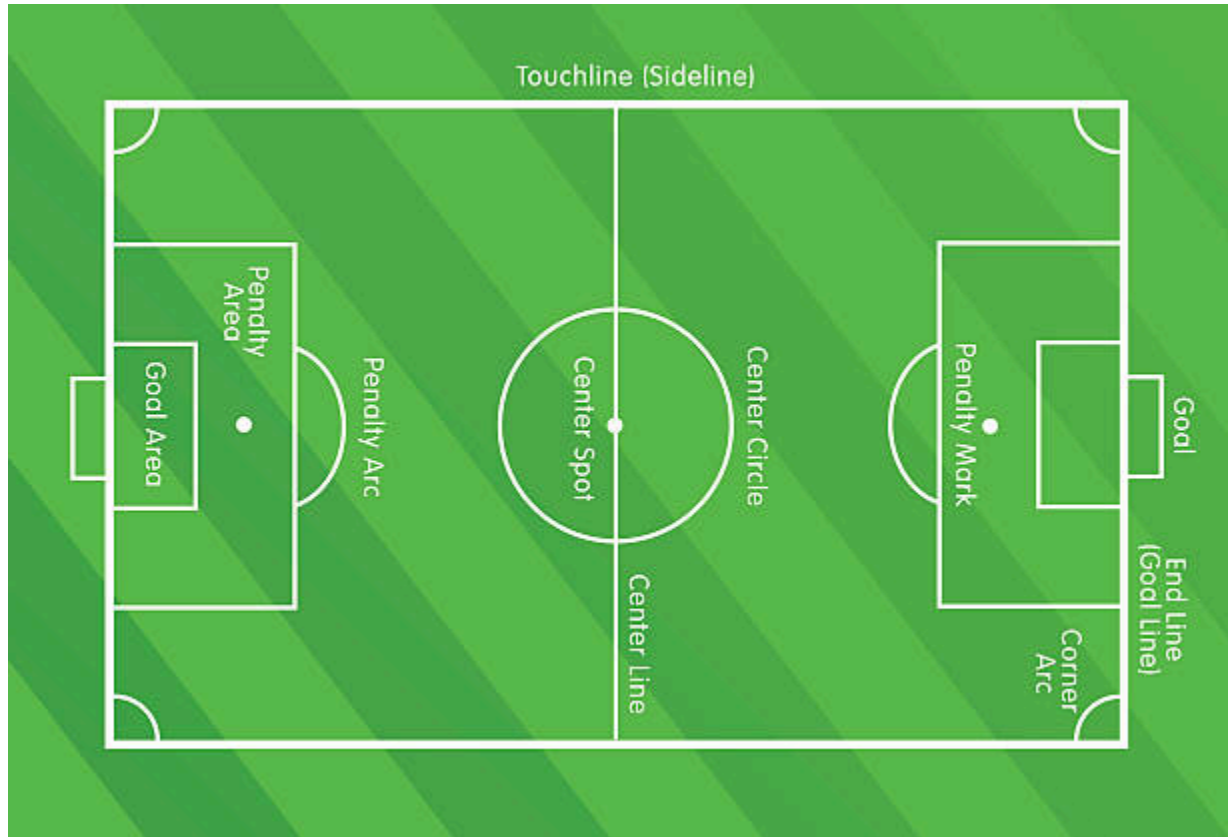


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- If it continues talk with the parents and/or have the player sit for a quarter
 - The goal is keep all players safe and create a positive environment
- **Law 13 –Free Kicks**
 - Conform to FIFA
 - Exception is that all restarts are indirect free kicks.
- **Law 14 –Penalty Kick**
 - None.
- **Law 15 –Throw-In**
 - When the ball COMPLETELY leaves the field across the touchline (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 try again.
 - On any throw-in, no defending player may stand within 2 yards of the thrower.
 - Kick-ins are also allowed in these leagues
- **Law 16 –Goal Kick**
 - When the ball leaves the field across the goal line (end line) 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. (2 yards from the goal line)
 - 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 goal line (end line) 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 4 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.
- Player skills, not high scoring one sided wins are the objective at this league.
- Please try to control excessive scoring by balancing the team.
- Equal playing time is expected for all kids, this is the number 1 rule.
- All coaches should work together to ensure the games run smoothly.
- At the end of the game please clear the fields in a timely manner as there might be a game afterwards.
- [Carmel Dads' Club Code of Conduct](#)