

Laws of the game: International Football Association Board (IFAB) organizes the rules of the game into 17 laws

1- The Field of Play

- a. Specific dimensions / equipment based on level of competition
- b. SAFETY FIRST (Is the field safe: clear of debris, standing water, dangerous conditions? Do not play until it is safe)
- c. Are goals age appropriate and anchored (safe) and are nets in good condition
- d. Is the field properly marked - Can you see all the necessary lines (Buildout lines for U10s)
- e. Are corner flags (if available) properly placed and safe?

2- The Ball

- a. Is the ball the right size (U8/U10 Size 3, U12: Size 4, All Other: Size 5), in good condition and at correct pressure

3- The Players

- a. U8 (4v4 no goalies)
- b. U10 (7v7 with goalie)
- c. U12 (9v9 with goalie)

4- The Players' Equipment

- a. SAFETY FIRST & Common Sense
- b. No jewelry or unsafe equipment (padded casts / braces)
- c. Soccer specific shoes / spikes
- d. Shin guards under socks (age / size appropriate)
- e. Socks, Shorts, Jersey (must match teammates and be different from opponents)

5- The Referee

- a. SAFETY FIRST & Common Sense
- b. Your decisions are final (listen, but be firm; do not get into a debate with coaches; keep the game moving)
- c. Stop the match for all injuries at these age groups (safety first)
- d. Stop the match if conditions become unsafe (weather / other)
- e. Referee equipment (Whistle, Watch, Notebook, Flags, Coin)
- f. Uniform: Inhouse (Black Shoes, Black Socks, Black Shorts & Black Top); Travel (USSF uniforms)
- g. Referee Signals
 - i. Penalty Kick
 - ii. Direct Free Kick
 - iii. Indirect Free Kick
 - iv. Corner Kick
 - v. Goal Kick

6- The Other Match Officials

- a. Assistant Referees ("Linesmen", "Line-O")
- b. Signals
 - i. Substitutions
 - ii. Free Kick
 - iii. Throw-In
 - iv. Corner Kick
 - v. Goal Kick
 - vi. Offside

7- The Duration of the Match

- a. U8: 2x20 minute halves (5-10 minute halftime)
- b. U10: 2x25 minute halves (5-10 minute halftime)
- c. U12: 2x30 minute halves (5-10 minute halftime)

8- The Start and Restart of Play

- a. Kick-off (make sure everyone is ready)
- b. Drop ball if no clear possession, Goal Kick, Corner Kick, Throw-in

9- The Ball In and Out of Play

10- Determining the Outcome of a Match

- a. "The lines are part of what they encompass"
- b. To score a goal, the ball must pass wholly over the line
- c. To be out of play for a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, the ball must pass wholly over the end/touch line

11- Offside

- a. Offside position: Any part of body other than hands/arms are closer to the opponents end-line than either the 2nd to last defender or the ball (whichever is closer to the end-line) when the ball was played
- b. Offside offence: When that player in offside position plays the ball or impacts play
- c. Indirect Free Kick
- d. Cannot be offside (Throw-in, Goal Kick, Corner Kick or when starting in own half)

12- Fouls and Misconduct

- a. Direct Free Kick:
 - i. When a player recklessly does any of the following:
 - 1. Charge, Jumps at, Kicks or attempts to kick, pushes, strikes or attempts to strike, tackles or challenges, trips or attempts to trip
 - ii. Hand ball
 - iii. Holds / pulls another player
 - iv. Other (use common sense)
- b. Indirect Free Kick
 - i. Dangerous Play (high boot, heading at U10 or below, etc.)
 - ii. Goalkeeper infractions (holding the ball too long, handling twice, handling after played by teammate)
 - iii. Offside
- c. Cautions & Send Offs

13- Free Kicks

- a. Ball must be stationary and opponents must give space to allow play to be restarted (10 yards)

14- The Penalty Kick

- a. Direct Free kick offenses committed in the penalty box area
- b. Taken from penalty spot marked on the field
- c. Opponents and teammates must be outside of penalty area and behind penalty box half circle
- d. Ball must be stationary, kicker must have a continuous run up to take the kick
- e. Goalie must remain on line until ball is kicked
- f. Kicker cannot play the ball twice

15- The Throw-in

- a. Taken from touchline where ball left field of play
- b. Feet must both be on the ground and on or behind the touchline
- c. Ball must come from behind the head

16- The Goal Kick

- a. When ball goes out on end line (outside of goal) when last touched by attacking team
- b. Defending team takes kick from anywhere in goal box (anyone including goalie can take kick)
- c. All attackers must be behind penalty area or behind build-out line

17- The Corner Kick

- a. When ball goes out on end-line (outside of goal) when last touched by defending team
- b. Ball played from corner mark by attacking team