

What You Need to Know as a Referee

Kick Off

You can either call for captains or just pick a player and toss a coin or have them do rock paper scissors to see who kicks off. Then rotate who kicks off each quarter. Mark it on your score card who was the first to kick off so you remember.

Kick offs take place at the beginning of each quarter and after a goal.

The ball does not have to move forward on a kick off.

All defending players are to be out of the circle until the ball is kicked.

Goal

The ball must go completely over the goal line to be considered a goal.

Out of Bounds

When the ball is kicked out of bound the other team gets possession. The ball needs to go completely out of bounds to be out of bounds. If it's a bang-bang play and you can't tell who kicked it out, just call it for one team and stick with it.

Throw In

When the ball is kicked out of bounds the other team takes the throw in from the place the ball went out of bounds. For the throw in to be legal, the ball must start from behind the throwers head and he/she must keep both feet on the ground and behind the line during the throw.

In the Up groups, if a player does not do a throw in correctly it should be done over. If they do it incorrectly on a second attempt, the other team gets the ball on a throw in.

Goal Kick

A goal kick is taken when the attacking team kicks the ball out over the end line. The ball is placed anywhere along the goal box. Any defending player can take the kick. Defenders do not need to be out of the penalty box when a goal kick is taken. Attacking players do.

Clearing the box on a goal kick: The ball is put in play when it is kicked and visually moves. It does not have to clear the box. (this is a relatively new rule and not all coaches will be aware of this.)

Build Out Line or "Blue" Line:

In the U9 and U11 leagues, when the goalie has possession of the ball, the opposing team must drop back behind the buildout line. This is generally marked as a blue line on the field. Once the goalie puts the ball in play by either rolling it or throwing it to a teammate or placing the ball on the ground (other than on a goal kick as stated above) the ball become live and the opposing team can attack.

Corner Kick

A corner kick is taken when the defending team kicks the ball over the end line. The attacking team takes the kick from the corner of the field on the side where the ball went out. By the flag. Any attacking player can take the corner kick.

Indirect Kick

A kick that must touch another players before a goal can be scored.

Direct Kick

A kick that can go directly into the goal for a score.

Two Touch Rule

No player who puts a ball in play can touch the ball until another player touches it.

If a player touches the ball twice the other team receives and indirect kick.

Hand Ball

First, the rule for a hand ball includes using any part of the body from the tips of the fingers to the shoulder. Second, the proper way to look at this soccer rule is that a player cannot "handle" the ball. A ball that is kicked and hits a player's hand or arm is not a hand ball. If they "handle" handle it or gain an advantage from it, it is a handball.

A handball penalty is a direct kick.

Tripping

A tripping penalty occurs whenever a player deliberately trips a player on the opposing team. When two players are fighting for the ball and get their feet tangled it is NOT tripping. If a player in the referee's opinion is playing in a dangerous manner and causes another player to trip, you can call a tripping penalty. If you are questioned tell them that in your opinion it was dangerous play.

A tripping penalty results in a direct kick.

Pushing

In general, a player cannot extend their arm to push another player. They are however allowed to use their shoulder, butt or hips to push another player, provided it is not done in a dangerous manner. If a player extends their arm to push another player, you can call pushing. If they aggressively or dangerously use any other part of their body to push another players you can also call pushing. In that instance you can call it as dangerous play.

Pushing or Dangerous play results in a direct kick.

Headers

Headers are only allowed in games involving player 13 years old or older. A header in the age groups under that age results in an indirect kick by the opposing team.

Punting

Punting is not allowed in games involving players under the age of 13.

Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if a defending team's player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area. That is a handball, push, trip, dangerous play, etc.

The penalty kick is taken from the penalty mark which is 12 yards from the goal line.

The ball becomes live when it is kicked.

Pass Back to the Goalie

If in the opinion of the referee, a defending player intentionally passes the ball back to the goalie who then handles the ball, a pass back penalty is called. It is not a pass back if the goalie does not handle the ball.

If a pass back penalty is called, the opposing team receives an indirect free kick from the spot where the goalie handled the ball. If that is inside the 6 yard goal area, the kick is taken on the 6 yard goal line nearest to where the offence occurred.

Off Sides

An offside is the result of an attacking player getting closer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the last defender. Usually, the "last defender" will be the goalie. So, if a player does not have the ball and only the goalie is between him and the goal, the player is in an offside position. Think of it as "cherry picking."

Being in an offside position is NOT illegal. However, if the ball is then passed to that player or if that player becomes actively involved in the play, offside will be called. Actively involved in the play can include receiving the ball, distracting the opposing team, blocking the view of the opposing team, preventing a player for the opposing team from becoming involved in the play or any other action that in the opinion of the referee influences the play of the game.

An offside penalty results in an indirect free kick from the spot of the foul.