

Laws of the Game

The official 17 *Laws of the Game* from the Fédération Internationale de Football Association are available at: http://www.fifa.com/refs/laws_E.html

PYSA's Guide to Commonly Misunderstood Laws

PYSA exists for players to have fun and develop an appreciation for the game. The safety of the players is more important than winning. PYSA is not a competitive soccer league. If a player or a coach is interested in competitive soccer, they should tryout for a PSC team in June.

If you have any questions about the Laws of the Game or how PYSA interprets them, please Dale Price, Referee Commissioner, at (419) 874-8174.

Law V -- The Referee

The referee is in complete charge of the game. He is the timekeeper and keeps a record of the contest. The referee is empowered to stop play for injury or other reasons and to restart it when ready. He also may end the game at his discretion due to any infringement of the Laws, inclement weather, spectator interference, etc. The referee administers penalties and cautions or expels players, coaches, or spectators for misconduct. His decisions are final. A referee or assistant referee is not liable for: any kind of injury suffered by a player, official, or spectator; any damage to property of any kind; or any other loss suffered which is due to any decision he may make under terms of the Laws of the Game or these PYSA modifications.

Law VI -- The Assistant Referee

In games for players over the age of 12, there shall be a referee and 2 assistant referees. Their chief duty is to indicate when the ball is out of play and which side is entitled to the corner kick, goal kick, or throw in. It is also their responsibility to indicate when a player may be penalized for being in an offside position and when a foul has been committed outside the view of the referee. The assistant referees are equipped with flags, which they use to signal the referee. By signaling, they assist him in controlling the game.

Law VIII -- The Start and Restart of Play

A kickoff is used to start play at the beginning of the game, after a goal has been scored, and after halftime (or each quarter). The ball is placed on the center spot. It is in play when it is kicked and moves forward. All other players must remain in their half of the field, and no opposing player may be within the center circle (that is, within 10 yards of the ball). The ball is in play after it has traveled the distance of its own circumference. The kicker may not play the ball again until it has been touched by another player. The team that wins the toss of a coin before the match gets to decide which goal to attack in the first half. The other team takes the kick off. Following halftime (or each quarter), ends are changed and the kickoff is made by the team that did not kick off to start the game.

When restarting play from causes other than those just mentioned or those mentioned elsewhere in the laws, and providing the ball has not passed over the touchline or goal line, the referee drops the ball at the place where it was when play was suspended, and it is in play when it touches the ground.

Law XI – Offside

A player is in an offside position if he is nearer his opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent at the moment the ball is played unless: he is in his own half of the field; or at least two opponents (including the goalkeeper) are nearer their own goal line than he is; or he received the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, throw in, or drop ball. The penalty for being offside is an indirect free kick by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. Even though a player may be technically in an offside position, the penalty is not called unless at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by: interfering with play, interfering with an opponent or gains an advantage by being in that position.

Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct

A direct free kick (taken from where the offense occurred) is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following 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 to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

An indirect free kick (taken from where the offense occurred) is awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee:

- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Impedes the progress of an opponent
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- Commits any other offense, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

An indirect free kick (taken from where the offense occurred) is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following offenses:

- Takes more than six (6) seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession
- Touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player
- Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate
- Touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw in by a teammate

A player is cautioned (shown the yellow card) if he commits any of the following offenses:

- Is guilty of unsporting behavior

- Shows dissent by word or action
- Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Delays the restart of play
- Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
- Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referees permission
- Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

A player is sent off (shown the red card) if he commits any of the following offenses:

- Is guilty of serious foul play
- Is guilty of violent conduct
- Spits at an opponent or any other person
- Denies 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).
- Denies 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.
- Uses offensive, or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- Receives a second caution in the same match.

A player who has been sent off must move to an area where they cannot reenter the game or directly communicate with their team/coaches.