

-Texas A&M University-
 Department of Recreational Sports
 INTRAMURAL SPORTS
OUTDOOR SOCCER RULES
 Spring 2012

Regulations published in the Texas A&M Rec Sports Handbook will be the governing policies for all intramural sports. Team captains are responsible for possessing a thorough understanding of these regulations and their implications.

2011-2012 NFHS Soccer Rules will be used with the following clarifications and exceptions.

1. **FIELD OF PLAY**

Outdoor soccer matches will be played on Fields 2, 11, and 12 of the Penberthy Complex.

2. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

A match will be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than **eight** players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. CoRec teams will play 4 men and 4 women. A CoRec team may never play with more than 4 players of either gender at any time. To start and continue a game, a team must have at least **5** players on the field ready to play. **(For CoRec, there must be at least 2 males and 2 females to start and continue a game.)** Team composition in CoRec must take into account the gender of a player who is ejected. For example, if a male is ejected, the team must play with 3 males and 4 females.

3. **ELIGIBILITY/RESTRICTED PLAYERS**

Participants may NOT represent more than one team in any sport with the exception that an individual may play on one Co-Rec team and one men's OR women's team. When a player's name appears on a roster, he/she is considered to have played in that contest. Any team that allows an ineligible player to play will forfeit the game(s) in which the ineligible player participates. Texas A&M Soccer Club team members who participated on the team in the fall are considered restricted players for the spring semester. Former varsity team members may or may not be eligible to participate depending on their individual situation. If you have questions concerning individual player eligibility, please contact the intramural office. Restricted players must play at the highest division offered and there is a maximum of 2 restricted players per team.

4. **CHECK IN**

Teams should be signed up and prepared to play at game time. Prepared means that IDs and footwear have been checked, or the opposing team will be awarded one goal. The game clock will start **AT GAME TIME**. For each additional three minutes the team is late another goal will be awarded. After ten minutes, a forfeit will be declared and a score of 5-0 will be posted.

Penalization for being late			
Minutes late	Score	Minutes late	Score
0 - 1	1-0	6	3-0
1	2-0	7	4-0
2	2-0	8	4-0
3	2-0	9	4-0
4	3-0	10	5-0 Forfeit
5	3-0		

5. **EQUIPMENT**

A player cannot wear anything that is dangerous to another player. Headbands may be worn as long as there is no knot in it. Hair-clips made of metal will **not** be allowed, but "scrunchies" or other elastic hair retaining devices are acceptable. No hats or knotted bandanas will be allowed. Failure to remove the article at the referee's request may disqualify that player from the game. **Under no circumstances will a player wearing a cast or splint be allowed to play.**

a. **JEWELRY**

Participants are NOT permitted to wear any visible jewelry. This includes any metal or plastic hair bands and bobby pins. If participants choose to wear jewelry, it must be completely covered BEFORE arriving at the game site, with a band-aid or athletic tape. The Department of Recreational Sports WILL NOT provide band-aids or athletic tape to cover jewelry items. If covered, jewelry must remain flush with the skin and not be protruding out; this is for the protection of all participants.

**** Exceptions to the jewelry policy are medical alert bracelets and necklaces, but they have to be taped down as not to be a hazard to other players. The player must supply his/her own tape.**

b. **SHOES/SHIN GUARDS**

Each player must wear shoes. The shoes must cover the feet and be made of a soft pliable upper material (canvas, leather, or synthetic) attached to a molded bottom which may or may not have rubber cleats. **No exposed metal may appear on the shoe.** Shoes must be worn at all times. **Shoes with front toe cleats, softball cleats, shoes with a raised heel, sandals, boots or hiking boots will not be allowed.** In addition, shin guards are highly recommended. If shin guards are worn, they must be completely covered with socks.

c. **GAME BALL**

The department will supply a game ball. The team captains, with the referee's approval, may opt to use a different ball if the captains agree (must be a size 5 ball).

6. **UNIFORMS**

A player **must have sleeves on his/her undershirt if he/she is wearing a jersey from the Department of Recreational Sports.** If a team does not choose to wear the jerseys provided for it, the team must all wear jerseys of the same color and that will distinguish it from the other team. The jerseys must have different numbers. Goalkeepers will wear colors that distinguish them from other players and referees.

7. **PRE-GAME**

The referees will call the captain from each team to center before the start of the game. At this time, the referees will discuss the rules and answer any questions the captains might have. The team listed first on the scorecard will call the toss to determine which team has the option to kick off or defend a particular end.

8. **STARTING THE GAME**

All players start on their half of the field and every player on the team opposing the kicker must remain outside the center circle until the ball is kicked. Once the referee has given the signal, the game will be started by a player kicking the ball forward. The kicker cannot play the ball a second time until after it has been touched by another player. A free kick will be given if the kicker touches the ball without it touching another player. A goal can be scored directly from a kick off.

For restarts involving a drop ball, there does not need to be two players to complete a drop ball restart. Drop ball restarts will occur at the point of interruption, unless in the goal box. It will take place on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

9. **STARTING THE SECOND HALF**

To begin the second half, teams will change ends. The opposite team that kicked-off in the first half will take the kick-off in the second half.

10. **DURATION OF THE GAME**

Periods of Play

Matches will consist of two equal periods of 20 minutes. This may **not** be altered by any agreement between the referee and the two teams.

Half-Time Interval

The half-time interval must not exceed 5 minutes. The duration of the half-time interval will be at the

discretion of the referee.

Allowance for Time Lost

There will be no allowance of time lost through substitutions. Instead, teams will not be allowed to make any substitutions within the last two minutes of either period.

Abandoned Match

The Texas A&M Department of Recreational Sports will have full authority to assign an outcome to any abandoned match or to order the match replayed. Matches that are merely suspended for any reason will, if possible, be resumed at the point at which they were suspended. A new referee crew may be assigned in such a case.

Mercy Rule

If a team is up 10 or more goals at halftime or any time thereafter, the game will end. For Men's and Women's leagues, if a team is up 5 or more goals within 5 minutes of the second half, the game will end. For CoRec, if a team is up 8 or more goals within 5 minutes of the second half, the game will end.

11. SCORING

A goal is scored when the whole curvature of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar provided there have been no violations by the attacking team. It is the position of the ball that counts.

In CoRec games, a goal scored by a female player during regulation play or overtime (but not during the tie-breaking penalty kick procedure outlined in item 13) will count as two goals. The goal will always be credited to the person on the attacking team who last touched the ball. **A goal may be scored directly from the kickoff.** However, all goals scored as own goals will count as one goal, regardless of the gender of the scorer.

12. OVERTIME

In regular season play, if the score is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will remain tied and no overtime will be played.

During the playoffs, one five-minute sudden death overtime period will be played. A coin toss before the start of the overtime period will determine possession or choice of side. The team listed second on the scorecard will call the coin toss.

In All-University, Women's, and CoRec championship games, two five-minute sudden victory overtime periods will be played before the penalty kick procedures stated above will be used.

13. PENALTY KICKS

If the score is tied after overtime is completed, the winner will be determined by a penalty kick tie-breaker as follows:

- A. The team listed second on the scorecard shall call the coin toss to determine the first team to kick. The winner of the toss may elect to kick first or last. Each team will select **five** players to take the penalty kicks in order from one to five. Each team shall take an initial series of five kicks alternately. CoRec will have five kicks alternating between males and females or vice versa. The team scoring more points shall be declared the winner.
- B. If the match is still tied after the **five** players on each team have kicked, the remaining players on the field will shoot in sudden victory manner until a winner is declared (no player may shoot for a second time until all those on the field at the end of the game have shot).
- C. Only players playing in the game at the end of overtime shall be eligible to take penalty kicks or serve as goalkeeper in the tie-breaker.
- D. Once goalkeepers are designated, they shall not be replaced unless injured. The goalkeepers are

allowed to be one of the five kickers to kick in the tie-breaker.

- E. The kicks will be taken as normal penalty kicks. The player taking the kick must use one fluid motion.
- F. In CoRec play, all goals scored during the tie-breaking procedure will count as one goal, regardless of the gender of the playing taking the penalty kick.

14. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Substitutions are allowed under the following conditions:

- A. On any goal kick
- B. After a goal has been scored
- C. Between periods
- D. In the event of an injury
- E. When a player has been cautioned (yellow-card). The cautioned player **MUST** leave the field and cannot re-enter until the next substitution opportunity
- F. On a team's **own** throw-in or corner kick
- G. On the opposing team's throw-in or corner kick, only if the team with possession of the ball chooses to substitute
- H. When a goalkeeper has been ejected, provided that a field player is removed from the game
- I. If a player has an open wound or blood on their clothing, they must leave the field and may be substituted.

The official **must** beckon the player onto the field before the substitution may occur. No substitutions will be allowed during the last two minutes of a half. **ALL SUBSTITUTIONS** must be made at the half line with the permission of the referee.

15. **OFFSIDE**

A player is in an offside position when he/she is nearer to his opponent's goal line than the ball, **unless:**

- A. He/she is in his/her own half of the field of play
- B. There are at least two opponents even with the player and/or closer to their own goal line

In the opinion of the referee, a player shall be penalized for being in an offside position at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate if the player:

- A. Interferes with play or with an opponent
- B. Gains an advantage by being in that position.

A player shall not be declared offside by the referee under the following situations:

- A. Merely because of his being in an offside position; or
- B. If he/she receives the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, or throw in.

16. **GOALKEEPER PRIVILEGES**

Within his/her own penalty area, the goalkeeper has certain privileges that are not given to other players. These privileges include:

- A. Handling: The goalkeeper may catch, carry, strike or propel the ball with his/her hands or arms.
- B. Immunity: While in possession of the ball, the goalkeeper may not be charged, interfered with or impeded in any manner by an opponent. Possession includes bouncing the ball with both hands as well as dropping the ball for a kick. The referee shall eject without previous caution any player who, with obvious intent, violently fouls the goalkeeper who is in possession of the ball in his/her own penalty area.

With the goalkeeper's privileges comes the capability for certain violations of these privileges that could not be applied to another player. These violations are:

- A. **Restrictions of the goalkeeper:** From the moment the ball is in control by his/her hands as a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area, the goalkeeper has six seconds to release the ball. *Penalty: Indirect free kick from point of infraction.*

- B. **Repossession:** Having released it into play, he/she may not touch it again with his hands before it has been touched or played by a player of the opposing team. Throwing the ball into the air and allowing it to hit the ground is considered releasing the ball, and the goalkeeper may not retake possession unless the ball is touched or played by an opponent. *Penalty: Indirect free kick from point of infraction.*
- C. **Pass back:** If a player deliberately kicks the ball with his/her foot (or any part of body below the knee) to his/her goalkeeper or a player throws the ball in to the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is not permitted to touch it with the hands. *Penalty: Indirect free kick from point of infraction.*
- D. The goalkeeper may not intentionally strike an opponent by throwing or kicking the ball vigorously at him/her or push him/her with the ball while holding it. *Penalty: Direct free kick from point of infraction.*
- E. If the ball is played by the attacking team towards the goal, the goalie MAY trap the ball outside of the penalty box, dribble back inside the penalty box and use their hands to pick up the ball. If the ball is played by the defending team the goalie MAY NOT use their hands.

17. **DIRECT FREE KICK:** A direct free kick is one in which a goal can be scored directly from the kick against the offending team.

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven offenses 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

Any player in a recreational (men's, women's, or CoRec) match who, in the opinion of the referee, slide tackles an opponent, will be considered guilty of tackling an opponent in a reckless manner (direct free kick offense) and may be cautioned or red carded (referee's discretion) for unsporting behavior.

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

- holds an opponent
- spits at an opponent
- handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

A direct free kick is taken from the place where the offense occurred.

Penalty Kick - A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offenses is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

18. **INDIRECT FREE KICK:** An indirect free kick is one from which a **goal cannot be scored directly unless the ball has been touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal.** If the ball is not first touched by another player before passing through the goal, a goal kick is awarded to the opposing team.

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

- controls the ball with his hands for more than six seconds before releasing it from his/her possession
- touches the ball again with his/her hands after releasing it from his/her possession and before it has touched another player
- touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a teammate
- touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw-in taken by

a teammate

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 without contact (i.e., high kick)
- impedes the progress of an opponent
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- commits any other offense, not previously mentioned, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player (for example, entering/leaving the field of play without permission, offside, player improperly touching the ball for a second time before it has been played by another player)

The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the offense occurred.

19. **PENALTY KICKS:** A penalty kick is awarded for any infringement of the rules by the defending team within the penalty area that is penalized by a direct free kick. A penalty kick can be awarded irrespectively of the position of the ball if the violation by the defending team is committed within the penalty area. The ball shall be placed 12 yards from the goal line. A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick. All players except the kicker and the goalkeeper must be on the field of play outside the penalty box, behind the penalty mark, and at least ten yards from the penalty mark. The goalkeeper may move laterally along the goal line before a penalty kick, but must not move forward until the ball is kicked. The player awarded the kick must utilize one fluid motion in playing the ball and the ball must move forward as a result of the kick.

20. **GOAL KICK:** A goal kick is taken by a member of the defending team when the ball passes completely over the goal line, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by a member of the attacking team. The ball can be placed anywhere within the goal area, but once the ball has been placed it may not be moved. The ball must leave the penalty box before it can be played again by any player. If the ball is played a second time before it leaves the penalty box, the kick will be retaken. **A goal can be scored directly from a goal kick.**

**There is no "offside" on a goal kick.

21. **CORNER KICK:** A corner kick is taken by a member of the attacking team when the ball passes completely over the goal line, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by a member of the defending team. The ball will be placed within the quarter circle at the nearest corner to the spot where the ball went out of play. Defenders must be at least 10 yards away from the corner arc, not the ball. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.

**There is no "offside" on a corner kick.

22. **THROW-INS:** A throw-in is taken in order to put the ball back into play after it has passed completely over the touch line either on the ground or in the air. The throw-in shall be taken by the opposing team of the player who touch the ball last before it went over the touch-line. The throw-in shall be taken within a yard of where the ball crossed the touch-line. The thrower, at the moment of delivering the ball, shall face the field of play and part of each foot shall be either on the touch-line or on the ground outside the touch-line. The thrower shall use both hands equally and shall deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head. Defenders must be at least two yards from the thrower when the throw is made. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in. The thrower shall not play the ball a second time before it has been touched by another player. If the thrower is unsuccessful in throwing the ball onto the playing field, he/she will be allowed another throw.

**There is no "offside" on a throw-in.

23. **DANGEROUS PLAY:** A player shall be penalized if he/she engages in play that is of a dangerous nature or likely to cause injury. Some examples of dangerous plays are:

A. Raising the foot to the level that may endanger an opponent when the opponent is at a normal

stance

- B. Lowering the head to a position level with or below the waist in an effort to head the ball in the presence of an oncoming player
- C. A player other than the goalkeeper covering the ball while sitting, kneeling, or lying on the ground.
- D. Showing the bottoms of shoes while an opponent is in playing distance.

24. **CONDUCT:** Team captains may discuss plays in a sportsmanlike manner with the referees. Any player discussing calls with the officials other than the captain will be subject to a yellow card. Any team displaying unsportsmanlike conduct, foul language, abuse of officials, or unnecessary roughness of play may be eliminated from further play. **Any team receiving two red cards will automatically default their game.** Any player who is ejected from a contest must schedule a meeting with the Coordinator of Intramural Sports before being eligible to play their next game. It is the responsibility of the team captain to control the actions of his/her players and spectators.

25. **CAUTIONS:** A participant will be cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following offenses:

- unsporting behavior
- dissent by word or action
- persistent infringement of the rules
- delaying the restart of play
- failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted:
 - Corner kick = 10 yards from the arc
 - Free kick = 10 yards from the spot of the kick
 - Throw-in = 2 yards from the spot of the throw-in
- entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- slide tackling in recreational leagues

PENALTY - An indirect free kick shall be awarded for any of the above offenses if a direct free kick for another offense has not already been awarded. The cautioned player shall leave the field and may be replaced. The cautioned player may re-enter at the next legal substitution opportunity.

26. **EJECTIONS:** A participant shall be ejected from the game and shown a red card for the following offenses:

- serious foul play
- violent conduct
- spitting at an opponent or any other person
- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- receiving a second caution in the same match

PENALTY - An indirect free kick shall be awarded for any of the above offenses if a direct free kick for another offense has not already been awarded. **EXCEPTION:** A direct free kick from the point of infraction (penalty kick, if appropriate) is awarded for serious foul play or violent conduct toward an opponent. A participant who has been ejected must report to the intramural supervisor and may, after providing his or her information, remain in the vicinity of the field of play, provided he/she does not become involved in any more disciplinary issues. The referee and intramural supervisor reserve the right to require any player who has been sent off to leave the immediate vicinity of the field. Any participant ejected from a game is automatically suspended from ALL intramural play until the ejected player schedules a meeting with the Coordinator of Intramural Sports.