

Rules of Play

- **Kick-off:** at the beginning of the game, choice of end and kick-off shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
The winner of the toss may pick the end of the field to be defended or decide to kick-off.
 1. Each team must be on its half of the field for the kick-off.
 2. The defending team must stay outside the center circle which places them a minimum of 10 yards away from the ball.
 3. The ball is not in play until it has traveled the distance of its own circumference. The player taking the kick-off may not kick the ball for a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.
- **Ball Out of Play:** The ball is out of only when it is completely across the goal line. End line or touch line {side line}, whether in the air or on the ground. The ball is also out of play anytime the referee stops the game. ****NOTE:** In our league, either team can substitute freely when the ball is out of play.
- **Throw-Ins:** When the ball goes out of bounds on the touch line {side line}, the team that last touched the ball must surrender the ball to the opponent for a throw-in.
 1. The thrower shall use both hands; deliver the ball from behind and over the ball. Both feet must remain on the ground.
 2. The thrower at the moment of delivery must face the field of play and no part of either foot shall be in the playing area. The lines are part of the playing area.
 3. The ball is in play as soon as it enters the field of play, but if the thrower plays the ball a second time before it is touched by another player, he/she shall be penalized by an indirect free kick where the infringement occurred.
- **Goal Kick:** When the whole ball passes over the goal line and it was last touched by the attacker, a goal kick is awarded to the defending team.
 1. The ball is placed within the goal area nearest the side where the ball went out of bounds. For the younger players (A-League), the ball will be kicked from the corner of the penalty box.
 2. The goal kick must clear the penalty area before the ball can be played by another player {either offense or defense}. If the ball does not clear the penalty area a re-kick must be taken.
 3. All members of the attacking team must remain outside of the penalty area until the kick is taken.
- **Corner Kick:** When the entire ball passes over the end line and it was last touched by a defender, a corner kick is awarded to the attacking team.
 1. The attacking kicker shall kick the ball from within the quarter circle nearest the half of the field where the ball went out of bounds
 2. All opponents shall remain at least 10 yards from the ball until the kick is taken.

3. The kicker cannot play the ball a second time until it is played by another player.
4. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

- **Indirect Free Kick:** After the free kick is taken, the ball must be touched or played by a second player {from either team} before it can be counted as a goal if a goal is scored on the kick, indirect free kicks are awarded for non-contact rule infringements such as.

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| 1. Dangerous play | 5. Fouls of the | 7. Improper procedure |
| 2. Obstruction | goalkeepers privileges | for kicks and drop balls |
| 3. Off sides | 6. Interference with the | 8. Misconduct |
| 4. Illegal equipment | goalkeeper | |

The team not taking the free kick must be a minimum of 10 yards away from the ball when the kick is taken. This rule may be modified for the A league by the referee.

- **Direct Free Kick:** A goal may be scored directly from the kick without anyone touching the ball. Direct free kicks are awarded for player contact rule infringements such as:

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| 1. Tripping, attempting to trip | 5. Holding |
| 2. Kicking an opponent, attempting to kick an opponent | 6. Charging {exception: a fair shoulder charge} |
| 3. Striking, attempting to strike | 7. Hand ball |
| 4. Jumping on opponent | |

Again, the defensive team must be 10 yards from the ball.

- **Penalty Kick:** A penalty kick is awarded when a player, within his/her own penalty area, commits a foul would result in a direct free kick.

1. The penalty kick is taken from anywhere on the penalty kick line {12 yards from the goal line}.
2. Every player {except the kicker and the opposing goal keeper} shall be outside the penalty area and penalty is.
3. The goalkeeper must stand with both feet stationary on the goal line until the ball is kicked.
4. The kicker cannot play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

- **Off sides:** A player is off sides if he/she is nearer his/her opponents goal line than the ball at the moment it is played, unless:

1. He/she is in their own half of the field of play.
2. There are two opponents {one of which can be the goalie} nearer to their own goal than he/she is.
3. The ball last touched an opponent or was last played by him/her.
4. He/she receives the ball direct from a goal kick, a corner kick, a throw-in, or when it is dropped by the referee.

When off sides is called, an indirect free kick is awarded to the non-defending team.

**** A player in an offside position shall not be penalized unless in the opinion of the referee he is interfering with play or an opponent or is seeking to gain an advantage.**

****Zero Tolerance Policy**:** If a player/coach/spectator is found to be using foul language/aggressive language, the Ref at any point may stop the game and ask them to leave the premises. Game play will NOT continue until they have left the area. The time clock will NOT stop (we are on a schedule). If they refuse to leave the area, the Ref may decide to call a board member, or local law enforcement. Remember, our Refs are kids too!

Remember, our coaches are VOLUNTEERS. At no point should a Coach or a Referee feel as if they are being threatened. Bullying will NOT be tolerated. We are committed to a Zero Tolerance policy for Refs, Coaches and Players.

Questions? Any specific questions, please call your coach – their names and phone numbers will be on the schedule handed out at first practice.

AAYS Soccer Board

Please visit www.aaysoccer.com for contact information