

# Taos Youth Soccer League

## Laws of the Game

### THE FOULS

**Penalty Kick:** A penalty kick is to be awarded when a defending player commits one of the nine major fouls within his or her own penalty area while the ball is still in play.

**MAJOR FOULS:** There are nine major fouls that result in a direct free kick, and from which a goal may be directly scored against the opponents. To be a major foul, the offense must have been, in the referee's judgment, committed intentionally.

- **Two with the feet**
  - **Kicking** or attempting to kick an opponent.
  - **Tripping** an opponent.
- **Three with the body**
  - **Jumping** at an opponent.
  - **Charging** violently or dangerously. When tackling an opponent, making contact with the opponent before the ball.
  - **Charging** from behind.
- **Four with the hands**
  - **Striking** or attempting to strike or spitting at an opponent.
  - **Holding** an opponent.
  - **Pushing** an opponent.
  - **Handling** the ball deliberately. Carries, strikes or propels the ball with hand or arm. (General rule of thumb) Did the ball play the hand (incidental) or did the hand play the ball (intentional).

### MINOR FOULS:

There are five minor fouls that result in an indirect free kick. At least one additional player of either team must touch the ball before a goal can be scored from an indirect free kick.

- **Dangerous play;** including high kicking near another player's head or trying to play a ball held by a goalkeeper.
- **Fair charge away from the ball;** fairly charging when the ball is not within playing distance.
- **Obstruction;** impeding the progress of an opponent. Intentionally getting between an opponent and the ball when not playing the ball.
- **Charging the goalkeeper;** Shoulder-to-shoulder contact within the penalty area.
- **Goalkeeper infringements:**
  - Goalkeeper has six seconds to punt, throw, kick or dribble the ball.
  - Goalkeeper playing the ball with his or her hands when ball is intentionally kicked to by a teammate.
  - Gaining control a second time, unless the ball was touched or played by another player.

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### U-12 (UNDER TWELVE) – 7V7 FORMAT RULES

#### Field:

- Dimensions: Length (85) Yards: Width (50) Yards:
- Goals: (8) feet high by (24) feet wide
- Markings:
  - Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide.
  - A halfway line shall be marked out across the field.
  - A center circle with a (10) yard radius.
  - Four corner arcs with a (1) yard radius.
  - The goal box (20) yards wide by (6) yards long is directly in front of the goal.
  - The penalty box (44) yards wide by (18) yards long is directly in front of the goal. The goalkeeper **can** handle the ball in the penalty area, **unless** the ball is a pass from a teammate. The exception being, if the ball is played to the goalkeeper by his or her teammate from above the waist, the goalkeeper may use his or her hands. (Example: Played to the goalkeeper with the head, or chest.) After picking up the ball, the goalkeeper may take as many steps in the penalty area as he or she chooses. The goalkeeper has six seconds to punt, throw, kick or dribble the ball.
  - Penalty spot is centered (12) yards from the goal line.

#### The Ball: Size (4)

**Number of Players:** Not to exceed (12) per roster. Maximum number of players on the field at any one time: (7) per team, one of whom may be the goalkeeper.

- **Substitutions:**
  - Both teams can substitute on any goal kick, goal, injury, or at halftime.
  - On a throw in, **only** the team with the ball may substitute.
  - **Substitute only with referee approval.**
  - **Enter** and **exit** at the mid field mark only.
- Each player shall play a **minimum** of 50% of the total playing time, if possible.

#### Players Equipment:

- Footwear: Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes.
- Shin guards: With socks over the shin guard's mandatory!!
- Uniform: All players must wear matching team jersey, shorts and socks.
- Goalkeeper: Must wear a different colored jersey from everyone else.

#### Referee:

- Registered referee.
- Parent, coach, or assistant.
- Referees decisions on points of fact connected with the game shall be final.
- All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
- Referees shall not be paid.
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**Assistant Referees (Lines Persons):** Use club assistant referees.

#### Duration of the Game:

- (2) X (30) minute halves.
- A (5) minute break between halves.

#### The Start of Play:

- Opponents must be (10) yards from the center mark while the kickoff is in progress.
- The ball comes into play when it travels its circumference forward.

**Ten Yard Rule:** In all dead ball situations, defending players must stand at least (10) yards away from the ball.

**Ball in and out of play:** Conform to FIFA.

**Method of Scoring:** Conform to FIFA with the following exception. **Score is not to be kept.**

**Offside:** A player is in an offside position if nearer to opponents goal line than the ball, unless:

- He or she is in his or her half of the field.
- At least (2) defenders between him or her and the opposing goal line.
- Referee calls offside only if:
  - When the ball touches or is played by one of his or her teammates.
  - Interfering with play or an opponent.
  - Seeking to gain an advantage.
- A player cannot be offside.
  - In own half of the field.
  - On a goal kick.
  - On a corner kick.
  - On a throw in.
  - On a drop ball.
  - Two or more opponents nearer their goal line.
  - If he or she is even with or behind the ball.
- Punishment: Indirect free kick where the offside occurred.

**Fouls and Misconduct:**

- No caution or ejections shall be issued to players except by an independent neutral referee.

**Free Kicks:**

- Opponents must be (10) yards away before the kick is allowed.
- Taken where the foul occurred. (Except for a Penalty Kick)
- The ball must be stationary before the kick is taken.
- The ball comes into play when it travels its circumference in any direction.
- A kicker **cannot** play the ball twice in succession.
- Direct Free Kick:
- Punishment for the nine major fouls only.
- A goal may be scored directly by the kicker.

**Indirect Free Kick:**

- Punishment for anything other than major fouls.
- A goal **cannot** be scored directly by the kicker. Another player of either team must touch the ball before a goal can be scored.

**Penalty Kick:**

- Punishment if a defender commits one of the nine major fouls in his or her own penalty area.
- Goalkeeper must be on the goal line between the posts until the ball is played. **Note:** The goalkeeper is allowed to move along the goal line.
- All other players must be on the field, but at least (10) yards away from the penalty spot.
- The kicker cannot play the ball a second time until another player has touched it.

**Throw In:**

- When taking the throw the thrower must:
  - Face the field of play.
  - Have all or part of both feet on the ground, on or behind the touchline.
  - Throw with both hands from behind and over the head.
  - Not play the ball a second time until it is touched or played by another player.

- The ball is in play when it enters the field.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in.
- An attacker cannot be offside directly on a throw in.
- Opponents jumping or waiving arms to impede a throw in is ungentlemanly conduct resulting in an indirect kick.
- A second throw must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt.
- The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

**Goal Kick:**

- Place the ball anywhere on the goal line or in the goal area.
- The ball must leave the penalty area to be in play.
- Retake if the ball does not leave the penalty area.
- Kicker cannot touch the ball twice in succession.
- Attackers must be outside the penalty area before the kick.
- No offside directly on a goal kick.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a goal kick.

**Corner Kick:**

- Place the ball in the corner arc.
- Corner flag cannot be removed.
- Defenders must be at least (10) yards from the ball.
- The kicker cannot touch the ball twice in succession.
- No offside directly on a corner kick.

**NO SLIDE TACKLING!!!**

**Do not record league standings.**

**Do not record score.**

**Participation awards for all, no trophies or awards for the best team or individuals.**

**Parent/coaches, non-playing players, parents and spectators should be located not less than (6) yards from outside the touchline nor should they be closer than (20) yards to the goal line. No individual should be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.**