

Laws of the Game – Mini Soccer

INTRODUCTION:

The rule differences between Mini Soccer and "regulation" play relate to the number of players, the size of the field, the size of the ball, the size of the goals, the duration of play, the absence of goal areas, the forbidding of charging, and the elimination of Direct free kicks.

LAW 1: THE FIELD OF PLAY

1. Whenever possible, Mini Soccer should be played on a field designed for that purpose. In many instances, however, games will be played within or across standard soccer fields.
2. Field markings shall be clearly visible, and of uniform width, this being not less than 5 cm nor more than 12 cm. All lines are part of the area they encompass.
3. The size of the goals shall be 5 metres wide and 2 metres high. The width of the goals shall be measured from the inside of one goal post to the inside of the other goal post, and the height from the ground to the underside of the cross bar.
Whenever possible, goal nets shall be used.
4. Corner posts shall stand not less than 1.5 metres from the ground and shall be placed in each corner of the field of play.
5. New mini soccer fields must conform with the following field dimensions:
 - a) Length of Field: 55 m -65 m
 - b) Width of Field: 40 m - 45 m
 - c) Penalty Area: Length - 10 m Width - 25 m
 - d) Penalty Arc Radius: 6 m
 - e) Centre Circle Radius: 6 m
 - f) Goal Size: Height - 2 m Width - 5 m
 - g) Corner Arc Radius: 1 m
 - h) Penalty Mark: 8 m

LAW 2: THE BALL

1. The ball shall be size four (4).

LAW 3: NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of 7 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Teams must dress a minimum of 5 players and may dress a maximum of 14 players. (Amendment 2007 re: mixed league) Coaches should try to play an even mixture of girls/boys when numbers allow.
2. Unlimited substitution for a team shall be allowed at the following stoppages of the game:

- on the team's own corner kick,
- on the team's own throw in,
- on the team's own goal kick,
- at half time,
- after a goal has been scored.

For the corner, throw in and goal kick, if the team with possession chooses to substitute the other team may also substitute at that time.

The referee may refuse a request to substitute if in his opinion:

- a) There is little time remaining in the half,

Laws of the Game – Mini Soccer

- b) There has been a substitution recently and the request is judged to be a time wasting tactic.

3. Should a player enter or re-enter the field of play, other than at a stoppage, without the permission of the referee, that player shall be cautioned. If play is stopped to administer the caution, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. A player who is sent off the field of play in accordance with Law 12 may not take any further part in the game. The player may, however, be replaced by another member of his/her team.

LAW 4: PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

1. Players shall not wear anything that endangers them or others.
2. Equipment shall consist of shorts, socks, footwear, and a numbered shirt. In addition, it is compulsory that all players wear shin guards.
3. Goalkeepers must wear colours which are distinguishable from those of other players and those of the referee. Provided that Section 1 of this Law is observed, goalkeepers may wear gloves and tracksuit-type pants.

LAW 5: THE REFEREE

1. A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. His/her authority shall commence as soon as he/she enters the field of play and shall extend to offences committed when the game is in progress or when the game is stopped. His/her decision on all matters regarding facts, shall be final.

LAW 6: THE ASSISTANT REFEREE

1. Unless the Club of the home team assigns registered Class 4 Assistant Referees for a game, each team shall designate an individual to act as an Assistant Referee (linesperson). The designated (non-registered) Assistant Referee can only indicate that the ball is out of play. All other decisions, including the possession of the ball for throw-ins or corner kicks shall only be made by the Referee who is the sole judge on these matters.

LAW 7: DURATION OF THE GAME

1. The game shall be divided into two equal halves of 30 minutes each. The interval between halves of play shall be not less than 5 minutes.
2. In all games in which a winner must be declared, overtime shall be played in accordance with the regulations of the competition.
3. If, for any reason, a game is terminated before full time, the Rules and Regulations of the MJDL shall apply

LAW 8: START AND RESTART OF PLAY

1. A coin is tossed and the team which wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick-off to start the match. The team which wins the toss takes the kick-off to start the second half of the match. In the second half of the match the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals.
2. At a kick off, all players shall be in their own half of the field of play. All players opposing the team taking the kick off shall be not less than 6 metres from the ball until it is kicked off. The game shall be started by the referee giving a signal. The ball shall be kicked forward into the opponents half of the field. The ball must be kicked and moved forward to be in play. For any

Laws of the Game – Mini Soccer

infringement of this rule, the kick-off shall be re-taken.

3. Should the player taking the kick-off play or touch the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted by a kick off, to be taken by a player of the team against which the goal was scored.

5. For any stoppage not mentioned elsewhere in these rules, the referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball at the place where it was when play was stopped, unless play was stopped in the penalty area. In this case, the ball shall be dropped on that part of penalty area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped. The ball shall be in play as soon as it touches the ground.

6. A goal may not be scored directly from a kick off.

LAW 9: BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

1. The ball is out of play:

- a) When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air;
- b) When the game has been stopped by the referee.

2. The ball is in play, at all other times, including:

- a) When it rebounds into play from a goal post, a cross bar, or a corner post;
- b) When it rebounds from the referee when he/she is within the field of play.

LAW 10: METHOD OF SCORING

1. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has crossed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm, by a player of the attacking team, except by the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area.

2. The referee shall be the sole judge as to whether a goal has been scored.

3. During the course of play, should any outside agent prevent the ball from passing into goal, or assist the ball into goal, play shall be stopped. The referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball in accordance with Law 8.

4. The team scoring the greater number of goals shall be declared the winner. If no goal or an equal number of goals is scored, the result shall be a tie.

LAW 11: OFF-SIDE

1. The Offside Rule will apply to Mini-soccer games

LAW 12: FOULS AND MISCONDUCTS

1. A player who, in the opinion of the referee, intentionally commits any of the following offences shall be penalized by the awarding of an indirect free kick to the opposing team:

- a) Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- b) Trips or attempts to trip an opponent;
- c) Jumps at an opponent;
- d) Charges an opponent in any manner;
- e) Strikes or attempts to strike, or spits at an opponent;
- f) Holds an opponent;
- g) Pushes an opponent;

Laws of the Game – Mini Soccer

- h) Spits at an opponent;
- i) Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball;
- j) Deliberately handles the ball (except the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area);
(Should a player commit one of the above offences (a to j) within his/her own penalty area, while the ball is in play, irrespective of the position of the ball, a penalty kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.)
- k) Plays in a dangerous manner;
- l) Impedes the progress of an opponent;
- m) Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his/her hands;
- n) If, when playing as a goalkeeper, and within his/her own penalty area, takes more than six (6) seconds while controlling the ball with his/her hands, before releasing it from his/her possession or, touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player or, touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate or, touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate or, wastes time;
- o) Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player
(Should a player commit one of the above offences (k) to o) within his/her own penalty area, the kick shall be taken from that part of the penalty area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the offence was committed).

2. A player is cautioned and shown a yellow card if he/she commits any of the following offences:

- a) He/she persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;
- b) He/she shows by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the referee;
- c) He/she is guilty of unsporting conduct;
- d) He/she enters, re-enters or leaves the field of play after the game has commenced without the permission of the referee.
- e) Delays the restart of play;
- f) Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick;
- g) Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.

Should the game be stopped to administer the caution, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

3. A player is dismissed and shown the red card if he/she commits any of the following offences:

- a) Is guilty of serious foul play;
- b) Is guilty of violent conduct;
- c) Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language;
- d) Spits at an opponent or any other person;
- e) Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling
the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area);
- f) Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by
an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- g) Receives a second caution in the same match.

LAW 13: FREE KICK

1. For any infringement of the Laws of the Game when the ball is in play, the referee may award a free kick to the team opposing that of the offending player. The free kick shall be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the free kick is awarded to the attacking team within its opponents' penalty area. Please refer to Law 8.

Laws of the Game – Mini Soccer

2. At the taking of a free kick, the ball shall be stationary and all opponents shall be not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked. The ball shall be in play when it is kicked and moved.

3. A player taking a free kick within his/her own penalty area shall kick the ball into play beyond the penalty area. The ball shall be in play when it is kicked and moved and has passed outside the penalty area. All opponents shall be outside the penalty area and not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked. For any infringement of this Law, the free kick shall be retaken.

4. A player taking a free kick shall not play or touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player. For any infringement of this Law, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of this Law.

5. A player who does not retire the required distance, or who gesticulates or dances about in a manner calculated to distract an opponent shall be cautioned for unsporting conduct.

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

LAW 14: PENALTY KICK

1. A penalty kick shall be taken from the penalty mark. All players, with the exception of the defending goalkeeper and the player taking the kick, shall be outside the penalty area but within the field of play, and not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked.

2. The goalkeeper shall stand on his/her own goal line and between the goal posts until the ball has been kicked.

3. The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward. The ball shall be in play when it has been kicked and moved forward. The player shall not play or touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player.

4. The time of play shall be extended at half time or at full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken. In the event that time is extended, play shall end when a goal is not scored, or when a goal is scored directly, or when the ball rebounds directly into the goal from the goalkeeper, a goal post or the cross bar.

5. For any infringement of this Law:

- a) By a member of the defending team, the kick shall be retaken if a goal has not been scored;
- b) By a member of the attacking team, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and a free kick awarded to the defending team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred;
- c) By a member of both teams, the kicks shall be retaken whether a goal has been scored or not.

6. If, after the kick has been taken, the ball or the goalkeeper is interfered with by an outside agent, the kick shall be retaken.

LAW 15: THROW-IN

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the touch line, either on the ground or in the air, the ball shall be thrown-in, from the point where it left the field of play, by a member of the team opposing that of the player who last played or touched it.

2. The player taking the throw in shall face the field of play and part of both feet shall be on the ground, and on or behind the touch line. The thrower shall use both hands to deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head. The ball shall be in play immediately after it enters the field of play.

Laws of the Game – Mini Soccer

3. If the player taking the throw-in plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. If the ball is improperly thrown-in, the throw-in shall be retaken by a player of the opposing team.

5. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw in.

LAW 16: GOAL KICK

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts, having last been played or touched by a member of the attacking team, a goal kick shall be awarded to the defending team. The ball shall be kicked into play from a point within that half of the penalty area nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line.

2. At the taking of a goal kick, all opponents shall be outside the penalty area and not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked into play. The ball shall be in play when it has been kicked and has left the penalty area.

3. If the player taking the goal kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

LAW 17: CORNER KICK

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts, having last been played or touched by a member of the defending team, a corner kick shall be awarded to the attacking team.

2. The corner kick shall be taken from within the corner arc nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line. All opponents shall be not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked. The ball must be kicked and moved to be in play.

3. If the player taking the corner kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.