

B.C. Indoor Soccer League Society



Laws of the Game

Revised October 2004

The Laws Of The Game

Please note that in instances not expressly described herein, the FIFA Laws of the Game shall be used.

1 - THE REFEREE:

A referee shall be appointed to officiate at each game. His/her authority and the exercise of the powers granted to him/her by the Laws of the Game shall commence as soon as he/she enters the locality where the pitch is situated and shall cease as soon as he/she leaves it.

During the match, his/her powers of penalizing shall extend to offenses committed when play has been temporarily suspended and when the ball is out of play. His/her decision on points of fact connected with the game shall be final, as far as the result of the game is concerned.

The referee shall:

enforce the Laws;

refrain from penalizing in cases where he/she is satisfied that, by doing so, he/she would be giving an advantage to the offending team;

keep a record of all violations and incidents which occur before, during or after the game;

keep a record of all goals scored and the number or name of the players who score;

act as timekeeper;

have discretionary powers to stop the game for any infringement of the Laws and to suspend or terminate the game whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other cause, he/she deems it necessary. In such a case he/she shall submit a detailed report to the authority responsible, within the stipulated time and in accordance with the provisions set up by the association under whose jurisdiction the match was played;

from the time he/she enters the pitch, caution any player guilty of misconduct or unsporting behavior and, if he/she persists, suspend him/her from further participation in the game. In such cases the referee shall communicate the name of the offender to the authority responsible within the stipulated time, and in accordance with the provisions laid down by the association under whose jurisdiction the match was played;

allow no person other than the players to enter the pitch without his/her permission;

stop the game if, in his/her opinion, a player has been seriously injured; have the player removed as soon as possible from the pitch and immediately resume the game. If a player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play.

send off the pitch any player who, in his/her opinion, is guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play or the use of foul or abusive language;

signal for the game to be restarted after every stoppage;

decide that the ball provided for a match meets with the requirements of the game;

shall complete a written report following the game detailing the violations, the goals scored, and all other items as required on the game report forms.

2 - THE PITCH OR PLAYING AREA:

All areas of the playing floor are accessible to all players.

The ball can be played or “rebounded” off of the boards surrounding the playing area.

In the vicinity of both players benches, a Substitution Zone will be clearly marked. All substitutes must enter and leave the field of play by using the substitution zone.

*****NOTE*****

Please see the sections Ball In and Out of Play, Kick-In, Goal Kick, and Corner Kick for additional details regarding the above.

3 - THE BALL:

The ball shall be spherical. The outer casing shall be of leather, felt, or other suitable material. No material shall be used in its construction which might prove dangerous to the players.

The referee shall decide that the ball provided for a match meets with the requirements of the game.

The ball shall not be changed during the game without the permission of the referee.

4 - PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT:

A player shall not wear anything which the referee deems is dangerous to other players.

The usual equipment of a player shall consist of a numbered shirt, shorts, socks, and footwear.

The only footwear permitted shall be canvas or soft-leather training or gymnastic shoes with rubber soles or some similar material. The use of footwear is required.

Long trousers are not permitted except for the goalkeeper.

The players shirts shall be numbered, each player of the same team having a different number. Each player of the same team shall wear like colored shirts, easily distinguishable from the opposing teams shirts and the referee. At the start of each game the players shirts shall be tucked in to their shorts.

If, in the opinion of the referee, the team uniform colors will create a problem for officiating a game, the HOME team (listed first on the schedule), MUST change to colors distinct from those of their opponents and the referee.

The goalkeeper shall be permitted to wear long trousers. The goalkeeper shall wear colors which are easily distinguishable from the other players and the referee.

Punishment:

For any infringement of this Law, the player at fault shall be instructed to leave the pitch to adjust the equipment or to obtain any missing item of equipment and shall not return without first reporting to the referee, who shall ensure that the player's equipment is in order. The player may only re-enter the game at a moment when the ball has ceased to be in play and at the referee's approval.

5 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

A team shall consist of not more than eighteen players.

A match shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than six players on the playing area at one time, one of whom shall be designated as the goalkeeper.

To start a match the minimum number of players per team shall be four, one of whom shall be designated as the goalkeeper.

If at any time during a match a team has fewer than four players remaining the match shall be abandoned.

6 - DURATION OF THE GAME:

The duration of the game shall be two equal periods of 25 minutes.

The timekeeping shall be undertaken by the referee.

The duration of either half shall be prolonged to enable a penalty kick to be taken.

There will be no overtime during regular season games.

During play-off games, or games in which a winner must be decided, and a winning result has not been decided at the end of regular time then extra time will be played. Extra time shall always consist of two periods of five minutes each, with an interval of two

minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time.

Should one of the teams score a goal in overtime (golden goal), the match shall immediately be terminated and the team that scores the goal declared the winner.

If no winner is decided after extra time a penalty kick shoot-out will commence. (See the section titled Penalty Kick Shoot-out at the end of this document.)

The half-time interval in regular season games shall not exceed five minutes.

7 - THE START OF PLAY:

A goal may be scored directly from the kickoff.

At the beginning of the game, the choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin. The team winning the toss shall have the option of choice of ends.

The referee having given a signal, the game shall be started by a player taking a place kick (i.e. a kick at the ball while it is stationary on the ground in the center of the pitch) into his/her opponents' half of the pitch. All players shall be in their own half and the players of the team opposing that of the player taking the kick shall remain at a distance of not less than 3 m from the ball until it is kicked off. The ball is in play when it has been kicked and moved forward. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted in the same manner as mentioned above, the kickoff being taken by a player of the opposite team to the one which scored.

After the half-time interval, the teams shall change ends and the kickoff shall be taken by a player of the opposite team to that which started the game.

PUNISHMENT:

For any infringements of the above points of this Law, the kickoff shall be retaken. However, if the player taking the kickoff plays the ball again before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. If this offense is committed by a player in his/her opponents' penalty area, the indirect free kick shall be taken from the penalty area line at the place nearest

to where the infringement occurred.

After temporary suspensions. When restarting the game after a temporary suspension of play from any other cause not mentioned elsewhere in these Laws, provided that immediately preceding the suspension the ball has not passed over the boards or goal lines, the referee shall drop the ball at the place where it was situated when play was suspended, except if it was in the penalty area, in which case it shall be dropped on the penalty area line, at the place nearest to the position of the ball when the game was stopped.

The ball shall be deemed to be in play the moment it has touched the ground. If, however, it crosses over the touch or goal lines after it has been dropped by the referee, but before it is touched by a player, the referee shall drop it again. No player shall play the ball until it has touched the ground. If this last provision is not complied with, the referee shall again drop the ball.

8 - PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS:

In all games, on-the-fly substitutions are permitted. An on-the-fly substitution is a substitution that is made when the ball is still in play.

The number of substitutions made during a match is unlimited except when, in the referee's opinion, a team is attempting to delay the game by making an abounding number of substitutions.

Single or multiple players may be substituted at one time.

ON-THE-FLY SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE:

An on-the fly substitution can be made when the ball is in play;

all players shall enter and leave the playing area by using the substitution zone;

The player leaving the field must be within his/her own substitution zone, or off the field of play within his/her own bench area before any substitution is made;

No player leaving the playing area, or any substitute entering the playing area may participate in play and/or gain an advantage during the period when the player and the substitute are simultaneously within the substitution zone, and the ball is in play. A violation of this rule will result in:

- the play being stopped;

- the player being replaced is instructed to leave the playing area,
- the substitute is cautioned and shown the yellow card;
- play is restarted with an indirect free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the ball was situated when the game was stopped. However, if the ball was within the offending teams penalty area, the indirect free kick shall be taken from the penalty area line, at the place nearest to the position of the ball when the play was stopped.

If, while a substitution is being made, a substitute enters the playing area before a player has left the playing area or has entered the substitution zone, or a substitute enters the playing area from a place other than his/her own substitution zone:

- the play is stopped;
- the substitute is cautioned and shown the yellow card;
- play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was situated when the play was stopped. However, if the ball was inside the penalty area, the drop-ball shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the spot nearest to the position of the ball when the game was stopped.

If a player leaves the playing area from a place other than from his/her own substitution zone, the player shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card at the next stoppage in play.

Substitutions may also be made under the following conditions. (Substitutions under these conditions must first be called for and approved by the referee before they can take place):

1. On a stoppage in play when your team has possession.
2. When the goalkeeper has possession of the ball.
3. When a player is injured.

4. When the opposing team makes a substitution under the above conditions.
5. When a goal is scored.
6. At the referees discretion.

A substitute shall be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referees whether on the playing area or not.

A substitution is completed when the substitute enters the playing area, from which moment the substitute becomes a player and the player being replaced leaves the playing area and ceases to be a player.

A goalkeeper may be substituted at any time provided the substitution follows the above conditions.

A goalkeeper may change positions with any other player, provided that authorization from the referee is previously requested and that the change is made during a stoppage in play.

Punishment:

For any infringement of this law the substituting player (that is, the player coming onto the field of play) shall receive a yellow card and play shall be resumed with a drop-ball to be taken from the spot where the ball was situated when the game was stopped. However, if the ball was inside the penalty area, the drop-ball shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the spot nearest to the position of the ball when the game was stopped.

9 - BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY:

The ball is out of play when:

The game has been stopped by the referee.

It has wholly crossed the goal line, or has traveled over the glass/boards, or has touched the netting behind the goal, or has touched the surrounding walls above the permitted height.

It hits the roof or other obstruction. The game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick to the team opposite the team who last touched the ball before it hit the ceiling or other obstruction. The indirect free kick shall be taken from the spot below where the ball hit the obstruction, unless it hit at a spot above the penalty area, in which case the ball shall be played from the line marking the penalty area nearest to that spot.

The ball is in play at all other times from the start of the match to the finish, including:

If it rebounds from a goal post or the crossbar onto the playing area;

If it rebounds off of the boards surrounding the playing area, below the permitted height limitations.

If it rebounds off the referee

In the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws, until a decision is made.

10 - METHOD OF SCORING:

Except as otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm by a player of the attacking side.

The team scoring the greater number of goals during a game shall be the winner; if no goals or an equal number of goals are scored, the game shall be termed a "draw".

11 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:

Direct Free Kick

A player who intentionally commits any of the following ten offenses shall be penalized by the award of a direct free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

Should a player of the defending team intentionally commit one of the following ten offenses within the penalty area, they shall be penalized by a penalty kick, regardless of the position of the ball, as long as it is in play.

The offenses that will result in a direct free kick are when a player intentionally:

1. kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
2. trips an opponent, i.e. throwing or attempting to throw him/her by using the legs or by stooping in front of or behind him/her;
3. jumps at an opponent;
4. charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner;

5. charges an opponent from behind;
6. strikes or attempts to strike an opponent or spits at him/her;
7. holds an opponent;
8. pushes an opponent;
9. slides in an attempt to play the ball, when it is being played or attempted to be played by an opponent (sliding tackle), except for the goalkeeper who may slide within his/her own penalty area to make a save.
10. handles the ball, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with his/her hand or arm (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area);

Indirect Free Kick

A player committing any of the following four offenses shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick to the opposite team, to be taken from the spot where the infringement occurred. If the attacking team commits any of the following offenses within the penalty area the indirect free kick shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

The four offenses that will result in an indirect free kick are:

1. Playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous, e.g. attempting to kick the ball when it is being held by the goalkeeper;
2. when not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e. running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to the opponent;
3. charging the goalkeeper except when he/she has passed outside the penalty area;
4. when playing as a goalkeeper:
 - a. touches or controls the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate;
 - b. releases the ball in a manner other than by kicking or throwing underarm;

- c. touches or controls the ball with his/her hands for more than six seconds;
- d. after releasing the ball or throwing it clear, he/she receives the ball from a teammate, without it first having passed beyond the penalty area or having been played or touched by an opponent.

Yellow Card Cautions:

A player shall be cautioned if:

1. he/she attempts to make a substitution without the referees authorization;
2. he/she persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;
3. he/she shows, by word or action, dissent with any decision of the referee;
4. he/she is guilty of unsportslike conduct.

For any of these offenses, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (unless it was committed within the penalty area, in which case the indirect free kick shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred) in addition to the relevant caution and provided that no more serious infraction of the Laws has been committed.

Red Card Infractions:

A player shall be sent off the pitch if, in the opinion of the referee, he/she:

1. is guilty of serious foul play;
2. is guilty of violent conduct;
3. uses foul or abusive language;
4. is guilty for the second time of a cautionable offense.

If play is stopped because a player is sent off the pitch for one of the offenses 3 or 4, without having committed any additional infringement of the Laws, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick, awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. However, if it is committed within the penalty area, the indirect free kick shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

If, in the opinion of the referee, a player who is

moving towards his/her opponents' goal with an obvious opportunity to score a goal is intentionally impeded by an opponent through unlawful means, i.e. an offense punishable by a free-kick (or a penalty kick), thus denying the attacking player's team the aforesaid goal-scoring opportunity, the offending player shall be red carded and sent off the pitch for serious foul play.

If, in the opinion of the referee, a player other than the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area denies his/her opponents a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by intentionally handling the ball, he/she shall be sent off the pitch for serious foul play.

Once expelled, the player concerned may not re-enter the game in course, nor may he/she sit on the substitutes' bench.

12 - FREE KICKS:

Free kicks shall be classified under two headings: "direct" (from which a goal can be scored directly against the offending side) and "indirect" (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before entering the goal).

In order to distinguish between a direct and an indirect free kick, the referee, when awarding an indirect free kick, shall indicate accordingly by raising an arm above his/her head. He/she shall keep his/her arm in that position until the kick has been taken and until the ball has been played or touched by another player or goes out of play.

When a player is taking a free kick, all of the opposing players shall be at least 3 m from the ball until it is in play.

If a player of the opposing side approaches within 3 m of the ball before a free kick is taken, the referee shall order the free kick to be retaken until the Law is complied with.

The ball must be stationary when a free kick is taken, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

Punishment:

If the player taking the free kick, after having kicked the ball, plays it a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free

kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. However, if it is committed within the penalty area, the indirect free kick shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

13 - PENALTY KICK:

A penalty kick shall be taken from the penalty mark and, when it is being taken, all players, with the exception of the player taking the kick, properly identified, and the opposing goalkeeper, shall be on the pitch but outside the penalty area, behind the ball and behind the line indicated.

The opposing goalkeeper must remain on his/her goal own goal line facing the kicker, between the goal posts, until the ball has been kicked. Movement by the goalkeeper along the goal line (laterally) is allowed.

The player taking the kick must be not farther than 3 m from the ball (within the line indicated); he/she must kick the ball forward; he/she shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. The ball shall be deemed in play when it has traveled the distance of its circumference. A goal may be scored directly from such a penalty kick.

When a penalty kick is being taken during the normal course of play, or when time has been extended at half-time or full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken or retaken, a goal shall not be nullified if, before passing between the posts and under the crossbar, the ball touches either or both of the goal posts, or the crossbar, or the goalkeeper, or any combination of these, providing that no other infringement has occurred.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

Punishment:

For any infringement of this Law:

by the defending team, the kick shall be retaken if a goal has not resulted.

by the attacking team, other than by the player taking the kick, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and the kick retaken.

by the player taking the penalty kick after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall take an indirect free kick from the penalty mark.

14 - KICK-IN:

When the whole of the ball passes over the boards or goes out of play it shall be kicked back into the game, in any direction, from the place where it crossed over the boards by a player of the opposing team to that of the player who last touched it.

The ball must be stationary and must be not more than 1 m away from the boards. It shall be deemed in play as soon as it is kicked and moves, but the player taking the kick-in shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. The players of the opposing team shall be at least 3 m away from the spot where the kick-in is being taken.

A goal shall not be scored directly from a kick-in.

Punishment:

If the ball is improperly kicked in, the kick shall be retaken by a player of the opposing team.

If the kick-in is taken from any position other than the point where the ball passed over the boards, it shall be retaken by a player of the opposing team.

If the player taking the kick-in plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, unless it was committed within the penalty area, in which case the indirect free kick shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

15 - GOAL KICK:

A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick but only against the opposing team.

When the whole of the ball passes over the boards deemed the goal line (i.e. striking the net meshing behind the goals and above the surrounding boards, having last been played by a player of the attacking team, the goalkeeper shall kick it back into play beyond his/her own penalty. The ball must be stationary before being kicked. The ball shall be deemed in play as soon as it has passed outside the penalty area.

The goal kick is deemed to be correct when the ball has been touched or played by another player outside the penalty area. The players of the opposing team shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

Punishment:

If the ball is touched or played by a player of the same team as the player who is making the goal clearance or by a player of the opposing team, inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the goal clearance shall be retaken.

If, after having kicked the ball, the player touches it again before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, provided it has left the penalty area.

If, after having kicked the ball, the goalkeeper receives it back from a player of the same team and touches or controls it with his/her hands, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.

The indirect free kick shall be taken from the line marking the penalty area at the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

16 - CORNER KICK:

When the whole of the ball passes over the boards deemed the goal line (i.e. striking the net meshing behind the goals and above the surrounding boards, having last been played by one of the defending team, a corner kick shall be awarded to the attacking team.

The corner kick shall be taken by kicking the ball, which is placed within 1 m of the intersection of the goal line boards and the touch line boards, or on the spot indicated if one exists.

Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner kick shall not approach within 3 m of the ball until it is in play, i.e. it has traveled the distance of its own circumference.

The player taking the corner kick shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

Punishment:

If a corner kick is not taken correctly, it shall be retaken.

If the player taking the corner kick plays the ball a second time before it has been played by another player, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

17 - PENALTY KICK SHOOT-OUT:

(IN KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS TO DECIDE THE WINNER)

In the event that kicks from the penalty-mark have to be taken to determine which team is the winner of a match, the following conditions shall be applied:

- a) The referee shall choose the goal at which the kicks shall be taken.
 - b) He/she shall toss a coin to decide which team shall take the first kick.
 - c) Five kicks shall be taken alternately by each team by five different players. These five players shall be announced to the referee by the captains of each team before the penalty kicks are taken and shall be among those included on the list of players submitted before the match.
 - d) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals or have not scored any goals, kicks shall continue to be taken in the same order, until such time as both have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily five more kicks) and one has scored one goal more than the other.
 - e) These additional kicks shall be taken by the players who did not attempt any of the first five kicks. After these have each taken a kick, the players mentioned in paragraph c shall continue the penalty kicks in the same order.
 - f) Any player who has been sent off shall not take part in the penalty kicks.
 - g) Any eligible player may change places with his/her goalkeeper.
 - h) Whilst the penalty shoot-out is in progress, all players shall remain on the pitch, in the opposite half to that where the kicks are being taken.
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