



SOCCER RULES: Men's

February 2010

It is the coaches and/or team managers responsibility to ensure that all players are aware of the rules.

Official FIFA "Laws of the Game" will be followed except as noted in the following. SportsCity has set forth the following rules to ensure that our facility is a safe place for players, spectators, and referees to enjoy the game of soccer.

Reminders: No glass containers are permitted in the facility.
No food, drinks, chewing tobacco or gum, or metal cleats are permitted on the playing surface.
In addition, no sunflower seeds or similar products are permitted in the facility.

Ignorance of the rules will not be accepted as an excuse for failure to comply with them. SportsCity may modify rules at any time to ensure equal and fair play.

It is the **teams** responsibility to ensure ALL paperwork and money is in order and accepts any penalty that may be enforced as a result of failure to do so. Forfeits for illegal players will be based on paperwork on file at the time a roster check is done. **IF NOT SURE - CHECK BEFORE DOING!**

BENCH AREA:

- * The only people that are to be in the bench area are: officials, rostered players, coaches, and person responsible for running the clock.
- * Home / Visitor is indicated above benches. Teams are to sit in the area according to if they are H / V on the schedule.

BLUE CARD:

A blue card will be an automatic two (2) minute penalty and that players' team will play a man down for the length of the two (2) minute penalty. Two blue cards equal a red. Any player receiving a 2nd blue card will be ejected from the match and serve at least a one (1) game suspension.

CASTS / ORTHOPEDIC BRACES:

These may be used if at the discretion of the referee they are not dangerous to any of the players on the field. They must be padded / wrapped to the referee's satisfaction.

COACHES or RESPONSIBLE PARTIES:

- * Coaches / responsible parties are not required to be licensed.
- * All coaches must have an assistant able to coach in their absence.
- * All teams must have someone eighteen (18) yrs or older on the bench during all games who will be responsible for and held accountable for the team and its actions. Failure to do so could result in a forfeit.
- * Teams must have a designated team captain that is the only one that may approach officials concerning any questions or problems and who will be held responsible for controlling their players. Teams are to notify the officials of who the team captain is for that night.

COLOR CONFLICT:

In cases where the referee deems there to be a color conflict the visiting team will be responsible for changing their uniforms.

DELAY of START:

Any team delaying the start of a scheduled game shall forfeit the game to the opponent. If games are running late the official will determine the starting time of the next game. Forfeits will be recorded with a 3 to 0 score.

ELIGIBILITY:

- * League is open to anyone sixteen (16) years and older.
- * Players under the age of 16 cannot "play up" to participate - no exceptions will be made.
- * Teams need not be established ones. **No "guest players" allowed.**
- * Players must be rostered to the team or team will forfeit even if the opposing team approves them playing.
- * In the event there is a dispute over a players age, SportsCity reserves the right to request verification of that players age. Proof of age in the Adult Co-ed league will be: state issued players pass, driver's license or passport. Those without proper ID will not be allowed to play and could cause the team to forfeit.

EJECTIONS:

- * Ejected players are considered illegal players until their suspension has been served.
- * Ejections will not be over ruled unless proven it was done for personal reasons.

- * Ejections are automatic and apply to the team the player participated with when they received it.
- * Ejections are immediate. The player is out the remainder of the game and all of the next game.
- * Player cannot remain in the players bench area. They must leave the building.
- * Anyone ejected in the last game of a session will be prohibited from playing/coaching in the first game of the next session they participate in no matter what team it's for.

EQUIPMENT:

- * Shin guards are optional.
- * Only rubber molded cleats may be worn. No metal cleats, spikes, tips, etc. are allowed.
- * Teams **MUST** wear matching shirts in color with at least a six inch (6") number on the back. Any player without a numbered shirt, or non matching shirt color (unless approved), **will not be allowed to play**. No duplicate numbers allowed on a team.
- * **NO** offensive names on the shirts.
- * Players who may have forgotten their team shirt **MUST** come to the office and get a pinnie. No other shirt may be worn without a pinnie.
- * The goalkeeper shall wear colors that distinguish them from field players and the referee. Any field player who replaces the goalkeeper must comply with this rule. The goalkeeper may wear protective headgear if it is deemed acceptable by the referee, (i.e., is not dangerous and does not interfere with other players).
- * SportsCity is not responsible for jewelry that is lost or damaged.
- * Players failing to comply shall be sent off the field of play to adjust their equipment and cannot return without first reporting to the referee. Upon approval the player may return to the game at the next guaranteed substitution.
An "Unsporting Conduct" penalty shall be assessed to any offender who enters the game in breach of the conditions of this rule. If the game is stopped to administer the time penalty, it shall be restarted with a free kick taken by a player of the opposing team.

FIGHTING:

- * SportsCity has a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** toward fighting. Anyone fighting will be ejected and they will be terminated from playing the remainder of that session (on any team).
- * SportsCity reserves the right to ban permanently any player involved in a fight.
- * Anyone fighting will cause their team to be penalized with a forfeit and the loss of three (3) points.

5 SECOND RESTART VIOLATION:

Failure by a team to put the ball into play within five seconds, as signaled by the referee, results in a possession turnover.

FORFEITS:

- * Teams not able to field at least 4 players within five (5) minutes of start time, will forfeit.
- * Forfeits are beyond SportsCity's control and will count as a game.
- * Referees will not officiate forfeited games. Players with signed waivers may use the field time for practice or scrimmage.
- * "No Shows" or forfeits due to illegal players, will result in a 3-0 victory for the opposing team. No rescheduled game will be given.
- * Games forfeited will cost the forfeiting team \$50.00 (cash) to be replayed. Opposing coach must inform SportsCity they have agreed to the game being replayed. Fee must be paid before game will be rescheduled.

GAME BALL: size 5 ball. Each team is to provide a game ball.

GAMES: See also Playoffs

All teams are guaranteed eight (8) games.

GAME LENGTH:

Each game shall consist of 2 x 24 min. halves with a three (3) minute halftime. Games are to start on time so once your game is done, please collect all items your team brought and leave the playing area immediately so the next game can start. Team talks are not to be done on the field after your game.

GOALKEEPER PASSBACK:

Players will be allowed to pass the ball back to the goalkeeper's hands from anywhere within the defensive third of the field (marked by one of the three lines). Goalkeepers may not handle any pass that originated from outside of the defensive third of the field.

GOALKEEPER SUBSTITUTION:

Any teammate may change places with the goalkeeper as per regular substitution procedures. The goalkeeper must wear different colors from field players and referee.

GOALKEEPING RESTRICTIONS:

Following infractions shall cause the referee to stop play and award a free kick to the opposing team at the top of the penalty box and on the whistle.

- * The handling of an intentional back pass from a teammate's feet that originated outside of the defensive third
- * Five Second Distribution: A goalkeeper, in possession of the ball within the penalty area, must distribute the ball outside of the penalty area or to another player within five seconds of having received the ball within the penalty area. Possession shall be defined as control with hand or foot.
- * Illegal procedure Handling: A goalkeeper who receives or carries the ball outside of the penalty area by foot, shall not handle the Ball inside the penalty area prior to the ball being touched by another player or prior to a stoppage in play.

- * Intentional handball violations committed by the goalkeeper outside the penalty area to stop an opposition attack shall result in a time penalty. Any player and not necessarily the goalkeeper may serve this time penalty. Regular handballs by the goalkeeper will result in a normal free kick without the time penalty.
- * If a goalkeeper commits a foul that is deemed a red card offense by the referee, or if they receive two blue cards, he/she must serve the ejection. The team must play short for the five minutes with a different player in goal. At the completion the five (5) minutes the team may play at full strength but the goalkeeper that committed the foul must sit out the remainder of the game as well as serving a minimum of a 1 game suspension.

LEVELS of PLAY:

- * In order to maintain equal and fair play within the different levels:
 - * No upper level player can participate on a C or lower level team.
 - * Any C or lower level player registering to play up will be considered an "upper" level player and can no longer participate on a C or lower level team.
- * Anyone currently playing on/with a club/league team, high school team, college team, semi pro or pro team, cannot participate in the C or lower levels.
- * Teams in the B level cannot have more than two (2) players from the A level rostered to their team.
- * Players in the B level playing up will be considered an upper level player and count towards the two (2) allowed.

MERCY RULE:

If in the 2nd half one team is ahead of the other by ten (10) points, the referee is to ask the losing team if they want the game stopped thus awarding the win to the other team. If stopped the remainder of the game will be a scrimmage with no officials.

NUMBER of PLAYERS: Five (5) field players plus a goalkeeper.

OVERTIME: None

PENALTY KICKS:

- * Only infractions that are deemed by the referee to be denying goal scoring opportunities (within the penalty area) will result in the penalty kicks. "Incidental" fouls within the penalty area will result in a free kick at the top of the penalty box and on the whistle. All fouls that were deemed intentional within the penalty area will result in a two minute penalty.
- * Players, other than the player taking the kick and the goalkeeper, must be behind the yellow line.
 - * Yellow line being the one used for restarts when the ball hits the top net.

PLAYERS: see also Eligibility, Levels of Play, and Rosters

PLAYOFFS: None

POINT SYSTEM:

- * 3 points for win, 1 for tie, 0 for loss.
- * SportsCity will keep track of league standings which will be posted in the facility and on the web site.
- * Due to additional penalties actual standings may vary from the computer generated standings on the web site.

PRACTICES: SportsCity does not provide practice times.

PROTEST:

There will be **NO PROTESTS** allowed regarding the game. The Site Director will resolve all disputes immediately. These decisions will be final. If a team suspects an illegal player or other illegal activity associated with the other team, they should inform management immediately. If this activity is discovered after the game is completed, the team should file a formal protest to management.

RED CARD: (see also TIME PENALTIES)

- * A player or coach sent off the field during or after a game by a referee (red carded) will automatically be suspended from the next game in the session. In addition, a player will be banned from playing on any other team until the suspension has been served.
- * A player or coach red carded for the offense of "foul and abusive language" will be suspended as outlined above.
- * A player red carded for the offense of "persistent infraction" of the rules after receiving two (2) blue cards will be suspended as outlined above.
- * A player or coach receiving two (2) red cards in a single session will be suspended from playing for the remainder of that session.
- * A player or coach receiving three (3) red cards in a year will be suspended for one (1) year.
- * A player or coach red carded for the offense of "violent conduct" (including, but not limited to: spitting, threatening, continued rough play, etc.) will be suspended as outlined above and, in addition, will be suspended for one additional game and subject to further disciplinary action as decided by facility management.
- * A player or coach red carded for "assaulting an official" will automatically be suspended from any further activities at SportsCity.
- * Should a coach be unable to control his player's actions after a red card is issued, the coach will also be suspended as outlined above.
- * A player jumping from the player box onto the field to break up or participate in a fight will automatically be ejected from the game and will be subject to the same penalties as outlined above.

- * It is the responsibility of each player and the player's team representative to be aware of the total status of their player's infractions. Failure to comply may result in further disciplinary measures which may include suspension of the coach/representative and forfeiture of games in which that player participated.
- * If a player / players are issued a Red Card for fighting, they will be suspended for the remainder of the session (on any team).

REFEREES:

Referee authority applies to all rules of the game. All calls are the judgment of the referee and are final. Any and all calls made by the referee are NOT subject to protest (during the match). The referee has the ability to present a Red Card prior to, during, and after a match. It is the authority of SportsCity Management and the Rules set forth to determine player / team suspensions.

- * Have authority fifteen (15) minutes before and after a game.
- * Referees will not officiate forfeited games.
- * Must be at least twenty-one (21) to officiate adult games.
- * A one or two man system will be used in all games. The number of referees at each game will be at the discretion of SportsCity.
- * Referees appointed to officiate each game have complete authority on the field of play, and their decisions on points of fact connected with the game are final.
- * Complaints regarding officials should be submitted in writing, contain points of fact, and have your name and the name of your team at the top.
- * Teams may fill out a referee complaint form and turn it into management. Management will take seriously all complaints written on a complaint form and turned in 24 hours after a game.
- * Management will not overturn any calls made by the referee during the course of a game.
- * Management will not take seriously complaints directed at them immediately following a game verbal or written.
- * **Do not discuss officiating or the officials with facility staff during or immediately after your game.**

REFUNDS: Refunds will only be issued should SportsCity not be able to provide a league spot for a team.

REMOVAL FROM GAME

- * Removal from game can range from sitting out a minimum of two (2) minutes to ejection.
- * Cussing directed towards another player can be cause to remove the player from the game.
- * Cussing directed towards an official **will** be cause to remove player from the game.
- * Use of extremely foul language will be an automatic suspension of at least one (1) game. Spectators are to also be controlled or removed for use of offensive language.
- * Threatening a player or official will be cause to eject player from the game.
- * Fighting will be cause to eject offender(s) from the game. Additional suspension will be enforced.
- * Consuming alcohol before a game will be cause to remove a player from the game.

REQUESTS:

Request are not guaranteed. No verbal request will be taken – must be in writing. Teams are allowed two (2) scheduling requests per session on the required form and must be submitted by the entry deadline per session.

RESCHEDULES:

SportsCity understands that unplanned things happen but in order to keep within the eight (8) weeks each session, **NO** reschedules will be done unless it's due to an error caused by SportsCity or for reasons beyond SportsCity's control.

RESCHEDULES: Bad Weather

Any games that are rescheduled due to weather will be rescheduled at the discretion of management. No refunds will be issued. SportsCity reserves the right to reschedule these games on days that the teams have not registered to play on depending on field availability.

RESTARTS: (see Start of Play)

ROSTERS: see also Eligibility and Levels of Play

- * **NO GUEST PLAYERS ALLOWED!** Players must be rostered to the team or team will forfeit.
- * The roster size will be a maximum of eighteen (18).
- * An official roster must be completed prior to the first game.
- * Rosters may be on the SportsCity Roster form or typed and may be faxed or emailed. If emailed must be Adobe or a Word 97 document. Please allow a one inch (1") left margin.
- * **Rosters are frozen after the completion of the second (2nd) game.**
- * Players may only be added after the 2nd game if a player is injured and removed from the roster for the remainder of the session.
- * At the discretion of management, a team may claim hardship and add one (1) player after the 2nd week.
- * Management reserves the right to check PHOTO identification of any player. Those without proper ID will not be allowed to play and could cause the team to forfeit.

RULES:

Ignorance of the rules will not be accepted as an excuse for failure to comply with them. SportsCity may modify rules at any time to ensure equal and fair play.

SCHEDULES:

- * In order to keep games within the eight (8) week time period, and to accommodate any holidays during those weeks, games on additional days/evenings/weekends may be necessary. No guarantee or promise will be given on the number of teams that will be in a division. Until all teams have registered, there's no way to tell.
- * The schedule will be posted on the SportsCity web site www.sportscitykc.com. Any schedule changes will also be posted on the website. All efforts will be made to contact any teams involved in any schedule changes but the responsibility lies with the team coaches and manager's to double check the schedule on our web site one (1) day prior to their scheduled game.

SHOOTOUT: None

SIDELINE CONDUCT:

Players, reserve players, managers, coaches, assistant coaches and fans are expected to conduct themselves within the letter and spirit of "THE LAWS OF THE GAME." The site directors have the authority and responsibility to remove any person or person from the facility for abuses to good conduct, in addition to any specific disciplinary action brought about by other authorities.

SLIDE TACKLING: not allowed

- * Slide Tackling will be defined as anything other than the feet touching the ground when attempting to take the ball away from an opponent.
- * Goalkeepers will be allowed normal play within their area as long as the starting/ending point of their slide stays within their area. **NO** part of their body may be outside their playing area.

START of PLAY:

- * The ball may be played in any direction from kickoffs.
- * A goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.
- * All fouls are direct in nature. The opposition **must** stand a minimum of 10 feet away from the ball on all restarts. Referees will determine what is 10 feet.
- * When a game is restarted after an injury or after a "referee discretionary stoppage" the restart kick will be taken by the team that had clear possession prior to the stoppage. If there is no clear possession, then the game will be restarted with a drop ball at the point where the ball was when the game was stopped.
- * If the game was stopped inside the penalty area, all restarts, whether by kick or drop ball, are from the top of the penalty box and on the whistle.

SUBSTITUTION:

- * Substitution "on the fly" may be made at any time. Guaranteed substitution may be made at the following times:
 - * After a goal is scored by either team
 - * After an injury
- * There is no guaranteed substitution in the last minute of the game and there is no guaranteed substitution after a foul.

SUSPENSIONS:

- * Suspensions will not be overturned unless it can be proven it was done for personal reasons.
- * Suspensions can range from one (1) additional game to banned from SportsCity. Player will be notified.

TEAMS:

- * The minimum number of teams for a division is four (4). No guarantee or promise will be given other than this.

TIE BREAKERS:

At the conclusion of each session, the following will be used to break any ties:

- * Head to head (not used if more than two teams are involved in the tie breaker)
- * Goal difference
(i.e. goals scored minus goals allowed with 4 goal maximum differential, e.g. 10-1 games will be deemed 5-1)
- * Most shutouts
- * Fewest goals allowed
- * Most goals scored (no maximum)
- * Sudden Death Penalty Kicks

THREE-LINE VIOLATION: There will be no three-line violation.

TIME PENALTIES:

- * For time penalties, the team will play short for two minutes (yellow or blue card) or five minutes (red card). Teams may play at full strength again after the two minutes are completed or after the opposition scores a goal.
- * The 5 minute red card violation must be served for the full five minutes regardless if a goal is scored. The red carded player must sit out the remainder of the game and serve a minimum one (1) game suspension. This applies to all players (including the goalkeeper) and the coaching staff.
 - Note:** if a coach receives the red card the team must designate a player to serve the time penalty. This player may return to the field after the time penalty but the ejected coach must leave the facility before the game may commence.
- * If a second blue card (which equals a red) is issued to the same player, the player is ejected from the game and the team serves a two (2) minute penalty. That player will also serve at least a one (1) game suspension.

- * Simultaneous blue cards on members of each team results in both teams playing short for the full two minutes regardless of goals scored.
- * Teams can only serve a maximum of two (2) time penalties at a time. If a third two minute violation occurs during a time that a team is already two men down the third will be deemed a delayed two minute, i.e. the player must sit out for his two minute as soon as one of the current two minute penalties have elapsed. In multiple two minute penalties a goal scored only cancels one penalty.

TIMEOUTS: None

WAIVERS & RELEASE of LIABILITY FORM:

- * Required on **ALL** players **PRIOR** to them participating. Waivers are good for one (1) year for any event at SportsCity.
- * Players participating without a waiver will be considered ineligible and game will be a forfeit.
- * Players without a current waiver / release on file will **NOT** be covered by SportsCity insurance.

WARM-UP: League fee does not include warm-up time nor is there any guaranteed warm-up time or space. Games are to start on time. See Forfeits.

WEB SITE:

- * Web site is available to everyone.
- * To get full use of the MySam features:
 - * All participants with a current SportsCity waiver/registration and an active e-mail address on record with SportsCity can log in on MySam to view schedules, standings, send team e-mails, etc.
 - * To use this function go to the web site and click on MySam to open the GET PASSWORD page. Complete the information and send. A password will be sent to that persons e-mail normally within seconds. Once received go back into the web site, click again on MySam, and enter their password.
Email being used must be the same that is on file with SportsCity.
Web address: www.sportscitykc.com