

New Soccer rule changes

For Youth games

Coin Toss

Team that wins the coin toss can now choose

A) which goal to defend

or

B) to kick off

Drop Ball

NO MORE DROPPED BALLS WITH 2 PLAYERS

A) If in, or last touched in, the penalty area, drop ball to the goalie

or

B) outside penalty area, drop ball to team that touched it last, at the spot where it was last touched

- All other players, on both teams, must be more than 4 yards away

Ball hits Referee

Do a Drop Ball **IF** the ball hits the referee **AND**

Goes into the goal

or

Causes a change in possession

or

Starts a promising attack

Goal Kick

ANY kick from inside the penalty area does NOT need to leave the area before it is played by either team

- Ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- Defenders must be 10 yards away and outside of the penalty area
- Defenders can enter penalty area as soon as ball is kicked
- Kicker can wait until other team leaves the penalty area OR may kick at any time (at own risk).
- Refs should not allow unnecessary delay of leaving the PA

Goal Kick with Build Out Line

If you are in a U9 or U10 game with a Build Out Line:

On a goal kick, the ball does not have to leave the penalty area before it is touched

AND

The other team can come over the Build Out Line as soon as the ball is kicked

Wall

In a wall of at least 3 defenders, no attacking player is allowed within 1 yard of the wall

If an attacking player moves into the wall as the kick occurs, then give an Indirect Free Kick at the spot of the foul

In youth games, try not to let them kick until attackers are away from the wall

If kicking team does a quick kick, then no foul for being too close to wall

Penalty Kick

Goalie must have at least one foot touching (or in the plane of) the goal line until the ball is kicked

- If goalie violates this rule and a goal is scored, goal counts – no foul
- If goalie violates this rule and stops the shot, retake the PK
- If goalie violates this rule and the shot misses the goal or hits the post and no goal is scored (give advantage), then retake the PK
- Goalie is supposed to get a yellow card for violating this rule – use discretion with young players – talk to goalie before kick!!!

Substitutes

The official rule is that subs should exit the field at the closest point to where they are at the time of the substitution

- Do **NOT** enforce this rule for youth games
- Continue to sub in the same way as before
- Do not allow stalling while subbing

Goalie Handling

If the goalie makes a deliberate attempt to play the ball and misplays the ball, the goalie is then allowed to use their hands to control the ball

So, if there is a pass back to the goalie and he attempts to kick it and messes up, he can then pick up the ball – **no** pass back violation has occurred in this situation

Cards for Coaches

Referee can now give a Yellow or Red Card to any coach or team personnel

- If you give a coach a card – you MUST report it to me!!!
- If you give a red card to the only coach, a new “legal” coach must be located or the game is terminated
- Coach with red card must leave the visible area. If they won't leave, terminate the game

Try to control coaches without carding them, but if they are yelling at you or otherwise being disrespectful, go for it

Hand Ball - Handling

More complicated than ever

Old Law – Handling the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with the hand or arm

- Does not need to be deliberate anymore (in certain situations)
- Players take a risk if their hand/arm are in certain (unnatural) positions

Not Handling

- If player is falling and puts their hands out for support and touches the ball, this is **NOT** handling
 - Unless they do it on purpose
 - Unless they extend their arms *AWAY* from their body
- If the ball accidentally deflects off another (legal) body part of that player onto the hand or arm, this is **NOT** handling
 - Unless a goal or goal scoring opportunity results



Offence if ball makes contact = hand/arm making body bigger

No offence if ball makes contact = hand/arm supporting body

Probably not Handling

- If hand/arm is close to the body and does not make body unnaturally bigger
- If arms are below shoulder and not unnaturally bigger and the ball comes from another player who is close by

Definitely Handling

- If player deliberately touches the ball with hand/arm
- If player touches ball with hand/arm (even accidentally) and then scores goal
- If player touches ball with hand/arm (even accidentally) and then gains a goal scoring opportunity
 - The closer to the goal, the more likely this will occur

Probably Handling

- If the player's arm makes their body unnaturally bigger and ball touches hand/arm
 - Even if from another player who is close
 - Unless the ball deflects from a deliberate play from same player
- If the hand/arm is above the shoulder
 - Even if from another player who is close
 - Unless the ball deflects from a deliberate play from same player

Handling – Hand Ball

Coaches/Fans need to understand

- It is now possible to have a similar event occur and be a foul or not be a foul depending on a bunch of different factors
 - Is it a Goal or goal scoring opportunity? – if so, same play might be called handling in the box, but not a foul at mid-field
 - Did the player make themselves bigger? Could be difference of few inches and is totally in the opinion of referee
 - Players protecting themselves from ball to face or other sensitive areas is generally not a foul

NE District Rules

- 10U – no penalty kicks – foul in box is In-Direct Free Kick
- 10U – no Red Cards

- 7v7 Wall – 6 yards
- 9v9 Wall – 8 yards

- 7v7 – use Build Out lines