

CODIAC SOCCER
BASIC SOCCER RULES

RULES SPECIFIC TO AGE GROUPS

Rule	U 6,8	U10	U12	U14
Size of field	Cross field 25 m wide	Cross field 50 m wide	Cross Field 50 m wide	Full field
No. players	7	7	7	11
Minimum # players	5	5	5	7
Length of game	25 min. halves in a full game	As U6, 8	30 minute halves	35 minute halves
Size of ball	3	4	4	5

Basic Rules and Terms:

Out of Bounds: A ball is out of bounds when the entire ball crosses the line.

Goal Kick: Occurs when the ball passes over the end line, but not between the goal posts. The ball has last been kicked by an offensive player. The ball is placed anywhere in the goal crease and is kicked by any members of this team. It must clear the penalty square (or arc) before it is touched by another player. No members of the receiving team are allowed in the penalty box at this time. If the ball does not clear the box before it is touched, the whistle is blown and the kick is retaken.

Corner Kick: Occurs when the ball is kicked over the end line as above but was last kicked by a defensive player. Ball is placed at the corner of the field at the side that the ball went over the end line. No defensive player can be within 10 m of the ball until it is kicked (less distance when game is played on an adapted field). A goal can be scored directly from this kick.

Direct free kick: This is taken when an infraction occurs that warrants it. This infraction has to occur outside the penalty area. Examples of these infractions are: handball, rough play, tripping, pushing. The kick is taken at the point of the offense. All defensive players must be at least 10 m away from the ball until the ball is kicked. A goal can be scored directly off this kick.

Indirect free kick: This is taken when an infraction occurs that warrants it. These fouls are generally less serious than the fouls that call for a direct kick. Some examples are: goalie taking more than six seconds to get rid of the ball, dangerous kick, and off sides. The kick is taken at the point of the offense. On this kick, defensive players must be at least 10m from the ball and a goal cannot be scored from the kick unless the ball is touched by another player (either defensive or offensive) before the ball crosses the goal line.

Throw in: Occurs when the ball entirely crosses the sideline. When throwing, both feet of the thrower have to be on the ground at the time the ball is released and the player must be facing the direction that the ball is heading. The thrower's hands must pass his ears before the ball is released and the release has to be performed with two hands on the ball. An infraction calls for a loss of possession.

Off side: This rule is only enforced in the under 6, and under 8 age groups for the more flagrant off sides. A player is considered off side when he is further downfield than the last two defenders (one is usually the goalie) at the time the ball is kicked and the ball is kicked toward him. So, the forward can advance down the field as far as the last fullback but is in an offside position if he is beyond this point before the ball is kicked.

Hand Ball: This is called only when the hand has deliberately, in the opinion of the referee, come in contact with the ball and an advantage has been gained.

Penalty Kick: This is called if an infraction worthy of a direct kick is performed within the penalty area. During the kick, all players must stay behind the kicker until the ball is kicked. The kicker may not touch the ball twice in a row until the goalie has touched the ball.

General comments: Referees are to call the rules in the spirit of the game. Some things will be let go at the younger levels in order to keep up the flow of the game. The important thing is that the kids have fun in a safe environment. If an infraction is called on a younger player, the referees are asked to explain the call to the player involved and so may take on a teaching role as well as an officiating role. Many of the referees are new to officiating and they will make mistakes. We want to keep our referees and so would discourage you from berating the ref on the field. If you have concerns about the way a referee is performing, we want to know about it so we can improve that person's abilities. Please fill out an assessment form (available at the hut or on the Codiac web site under referees) or call the referee coordinator.