

# US INDOOR SOCCER RULES

## THE OFFICIAL RULES OF INDOOR SOCCER

### Youth and Amateur Edition

## The Rules

### Rule 1 - The Field Of Play

Due to structural differences among indoor soccer facilities, "The Field of Play" is included as Appendix A, rather than set forth by "rule."

### Rule 2 - The Ball

**2.1 Specifications:** The dimensions and weight of the ball are that of a standard size 4 indoor for U12 and below. The ball is size 5 for above U12 and for coed.

**2.2 Ball Change:** The ball may not be changed except by the Referee.

**2.3 Maintenance of the Ball:** The game balls are delivered to the Referee prior to each game. At the end of each Half, the ball is maintained by the Referee. Upon the game's conclusion, the Referee returns all of the game balls to the person or team which supplied them.

### Rule 3 - The Players

**3.1 Teams:** A game is played by two teams having a maximum of 18 eligible players on the Team Bench. For U12 and below, no fewer than 5 or more than 7 players from each team shall occupy the field during each Half. For above U12 and for coed, no fewer than 4 or more than 6 are allowed. During an Overtime Period, neither team shall play with more than the minimum allowed above. Each team may have a Goalkeeper, having the privileges specified under these Rules. In coed, the number of males on the field of play may not exceed the number of females by more than 1, not including the Goalkeeper. Up to 2 non-player personnel, including at least 1 adult, shall occupy the Team Bench during the game. No other personnel may occupy the Team Bench.

**3.2 Substitution During Play and Stoppages:** Each team may substitute players freely; *provided that*, players must substitute off the field of play or within the Touch Line in the area of their Team Bench, and no substitutions are allowed during an Overtime Period. For substitutions within the Touch Line, neither the player entering the field nor the player being substituted may play the ball while the other is on the field.

**3.3 Substitution Violations:** The Referee issues a Team Penalty for having too many players on the field *and for substituting during the first 3 seconds of a Shootout, if applicable.*

**3.4 Player Requiring Treatment for Injury:** The Referee sends any player to his Team Bench who requires treatment for injury or blood (regardless whether the blood is his own or another's, or is on his body or uniform). This occurs at the first opportunity recognized by the Referee, whether at the game's next stoppage or his order when (i) the injury is deemed critical, (ii) by the location of the injured player, he is likely to interfere with play, or (iii) the injured player's team has control of the ball. Any player sent off for treatment may not reenter until fit to return and until, if applicable, the expiration of the player's Time Penalty. The Referee shall approve any blood treatment prior to allowing the player to reenter the field. If allowed by the Referee and permitted by administrative policy, a player whose uniform is stained with blood and untreated may wear alternative clothing.

## Rule 4 - The Players' Equipment

**4.1 Uniform:** Players, other than Goalkeepers, wear their team's uniform, consisting of the same color and style jersey, shorts, and socks, shin guards, and indoor footwear. Numbers appear on the back of the jersey.

**4.2 Goalkeeper:** The Goalkeeper wears jersey colors distinguished from all other field players and from the Referees. Other permitted equipment includes gloves and pants instead of team shorts and approved headgear. In all other respects, Rule 4.1 applies.

**4.3 Dangerous Equipment:** A player may not wear any jewelry or other accessory. If a player is unable to remove a necklace or ring, it is taped to his chest or finger. Casts, splints, or body braces made of a hard substance must be padded to the satisfaction of the Referee.

## Rule 5 - The Referee

**5.1 Referees:** One (1) Referee officiates each game. The Referee may be assisted by a second floor Referee, an Assistant Referee, and a Timekeeper. So long as a Referee is on the facility compound of an assigned game, he shall execute, or delegate to other Game Officials the execution of, these Rules.

**5.2 Decisions of Fact and Rule:** The decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play and interpretation of Rules are final. The Referee may change any decision prior to a Restart upon his own reconsideration.

**5.3 Powers:** The Referee's power to assess penalties, and otherwise assure fair play and maintain control of a game, extends to violations of these Rules committed during play, during stoppages, and as players and other team personnel proceed to and from the field of play. This includes the power to:

*Award or Disallow a Goal:* The Referee determines whether or not a goal is scored.

*Suspend or Terminate the Game:* The Referee stops, suspends, or terminates the game at his discretion by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, an unsafe condition, or other justifiable cause.

*Stop the Clock:* The Referee stops the Game Clock due to an unusual delay (subject to administrative policy.)

*Prohibit Field Entry:* The Referee ensures that no unauthorized person enters the field of play during a game.

*Summon Security:* The Referee asks facility security guards to prevent any spectator, including team personnel, from interfering with the play of the game for:

- (1) Violent conduct, including tossing objects onto the field of play;
- (2) Foul or abusive language or behavior; or
- (3) Persistent unseemly behavior.

**5.4 Game Report:** Subject to administrative policy, the Referee files a Game Report, including information on any disciplinary action and other incident (*e.g.*, serious injury) or circumstance occurring before, during, or after the game.

## Rule 6 - The Duration of the Game

**6.1 Periods:** A regulation game consists of 22 -minute Halves (*which may be extended to 28 minutes, depending on administrative policy*), subject to the following:

- (a) *Overtime Period and Tiebreaker:* If, in a tournament or playoff, the game is tied at the end of regulation, a 10-minute “sudden-death” Overtime Period follows. If still tied at the end of the Overtime Period, a Tiebreaker takes place, as set forth in Rule 12.
- (b) *Running Clock:* Except in the case of an unusual delay, as determined by the Referee, the Game Clock counts down continuously through each Half or Overtime Period.
- (c) *Extension of Play:* Play may be extended to permit a Penalty Kick or Shootout required under Rule 10.6.
- (d) *Clock Malfunction:* If the Game Clock does not count down properly, the Referee may add or subtract time as he deems appropriate. All violations occurring during a clock malfunction are treated as if occurring while the ball is in play.

**6.2 Period Intervals:** There may be a 2-minute Halftime and a 1-minute intermission before any Overtime Period and Tiebreaker.

## **Rule 7 - The Start and Restart of Play**

**There appears to be an even split between facilities that employ Goal Kicks and that employ Goalkeeper Throw-Ins on defensive restarts, once the ball has crossed an end Perimeter Wall. While the Goal Kick conforms more to traditional outdoor rules and futsal, facilities having adopted the Goalkeeper Throw-In maintain that it is quicker and easier to employ and adds excitement. Both Restarts are accepted under these Rules and left to administrative policy. See Rule 7.8.**

**7.1 Start of Play:** A “Kickoff” from the Center Mark starts play at the beginning of each Half and after every goal. A Dropped Ball starts play at the beginning of any Overtime Period. Immediately prior to the Kickoff, all players remain in their respective defensive halves, and all defending players are outside of the Center Circle. Once the Referee signals the Kickoff, a player of the team having the Kickoff has 5 seconds to play the ball. The same player may not again play the ball until it touches another player.

**7.2 First Possession and Defensive End:** In accordance with administrative policy, the Referee designates the team to take the First Half Kickoff and the end of the field each team will defend.

**7.3 Kickoff After Goal:** Except at the end of a Half, play restarts after each goal with a Kickoff by the opposing team.

**7.4 Start of Second Half:** For the Start of the Second Half, the teams change defensive ends, and the Kickoff is taken by the other team that took the First Half Kickoff.

**7.5 Restarts:** A “Restart” is the manner of resuming play after a goal or other stoppage. Restarts take place by either a Kickoff, Free Kick, Goalkeeper Throw-In (if applicable), or Dropped Ball, as set forth elsewhere in these Rules. The team opposing that which is responsible for the stoppage takes the Restart. Except for a Dropped Ball, the same player who takes a Restart may not again make contact with the ball until touched by another player. Other than for Kickoffs or as provided below, Restarts occur within three feet (3') from the spot of the ball at the moment of stoppage.

**7.6 Free Kick:** A team receives a Free Kick after stoppages other than when a Dropped Ball or Goalkeeper Throw-In is required. Before the team takes the Free Kick, the ball must be stationary. All opposing players are at least 15 feet from the spot of the Free Kick (or, if within 15 feet of the opponent’s Goal, along the Goal Line) until after the Restart. The Referee whistles the Restart for all Free Kicks taken from any circle Mark and after stoppages due to an injury, Time Penalty, or other incident within the Referee’s discretion. In the instance of a Time Penalty or ejection, the Referee whistles the Restart after the player serving the Time Penalty has sat down in the Penalty Area or the ejected person has left the area visible to the field of play. The spot of the Free Kick is that provided in Rule 7.5, except as follows:

- (a) *Within Own Penalty Arch:* A Free Kick within a player’s defensive Penalty Arch may be taken from any spot therein. All opposing players remain outside the Arch and at least 15 feet away until the ball is in play beyond the Arch. If, after the Free Kick, any player touches the ball before it has left the Penalty Arch, the Free Kick is retaken.

- (b) **Within Opponent's Penalty Arch:** When a team is awarded a Free Kick within its opponent's Penalty Arch, the Free Kick takes place at the opponent's Free Kick Mark ("Top of the Arch").
- (c) **Illegal Pass Back to Goalkeeper:** A Free Kick occurring after an illegal pass back to the Goalkeeper (Rule 10.3) is taken at the Goalkeeper's Free Kick Mark.
- (d) **Delayed Penalty:** After a Delayed Penalty (Rule 11.6), the Restart is taken (i) according to the ensuing stoppage, as normally administered, or (ii) in case the defending team obtains possession of the ball during play, at the spot of the original offense. If the original offense would have resulted in a Penalty Kick or Shootout, but for the Delayed Penalty, the Restart is a Penalty Kick or Shootout (depending on administrative policy), *except* when the attacking team scores or commits a Foul or Carded Offense, in which cases (i) applies.
- (e) **Penalty Kick or Shootout:** The Restart for a Penalty Kick or Shootout is taken in accordance with Rule 12.
- (f) **Kick-In:** If the ball crosses over a length of the Perimeter Wall, a Free Kick (*i.e.*, Kick-In) is taken from the point on the Touch Line nearest where the ball crossed over. If the ball goes out of play after touching a player substitute or other Bench personnel, who is inadvertently extending into the playing field, or if the ball exits the field through an open door of a Team Bench, the Kick-In is taken by the other team.
- (g) **Corner Kick:** When the whole of the ball, having last touched a defending player, crosses an end of the Perimeter Wall between the Corner Flags, the opposing team takes a Free Kick from the Corner Mark, nearest to where the ball exited play.
- (h) **Goal Kick or Goalkeeper Throw-In:** See Rule 7.8.
- (i) **Three-Line Violation:** For Three-Line Violations, the Restart is taken from the offending team's Restart Mark.
- (j) **Superstructure Violation:** For Superstructure Violations, the Restart is taken from the nearer Restart Mark.

**7.7 Dropped Ball Restart:** If neither team has clear possession of the ball at a stoppage, the Referee restarts play with a Dropped Ball. A Dropped Ball caused while the ball is inside a Penalty Arch takes place at the nearer Free Kick Mark; otherwise at the spot of stoppage. The ball is "in play" once the ball contacts the ground untouched.

**7.8 Goal Kick or Goalkeeper Throw-In:** Play restarts with a Goal Kick or Goalkeeper Throw-in (according to administrative policy) after an attacking player has last touched the ball before crossing an end perimeter wall between the Corner Flags. The Restart is taken from any point within the Penalty Arch. Opposing players are at least 15 feet beyond the Penalty Arch until the ball is "in play." The provisions otherwise apply as to Free Kicks and Restarts.

## Rule 8 - The Ball In And Out Of Play

**8.1 Ball In Play:** The ball is "in play" once each Kickoff or Restart legally begins *and* the ball makes any discernable movement. The ball remains "in play" until a stoppage, recognized by the Referee.

**8.2 Restarts Within Defensive Penalty Arch:** For Restarts by a team within its Penalty Arch, the ball is not "in play" until the game is properly restarted and the ball is propelled beyond the Penalty Arch by the player taking the Restart.

**8.3 Ball Out Of Play:** The ball is "out of play" once any stoppage occurs which the Referee acknowledges or orders, whether for goals, Fouls, Time Penalties, injuries, out of bounds, Three-Line Violations, or Superstructure Violations.

**8.4 Three-Line Violation:** A "Three-Line Violation" occurs when a player propels the ball in the air across the two Red Lines and the Halfway Line toward the opponent's Goal without touching the Perimeter Wall or another player or a Referee on the field of play.

**8.5 Superstructure Violation:** A “Superstructure Violation” occurs when the ball contacts any part of the building above the field of play.

## Rule 9 - The Method of Scoring

**9.1 Goal:** A team scores a goal when the whole of the ball legally passes over the Goal Line, between the Goalposts, and under the Crossbar. A goal may be scored directly from a Kickoff or Restart.

**9.2 Winning Team:** The team scoring the greater number of goals during a game is the winner.

**9.3 Interference:** No goal is allowed if an outside agent alters the path of the ball on its way over the Goal Line. In such instance, Rule 7.5 dictates the manner of Restart, except for a Penalty Kick or Shootout, in which case it is retaken.

## Rule 10 - Fouls and Other Violations

While most facilities employ a “3-Card System,” utilizing a Blue Card, the traditional “2-Card System,” used in outdoor play and futsal, remains popular. The 3-Card System equips referees with an additional tool to control play, while the 2-Card System may be more comfortable to players and referees who shift between outdoor and indoor. Both systems are accepted under these Rules and left to administrative policy. See Rule 10.7.

**10.1 Penal Fouls:** A Foul, resulting in a Free Kick, is assessed to a player who commits any of the following offenses in a manner that the Referee considers careless, serious, reckless, or involving excessive force:

- (a) Kicking an opponent;
- (b) Tripping an opponent;
- (c) Jumping at an opponent;
- (d) Charging an opponent;
- (e) Striking or elbowing an opponent; and
- (f) Pushing an opponent.

A Foul also occurs if a player commits any of the following offenses:

- (a) Holding an opponent;
- (b) Handling the ball (except by the Goalkeeper within his Penalty Arch);
- (c) Playing in a dangerous manner;
- (d) Slide tackling;
- (e) Impeding the progress of an opponent (“Obstruction”); and
- (f) Preventing the Goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands.

Should a player simultaneously commit 2 or more different Fouls, the Referee penalizes the most serious one.

**10.2 Unsporting Behavior:** The Referee stops play for Unsporting Behavior, resulting in a Free Kick, for the following offenses:

- (a) *Illegal Substitution After Injury:* Attempting to enter play without the required Referee consent;
- (b) *Equipment Violation:* Entering play without an ordered uniform adjustment;
- (c) *Leverage:* Using the body of a teammate to propel oneself to head the ball;
- (d) *Encroachment:* Entering the protected area of an opposing player taking a Free Kick (after initial Warning);
- (e) *Trickery:* Passing the ball back to a Goalkeeper by trickery (Rule 10.3(b));
- (f) *Dissent:* Committing any of the following offenses, whether before, during, or after the game:
  - (1) Referee Abuse: Words or actions directed by any player or team personnel at an official in dissent;

- (2) Breach of Penalty Area Decorum: Delay in entering the Penalty Area; failure to sit and remain seated in the Penalty Area after a Warning; or premature or unpermitted exit from the Penalty Area;
  - (3) Entering the Referee Crease without the Referee's permission;
- (g) *Other*: Behavior which, in the Referee's discretion, does not warrant another category of penalty.

**10.3 Goalkeeper Violations:** For the following violations by a Goalkeeper, the opposing team receives a Free Kick:

- (a) *Illegal Handling*: Bringing the ball from outside of the Penalty Arch to his hand within it, or receiving the ball again after a Goal Kick or Goalkeeper Throw-In without the ball's having first touched another player;
- (b) *Pass Back*: Handling the ball, having been passed deliberately and directly to him from a teammate; *except that* he may handle a ball which a teammate passes to him by the head, chest, or knee and without "trickery" (the use of a wall or foot to flick the ball to a head, chest, or knee before making the pass);
- (c) *5-Second Limit*: Controlling the ball with either his hand or foot inside of his Penalty Arch for over five (5) seconds.

**10.4 Team Violations:** The Referee issues a Team Penalty for the following violations by a team or unidentified person:

- (a) *Leaving Team Bench*: Players leave a Team Bench to join a fracas, melee, or confrontation with the opposition or a Game Official;
- (b) *Bench Dissent*: After an initial "Warning" issued to the Team Captain, one or more unidentified players from a Team Bench verbally abuse the Referee.

**10.5 Advantage Rule:** The Referee allows play to continue, notwithstanding the commission of an offense, when the team against which it has been committed will benefit from an existing offensive advantage. In the case of a Carded Offense, Rule 11.6 applies.

**10.6 Flagrant Fouls:** Either a Penalty Kick or Shootout (subject to administrative policy) is awarded for the following Fouls committed by a defender in his defensive half of the field:

- (a) A Foul within the Penalty Arch or Goal for which he receives a Time Penalty;
- (b) A Foul from behind against an attacking player, having control of the ball and one or no defensive players between himself and the Goal; and
- (c) Any Foul where he is the last player on his team between the attacking player with the ball and the Goal.

**10.7 Blue Card Offenses (OPTIONAL):** Unless otherwise provided in rules 10.8 or 10.9, the Referee issues a Blue Card for serious violations of Rule 10.1 and for:

- (a) *Deliberate Handball*: Handling the ball deliberately (or by a Goalkeeper outside of his Penalty Arch);
- (b) *Goalkeeper Endangerment*: Endangering a Goalkeeper within his Penalty Arch by sliding or charging into him, regardless whether he is in control of the ball;
- (c) *Boarding*: Propelling an opponent into the perimeter wall, whether or not intentionally;
- (d) *Players' Unsporting Behavior*: Players' violating Rule 10.3; and
- (e) *Team Penalties*: Violating Rule 10.4.

**10.8 Cautionable Offenses:** The Referee issues a Yellow Card for serious or reckless violations of Rule 10.1 and for the following (except when Rule 10.7 applies):

- (a) *Second Blue Card*: When Rule 10.7 applies, committing a second Blue Card offense;
- (b) *Deliberate Handball*: Handling the ball deliberately (or by a Goalkeeper outside of his Penalty Arch);
- (c) *Goalkeeper Endangerment*: Endangering a Goalkeeper within his Penalty Arch by sliding or charging into him, regardless whether he is in control of the ball;
- (d) *Boarding*: Propelling an opponent into the perimeter wall, whether or not intentionally;

- (e) *Unsporting Behavior*: Violating Rule 10.3 by any team personnel;
- (f) *Team Penalties*: Violating Rule 10.4; and
- (g) *Provoking Altercation*: Making physical contact with an opponent (*e.g.*, pushing or poking), short of fighting, as defined in Rule 10.9, or using the ball in so doing, particularly in the case of a Goalkeeper.

**10.9 Ejectionable Offenses:** A person receives a Red Card for violations of Rules 10.1 and 10.8, which the Referee considers violent or use of excessive force, and for:

- (a) *Second Yellow Card*: Receiving a second Yellow Card;
- (b) *Third Time Penalty*: When Rule 10.7 applies, receiving a third Time Penalty;
- (c) *Elbowing*: Intentionally elbowing an opponent above the shoulder;
- (d) *Vicious Slide Tackling*: A tackle from the side or from behind directly into one or both legs of an opponent, seriously endangering him;
- (e) *Fighting*: Striking or attempting to strike an opponent with intent to injure;
- (f) *Leaving Team Bench*: Leaving a Team Bench or Penalty Area to join a fracas, melee, or confrontation with the opposition or a Game Official;
- (g) *Extreme Unsporting Behavior*: Committing particularly despicable behavior, including:
  - (1) Spitting at an opponent or any other person;
  - (2) Persistent use of extremely abusive language or behavior toward a Game Official;
  - (3) Bodily contact with a Game Official in dissent; and
  - (4) Leaving the Penalty Area to engage in dissent.

## Rule 11 - Time Penalties

**11.1 Penalties for Carded Offenses:** The following penalties apply to offenses for which a Card is issued (subject to further action by the Administrative Authority):

- (a) Blue Card (when Rule 10.7 applies): 2-minutes (*i.e.*, in the Penalty Area)
- (b) Yellow Card: 2-minutes;
- (c) Red Card (for accumulation of Cards by player): 2-minutes (*provided that* the accumulation of penalties recorded at any one time may not exceed 5 minutes), plus ejection;
- (d) Other Red Card: 5-minutes, plus ejection.

**11.2 Service of Penalties:** Except as provided under Rule 11.3, a person who commits a carded offense serves the penalty. A person who receives a Red Card after the game has started may not return to the area visible to the facility, until subsequently allowed. Players serving Time Penalties proceed swiftly to their team's Penalty Area, have their Time Penalties posted and counted down in unison with the Game Clock, and serve their Time Penalties, seated, until their expiration or the conclusion of the game, *except that*, if a player's release from the Penalty Area would cause too many players to be on the field from his team (as could occur in the case of the expiration of multiple, simultaneous Time Penalties, or Time Penalties to three or more players from the same team), he is released upon the earlier of: (i) the expiration of a teammate's Time Penalty resulting in fewer than two teammates in the Penalty Area with penalty time remaining, (ii) a stoppage, when permitted by the Referee, or (iii) the next occasion that the ball goes over the perimeter wall.

**11.3 Designation of Penalty Servers:** Players are designated by their teams to serve Time Penalties of their team, their Goalkeeper, non-player personnel, and of teammates who receive Red Cards. In each instance, the designated player may not already be serving a Time Penalty. Time Penalties served by designated players do not count against their personal records, but of those responsible.

**11.4 Short-Handed Play:** For each Time Penalty being served by a player, his team shall play with one fewer field player until its expiration; *provided that* a team may not have fewer than the minimum under Rule 3.1, regardless of the number serving Time Penalties. Should a player receive a Time Penalty, while two or more teammates are already in the Penalty Area, his team continues to play with the minimum while he joins his teammates in the Area.

**11.5 Exceptions to Penalty Time:** Under the following circumstances, Time Penalties either expire prior to their completed countdown, or have the beginning of their countdowns delayed:

- (a) *Powerplay Goal:* If a team is scored upon having fewer players on the field of play, due to one or more players serving Time Penalties, a player from the team is released from the Penalty Area into the field of play, unless prohibited under Rule 11.2, and the player's Penalty or Penalties are wiped out. If the team has two players in the Penalty Area, only the player whose Time Penalty or Penalties are recorded earlier is affected.
- (b) *Delayed Penalty:* See Rule 11.6.
- (c) *Multiple Penalties:* If two teammates are serving Time Penalties when another teammate is penalized, his Time Penalty does not begin to count down until at least one of the teammates' Time Penalties has expired and his Time Penalty is next to begin.
- (d) *Release of Teammates Serving Simultaneous Time Penalties:* When two or more teammates' Time Penalties expire simultaneously, the order in which they are recorded dictates the order of their release.
- (e) *Simultaneous Ejections:* When two simultaneous Red Cards carrying the same Time Penalties are assessed to opposing players, their Time Penalties are not served.
- (f) *Maximum Time Penalty:* No player may receive more than 5 minutes for penalties arising at the same time on the Game Clock, irrespective of the number or nature of accumulated offenses or the fact that one or more teammates may be designated to serve such time.
- (g) *End of Regulation.* All Time Penalties expire at the end of the Second Half.

**11.6 Delayed Penalty:** In instances where the Referee would issue a Blue Card (when Rules 10.7 applies) or a Yellow Card, but for the "Advantage Rule" (Rule 10.2), he acknowledges the offense by holding the Card above his head until the earlier to occur of the following:

- (a) *Opponent's Possession:* The team of the offending player gains control of the ball;
- (b) *Stoppage:* The Referee stops play for any reason.

Once play is stopped, the offense is recorded and assessed, as customary. In the event of a powerplay goal, Rule 11.5(a), regarding the release of a player from the Penalty Area, remains applicable.

## Rule 12 - Penalty Kicks and Shootouts

**While most facilities employ Shootouts for Flagrant Fouls (Rule 10.6) and Tiebreakers in Overtime (Rule 6.1(a)), Penalty Kicks, being more traditional in outdoor soccer and futsal, remain popular. Shootouts, while arguably creating more pressure, require more of the variety of skills used in regular play and are more exciting to spectators. Both are accepted under these Rules and left to administrative policy.**

**12.1 Penalty Kick:** For a Penalty Kick, other than in a Tiebreaker:

- (a) All players serving Time Penalties sit in their appropriate Penalty Area. All players of the attacking team stand behind the Halfway Line and outside of the Center Circle. Players of the defending team stand behind the Halfway Line and inside of the Center Circle;
- (b) The ball is placed at the Free Kick Mark nearer the attacking Goal (Top of the Arch);
- (c) The Goalkeeper has at least one foot on his Goal Line and may not move off of it until after the Referee whistles the Penalty Kick to begin and the ball is in play;
- (d) Once the Referee whistles the Penalty Kick to begin, the player taking the Penalty Kick (whom the kicking team designates) has five (5) seconds to strike the ball, restarting play;
- (e) The player taking the Penalty Kick may not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player.

**12.2 Shootout:** A Shootout proceeds the same as a Penalty Kick, except that:

- (a) The ball is placed at the Restart Mark nearer the attacking Goal;
- (b) Any Foul committed by the Goalkeeper results in a Penalty Kick;
- (c) Once the Referee whistles the Shootout to begin, the ball is “in play” and the player taking the Shootout plays the ball forward using any legal manner to score (*e.g.*, direct shot on goal, dribbling and shooting, playing the ball off of the boards, passing to a teammate, *etc.*);
- (d) Neither team may substitute until the earlier of the first 3 seconds or the next stoppage.

**12.3 Tiebreaker:** A Tiebreaker proceeds with Penalty Kicks or Shootouts (according to administrative policy) under Rule 12.1 or 12.2, except that:

- (a) The Referee designates the Goal at which both teams shoot and the team which shoots first (according to administrative policy);
- (b) All players, other than the player taking the shot and the defending Goalkeeper, remain within their Team Bench areas;
- (c) Subject to (d), both teams may have 3 shots, with players from each team kicking alternately;
- (d) If, at any time, a team obtains a 2-goal advantage, the Tiebreaker ceases and the winner is declared;
- (e) If, after both teams have taken 3 shots, neither has an advantage, the Tiebreaker continues, alternating one player at a time, until both teams have taken an equal number of shots and one team has scored when the other has not;
- (b) During a Tiebreaker, no player may take more than 1 shot for every set of five 5 of his team;
- (c) In the case of **Penalty Kicks**, the players taking the shots may not touch the ball a second time;
- (d) In the case of **Shootouts**:
  - i. The player has 5 seconds to score after the Referee’s whistle;
  - ii. Except when a goal is scored, any Foul committed by the Goalkeeper results in a Penalty Kick, to be taken by any player on the shooting team; and
  - iii. Carded Offenses are recorded as in normal play, except there are no Time Penalties.

# THE OFFICIAL RULES OF INDOOR SOCCER

## Youth and Amateur Edition

### Appendix

#### Appendix A - The Field of Play

**Due to structural differences among indoor soccer facilities, the following provisions constitute generally accepted standards for field dimensions, walls, goals, and markings.**

**A.1 Field Dimensions:** The field of play shall be adapted for the size of the facility, with dimensions between 140 and 210 feet in length and 60 and 90 feet in width. *The standard dimensions are 180 feet by 75 feet, with corners rounded in the arc of a circle having a 28 foot radius.*

**A.2 Perimeter Wall:** The field of play is enclosed by a Perimeter Wall, which is part of the playing surface. The Wall is 4 to 12 feet high, *with the standard being 8 feet, except above the Goals (2 feet above the Crossbar) and along the Team Benches (4 feet).*

- A.3 Playing Surface:** Flooring is affixed to the ground of the playing area.
- A.4 Markings:** The field of play is marked with distinctive lines 4 inches in width.
- A.5 Halfway Line:** A Halfway Line, parallel to the Goal Lines, divides the field of play into two equal halves.
- A.6 Center Mark:** A Center Mark, 9 inches in diameter, marks the center of the field of play.
- A.7 Center Circle:** A Center Circle, 15 feet in radius, surrounds the Center Mark.
- A.8 Restart Mark:** A Restart Mark, 9 inches in diameter, marks the center of the field of play 50 feet from each end.
- A.9 Red Lines:** A Red Line, parallel to the Goal Lines, extends through each Restart Mark and up the Perimeter Wall.
- A.10 Goals:** A Goal adjoins the perimeter wall at the center of each end of the field of play. Each Goal consists of two upright, tubular Goalposts, 12 to 14 feet apart (measured from their nearest points), joined by a horizontal Crossbar, 6 ½ to 8 feet high (measured from the nearest point of the Crossbar to the field surface), a Net, extending 5 feet behind the Goalmouth and the plane of the Perimeter Wall, and the area created thereby. *The standard Goal dimensions are 12 feet wide by 6 ½ feet high.* The foremost outside contours of the Goalposts and Crossbar are smooth and flush with the plane of the perimeter wall. The depth of the Goalposts and Crossbar is 4 inches. The Net is supported to allow the Goalkeeper mobility within the Goal.
- A.11 Goal Lines:** A Goal Line, delineating the boundary of each Goal, is drawn between the Goalposts.
- A.12 Corner Flag:** A Corner Flag rises 3 feet above the Perimeter Wall at each corner of the field of play.
- A.13 Corner Mark:** A Corner Mark, 9 inches in diameter, is 3 feet within the Perimeter Wall, situated beneath each Corner Flag at the endpoint of each Touch Line.
- A.14 Touch Line:** A Touch Line, having 3-foot dashes separated by 1-foot spaces, is 3 feet within the Perimeter Wall along its length between Corner Marks.
- A.15 Penalty Arch:** A Penalty Arch surrounds each Goal within the field of play. *The Arch's standard dimensions consist of two 20-foot lines drawn at right angles to the Goal Line, each extending from the Perimeter Wall, 8 feet from inside the nearer Goalpost. A semicircle (15-foot radius), connecting the lines' ends and extending further into the field of play, completes the Arch.* Alternatively, the Arch may be up to 30 feet wide and 25 feet long, with the end of each length connecting to the semicircle at right angles.
- A.16 Free Kick Mark:** A Free Kick Mark, 9 inches in diameter, marks the top of each Penalty Arch ("Top of the Arch").
- A.17 15-Foot Mark:** A 15-Foot Mark, a line 1 foot long by 2 inches wide, drawn parallel to the Goal Line, is centered within the Penalty Arch 15 feet from the Free Kick Mark.
- A.18 Team Benches:** Team Benches are on each side of the Halfway Line along one of the field's lengths. The Team Benches are separated from each other and reasonably protected from spectators. The Team Benches have identical specifications relative to the Halfway Line.
- A.19 Referee Crease:** A Referee Crease, a semicircle 15 feet in radius, abuts the Perimeter Wall at the center of the field across from the Team Benches or wherever the official scorer's table is located.

**A.20 Penalty Areas:** The Penalty Area of each team is across from its Team Bench, just beyond the Perimeter Wall, on each side of the Referee Crease. The Penalty Areas are reasonably protected from their surrounding areas. If unavailable as described, the Administrative Authority shall designate alternate Penalty Areas.

**A.21 Goal Lights:** Goal lights, indicating goals and the expiration of time periods, may rest atop each Goal.

**A.22 Game Clock and Scoreboard:** A Game Clock displays and counts down the game time of each Half, the intervals between Halves and an Overtime Period, and Time Penalties. A Scoreboard maintains the score of the game for each team and contains the Game Clock.

**A.23 Horn:** A horn or buzzer, controlled by the Referee, is sounded upon the expiration of each Half and Overtime Period, with 30 seconds remaining in any intermission, and upon the expiration of the same.

## Appendix B - Official Field

## Appendix C - Other Game Officials

**C.1 Assistant Referee:** The Assistant Referee is positioned at the Halfway Line, beyond the field of play, and adjacent to the Referee Crease. Subject to the authority of the field Referee(s), the Assistant Referee's duties include:

- Whistling illegal substitutions, including at Restarts;
- I. Whistling Three-Line Violations;
- II. Supervising the Timekeeper;
- III. Assuring the accuracy and completeness of each team's Line-Up Card (if applicable);
- IV. Keeping and maintaining the Game Report for the Referee;
- V. Supervising the Penalty Areas and notifying the Referee of any violation of Penalty Area decorum;
- VI. Controlling the appropriate release of a player from the Penalty Area; and
- VII. Signaling a Time Penalty for "Persistent Team Fouls" (if applicable) by holding a Blue or Yellow Card overhead.

**C.2 Timekeeper:** The Timekeeper is the official timekeeper of the game and of Time Penalties. He assists the Referee by operating the Game Clock and Scoreboard and is equipped with a reserve stopwatch or other timing device.

## Appendix D - Referee Signals

## Appendix E - Definitions

**Charging:** Initiating physical contact with an opponent with or without the ball

**Dangerous Play:** High kicks, bicycle and scissor kicks, or attempts to play the ball while sitting or lying on the ground

**Indoor Soccer:** That form of soccer whose play is bounded by a physical structure (*e.g.*, wall, board, or combination thereof) within the field of play

**Obstruction:** Intentionally impeding an offensive or defensive player's strategic movement by moving into his or her path

**“Other” Unsporting Behavior:** As set forth by administrative policy (*See* Rule 10.2(g); *e.g.*, entering play without permission, as in the case of blood or uniform violation; intimidation tactics by a male of a female in coed play; abusive or foul language at, or taunting of, an opponent)

**Persistent Team Foul:** Every 6<sup>th</sup> Team Foul during a Half or 4<sup>th</sup> Team Foul during an Overtime Period, which Foul does not otherwise result in a Time Penalty (*See* Rule 10.4, “Team Time Penalties;” please note that this provision is not enforced under the *Official Rules.*)

**Possession by Defense during a Delayed Penalty:** possessing the ball for more than one second, deflecting the ball into open space, or directing the ball toward a teammate or the opponent’s goal (*See* Rule 11.6.)

**Possession by Goalkeeper:** Control of the ball, either under his or her foot, unchallenged, or off of the field surface in one or two hands

**Slide-Tackle:** Leaving one’s feet to propel one or both feet, legs, or other body part in the direction of an opponent with or without the ball

**“Unusual” Delay:** Subject to administrative policy, a game delay permitting the Referee to call a Time Out, (*See* Rule 6.1(b); *e.g.*, due to injury, out of bounds well beyond field of play, temporary clock malfunction)