

⚽ Essex County Coaches Laws of the Game Summary Outline ⚽

Dropped Ball

- Dropped Ball is always to a SINGLE player.
- Ball in play when it touches the ground, everyone must remain 4.5 yards away.
- Player can dribble once the ball hits the ground; however, must touch two players to be a goal.
- If play is stopped outside the penalty area (PA) because the ball touches a match official and remains on the field AND 1 of 3 things happen: the ball goes in goal, teammate starts a promising attack or team possession changes, a dropped ball is awarded to the team that had possession before the ball hit the official where it hit the official.
- If play is stopped inside the penalty area for 1 of 3 things mentioned above, the ball will be dropped to the defending team goalkeeper at the point where it hit the match official.
- If play is stopped for an injury or outside agent, dropped ball to the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched a player or touched the outside agent. If the ball is inside the PA or last touch of the ball was in the PA or hits an outside agent in the PA dropped ball to the defending team goalkeeper.

Handball

- Finger tips to the bottom of the armpit.
- The upper boundary of the arm that is in line with the bottom of the armpit is not a handball.
- Offence if:
 - Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including hand to ball
 - Attacker handball scores in the opponents goal directly even if accidental
 - After the ball has touched their or a team-mates hand/arm even if accidental, immediately:
 - Scores a goal or
 - Creates a goal scoring opportunity
 - The key word when applying this part of the Law is **'immediately'**
- Touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
 - Hand/arm unnaturally bigger Hand/arm above shoulder
- It is not an offence if, after an accidental handball, the ball travels some distance or there are several passes or there is a notable 'time interval' between the 'handball' and the goal or scoring opportunity. For example:
 - A goal or scoring opportunity follows a number of passes and/or a long pass.
 - A player runs some distance (dribbles) with the ball.

Goal Kick

- The ball is in play once the ***kick and the ball clearly moves***. The ball does NOT have to leave the penalty area to be in play. Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

MISC:

- A team official guilty of misconduct will be warned, shown a YC (caution) or RC (sending off); if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach who is in the technical area at the time will receive the YC/RC.
- If the goalkeeper takes a restart and then deliberately plays the ball a second time (before it has touched another player), the restart is an indirect free kick for the other team/
- When there is a 'wall' of three or more defenders, the attackers are not allowed within 1 yard of the wall.
- Penalty kick, the GK only has to have one foot on or above the goal line
- If the goalkeeper clearly kicks or attempts to kick the ball from a throw-in or a deliberate kick from a team mate but the clearance fails, the goalkeeper can handle the ball.

Helpful Links:

- Laws of the Game: <https://www.theifab.com/>
- US Soccer.com Referee page: <https://www.ussoccer.com/referee-program>
- US Soccer YouTube page: [US Soccer Referee YouTube Playlist](#)