



SYSA Soccer Rules for 2009 Fall League

I. Objectives of Soccer for U-12:

1. Every player must be given the opportunity to make frequent contact with the ball
2. Provide a playing environment which teaches and develops the fundamental soccer skills
3. Present a game that provides a simple understanding of the basic tactical configuration of soccer
4. Encourage decision making in the players
5. Make SOCCER FUN FOR EVERYONE!
6. Unless a change is stated, FIFA rules apply

II. Soccer Rules and Regulations:

1. Length of the Game

The game consists of two 30 minute halves, with a three to five minute break between the halves. Games that are started late will have their playing time reduced at the discretion of the referee.

2. Ball Size

A size #4 ball is used for these games.

3. Players

A game is played with 11 players, including the goalkeeper, on the field. Each player must play at least 50% of each game and each player must receive playing time in each half. One player cannot be goalkeeper for more than half the game. The maximum roster size is 18 players. A team must have more than 7 players for a game to be played. If at any time during the game a team cannot field the minimum number of players then the game must be stopped.

4. Ball Out of Play

When the ball goes out of bounds on the sidelines then a throw-in will take place. A player does not have a retake for a bad throw-in.

5. Direct and Indirect Free Kicks

All fouls are called to be consistent with FIFA playing rules. The referee is encouraged to explain all infractions to the offending player.

6. Penalty Kicks

Penalty kicks can be taken during the games.

7. Slide Tackles

Slide tackles are allowed but must comply with the FIFA rules of the game (not allowed from behind since this constitutes a dangerous play and may result in a red card).

8. SYSA Sportsmanship Policy

At the end of the game the goal differential should not be greater than eight. Please see the Player Development Policy for ideas on how to control a high scoring game.

9. Substitutions

The number of substitutes shall be unlimited. A substitute shall not enter the field of play until he/she has been given a signal to do so by the referee. Substitutions are done during the following times:

- a. Prior to a throw-in, in your favor.
- b. Prior to a goal kick, by either team.

- c. After a goal, by either team.
- d. After an injury, when the referee stops play, by either team.
- e. At half time.
- f. When the referee stops play to caution a player, only the cautioned player may be substituted, prior to the restart of the game.

10. Goalie Substitution

Most times the Goalie is substituted at Half Time, however, the Goalie can be substituted at any time during normal play. Before substituting the Goalie the Referee must be advised. No player can play as Goalie for more than half a game.

11. Examples of Fouls to Focus on

- a. No deliberate hand balls – Only call Hand Ball if the player made a purposeful attempt to either catch the ball or knock it away with one or both hands.
- b. No pushing
- c. No using hands or body to remove the ball from a player.

12. Off-sides

Off sides will be called by the referee or assistant referee. A “Club-Line” does not call off-sides.

13. Referees

Official referees are used during a game. Referees are encouraged to explain infractions to the offending player. The decision of the referee on points of fact connected with the game shall be final. Assistant referees will be used whenever possible, or a “club-line” may be used.

14. Player Passes

The referee shall collect all player passes prior to the start of the game. No player will be allowed to play the game with out a player pass. The referee shall verify the identity of the player with his/her player pass prior to starting the game

15. Coaching Restrictions

Coaching from the sidelines, giving direction to one’s own team on points of strategy and position, is permitted provided:

- a. No mechanical devices are used.
- b. The tone of voice is informative and not a harangue.
- c. No coach, substitute, player, or spectator is to be anywhere but at his/her bench area during the game. A team’s bench area shall be that area one (1) Yard from the touchline and extending to ten (10) yards, one way only, from the half-line.
- d. No coach, substitute, player or spectator is to make derogatory remarks or gestures to the referees, other players, substitutes, or spectators.
- e. No coach, substitute, or player is to use profanity.
- f. No coach, substitute, player, or spectator is to incite, in any manner, disruptive behavior of any kind.

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