

## BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER

### The Ball

A regulation-size soccer ball for 7/8 grade players is a No. 5 ball. The 5/6 grade teams will play with a No. 4 size ball.

### Number of Players

There must be no more than 11 players on the field of play for either team; a minimum number of players are usually 7. One player from each team must be designated as a goalkeeper. The goalkeeper must wear a different color shirt from his teammates so that everyone can easily distinguish the goalie. The goalie can only use his hands inside the penalty area.

### Country Schools

- There will be two divisions.
  - 5th/6th boys & girls
  - 7th/8th boys & girls
- Players may only play up if a team does not have enough players to field a team.
- I.e., A 6th-grade boy may play on the 7th/8th team to get to the 11 players needed to participate.
- Schools are not allowed to have an older student play down.
- I.e. 7th grade boys playing on the 5th 6th team
- 4th-grade students are not allowed to participate in soccer.

### Player's Equipment

Players must wear the same colored jersey or shorts (per each team). Players must wear shin guards. **MULES will not be providing shin guards.** If your players are wearing cleats, make sure they are soccer cleats. A soccer cleat does not have a cleat at the front edge of the shoe like a baseball cleat. This is for safety reasons.

## **Referees**

The referee enforces the rules as stated in our MULES handbook. There is one difference between soccer and most other sports played in America. In soccer, the referee may let play continue and not call a foul if they think that stopping play would give an advantage to the team committing the foul. This is called the "advantage clause." The referee should say, "play on" when this occurs.

## **Linesmen and Lineswomen**

Two referees will assist each other in controlling the game. They must signal when the ball is out to indicate a corner or goal kick or designate which team is entitled to the throw-in. The officials may also signal offside, fouls, or misconduct if a goal has been scored or when substitution is desired. The referees on the field make the official and final decisions.

- Sometimes, our high schools can only provide one official per game. If this is the case, the site must provide its official if they deem it necessary.

## **Duration of the Game**

The duration of the game will be as follows.

- Development team game time: 12:30 -1:15 with two 20-minute halves and a 5-minute halftime.
- Tournament team game time: 1:20-2:15 with two 25-minute halves and 5-minute halftime.
- It is crucial that games start on time to get both games in.
- Games must stop at 2:15 to get buses back to school sites.

## **Start of Play, Kick-Off, and Drop Ball**

A kick-off is taken to start a game, to restart play after a goal has been scored, or to start the second half or a new quarter. At kick-off, all players must be on their team's half of the field. The ball is placed in the center in the middle of the circle. The ball must be kicked forward at least one full rotation into the opponent's "half of the field."

- A coin toss between the captains and the referee determines the team that kicks off to begin the game.
- After a goal, the team that was scored upon starts the kick-off.

- New halves, the team that did not kick off the previous half will kick off without it having to be touched by another player. This means the player may dribble, pass or shoot the ball after touching it

### **Ball In and Out of Play**

The ball is out of play whenever it is completely outside the outside edge of the touchline or the goal line, either on the ground or in the air.

- It is out of play when the referee stops play for any reason.
- The ball is in play if any part of the ball is inside or touching the touchline or goal line. The ball is considered in play after bouncing off a goal post, crossbar, corner flag, linesman, or referee if the ball remains on the playing field.

### **Method of Scoring**

A goal can only be scored if the ball goes completely over the outside edge of the goal line, under the crossbar, and between the goalposts while in play.

- Any player may score goals, including the goalie, except when taking a free kick, throw-in, goal kick, penalty kick, or kick-off.
- A ball played by a player directly into his own goal is a score for the opposing team.

### **Offside**

An offensive player must have two opponents, including the goalkeeper, between himself and the goal line now the ball is passed to him. Offside is determined when the ball is passed to the player, not when the player receives the ball. Offside position and offside are not the same. It is not against the rules to be in an offside position. It is against the rules to be offside. Here is a definition of these two concepts.

#### **Offside Position - A player is in the offside position if he is:**

- Ahead of the ball.
- In the opponent's half of the field.
- There are fewer than two opponents even, with or ahead of him.

**Offside - A player who is in the offside position becomes offside when:**

- He participates in the play.
- He interferes with an opponent.
- Otherwise tries to take advantage of being in the offside position.

**Exceptions – A player in an offside position is not to be called offside if he receives the ball directly from:**

- A throw-in
- A corner kick
- A goal kick

### **Fouls and Misconduct**

There are two kinds of fouls in soccer.

- Penal or Major Fouls
- Non-Penal or Minor Foul

**There are eight penal or major fouls. These fouls must be committed intentionally and may result in a **Red Card**.**

- Kicking a player
- Jumping up at a player
- Charging a player in a rough way
- Charging a player from behind
- Tripping a player
- Pushing a player
- Holding a player

**Handling the ball** (except by the goalkeeper): if the player tries to control the ball with his hands or arms. If one of these nine penalty fouls is committed, and the referee blows his whistle and calls a foul, the opposing team gets a direct free kick.

**A "direct" kick**, the opponent can try to score a goal directly from the kick. If the player committing the major foul receives a "Red Card" from the referee, he must leave the game and is not allowed to return.

### **Five non-penal or minor fouls**

If a player commits a minor foul, he may receive a "**Yellow Card**" from the referee.

## Five minor fouls

- Dangerous Play:
  - Examples of dangerous plays are high kicking near another player's head or trying to play a ball held by a goalie.
- Fair charging, but with the ball out of playing distance.
- Illegal obstruction; is when a player intentionally takes a position between the ball and an opponent when not within playing distance of the ball.
- Charging the goalkeeper in the goal area.
- Goalkeeper infringements
  - Goalkeeper takes more than four steps while controlling the ball.
  - Goalkeeper is playing the ball with his hands when teammates kick the ball.
  - Intentionally wasting time

The opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick when the referee stops play by blowing his whistle for a minor foul. A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick. A player other than the one taking the indirect kick before a legal goal can be scored must play the ball.

## Misconduct:

- When an action results in a caution or a "Yellow Card" from the referee.
  - A referee may warn a player to improve his conduct before a caution is issued.
- When an action results in a player being ejected from the game, a **"Red Card."**
  - The referee has the authority to **"Red Card"** coaches or spectators because of misconduct or interference in the game.

## Free Kick

- **Direct Free Kick**
  - The player taking the kick may kick the ball directly into the goal for a score. The direct free kick is taken at the spot where the foul

occurred unless it is within the penalty box. Then a penalty kick is awarded.

- **Indirect Free Kick:**

- A goal can be scored if one or more players from either team touch the ball after it is kicked into play and before it enters the goal.

**There are a few rules that are followed on a free kick.**

- The referee will signal an indirect free kick by putting one arm straight into the air.
- The ball must be stationary when it is kicked.
- The team taking a free kick is entitled to have all opponents at least 10 yards from the ball when the free kick is taken.
- The kicker may kick the ball if the opponents are closer than 10 yards.
- The kicker may ask the referee to move the opponent's back 10 yards from the ball. The kicker must wait until the referee blows his whistle before taking the free kick.
- If a free kick is taken within 10 yards of the opponent's goal, opposing players may stand on their goal line between the goal posts.
- A free kick by the defending team within its goal area may be taken from any point within the half of the goal area in which the free kick was awarded.
- An indirect free kick by the attacking team within the defending team's goal area is taken on the six-yard line at the point nearest to where the foul was committed. (The six-yard line is the line that outlines the goal area).

The player taking the free kick must not play the ball again after it has been kicked into play until another player from either team has touched the ball.

**Penalty Kick**

A penalty kick is awarded when a defender commits a penal or major foul in the penalty area.

- The fouled team is given a penalty kick from the penalty mark.

- All players except the goalkeeper must remain outside the penalty area and penalty arc until the kick is taken.
- The defending goalkeeper must stand on the goal line between the goalposts and cannot move until the ball is kicked.
- If the goalkeeper moves and the penalty shot does not score, the penalty kick is retaken.
  - Encroachment is when a player enters the penalty area or arc before kicking the ball.
  - If a defender encroaches, a scoring shot counts and a non-scoring shot is retaken.
  - If an attacker encroaches, a scoring shot is disallowed, and the kick is retaken.
  - If the shot was non-scoring, then the defending team gets an indirect free kick depending on where the ball is when the referee blows his whistle.
  - If both teams encroach, the penalty kick is retaken, whether it was a scoring shot or not.
  - The penalty kick must go forward and cannot be played again by the kicker until another player has touched the ball.

### **Throw-In**

A throw-in is taken to restart a game after the ball goes out of play over the touchline.

- A player takes a throw-in from the team that did not touch the ball last.
- The player throwing the ball in must have both feet on the ground and both hands on the ball over his head.
- Both feet must remain on or behind the touchline.
- The thrower must throw the ball with equal strength from both hands from the back of the head and over the top of the head.
- The thrower must not play the ball again until another player from either team has touched the ball.
- A player cannot score a goal directly from a throw-in.
- A player in the offside position receiving the ball directly from a throw-in is not offside.

## **Goal Kick**

The box directly in front of the goal is called the goal area. The defending team is awarded a goal kick when the attacking team last touches the ball before it crosses over the goal line.

- Any player on the defending team takes a goal kick.
- The ball must be played from within the half of the goal area on the side of the field where the ball went out of play.
- The opposing team must remain outside the penalty area until the ball leaves the goal area.
- The goal kick is played again if the ball does not leave the penalty area, crosses the goal line before leaving the penalty area, or if a player plays the ball again from either team before it leaves the penalty area.
- The kicker may not play the ball again until another team member touches the ball.
- A player in the offside position receiving the ball directly from a goal kick is not offside.

## **Corner Kick**

If a ball goes over the goal line and is last touched by the defending team, the attacking team is awarded a corner kick.

- The corner kick is taken from within the corner arc on the side of the field where the ball went out of play.
- Any player on the attacking team may take the corner kick.
- The kicker can score a goal by kicking the ball directly into the goal. The opponents must be 10 yards back from the ball on a corner kick.
- The kicker is not allowed to play the ball again until a player from either team touches the ball.



- A player in the offside position receiving the ball directly from a corner kick is not offside.

### Heading the ball

Students under 12 cannot head the ball in practice or games. If the heading of the ball occurs in a game, it will result in an indirect free kick. All of our 5th/6th-grade students will adhere to this rule. The 7th/8th-grade teams are allowed to head the ball.

This is the basic layout of a soccer field. The size of the field will vary from school to school, usually depending on the area available. We would like two fields at each site to get games finished sooner.

