



Frequent Laws and Interpretations of Soccer

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Summary: This guide is a Spencer Soccer Club supplement to the FIFA Laws of the Game and the M.A.Y.S guidelines. Please refer to the FIFA Laws of the Game and M.A.Y.S By-Laws to understand all laws and regulations or for additional clarification. Please remember that each match is controlled by the referee who has full (and only) authority to enforce the Laws of the Game. Knowledge of the rules should be used as a tool to teach your players and understand the game of soccer. Rules of conduct towards Referee's should always be followed.

Referee Rules of Conduct

No one other than Coaches and/or Managers are to address the referee during the Match

The method of communication must be handled in the following manner:

During the game:

- Responding to a referee initiating communication.
- Making Substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues.

At half-time or at the end of a match:

- A coach/manager can ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive manner.
- Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee.
- Absolutely NO sarcasm, harassment or intimidation.

Ball In/Out of Play / Goal Scored

Diagram 1

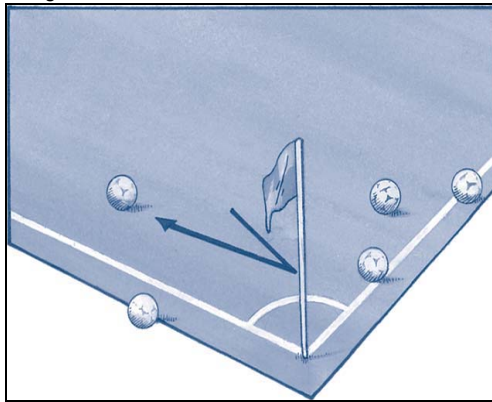
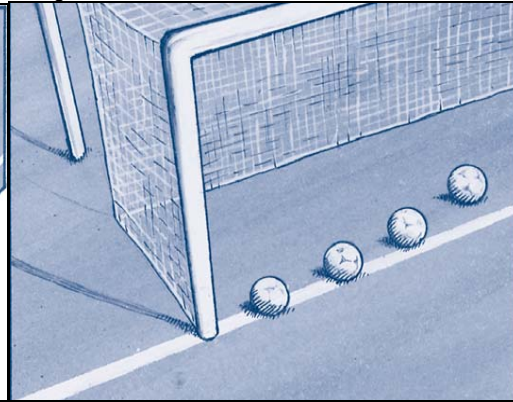


Diagram 2



- Diagram 1 – The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air (the ball to the bottom left is the only ball that is out of play)
- Diagram 2 – A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar (the ball to the top right is the only ball that is a goal)



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Free Kicks

Direct free kick – A direct free kick can score a goal without touching another player. The referee indicates a direct free kick by signaling the direction with their arm and then placing their arm down by their side



Direct free kicks are awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or Attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Tackles an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following three offences:

- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (hand ball)

Indirect free kick – An in-direct free kick must touch another player before a goal can be scored. The Referee indicates an indirect free kick by signaling the direction with their arm and then raising his arm above his head. He/She maintains his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.



An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following four offences:

- Controls the ball with his hands for more than six seconds before releasing it from his possession
- Touches the ball again with his hands after he has released it from his possession and before it has touched another player
- Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
- Touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if, in the opinion of the referee, a player:

- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Impedes the progress of an opponent
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player



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Throw-In

A throw-in is a method of re-starting play. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in. An improper throw-in will result in a loss of possession and the opposing team will typically receive the ball and restart with a throw-in (other re-starts are not explained in this guide ~ See FIFA Laws of the Game). **M.A.Y.S by-laws and FIFA Laws of the Game DO NOT allow for re-throws.**

Proper Throw-In Procedure:

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- Faces the field of play
- Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line
- Holds the ball with both hands
- Delivers the ball from behind and over his head
- Delivers the ball from the point where it left the field of play

All opponents must stand no less than 2 yards from the point at which the throw-in is taken. The ball is in play when it enters the field of play. After delivering the ball, the thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

Goal Kick

A goal kick is a method of restarting play. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team. **If the ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area from a goal kick the kick is retaken**

Proper Goal Kick Procedure:

- The ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- Opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area

Corner Kick

A corner kick is a method of restarting play. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team. The ball must be placed inside the corner arc and is in play when it is kicked, therefore the ball does not need to leave the corner arc to be in play. An improper corner kick will typically result in a loss of possession and the opposing team restart with an in-direct free kick (other re-starts are not explained in this guide ~ See FIFA Laws of the Game).

Proper Corner Kick Procedure

- The ball must be placed inside the corner arc nearest to the point where the ball crossed the goal line
- The corner flag post must not be moved
- Opponents must remain at least 10 yards from the corner arc until the ball is in play
- The ball must be kicked by a player of the attacking team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player



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Substitutions

The number of substitutions is unlimited. They may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in in your favor, or a throw-in for the opposing team if BOTH teams have players ready to enter the game.
- Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- After a goal by either team.
- After an injury when the referee stops play.
- At Half-time.

Substitutions are NOT allowed at corner kicks or free kicks.

Goal Scoring

Any team that has a differential score of 8 or more goals will receive a warning for the first offense. Second offense will result in the coach being suspended for one game and the town will be fined \$150. Next occurrence will result in the coach being suspended for eight (8) games and the town will be fined \$150.

Advantage

The referee may play advantage whenever an infringement or offence occurs. The Referee should signal with both arms extended and shout 'Play On' to indicate they have seen an infringement but believe it to be in the best interest of the attacking team to continue play.



The referee should consider the following circumstances in deciding whether to apply the advantage or stop play:

- The severity of the offence: if the infringement warrants an expulsion, the referee must stop play and send off the player unless there is a subsequent opportunity to score a goal
- The position where the offence was committed: the closer to the opponent's goal, the more effective it can be
- The chances of an immediate, promising attack
- The atmosphere of the match

The decision to penalize the original offence must be taken within a few seconds.

If the offence warrants a caution, it must be issued at the next stoppage. However, unless there is a clear advantage, it is recommended that the referee stops play and cautions the player immediately. If the caution is NOT issued at the next stoppage, it cannot be shown later.



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Handling the Ball (Hand Balls) and Offside are probably the most common misunderstood laws and most argued infringements within the game of soccer. Below are excerpts from the FIFA Laws of the Game; please seek out experienced coaches or referees to further understand these concepts.

Handling the Ball (Hand Balls)

Handling the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with his hand or arm. The referee must take the following into consideration:

- The movement of the hand towards the ball (not the ball towards the hand)
- The distance between the opponent and the ball (unexpected ball)
- The position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement
- Touching the ball with an object held in the hand (clothing, shinguard, etc.) counts as an infringement
- Hitting the ball with a thrown object (boot, shinguard, etc.) counts as an infringement

Offside

It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position. A player is in an offside position if:

- He/She is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent

A player is not in an offside position if:

- He/She is in his own half of the field of play or
- He/She is level with the second-last opponent or
- He/She is level with the last two opponents

A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:

- Interfering with play or
- Interfering with an opponent or
- Gaining an advantage by being in that position

There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:

- A goal kick
- A throw-in
- A corner kick