

# North Reading Youth Soccer Laws of the Game for Grade 3

## Law 1 – The Field of Play

The field of play must be rectangular and marked with continuous lines. These lines belong to the areas of which they are boundaries. The two longer boundary lines are touchlines. The two shorter lines are goal lines.

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line, which joins the midpoints of the two touchlines.

The center mark is located at the midpoint of the halfway line. It may or may not actually be marked, and it may or may not have a circle around it.

The penalty area is a rectangular region located at each end of the field, and is bordered by both touchlines, the goal line, and a penalty area line. The penalty area line extends the full width of the field. The distance from the goal line to the penalty area line is 14 yards. The penalty area line is also known as the 14-yard line.

A goal area is a smaller rectangular region located within the penalty area (and is considered part of the penalty area). The goal area is 18 yards long, centered on the goal line, and extends 6 yards onto the playing field.

An ECYSA grade 4-compliant goal is to be placed on the center of each goal line. The referee shall inspect the goals prior to the start of the game to ensure neither poses a safety hazard to the players.

## Law 2 – The Ball

A size 4 ball shall be used.

Prior to the start of the game, the referee shall inspect the ball to ensure that it is properly inflated and safe to use.

The ball may not be changed during the match without the referee's permission. The referee shall ensure that the replacement ball is also properly inflated and safe to use.

If the ball becomes defective during active play, the referee must:

- Stop play immediately
- Have the ball replaced
- Restart play with a dropped ball

If the referee notices that the ball has become defective during a stoppage in play, the referee must:

- Have the ball replaced
- Restart play with the normal restart for the stoppage in play.

## Law 3 – The Players

### Definitions:

- Player – a member of a team currently taking part in the game
- Substitute – a member of a team not currently taking part in the game
- Team Official – the team's coaches
- Outside Agent – anyone else
- Substitution – the process by which a Substitute enters the field and becomes a Player, who then leaves the field and becomes a Substitute.

- Opponent – A Player on the opposite team

### Number of Players

A match is played by two teams, each with 5 Players (5v5) or 6 Players (6v6), depending on the number of team members present – the coaches will decide before the match. Each team shall have a goalkeeper.

### Number of Substitutions

There are no limits to the number of substitutions a team may make. A Player who is substituted off may reenter the game in a later substitution.

### Substitution Procedure

All substitutions must be made only with the referee's permission.

All Substitutes must enter the field of play at midfield.

Substitutions may be made:

- At the start of the second half
- After a goal is scored
- On any goal kick
- On throw-ins. Opponents may only substitute if the team taking the throw-in also substitutes.
- For an injured player

When the substitution procedure is complete, the referee should ensure that the correct number of Players are present before restarting play.

### Extra persons on the field of play

If a Team Official or Outside Agent enters the field during active play, the referee must:

- Stop play only if there is interference with play
- Have the person removed
- Restart play with a dropped ball where the ball was when play was stopped

If the referee notices that there are too many Players for a team on the field (i.e. a Substitute entered the field without a Player leaving the field) *during active play*, the referee must:

- Stop play immediately
- Have the coach either complete the substitution procedure or remove the Substitute who entered the field of play
- Restart play with a dropped ball where the ball was when play was stopped

If the referee notices that a team has too many Players on the field *at a stoppage in play*, the referee must

- Have the coach either complete the substitution procedure or remove the Substitute who entered the field of play.
- Restart play with the normal restart for the stoppage in play.

If the stoppage in play occurred because a goal was scored, the same process shall be followed. If the team with too many Players on the field scored it, the referee shall inform the coaches that the goal is being disallowed.

If the referee fails to notice that a team scored a goal with too many Players on the field until after play has resumed, the goal shall stand.

## Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment

### Safety

A Player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.

The following items are considered dangerous and Players are prohibited from wearing them on the field:

- Hard hair clips
- Casts
- Watches
- Hats with brims
- Helmets
- Jewelry (with the exception of Medical Alert bracelets and religious items) - It does not matter if the jewelry is taped; it is still not allowed to be worn on the field of play.
- Anything else that in the opinion of the referee poses a safety hazard to the Player or anyone else.

If a Player wears a Medical Alert bracelet, it must be taped to the body but with the medical information still visible.

If a Player wears a religious item, the referee must ensure that it does not pose a safety hazard to the Player or anyone else on the field of play.

The referee shall inspect all team members before the start of the match to ensure compliance with this law, and shall not permit anyone not in compliance to enter the field of play.

### Compulsory and Recommended Equipment

- Team jersey
- Shin guards (must be covered by socks)
- Footwear (must be safe, tied securely, have no sharp or rough edges, and no toe cleats)
- Shorts are recommended
- In cold weather, a jacket or sweatshirt may be worn UNDER the jersey, and sweatpants OVER shorts.
- Soft caps may be worn on the head.

If a Player loses a shoe or shin guard during active play, the referee should stop play immediately to let the Player retrieve the lost equipment. Restart play with a dropped ball at the point where the ball was when the referee stopped play.

### Colors

The referee should ensure that each team wears jerseys of the same color and clearly different from that worn by the opposing team.

It is recommended (but not required) that the goalkeeper wear a different color jersey (or wear a pinnie with a different color) than his or her teammates and the Opponents.

## Law 5 – The Referee

### Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match.

### Decisions of the referee

Decisions will be made to the best of the referee's ability according to the Laws of the Game and the "spirit of the game" and will be based on the opinion of the referee who has the discretion to take appropriate action within the framework of the Laws of the Game.

The decisions of the referee regarding the facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored, are final.

The referee may not change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or on the advice of any other person if play has restarted or the referee has signaled the end of the first or second half and left the field of play or terminated the match.

### Powers and Duties

The referee:

- Enforces the Laws of the Game
- Controls the match
- Acts as timekeeper
- Provides appropriate authorities with information on disciplinary action and any other incidents that occurred before, during, or after the match
- Supervises and/or indicates the restart of play
- Takes action against Team Officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and may expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds
- Stops play if a Player is injured or is bleeding, and ensures that the Player is removed from the field of play
- Allows no unauthorized persons to enter the field of play

### Referee's Equipment

Compulsory Equipment:

- Whistle
- Watch
- Proper Referee Jersey
- Notebook or other means of keeping a record of the match (plus something to write with)

Referees are prohibited from wearing jewelry.

### Referee Signals

Goal Scored – Arm pointing towards the center mark.

Throw-ins – Arm raised to a 45-degree angle and pointing towards the goal being attacked by the team awarded the throw-in.

Direct Free Kicks – Arm raised to a 45-degree angle and pointing towards the goal being attacked by the team awarded the DFK.

Indirect Free Kicks – Arm raised to a 45-degree angle and pointing towards the goal being attacked by the team awarded the IFK, followed by raising the arm straight up and holding it there until the ball has been kicked and touched by a Player or Opponent, or goes out of play.

### Referee Whistle Use

Referees should blow their whistles:

- to signal a Player to:
  - take a kick-off at the start of the game or second half
  - take a kick-off after a goal is scored
- when they need to stop play:
  - End of first half
  - End of game
  - When players fail to recognize that the ball went out of play and keep playing
  - Injury
  - Outside Agent interfering with play
  - To signal that a throw-in should be retaken
  - To signal that a foul has been committed
  - Any other reason for which the referee wants to stop play

### Law 6 – The Other Match Officials

Not applicable

### Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

The duration of a game will be based on numbers of teams and team members. Referees will be informed prior to their matches.

### Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

A kick-off starts both halves of a match. Other restarts include free kicks (Law 13), throw-ins (Law 15), goal kicks (Law 16), and corner kicks (Law 17). A dropped ball is the restart when the referee stops play and the Laws do not require one of the above restarts.

An infringement that occurs when the ball is not in play does not change how play is restarted.

### Kick-off Procedure

- Coaches decide among themselves who takes the initial kick-off, and which direction the teams will attack at the start of the game.
- Kick-offs are taken from the center mark. If the center mark is not actually marked on the field, the kick-off shall be taken from the point the referee believes the mark would have been located.
- At the start of the second half, the teams switch ends of the field, and the kick-off is taken by the team that didn't take it at the start of the game.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

- The Player taking the kick may not touch it again until it has touched another Player or Opponent. If this occurs, the kick-off should be retaken.
- A goal MAY be scored on a kick-off.

### Dropped Ball Procedure

- Referee drops the ball at the position where it was when play was stopped (unless play was stopped inside the goal area – in which case, the ball is dropped on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped).
- The ball is in play when it touches the ground.
- Any number of players may contest a dropped ball.
- The ball is dropped again if:
  - it touches a player or before it touches the ground or
  - it leaves the field of play after it touches the ground without touching a player
- If a dropped ball enters a goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with
  - A goal kick if it enters the Opponents' goal
  - A corner kick if it enters the Players' own goal

## Law 9 – The Ball in and out of Play

### Ball out of play

The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air
- Play has been stopped by the referee

### Ball in play

The ball is in play at all other times, including when it rebounds off a match official or part of the goal, and remains in the field of play.

## Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

Not applicable

## Law 11 – Offside

Note: The Offside rule is not used at all during the fall season, and comes into play about halfway through the spring season. Whether the Offside rule is being used will be communicated to the referees and coaches by a NRYS official prior to the start of the game.

### Offside position

A Player is in an offside position if:

- Any part of the head, body or feet is in the Opponents' penalty area and
- Any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the Opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last Opponent

### Offside offense

A Player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched by a team-mate is only penalized if they:

- Interfere with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team-mate or
- Interfere with an Opponent by:
  - Preventing an Opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the Opponent's line of vision or
  - Challenging an Opponent for the ball or
  - Clearly attempting to play a ball which is close to him when this action impacts on an Opponent or
  - Making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an Opponent to play the ball
- Gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an Opponent when it has:
  - Rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar or an Opponent
  - Been deliberately saved by any Opponent

If an offside offense occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the defending team at the spot where the offense occurred (i.e. where they interfered with play or an Opponent).

### No Offside offense

A Player has not committed an offside offense, even if in an offside position, if:

- The Player is not involved in active play
- The Player receives the ball from an Opponent who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save by any Opponent)
- The Player receives the ball directly from a goal kick
- The Player receives the ball directly from a corner kick
- The Player receives the ball directly from a throw-in

## Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

### Fouls

A foul is committed if a Player:

- *deliberately* handles the ball.
  - Exception: the goalkeeper may handle the ball whenever the ball is in the penalty area.
- commits any of the following acts against an Opponent:
  - charges
  - jumps at
  - kicks or attempts to kick
  - pushes
  - strikes or attempts to strike (including using his/her head)
  - tackles
  - trips or attempts to trip
  - holds
  - spits at
  - impedes with contact

When a foul is committed by a Player during active play, the referee must stop play, explain to the player why play was stopped, and then restart play with a direct free kick (DFK) to the Player's opponents.

If the Player commits a foul without regard to the safety to him/herself or opponents, or repeatedly commits fouls, then the referee should inform the coach, and have him/her substitute the Player off before restarting play. The coach should use this opportunity to give the Player a break and to have a discussion with the Player.

No yellow or red cards shall be issued by the referee.

### Indirect Free Kick Offenses

An Indirect Free Kick (IFK) is awarded to the Opponents if a Player:

- plays in a dangerous manner (for example, high kicks)
- *deliberately* plays, or attempts to play, the ball with his/her head
- impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it

An Indirect Free Kick (IFK) is awarded to the Opponents if a goalkeeper:

- touches the ball with the hands after:
  - releasing it and before it has touched another Player
  - it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate
  - receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

### Misconduct

Misconduct applies in situations that do not involve a Player acting upon an Opponent. Some examples include:

- A Substitute interfering with play or committing one of the acts described above in the Fouls section.
- A Player fighting with a teammate.
- A Team Official misbehaving towards the referee or Team Officials from the other team.
- A Player showing disrespect towards the referee.

When misconduct occurs, the referee must stop play, and get Team Officials, the referee mentor, or a NRYS official involved to deal with the problem. Once the problem is resolved, restart play as shown below:

- If a Player committed the misconduct, then award a DFK to the Opponents where the offense occurred
- If a Substitute or Team Official committed the misconduct, then the restart is a drop ball.

## Law 13 – Free Kicks

Direct and indirect free kicks are awarded to the opposing team of a Player guilty of an offence or infringement.

### Indirect free kick signal

The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising the arm above the head; this signal is maintained until the kick has been taken and the ball touches another Player or goes out of play. An indirect free kick must be retaken if the referee fails to signal that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal.

### Ball enters the goal

- If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the Opponents' goal, a goal is awarded
- If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the Opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded
- If a direct or indirect free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded



## Procedure for Free Kicks

- The kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred, but with the following exceptions:
  - Infringements within the goal area:
    - Free kicks awarded to the attacking team are taken at the spot on the 14-yard line that is closest to where the infringement occurred.
    - Free kicks awarded to the defending team are taken anywhere within the goal area. Attacking team must leave the penalty area before the kick is taken.
  - Infringements within the penalty area but outside the goal area
    - Free kicks awarded to the attacking team are taken at the spot on the 14-yard line that is closest to where the infringement occurred.
    - Free kicks awarded to the defending team are taken where the infringement occurred. Attacking team must leave the penalty area before the kick is taken.
- The ball must be stationary before it is kicked.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
  - If the kick is taken by the defending team in their own penalty area or goal area, the ball is in play once it has left the penalty area.
- The Player taking the kick must not touch the ball again until it has touched another Player or Opponent.
  - An IFK is awarded to the Opponents if this occurs.
- Opponents must remain at least 8 yards from the ball when the kick is taken.
  - If an Opponent is within 8 yards of the ball and *deliberately* moves toward kicker, and thereby directly interferes with play, the kick should be retaken. The referee should explain to the Opponent why the kick is being retaken.

## Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Not applicable. Penalty kicks are not used.

## Law 15 – The Throw-in

A throw-in is awarded to the Opponents of the Player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, on the ground or in the air. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in:

- if the ball enters the Opponents' goal – a goal kick is awarded
- if the ball enters the thrower's goal – a corner kick is awarded

If the throw-in is not performed correctly, it is retaken. The referee should inform the player why the throw was not legal, and offer guidance on how to perform the throw-in correctly.

### Procedure

- At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must:
  - Face the field of play
  - Have part of each foot on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
  - Throw the ball with both hands from behind and over the head from the point where it left the field of play
- All Opponents must stand at least 2 yards from the point at which the throw-in is taken.
- The ball is in play when it enters the field of play.
- If the ball touches the ground before entering the field of play, it is retaken.

- The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another Player or Opponent.
- If a Player, while correctly taking a throw-in, intentionally throws the ball at an Opponent in order to play the ball again but neither in a careless nor a reckless manner nor using excessive force, the referee allows play to continue.

## Law 16 – The Goal Kick

A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched an Opponent, and a goal is not scored.

A goal may NOT be scored directly from a goal kick.

The Player taking the kick must not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another Player or Opponent.

If the goal kick is not performed correctly, it is retaken.

### Procedure

- The ball is placed anywhere within the goal area (including on any of the lines outlining the goal area)
- The team taking the kick is called the attacking team.
- Any Player on the attacking team may take the kick.
- The ball must be stationary before it is kicked.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- Opponents must remain in their own half of the field until the ball has been touched by another kicking team Player.
- If the ball crosses the halfway line without first touching the ground or a Player, the defending team is awarded an IFK at the point on the halfway line nearest to where the ball crossed into the attacking half of the field.

### Special Note for Goalkeepers

- Within the penalty area, goalkeepers may handle the ball and throw or punt it to a teammate. However, in doing so, the ball must not cross the halfway line without first touching the ground, a Player, or an Opponent. If this occurs, the defending team is awarded an IFK at the point on the halfway line nearest to where the ball crossed into the attacking half of the field.

## Law 17 – The Corner Kick

A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a Player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal a corner kick is awarded to the Opponents.

The Player taking the kick may not touch it again until it has touched another Player or Opponent. If this occurs, the corner kick should be retaken.

### Procedure

- The ball is placed in the corner area (where the touchline and goal line meet) nearest to the point where the ball passed over the goal line.
- The ball must be stationary before it is kicked by a Player of the attacking team.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

- The corner flag post must not be moved.
- Opponents must remain at least 8 yards from the ball until the ball is in play.

### “Law 18” – Common Sense

This isn't in the FIFA Laws, but all officials need to use their best judgment to keep NRYS matches SAFE- FAIR- FUN. The players are young children who are still learning the game and part of your responsibility is to help them learn. Use your whistle and hand signals, and use your voice to explain, direct and instruct. Be patient, and have fun!